

**PACD Executive Council Annual Meeting**  
**Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA**  
**July 21, 2009**

**Call to Order**

PACD President Larry Kehl called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

**Roll Call**

PACD Secretary Drew Gilchrist called the roll and determined that a quorum was present, with 35 conservation districts answering the roll call.

**Reading of the Minutes of the Preceding Meeting**

PACD Secretary Drew Gilchrist presented the minutes of the January 23, 2009, meeting.

*It was moved by Drew Gilchrist (Montgomery) and seconded by Mary Ann Warren (Susquehanna) to approve the PACD Executive Council Meeting minutes for January 23, 2009. Motion carried.*

**President's Report**

PACD President Larry Kehl thanked everyone and reported that he learned a great deal as PACD President.

**Executive Director's Report**

PACD Executive Director Susan Marquart provided attendees with highlights from the PACD Annual Report for FY 2009/2010. Written copies of the report were provided to council members. Susan reported that the report will also be distributed to the sixty-six conservation district offices and posted on the PACD website.

Susan reported on the restructuring of the PACD Harrisburg office, which involved the elimination of the position of Director of Administration/Education, and noted that PACD has redistributed the tasks associated with that position to the remaining staff.

Susan urged members to participate in the PACD Strategic Planning Session at the Ramada Conference Center in State College on August 10-11, 2009. She reported that the PACD Operations Committee will be recommending that the Executive Council invite conservation districts to participate regardless of their standing with the Association. This suggestion will be considered by the Council later in the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

PACD Treasurer Ken Meck presented the Treasurer's report.

*It was moved by Ken Meck (Lancaster) and seconded by Jack Tressler (Somerset) to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.*

**State Conservation Commission (SCC) Report**

Executive Secretary Karl Brown presented his report.

- Karl thanked PACD staff, leadership, and partners for coordinating the conference.
- Karl encouraged districts to share success stories with one-another, and asked them to contact him if they have a success story that might be of interest and/or assistance to other districts.
- The SCC will continue to monitor the budget, and the Commission will make allocations shortly after the state budget is final. They are tentatively planning to do this during the August conference call.
- Karl reminded everyone to follow up with their legislators, thanking them for their help in maintaining district funding, increasing district funding, or reducing the cuts made district funding, depending on what the final budget numbers are.
- Karl urged districts to keep SCC and NRCS in the loop as they deal with budget and staffing cuts.

## **NRCS Report**

NRCS State Conservationist Craig Derickson presented his report.

- All NRCS field offices are busy working on farm bill contracts and obligating farm bill funds.
- NRCS is beginning to plan for an all-employees meeting in Pennsylvania in the early part of September, and NRCS Chief David White will be invited to attend.
- The payment process for computer network seat charges is now on hold.
- Next week there is a listening session regarding the resource conservation act during the NACD North East Region Meeting in Solomon Island, MD. The opportunity to provide input on the Act only comes around every 10 years or so.
- PA will likely be offering more opportunities for biomass, biofuels, and other energy sources based on the growing concern about a national energy initiative in 2010.

## **DEP Report**

Steve Taglang, Chief of the Division of Conservation Districts and Nutrient Management for the Department of Environmental Protection, presented his report.

- CDFAP allocations are waiting for the budget.
- Chesapeake Bay funding looks like it will continue.
- \$5.9 million in Growing Greener funds went to the districts this year.
- PennVest may be allocating up to 40 million dollars worth of stimulus funds for NPS projects at their upcoming board meeting, and DEP is hoping that PennVest will be providing regular opportunities for NPS projects in the future.
- Steve reported that a number of grant applications are pending for PACD, including grants for the PACD Engineering Assistance Program, the NPS Education Office, the Chesapeake Bay Education Office, the CREP program, and nutrient trading. Steve reported that funds for the Chesapeake Bay Education Office grant for FY 2008-2009 were reduced by about \$80,000.
- There have been a number of changes at DEP. The Department is actively seeking to increase and improve communication with districts, and John Hines, Director of the Bureau of Watershed Management, is planning to hold regular meetings with districts to gain their input.

## **PACD Education and Outreach Committee Report**

There was no report from the PACD Education and Outreach Committee.

## **PACD Legislative Committee Report**

Ron Rohall presented the following report on behalf of the PACD Legislative Committee.

- The committee met yesterday, and a quorum was present.
- The committee discussed developing a list of conservation district legislative contacts and decided to rely on the listserves and the PACD electronic newsletter Front Page to ask members to contact their legislators regarding important issues.
- The committee discussed alternatives to the current PACD Capitol Day format. In the interest of making it more cost-effective for districts, the committee is recommending that PACD continue to hold PACD Capitol Day, but to eliminate the luncheon and have members arrange to meet with legislators in their offices.
- PACD continues to participate in the Fair Share Coalition. The PA Farm Bureau has left the coalition over a difference with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation over the Clean and Green Program.

*It was moved by Ron Rohall (Westmoreland) and seconded by Harold Kulp (Chester) to approve the report of the PACD Legislative Committee. Motion carried.*

### **PACD Conservation Committee Report**

Bob Ritchey presented the following report on behalf of the PACD Conservation Committee.

- PACD Government Relations/Policy Specialist Brenda Shambaugh presented updates on nutrient and carbon trading, as well as the PA state budget.
- Ken Murin with DEP provided an update on the proposed Chapter 102 regulations.
- PACD submitted a Growing Greener Stormwater Grant Proposal to DEP.
- The committee discussed the state water plan, which is published and is available on the DEP website.
- The committee passed policy on the Clean and Green Program requirements for conservation plans, which will come up for review later in the meeting.
- The committee discussed water use and infrastructure needs related to oil and gas drilling, and recommended that PACD request input from conservation districts pursuant to developing a statewide policy for review at the January 2010 meeting.
- PACD and partners met with PennDot Secretary Allen Biehler and other PennDot employees concerning the expired PennDot LOU.

*It was moved by Josh Longmore (Luzerne) and seconded by Sandy Thompson (McKean) to accept the report of the PACD Conservation Committee. Motion carried.*

### **PACD Ways and Means Report**

Ken Meck presented the following report on behalf of the PACD Ways and Means Committee.

- The committee reviewed the financial reports that were presented earlier in the meeting.
- The committee received a report on the PACD building. There were some repairs made, which were paid for using the PACD Capital Fund. The committee resolved to replace those funds.
- The committee received a report on PACD dues.
- The committee reviewed a proposal from an insurance broker who is offering to share some of her fees with PACD in return for PACD endorsing her to the districts. This proposal will come before the Council later today.
- The committee proposed that the Council discuss a flat rate dues schedule for FY 2010/2011
- Two of the three first floor offices have been leased and there is a potential tenant who has a lease in hand for the third space.

*It was moved by Ken Meck (Lancaster) and seconded by Harold Kulp (Chester) to approve the report of the PACD Ways and Means Committee. Motion carried.*

### **PACD District Employees Committee Report**

Sandy Thompson presented the following report on behalf of the PACD District Employees Committee.

- The committee met on July 20, 2009, and a quorum was present.
- The committee discussed training for E&S Technicians.
- PACD staff is planning to work with a group of watershed specialists to develop a fact sheet to help publicize the watershed specialist program and obtain continued funding.
- PACD and conservation district representatives will be participating in ongoing meetings with John Hines, Deputy Secretary of Water Management for DEP. The committee made some recommendations regarding agenda items for the next meeting.
- PA needs volunteers to act as representative and alternate to the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA).
- The Canon Envirothon will be returning to Pennsylvania in 2012. Managers and directors are encouraged to allow their staff to participate.
- Larry Kehl provided an update on the future of Berks Conservation District, and reported that the district is planning to do what is needed to move forward and continue its work.

*It was moved by Sandy Thompson (McKean) and seconded by Larry Martick (Adams) to approve the report of the PACD District Employees Committee. Motion carried.*

### **PACD Operations Committee Report**

Chairwoman Irvil Kear presented the following report on behalf of the PACD Operations Committee.

- The committee reviewed two motions from the Ways and Means Committee, one from the Conservation Committee, and one from the PACD Executive Board. These items will be brought before the Council for consideration later in the meeting under Motions from PACD Committees.
- The committee did not forward a motion from the Education and Outreach Committee that would allow e-mail as a means to approve minutes, as Pennsylvania Law would require a change to the PACD Bylaws in order to accommodate this.
- The committee received a report on the PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference.
- The committee is recommending that PACD invite each conservation district to send a representative to the PACD Strategic Planning Session on August 10-11, 2009, regardless of their standing with the Association.

*It was moved by Irvil Kear (Schuylkill) and seconded by Cheryl Brobst (Columbia) to approve the report of the PACD Operations Committee. Motion carried.*

### **PACD Auxiliary Report**

PACD Auxiliary President Sharon Sweitzer presented her report.

- Sharon reported that the Auxiliary met and voted to eliminate term limits for Auxiliary officers, as active membership in the auxiliary is very limited.
- Sharon thanked all of the districts who supported the Auxiliary this year, as well as Susan, Molly, and the PACD staff for their support.
- The Auxiliary raffle netted about \$300.

### **Old and Unfinished Business**

No business was presented.

### **PACD Education and Outreach Committee – Motions and Resolutions**

No resolutions were presented.

### **PACD Legislative Committee – Motions and Resolutions**

No resolutions were presented.

### **PACD Conservation Committee – Motions and Resolutions**

The PACD Conservation Committee forwarded the following policy statement for approval:

*It was moved by Bob Ritchey (Cambria) and seconded by Jack Tressler (Somerset) to approve the following policy statement:*

*PACD opposes proposed amendments to PL 973 no. 319 to require conservation plans or erosion control plans in conjunction with preferential assessment, because conservation districts will bear the burden of the workload without funding for plan development. Any amendment to clean and green needs to provide a mechanism for landowners to qualify, if they have formally requested the development of a conservation plan or erosion control plan, so that they meet the requirements of the act.*

*Motion carried.*

## **PACD Ways and Means Committee – Motions and Resolutions**

*It was moved by Irvil Kear and seconded by Bob Ritchey to accept the proposal whereby PACD endorses Katherine Vernet, an independent insurance broker, to conservation districts, in return for 1% of her premium, or 25% in the case of a flat fee percentage. Motion carried.*

It was moved by Jack Tressler (Somerset) and seconded by Mike Kennis (Clearfield) that the PACD Executive Council discuss a flat rate dues structure for FY 2010/2011. Motion failed, 13 in favor and 19 opposed.

## **PACD District Employees Committee – Motions and Resolutions**

No motions were presented.

## **PACD Operations Committee – Motions and Resolutions**

*It was moved by Irvil Kear (Schuylkill) and seconded by Bob Robinson (Wyoming) to invite each conservation district to send a representative to the PACD Strategic Planning Session on August 10-11, 2009, regardless of their standing with the Association. Motion carried.*

## **PACD Executive Board**

*It was moved by Irvil Kear (Schuylkill) and seconded by MaryAnn Warren (Susquehanna) that the PACD President and PACD Treasurer be authorized to sign checks for PACD, in addition to the PACD Executive Director. Motion carried.*

## **Election of PACD Representative to the PA Envirothon Board**

Don Baker has represented PACD on the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors for many years. His term is up, and he does not wish to continue.

*It was moved by Irvil Kear (Schuylkill) and seconded by MaryAnn Warren (Susquehanna) to name Cheryl Brobst with Columbia Conservation District to represent PACD on the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board. Motion carried.*

## **Election of Officers**

Victor Cappucci submitted the following slate of candidates for consideration on behalf of the PACD Nominating Committee:

President – Dr. Irvil Kear, Schuylkill  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Commissioner MaryAnn Warren, Susquehanna  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Drew Gilchrist, Montgomery  
Secretary – Bob Robinson, Wyoming  
Treasurer – Ken Meck, Lancaster

*It was moved by Bob Ritchey (Cambria) and seconded by Don Baker (Mifflin) to close nominations. Motion carried.*

*The slate of officers, as presented by the PACD Nominating Committee, was put to the vote. Motion carried.*

## **PACD Budget for FY 2009-2010**

The proposed PACD budget and dues schedule for FY 2009-2010 was presented to council members for approval.

*It was moved by Bob Robinson (Wyoming) and seconded by Jack Tressler (Somerset) to approve the budget for FY 2009-2010. Motion carried.*

**Second and Final Consideration of Updates to PACD Policy Handbook**

PACD policies, which had already received preliminary approval, were presented for final approval, and inclusion in the PACD Policy Handbook.

*It was moved by Jack Tressler (Somerset) and seconded by Carl Koch (Tioga) to approve the updates to the PACD Policy Handbook, as presented. Motion carried.*

**Second and Final Consideration of Changes to the PACD Bylaws**

Changes to the PACD Bylaws, which received preliminary approval during the PACD Executive Council Meeting on January 23, 2009, were presented for final approval.

*It was moved by LeRoy Gross (Erie) and seconded by Cheryl Brobst (Columbia) to approve the proposed changes to the PACD Bylaws, as presented. Motion carried.*

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm.