

Meeting Minutes
PACD
North East Region Meeting
9:00 AM April 3, 2009
DEP Northeast Regional Office, Wilkes-Barre

Attendance: Shane Kleiner, Susan Marquart, Josh Longmore, Tim Ferrence, Jack Hanish, Carl Urbanski, Karen Ely, Thom Helmacy, Bill Ord, Kathy Shelley, Maryann Warren, Curt Hepler, George Gardner, Bill Zick, Jim Garner, Michelle Ulmer, Linda Cioppa, Paul Reining, Len Grover, Bob Muller, Irvil Kear, Glen Luckenbill, Kristi Zulli, Bob Robinson, Bob Herman, Vic Cappucci, Laura Anderson, Jullee Chamberlain, Dave Taylor, Teresa Merli, Abe Repine, Ernie Keller, Karl Brown, Paul Lohan

Welcome and Introduction/Approval of Minutes: Bob Robinson called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the flag at 9:00.

CD Information Exchange: Jim Garner (Susquehanna County District Manager) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the oil and gas drilling in Susquehanna County showing the impact of those activities on the environment. He also explained how the District employees were involved in the permitting process and were monitoring the drilling activities as needed.

There was discussion asking for an explanation of PACD's response to DEP's move to take permitting responsibility away from the Conservation Districts without prior public notice or notifying the Districts until after the fact. There was consensus among all the District staff in attendance that the permitting process and oversight should remain with the Districts. Curt Hepler moved to form a committee to draft a letter to take to PACD, seconded by Linda Cioppa. The committee members were Jim Garner, Bob Muller and Josh Longmore who immediately convened in an adjacent room to draft the letter.

SCC Report: Karl Brown reviewed his report.

PACD Report: Susan Marquart reviewed her report.

At this point, the committee of three returned to the meeting with their draft. After a short discussion, a motion was made by Bob Muller to submit the letter to PACD and they will forward it to Governor Rendell and DEP Acting Secretary Hangar. The motion was seconded by Linda Cioppa of Pike County. The motion passed unanimously.

NRCS Update: In his report, Abe Repine covered personnel downsizing, CREP, budgets EWP, program overviews and stimulus opportunities.

Since time was getting short, both Karen Ely and Shane Kleiner passed out handouts of their latest programs which would have been given, time permitting.

The next meeting will be on Friday, October 16, 2009 at 9:00 am.