

State Conservation Commission Meeting

November 8, 2016

Pa Department of Agriculture, Rm 309,

Harrisburg PA

Agenda

Business Session – 1:00PM, Rm. 309

A. Opportunity for Public Comment

B. Business and Information Items

1. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. September 13, 2016 Public Mtg.(A)
 - b. October 11, 2016 Conference Call (A)
2. Proposed 2017 Public Meeting and Conference Call dates (A)
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair for 2017 (A)
4. 2016 Appointment to the Nutrient Management Advisory Board – Larry Baum, SCC (A)
5. Additional Funds Request, Reserve Account – Susquehanna County Conservation District –Johan Berger, SCC (A).
6. Proposed Changes to the Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Road Maintenance Program Administrative Manual – Roy Richardson (NA)
7. Chesapeake Bay Program Update - Veronica Kasi, DEP (NA)
8. Voluntary Best Management Practice (BMP) Survey Update – Matt Royer, Penn State University
9. Agriculture In Balance Conference Update - Matt Royer, Penn State University
10. 2017 Priorities, Issues, Concerns & Opportunities – Group Discussion

C. Written Reports

1. Program Reports
 - a. Act 38 Nutrient and Odor Management Programs
 - i. Nutrient and Odor Management Program Measurable
 - ii. Act 38 Facility Odor Management Program - Status Report on Plan Reviews
 - b. Certification and Education Programs
 - c. REAP Program
 - d. Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road Maintenance Program

State Conservation Commission Meeting

2. Ombudsman Program Reports – Southern Allegheny Region (Blair County Conservation District and Lancaster County Conservation District).

D. Cooperating Agency Reports

Adjournment

Next Public Meetings/Conference Calls:

December 13, 2016 - Conference Call

January 24, 2017 – State College, PA (tentative)

'A' denotes 'Action' item

'NA' denotes 'Non-action' item

DRAFT

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Pa Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg Pa

Tuesday September 13, 2016; 1:00pm.

1

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Secretary Russell Redding, PDA; Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell, DEP; Michael Flinchbaugh; Donald Koontz; Ron Kopp; Ross Orner; Ron Rohall; Mary Ann Warren; Dr. Richard Roush (telecom); Drew Gilchrist for Sec. Cindy Adams-Dunn, DCNR; Denise Coleman, NRCS; Chris Houser for Dr. Dennis Calvin; Glen Seidel, PACD; Denise Brindley for Secretary Dennis Davin, DCED.

A. Public Input

There were no public comments presented.

B. Business and Information Items1. Approval of Minutes – July 27, 2016 Public Meeting.

Mary Ann Warren moved to approve the July 27, 2016 public meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Donald Koontz. Motion carried.

2. Nutrient & Odor Management Program

a. Odor Management Plan – Kish-View Farm; Kent A. Spicher, Belleville, PA; Mifflin County. Karl Dymond, SCC provided a summary of the Kish-View Farm odor management plan. The plan before the Commission is an amendment to an existing odor management plan due to the expansion of the herd by 115 cows and the addition of new barns. The Odor Site Index for this expanded operation is greater than 100, which requires an action of the Commission. The plan includes additional BMPs associated with the new barns. The amendment meets the requirements of the PA Nutrient and Odor Management Act and regulations and was presented for approval.

Michael Flinchbaugh moved to approve the proposed amendment to the Kish-View Farm OMP. Motion seconded by Mary Ann Warren. Motion carried.

b. Odor Management Plan - Keith Martin & Rachael Martin Amendment “A”; Stevens, PA Lancaster County. Karl Dymond, SCC provided a summary of the Martin odor management plan. The plan is an amendment to an existing odor management plan requesting a change in the previously approved level 2 best management practices. The amendment was a result of noted deficiencies in the success of the original BMPs during an annual site visit conducted by program staff. The Odor Site Index for this expanded operation is greater than 100, which requires an action of the Commission. The amendment meets the requirements of the PA Nutrient and Odor Management Act and regulations and was presented for approval.

Ron Rohall moved to approve the proposed Keith Martin & Rachael Martin Amendment “A” OMP. Motion seconded by Ron Kopp. Motion carried.

c. NMP - Update - Standard Animal Weights Proposed Changes - Frank Schneider, SCC reviewed the status of re-evaluation of livestock standard weights for the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program. Standard animal weights contained in the Nutrient Management Program’s guidance documents are an important factor in calculating animal units per

acre (AUs/acre). The Nutrient Management Program staff has been working with Penn State College of Agriculture and the livestock and poultry industries to update these standard weight values to better reflect current production practices and is planning to circulate the revised numbers for public comment prior to adoption. Frank commented that any changes to the standard weight will likely have an impact on the regulatory status of existing CAOs and CAFOs as well as some agricultural operations just under the regulatory thresholds. Frank noted that the revised standard weights will be circulated to conservation districts and consultants for a 60 day comment period. Ross Orner suggested that information is shared with the Nutrient Management Advisory Board and DEP's Agricultural Advisory Board before general distribution for comments.

3. Chesapeake Bay Program Update. Veronica Kasi, DEP updated the Commission on the latest program activities as DEP staff continues to work to implement changes to the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Program. Over the last year, DEP and county conservation districts have worked to redefine the deliverables of the Bay Program's conservation technicians to include a farm inspection component. A letter announcing a farm inspection initiative was sent to over 2000 farmers in the watershed in late August 2016. Conservation district with approved inspection strategies may begin inspections in early October 2016. DEP regional staff began similar farm inspections in counties that chose not to continue with their participation in the program. Development of Worldview and Practice Keeper data tracking systems is moving forward. DEP anticipates distributing PracticeKeeper software to conservation district in January 2017.
4. NFWF Grant Overview – The 'Pennsylvania Adaptive Toolbox for Conservation Saturation' pilot project. Erin Smith, PDA Policy Director briefed the Commission on a recent NFWF grant award to the Pa Department of Agriculture for the 'Pennsylvania Adaptive Toolbox for Conservation Saturation' project. The goals of this pilot are to achieve 100% livestock stream exclusion, to significantly increase conservation planning and BMP installation, and to demonstrate a correlation between conservation practices, herd health and farm profitability. Late this summer, NFWF announced the funding for this grant proposal. The project was awarded \$632,000 to implement the project on up to 40 farms in the Fishing Creek watershed in southern Lancaster County. Sixteen (16) agency and organization partnered to provide \$900,000 in match funds for the project.
5. Urban Nutrient Management Update, Proposed Revisions to Pennsylvania's Fertilizer Act. Fred Strathmeyer, Deputy Secretary, PDA briefed the Commission on this draft legislation. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with industry partners and other interested parties have developed a draft proposal for a comprehensive urban nutrient management program. The proposed legislation would provide broad urban nutrient management initiatives for turf management, and commercial fertilizer application in urban communities. The legislation would establish and application certification program and product registration program similar to the current pesticide certification and production registration programs. The legislation has not been introduced to the state legislature at this time.
6. Penn State University, College of Agriculture, Voluntary Best Management Practice (BMP) Survey Update. Dr. Richard Roush, Dean of the College of Agriculture, PSU and Chris Houser, Penn State Cooperative Extension updated the Commission on the results of the farmer 'self-reporting' BMP survey of conservation practices installed on their farms conducted earlier in 2016. Approximately 20,000 letters were sent out, and 6,780 surveys were returned (~35%). Penn State Cooperative Extension staff has recently visited 10% of these operations to verify the validity of the survey results. Penn State is now concluding the analysis of this verification process and data will be submitted to DEP and EPA Chesapeake Bay Program after the analysis is complete.

7. Agriculture In Balance Conference Update. Dr. Richard Roush, Dean, Penn State College of Agriculture Sciences reviewed several clear themes that emerged from a 3 day conference in March 2016, the PA Agriculture In Balance Conference in Hershey PA. More than 120 stakeholders interacted for 3 days on issues related to agriculture and the environment and developed themes for a strategy to ensure profitable and productive agricultural operations, while achieving water quality goals. Several 'high priority action items (initiatives)' were developed and will be extensively discussed at the next 'In Balance' conference scheduled for October 12, 2016. These initiatives include:
 - a. Developing and Communicating the New Narrative Around a "Culture of Stewardship." Stewardship."
 - b. Developing an Ag Certification and Recognition Program for Producers.
 - c. Working with the Food and Agriculture Industry to Incorporate Clean Water into Business Models and Supply Chain Management.
 - d. Increasing Technical Capacity by Enhancing Conservation Training Opportunities.
 - e. Launching a Soil and Streams Health Initiative.
 - f. Exploring Innovative New Incentive Programs and Funding Opportunities.
 - g. Developing Plans, Partnerships and Leadership in Priority Watersheds.

8. DEP/PDA/SCC Draft MOU Overview & Request for Member Comments. Karl Brown reported SCC, DEP and PDA are in the process of developing a joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the agencies support of the Commission and services provided to assist the Commission in fulfilling its duties. Previously, the Commission and each agency had individual MOUs detailing these services and interactions. SCC staff has developed a draft document and have circulated this draft to PDA and DEP and is awaiting comments. A draft copy will be provided to Commission members for their review and comments as soon as comments have been compiled.

9. Looking Forward to 2017, Priorities, Issues, Concerns & Opportunities – Group Discussion. Secretary McDonnell opened discussion amongst commission members giving an opportunity for presentation of issues and concerns, as well as priorities and opportunities that they see for 2017. Program concerns and issues expressed included
 - a. All appropriate agencies and stakeholders should be involved in the Chesapeake Bay Program mid-term assessment and Phase 3 WIP development.
 - b. What is the best model for conservation planning and implementation service delivery?
 - i. Mentoring is important and new incentives and innovations need to be considered in the delivery system.
 - ii. Need to expand and improve the social relevance of conservation objectives beyond stakeholders and into conversations with the agricultural community.
 - iii. Leadership development training opportunities at the district level needs a new focus and emphasis

C. Written Reports

1. Program Reports
 - a. Act 38 Nutrient Management Program
 - i. Nutrient and Odor Management Program Measurable
 - ii. Nutrient Management and Manure Management Delegation Agreement Workgroup Update
 - iii. Nutrient and Manure Management Program Evaluations
 - b. Act 38 Facility Odor Management Program - Status Report on Plan Reviews

- c. Certification and Education Programs
 - d. REAP Program
 - e. Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road Maintenance Program
2. Ombudsman Program Reports – Southern Allegheny Region (Blair County Conservation District and Lancaster County Conservation District).
 3. NACD, NRCS Urban Conservation Grant Press Release. Ron Rohall reported several conservation districts in Pennsylvania have been awarded \$50,000 grants under the program for urban conservation practices.

D. Cooperating Agency Reports

DEP – No additional comments and report was provided.

PDA – Deputy Secretary Greg Hostetter reports that a different strain of Avian Influenza, H5N2 was found in Alaska and several live bird markets in the United States received some birds from Canada with a mild HPAI strain. Those circumstances were addressed immediately.

NRCS – Denise Coleman reported that the Pennsylvania NRCS has closed its FY15/16 cost share programs. EQIP allocated over \$26.9 million to producers in Pennsylvania. NRCS is currently partnering with the Blue Apron Cooperative to develop an agricultural certification program.

PSU – No additional comments and report was provided.

DCNR – Drew Gilchrist, representing Secretary Cindy Adams-Dunn, reported the department has introduced a new forest buffer program, the Community Conservation Partnership Program. It is a \$500,000 pilot program where successful applicants can receive a minimum of \$50,000 to establish buffer plantings along streams. The first grant round will open August 1, 2016 and close on September 15, 2016.

DCED – No report

PACD – No report

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:20PM

Next Public Meeting: November 8, 2016 at PDA in Harrisburg Pa.

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONFERENCE CALL
Pa Department of Agriculture, Room 405
Tuesday, October 11, 2016 @ 8:30 am

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Secretary Redding, PDA; Greg Hostetter, Deputy Secretary for Secretary Redding, PDA; Acting Secretary McDonnell, DEP; Sean Gimbel for Kelly Heffner, Deputy Secretary, DEP; Drew Gilchrist for Secretary Cindy Dunn, DCNR; Chris Houser for Dr. Roush and Dr. Calvin, Penn State; Donald Koontz; Michael Flinchbaugh; Ross Orner; Ron Rohall; and Ron Kopp.

B. Agency/Organization Updates

1. DCNR – Drew Gilchrist, South East Regional Advisor
Drew Gilchrist mentioned that the grant program for statewide, regional, and local recreation and conservation projects will open on January 23, 2017 and close on April 12, 2017.
2. DEP – Acting Secretary McDonnell and Dave Jostenski
 - a. Acting Secretary McDonnell noted that the agriculture inspections under the Chesapeake Bay Program ‘Reboot’ have started.
 - b. Dave Jostenski spoke about the drought status. He said that currently, 38 counties are in a drought watch, and 1 county is in a drought warning. The weather forecast shows little to no rain in the coming weeks. He is concerned about ground water levels and the fact that stream flows could recede.
3. Agriculture – Secretary Redding
Secretary Redding shared that the 2017-2018 proposed budget was submitted last Friday, October 7, 2016. He also mentioned how successful the All American Dairy Show and the Keystone International Livestock Shows were. There were 30-35 states throughout the United States involved with these shows. The USDA hosted the Rural Forum at Penn State on October 5, 2016.

C. Information and Discussion Items

Karl Brown, SCC

- a. Proposed 2017 SCC Meeting and Conference Call dates
Karl made note of the proposed 2017 meeting and conference call dates. He emphasized that the meetings in January (24) and July (19) will both be held in State College.

January 24-25 – PACD Winter Meeting/SCC Meeting – State College
February 14 – SCC Conference Call
March 14 – SCC Meeting – Harrisburg
April 11 – SCC Conference Call
May 9 – SCC Meeting – Harrisburg
June 13 – SCC Conference Call
July 19-20 – Joint Annual Conference – State College
August 8 – SCC Conference Call
September 12 – SCC Meeting – Harrisburg
October 10 – SCC Conference Call
November 14 – SCC Meeting – Harrisburg
December 12 – SCC Conference Call

- b. Local Government Unit Debt Act Guidance. In mid-2015, Susquehanna County Conservation District requested assistance in regards to the requirements for Pennsylvania’s ‘Local Government United Debt Act’ (LGUDA) and how it applied to county conservation districts. Program staff consulted with PA Department of Labor & Industry representatives who administer the law to gain clarity on the requirements of the law and its application to conservation district PDA legal staff. It was determined that provisions of LGUDA do not apply to county conservation districts.

- c. Conservation district director nominations for 2017. Karl reported that the Commission staff sent information to county chief clerks regarding conservation district director nominations for 2017 in August 2016. Chief clerks are now in the process of contacting nominating organizations to solicit candidates for 2017 vacancies on the conservation district boards. Conservation district managers are encouraged to be in contact with their chief clerk during this process and assist them with information regarding vacancies for 2017, contact information for eligible nominating organizations and other pertinent information. County commissioners, by law, must take an official action to appoint district directors. The appointments are due to the Commission by December 15, 2016. The Commission has not received any nominations to date.

Nutrient/Manure Management Delegation Agreement Update, Frank Schneider, SCC

The Nutrient Management (NM) and Manure Management (MM) Delegation Agreement Workgroup has met face to face and twice by conference call/webinar. Frank reviewed a summary of the workgroup’s discussions to date:

1. Conservation Districts agree that a joint delegation agreement for NM/MM makes sense.
2. Required Output Measures (ROMs) have been discussed. General agreement has been reached, but some further refinements may be needed.

3. The ROMs have stayed consistent with those in the current delegation agreement except for the following items:
 - a. Removed levels of delegation (Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3). It is the intent that if a conservation district takes delegation, they are to perform all the functions, with the exception of enforcement (Level 3).
 - b. Removed defined requirements for financial assistance to operators, as no financial assistance has been available for some time.
 - c. Added an Odor Management education component.
 - d. Added a Manure Hauler/Broker education component.
 - e. Added the review of 10% of Nutrient Balance Sheets (NBSs) submitted by manure haulers/brokers. This action will require the conservation districts to be agents of the PDA.
 - f. Added Chapter 91 (MM) compliance inspections.
 - g. Changed complaint response time frame to within 5 days.
 - h. Changed waiver action by the conservation district from 60 days to **90** days.
4. Financial aspects of funding for the new FY17-22 delegation agreement remain to be resolved.
5. Program legal counsels (DEP & PDA) have begun an initial legal review of draft language.

It is the intent of the workgroup to have a draft delegation agreement and funding formula developed prior to the end of 2016 for review by delegated conservation districts, so they can review and provide comments. It is anticipated that SCC staff will ask for an action on the new joint delegation agreement at the April 2017 Commission meeting.

PSU College of Agriculture ‘In Balance’ Conference, Karl Brown, SCC and Chris Houser, Penn State

They reported that on October 12, Penn State College of Agriculture will reconvene a group of stakeholders to: 1) Review the overall findings of the final draft conference report; 2) Discuss and add detail to the specific initiatives identified in the report; and 3) Prioritize initiatives for implementation. Secretary Redding conveyed a note of appreciation to the Penn State team for their work on In Balance. He also encouraged the Commission to look at initiatives and how they can add value.

Chesapeake Bay Program Update, Nicki Kasi reported on the following Chesapeake Bay Program activities:

1. DEP has initiated 40 ‘on-farm’ inspections.
2. The Districts are working with the regions to finalize inspection strategies. They are due by October 15.
3. Districts are signing program implementation contracts and completing the required inspection strategies – Lancaster County has initiated some inspections.

CBP Executive Council Update - Secretaries McDonnell and Redding reported on the recent discussions at the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council meeting in Boyce, Virginia. On October 4, Governor Wolf participated in the council meeting and highlighted, in remarks to Bay Program Partners, how PA's collaboration with USDA, NRCS, and EPA has resulted in an additional \$28 million of additional funding being made available in FY 2016-2017 within the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

1. Acting Secretary McDonnell reported that agencies, including DEP, Ag, DCNR, EPA, and USDA, are repurposing money to help with plan development on farms.
2. Secretary Redding reported that it is nice to see Pennsylvania well-represented. This meeting helped us, as a Department, focus on state resources and state needs.
3. Acting Secretary McDonnell mentioned how Pennsylvania's cost-benefit analysis is different from Maryland's. We should spend money on the highest priorities and have support at all levels.

PSU Voluntary BMP Survey Project, Chris Houser reported that survey verification visits (~687) to participating farms are complete and Penn State College of Agriculture is currently analyzing data from the verification visits. Data will be provided by Penn State to DEP in mid-October in time for submission to the Chesapeake Bay Program modeling team.

D. Adjournment. The conference call concluded at 9:18 am.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.; PA Department of Agriculture Building, Harrisburg, PA.

October 21, 2016

To: State Conservation Commission Members
From: Karl G. Brown *KGB*
Executive Secretary
RE: Tentative 2017 Meeting Dates and Conference Call Dates

The following are proposed 2017 Commission meeting dates.

2017 Proposed Meeting Dates

<u>Date</u>		<u>Location</u>
January 24 th	(PACD Winter Meeting)	State College
March 14 th		Harrisburg
May 9 th		Harrisburg
July 19 th	(Joint Annual Conference)	State College
September 12 th		Harrisburg
November 14 th		Harrisburg

2017 Proposed Conference Call Dates
(8:30-10:00AM)

February 14th
April 11th
June 13th
August 8th
October 10th
December 12th



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Date: November 2, 2016

To: State Conservation Commission Members

From: Karl G. Brown
Executive Secretary

RE: Election of Vice-Chairperson 2017

Background:

Section 4(1) of the Conservation District Law, Act 217, states in part that, “at the last regular meeting of the Commission in the calendar year, a vice-chairperson shall be elected by the members of the Commission and shall serve in that capacity for the ensuing year.”

Since the November 8, 2016 is the last regularly scheduled meeting of the State Conservation Commission for 2016, action to fill the position of vice-chairperson for 2017 is necessary. Mr. Michael Flinchbaugh currently serves as the vice-chairperson of the Commission and he has expressed an interest in accepting the nomination for election as Vice-Chairperson, of the Commission, for 2017.

Responsibility of the vice-chairperson is to preside over any business meetings of the Commission in the absence of the Chairman.

Action Required:

A motion to nominate and elect Mr. Michael Flinchbaugh as Commission vice-chairperson for 2017 is necessary.

Joseph W. Duris
U.S. Geological Survey
Pennsylvania Water Science Center
215 Limekiln Rd.
New Cumberland, PA 17070

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Phone: (717)-730-6930

ORCID ID: orcid.org/0000-0002-8669-8109

Professional Page: <https://profile.usgs.gov/jwduris>

Education:

M.S. Western Michigan University (Biological Sciences, Environmental Microbiology), 2002

B.S. Western Michigan University (Biomedical Sciences), 1998

Environment/Natural Resource Investigation Experience:

Water Quality Specialist, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Pennsylvania, 2016-current, and Michigan-Ohio Water Science Centers, 2011-2016:

Oversees implementation of national and local data-quality standards relating to water quality sampling, data collection, analysis, and study design for all projects in the USGS Michigan Water Science Center. Addresses technical challenges during study design and works collaboratively with other scientists to provide advanced technical analysis of water quality data. Leads all program development activity for water-quality programs.

Project Chief on microbiology and water chemistry projects at USGS Pennsylvania Water Science Center, 2016-current, and the Michigan-Ohio Water Science Center, 2002-2016:

Organizes, prepares, and executes laboratory, field, and regional experiments to assess the complex relations between environmental and anthropogenic factors, bacteria, and water chemistry in natural water systems. Produces technical, peer-reviewed, interpretations and presentations based upon study results. Recent work has focused on understanding the loads of nutrients from Michigan streams to the Great Lakes and understanding the vertical mixing gradient of nutrients in the Trenton Channel of the Detroit River.

Science Lead on USGS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Harmful Algal Blooms Team, 2014-2016:

Currently coordinating science activities to investigate factors related to the occurrence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Our team is integrating microbial ecology, molecular biology, microbiology, limnology, and chemistry to understand the ecological factors that relate to the formation, duration, intensity, and cessation of HABs. I am coordinating a team of five scientists from four USGS centers (Biology and Water) on this multiyear study.

USGS Michigan Bacteriological Research Laboratory manager, 2010-2015:

Designed and oversaw the construction of a molecular microbiology laboratory. Currently oversees the activities of five scientists who use modern microbiological experiments to assess questions in a variety of topics including human health, wildlife health, recreational water quality, storm water management, assessment of best management practices, and basic microbial ecology.

Adjunct Faculty Instructor at Grand Rapids Community College, 2001-2002

Developed lecture materials and organized exams and practical laboratory experiments to implement a General Microbiology course for 40-60 students per semester.

Graduate Research, Western Michigan University, 1999-2002

Designed and implemented an inter-disciplinary research project focused on understanding the relation between bacterial ecology and geophysical measurements in petroleum contaminated groundwater and soil.

Other Relevant Experience and Education:

Peer Reviewer, Multiple Journals, 2006-current

Since 2006 I have provided journal-requested peer reviews on submitted manuscripts for between five to ten articles per year for Elsevier Publishing, The American Society of Agronomy, and for the Journal of Great Lakes Research.

Instructor, USGS National Training Center, 2004-current

Have taught field techniques for fecal indicator bacteria and viruses, sample collection for advanced microbial methods, and the basics of turbidity measurements and lake sampling at the USGS Water Quality Field Methods and USGS Water Quality Principles courses. Interacting with hundreds of USGS and other federal and state researchers to ensure consistency in sample collection and data quality control.

USGS National Training, 2002-Current

Water Quality Principles

Water Quality Field Methods

Water Quality Field Methods-Refresher

Statistical Techniques for Trend and Load Estimation

Statistical Methods for Environmental Data Analysis

Introduction to R statistical language

USGS Leadership Intensive



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: October 22, 2016

Agenda Item B.4

TO: Members
State Conservation Commission

FROM: Larry G Baum, Conservation Program Specialist I
State Conservation Commission

THROUGH: Karl G. Brown, Executive Secretary
State Conservation Commission

SUBJECT: 2016 Appointment to the Nutrient Management Advisory Board

Action Requested

The action requested, is the approval of the following appointment to the Nutrient Management Advisory Board (NMAB *or* Board). The following appointment has been made by the Commission Chairperson, and is provided to the Commission for final approval:

- Joseph Duris (United States Geological Service (USGS)) – *Hydrologist*, new appointment to the position

Background

Act 38, the Pennsylvania Nutrient and Odor Management Act, allows an individual to serve two full 3 year terms consecutively on the NMAB. The position vacancy was created by a resignation of Dr. Charles Cravotta III.

Joseph Duris was recommended by USGS staff to fill the position which he has accepted. Mr. Duris is employed by United States Geological Service as a Water Quality Specialist and Project Chief on microbiology and water chemistry projects.

The Commission received the nomination of Mr. Joseph Duris to serve as the Hydrologist from Dr. Charles A Cravotta III, United States Geological Service New Cumberland, Pa. In June 2016 when Dr. Cravotta III was appointed to the NMAB, he was serving as the acting Water Quality Specialist. Mr. Duris has since been hired as the permanent Water Quality Specialist. Biographical information is attached for your review.

Act 38 states that members are appointed to the NMAB by the Commission Chairperson, and approved by a 2/3 vote of the Commission. The Chairperson has reviewed the submitted nomination and has selected Joseph Duris for fill the position on the NMAB **The appointee now require a formal vote of the Commission in order to be placed on the Board for a 3 year term.**

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Attachments: Joseph Duris biographical information



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: October 18, 2016

SUBJECT: 2016 Appointments to the Nutrient Management Advisory Board

TO: Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell
Chairman, State Conservation Commission 

FROM: Karl G. Brown
Executive Secretary 
State Conservation Commission

The Nutrient Management Act (Act 38) created the Nutrient Management Advisory Board (NMAB or Board) with the given duty of reviewing and commenting on Nutrient Management regulations and policies.

It is the role of the Chairman of the State Conservation Commission to appoint members to fill the 16 member positions on the NMAB. It is then the role of the Commission Members to act on those appointments. The purpose for this memo is to request your appointment of one individual to fill a vacancy on the Board.

Act 38 allows individuals to serve two consecutive, 3-year terms on the NMAB. At this time there is one position on the Board where the member (Dr. Charles Cravotta III, resigned effective October 21, 2016. The following chart outlines the position that need filled.

Position	Current Member	Nomination / Recommendation for Replacement
<i>Eligible & Interested in Appointment</i>		
Hydrologist	Dr. Charles A Cravotta III	Request appointment of Joseph Duris

The following individual is brought to your attention for consideration as an appointment to the NMAB.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recommend for the Hydrologist position, Joseph W. Duris, who was recently hired as a Water Quality Specialist, for the USGS, and Project Chief on microbiology and water chemistry projects.

Joseph W. Duris
U.S. Geological Survey
Pennsylvania Water Science Center
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New Cumberland, PA 17070

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Phone: (717)-730-6930

ORCID ID: orcid.org/0000-0002-8669-8109

Professional Page: <https://profile.usgs.gov/jwduris>

Biography:

I received my BS in Biomedical Science in 1998 and my MS in Biological Science with a focus on Environmental Microbiology from Western Michigan University 2002. I started my career in the U.S. Geological Survey at the Michigan Water Science Center in Lansing, MI where I worked for 14 years before moving to the Pennsylvania Water Science Center in 2016.

Early in my career I worked in a molecular biology lab developing and applying PCR, ELISA, and growth assays to detect fecally-derived bacterial pathogens in water, sediment, and manure from various sources (agricultural drainage, stream water, bed sediment, agricultural soil, manure, etc). The assays developed during this time were extensively applied to understand the relation between land-use and pathogenic bacteria in agricultural settings and to determine the relation of pathogens to trace-organic chemicals of emerging concern that co-occur in the environment in many settings. In the middle 2000s, I began working on a USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Surface Water Status and Trends site. During this time, in addition to learning and applying various standard USGS water-quality methods and principles, I was involved in pilot studies evaluating the relation of mercury and antibiotic resistance, as well as assessing the status of a network of streams in Michigan for a variety of pesticides. Since then, I have worked extensively with both organic and inorganic water chemistry and have lead and been involved in multiple studies evaluating the correlation and effect of altered water chemistry on the number, type, and function of environmental and fecally-derived pathogenic bacteria.

In 2011, I became the Michigan Water Science Center's Water Quality Specialist where I helped develop larger monitoring programs and oversaw the study design, data quality, and reporting for several local and regional USGS water-quality studies around the state and region. Throughout my time at the USGS I have been actively involved in the USGS Toxics Substances Hydrology program in evaluating the occurrence, fate, and transport of fecally-derived pathogens and antibiotic resistant bacteria. Currently, my research interests include understanding how human practices, including agriculture and urbanization, affect the occurrence, distribution, fate, and transport of nutrients, sediment, trace organic compounds, and pathogenic bacteria in surface water, and how trace contamination affects the microbial ecology of unique environments, especially as they relate to human and environmental health. I am currently active on the USGS team that is researching the formation and toxicity of cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.

**Proposed Building Reserve Account
using SCC Allocated UGW Funds**

District Name Susquehanna County Conservation District

Date Board took action on creating this proposed account: 20 October 2016 (addition to existing account)

Additional funding designation request= \$93,030.00 (see attached copy of of district board minutes)

Name of Proposed Reserve Account: CDFAP/UGWF Building Fund

Purpose/description of account and the overall building project:

Account created in 2015 for funding a new office building. Would like to add additional funds to existing account.

Update: We have a floor plan approved. Currently we are deciding on the HVAC system. When this is finalized soon, we will be able to get the finalized design to be reviewed for building codes approval. Following that approval, we will be ready to finalize specs for bidding. The County Planning commission has given approval contingent upon receipt of township driveway permit.

The goal is to break ground in spring of 2017

Length of time you expect account to remain active: 2-3 years (ex. 1 yr, 2 yr, permanent)

Who owns the property: Susquehanna County Conservation District

If the property is not owned by the District, how long of a lease do you have: NA

Will the District have a mortgage and how long will it be for after the building is complete: Yes, not sure how long

Fiscal management policy relating to the account:

How will you document expenditures in the account: QuickBooks – District Audit

Will the board take action on each transaction: yes

Who will have signature authority on the account: 2 signatures: Chair, Treasurer, Manager (ex. Manager, chair)

Expected Size of Account: ~350,000.00

Will this account be replenished and if so how: No

Additional Information pertinent to the use of the reserve account:

SUSQUEHANNA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Draft

October 20th 2016**Start time: 0834 AM** **End time: 1123 AM**

Attendance: Maria Hill, Jim Garner, Edgar Warriner, Bill Bayne, Jim Kessler, Bob Wagner, Ray Warriner, Shane Kleiner, Andrew Gardner, Lillian Theophanis, Brian Severcool, Curt Hepler, Doug Wood, Pete Tarby, Bill Bayne, Jim Garner, MaryAnn Warren

Comments from the public – none

Shane Kleiner swore in Andrew Gardner as a District Director

Meeting minutes

Curt motions to accept the September Board minutes as presented Lillian seconds – motion passed

Treasurer's report

Jim Kessler motions to bind the treasurer's report over for audit Lillian seconds - motion passed

Correspondence –

Jim G. reviewed correspondence

Requests for Assistance & Cancellation- none at this time

Reports:**Agencies-**

DEP CBP – reviewed report and noted that the Susquehanna county CBP contract has been finalized.

NRCS – reviewed report. Working on several CTAs that concern SCCD such as Harold Luther, waiting to hear back from Engineer for ok. Harvatein's spring development is finished waiting on paperwork. Susquehanna County NRCS is without a biologist in

DEP –

- PACD NE regional meeting will be held in Wilkes-Barre on 2nd floor will be held tomorrow (10/20/16)
- PACD/SCC winter meeting Ramada Inn Jan 24-25th
- Watershed workgroup has been decided on and will discuss terms and duties and responsibilities of Watershed Agreement. If anyone has any questions let your regional representative know

Staff: see attached reports

Commissioner Director:

Alan Hall has stepped down as chair. Betsy Arnold is now the chair and Alan is vice chair
With the boards support MaryAnn will put a link to “Thank a family farmer “on this District
Facebook page. Construction is going well at the court house. Second floor is on. Treasures
office will be moved and fully staffed Monday

Old Jail – looking at ways to preserve

County put \$750,000.00 of ACT 13 money to go to waterline and American Waters Co. is also
funding a portion of the waterline. The gas line is moving forward

Drug Take back is this Saturday. National program for unused prescription bottles to be properly
disposed of

Lana Adams has been hired as the new chief clerk to start on November 7th

Added public comment to commissioner’s agenda

Gave ACT 13 money to Harford to assist with infrastructure in their township

Nominating Organizations:

Farm Bureau –

1. Policies were adopted at last meeting.
 - To prevent prescription drugs from being televised
 - Prevent commissioners from serving more than two terms
 - Lillian and Bill Bayne have been nominated for SCCD Board

Forest Landowners –

- Fall Bus tour to the Syracuse Experimental forest was very well attended. They have a lot of experiments/projects that they are working on. Sugar Maple, Norway Spruce studies
- **Annual Dinner meeting** – Harford Fire Hall Nov 19th at 7pm public is welcome. Speaker will talk about forests in Alaska

RC&D -

- Kim Gridley – has applied for \$100,000.00 for Riparian Buffer initiative
- Kim would like to meet with the district at the November work session
- Lillian would like the District to have an alternative energy program workshop to support the biomass grant with RC&D. the program could piggy back on Dairy Day or have a smaller event on our own

Old Business

1. Pipeline projects update

- Constitution –had a pre ap meeting are ready to pick up felled trees
- Triad – approved but nothing has moved forward
- Uniondale – had a pre ap meeting about a month ago
- NED- dropped off

2. Building committee report

The Building Committee recommends the Electrical heating system (mini splits) for the building with the proper backup heating system if necessary. If there is no back up heating system required, we will get it in writing. The guarantee on the heating equipment's capacity to heat will need to be in writing.

The use of an electrical heating system will allow the possibility of the use of solar power in the future will help offset electric fees

Committee will speak with John Puzzo to confirm the heating equipment's ability to heat in negative temperatures

3. District Audit

MaryAnn motions to approve the 2015 Audit Lillian seconds - motion passed

4. Update on DuBois Creek GG project

Harold Luther's project is waiting on engineer to sign off

Harvatine spring development completed and barnyard being worked on

DuBois Creek. NSWRA and Sportsman's club cannot fund trees that they agreed to in the grant. Jim G. will send another hard copy letter and provide more ideas and guidance on what needs to be done as well as the time line for response back to both parties

5. Banquet update

We have about 90 RSVPs. We are moving along on schedule.

New Business

1. CDFAP/UGWF and proposed special projects

MaryAnn motions to approve the following use of CDFAP/UGWF funds -- \$16,350 to go to special projects and \$93,030.00 to go to capital reserve for our Building fund for a total of \$109,380.00 CDFAP funds Lillian seconds - motion passed

2. QAB recommendations

Ray Warriner motions to accept the following QAB recommendation Lillian seconds motion passed

3. Budget committee report

Township	Road		Amount
Brooklyn	Wright	D&G	\$ 71,425.00
Choconut	Carmalt	D&G	\$ 74,688.00
Jackson	Droppps	D&G	\$ 49,575.00
D&G Project Applications:			\$ 195,688
Susquehanna Borough	Prospect Street	LVR	\$ 22,225.00
LVR Project Applications:			\$ 22,225.00

Budget Committee met last week to review reports. Will meet again to discuss overall budget. Goal is to have a budget by the end of the year presented to the board for approval.

4. Computer software vendor issue

Curt motions to pay for QuickBooks \$445.00 Bill seconds - motion passed

5. ACT contract

Curt motions to sign the ACT contract Jim Kessler seconds - motion passed

6. PACD policy to be voted on at regional mtg.

Curt motions to accept the PACD policy process as presented Jim K – motion passed

Curt motions to allow Associate Directors to be appointed as regional directors and be able to vote Lillian seconds – motion passed

Public Comment:

Brian motions to adjourn at 11:23 Lillian seconds - motion passed



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: October 28, 2016

TO: Members,
State Conservation Commission

THROUGH: Karl G. Brown, Executive Secretary
State Conservation Commission

FROM: Johan E. Berger, Conservation Program Specialist
Financial Administration, Policy, Certification & Conservation District Programs

RE: Susquehanna County Conservation District Reserve Account
Additional Funds Request

Action Requested:

Approval of Susquehanna County Conservation District's request to designate FY2016-17 Unconventional Gas Well funds, in the amount of \$93,030, into an existing reserve account.

Background:

At its March 17, 2015 public meeting, the State Conservation Commission approved the creation of a Building Reserve Account, under the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program Statement of Policy, at the request of the Susquehanna County Conservation District (SCCD), for use of Unconventional Gas Well (UGW) funds allocated to the district. The approved request placed \$108,254 of UGW funds in a reserve account for a new office building project. Subsequently a second request from the district in January 2016, for the designation of \$46,662 of UGW funds allocated to the SCCD in FY2015-16 to the Building Reserve account was approved by the Commission.

The SCCD Board of Director's took action during its October 2014 board meeting to beginning planning for a future office building purchase or construction. That decision was driven by two factors: 1) limited office space for current and possible expansion of staff, and 2) the current lease agreement would be expiring at the end of 2015. The conservation district purchased a four-acre tract of land in December 2015 in Montrose, PA. The district is currently engaged in the design and cost estimate phase for the construction of the new building. Ground breaking is expected to occur in the spring of 2017 and the District anticipates moving into the new building later in 2017.

Attached is a request (Attachment 1) to designate \$93,030 in allocated FY2016-17 UGW funds into the district's existing Building Reserve Account established for the building project. The SCCD Board of Director's took action to designate these funds at its October 20, 2016 public meeting (Attachment 2).

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the request for additional funds to be designated to the SCCD Building Reserve Account in the amount of \$93,030 for the building project.



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

DATE: October 26, 2016

TO: State Conservation Commission Members

FROM: Frank X. Schneider, Director
Nutrient and Odor Management Programs

THROUGH: Karl G. Brown
Executive Secretary

RE: Nutrient and Odor Management Programs Report

The Nutrient and Odor Management Program Staff of the State Conservation Commission offer the following report of measurable results for the time period of September / October 2016.

For the months of September and October 2016, staff and delegated conservation districts have:

1. Odor Management Plans:
 - a. 10 OMPs in the review process
 - b. 14 OMPs approved
 - c. 2 OMP approvals rescinded
2. Reviewed and approved 81 Nutrient Management (NM) Plans in the 2nd quarter of 2016.
 - a. Those approved NM plans covered 14,421 acres
 - b. Those approved NM plans included 30,315 Animal Equivalent Units (AEUs), generating 402,607 tons of manure.
3. Conducted two (2) county conservation district program evaluations.
4. Managing thirteen (13) enforcement or compliance actions, currently in various stages of the compliance process.
5. Worked with legal counsel on four (4) separate Environmental Hearing Board cases.
6. Continue working with the delegation workgroup that is working on a new 5 year delegation agreement for FY17-22. Sent the draft delegation agreement and required output measures (ROM's) out for a 60 day public comment period
7. Coordinated with DEP Solid Waste Program on developing unified guidance on how to handle food processing residuals in Act 38 and manure management in general. Presented the draft to the Nutrient Management Advisory Board. Sent draft out for public comment. Continue to finalize the document to be placed in Version 10.0 of the Nutrient Management Technical Manual.

8. Continue to receive and catalog public comments for the next edition of the Nutrient Management Technical Manual.
9. Continue to receive and catalog public comments for the next edition of the Nutrient Management and Manure Management Administrative Manual.
10. Worked on an Alternative Manure application map, that could be a companion to the official NMP Summary. Presented to the NMAB.
11. Sent out for public comment, the draft revised standard animal weights and animal groupings that are used for Act 38. The public comment period will be 60 days.

OMP Status Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>OMP Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>AEUs</i>	<i>OSI Score</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Action By</i>	<i>Amend</i>
<i>CAO/CAFO</i>									
9/1/2016	Lewis, Mike	Lancaster	E Donegal Twp	Broilers	85.48	35.6	Approved	Exec. Sec.	A
9/13/2016	Kish-View Farm - Home Farm	Mifflin	Union Twp	Cattle	149.5	206.1	Approved	SCC	
9/13/2016	Martin, Keith - RM Broiler Site 2	Lancaster	Clay Twp	Broilers	135.23	115.9	Approved	SCC	A
9/21/2016	Spring Maple Farm	Lancaster	W Lampeter Twp	Multi	731.1	82.1	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
9/21/2016	Musser, Keith	Perry	Carroll Twp	Turkey	211.6	46.3	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
9/21/2016	Esch, Ivan	Lancaster	Sadsbury Twp	Cattle	101.25	76.8	Rescinded PI	Exec. Sec.	
10/5/2016	Martin, Myron	Lancaster	W Cocalico Twp	Broilers	222.24	36.8	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
10/5/2016	Sauder, Justin	Lebanon	E Hanover Twp	Swine	21.75	30.2	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
10/5/2016	Martin, Shawn	Lebanon	E Hanover Twp	Broilers	180.51	46.2	Rescinded PI	Exec. Sec.	
10/5/2016	Lantz, Roman	Franklin	Lurgan	Cattle	0	28.0	Approved	Exec. Sec.	A
10/6/2016	Sensenig, Lamar S - Huckelberry Rd (prev	Lebanon	Union Twp	Broilers	174.4	39.6	Approved	Exec. Sec.	B
10/11/2016	Johnson, Drew	Franklin	Fannett Twp	Swine	682.8	72.2	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
10/19/2016	Brinton, Scott & Andrew - Riverview Farms	Lancaster	Fulton Twp	Layers	160.0	9.9	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
10/19/2016	Round Hill Poultry	Adams	Reading Twp	Turkey	156.6	23.9	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
10/19/2016	Weaver, Arlin & Eldon	Cumberland	N Newton Twp	Swine	159.5	56.6	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
10/19/2016	Burkholder, Clair	Lancaster	E Drumore Twp	Layers	100.0	19.4	Approved	Exec. Sec.	
<i>VAO</i>									
9/27/2016	Martin, Shawn	Lebanon	E Hanover Twp	Broilers	180.51	46.2	Withdrawn/	Dymond	A



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

DATE: October 24, 2016 **Agenda Item C.1.a.ii**
TO: Members
 State Conservation Commission
FROM: Karl J. Dymond *KJ Dymond*
 State Conservation Commission
SUBJECT: November 2016 Status Report on Facility Odor Management Plan Reviews

Detailed Report of Recent Odor Management Plan Actions

In accordance with Commission policy, attached is the Odor Management Plans (OMPs) actions report for your review. No formal action is needed on this report unless the Commission would choose to revise any of the plan actions shown on this list at this time. This recent plan actions report details the OMPs that have been acted on by the Commission and the Commission’s Executive Secretary since the last program status report provided to the Commission at the September 2016 Commission meeting.

Program Statistics

Below are the overall program statistics relating to the Commission’s Odor Management Program, representing the activities of the program from its inception in March of 2009, to October 23, 2016.

The table below summarizes approved plans grouped by the Nutrient Management Program Coordinator Areas and by calendar year.

	<i>W</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>NE</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Annual Totals</i>
<i>**2009</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>**2010</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>**2011</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>**2012</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>**2013</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>**2014</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>76</i>
<i>**2015</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>93</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>Grand Total: 479</i>

Note that 2016 YTD is through August 23, 2016

***Note the change in approved plan numbers is due to rescinded OMPs*

As of October 23, 2016, five hundred forty four OMPs have been **submitted**, four hundred seventy nine have been **approved**, eight plans have been **denied**, sixteen plans have been **withdrawn** without action taken, thirty one plans were **rescinded** and ten plans are going through the **plan review process**. Note: of the 544 total plans, 95 of those plans are amendments of previously approved plans.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: October 31, 2016
TO: State Conservation Commission
FROM: Johan E. Berger
Financial, Certification and Conservation District Programs
SUBJ: 2016 "To-date" Program Accomplishments: Nutrient and Odor Management Specialist; Commercial Manure Hauler & Broker Certification programs

Certification Program Summary

State Conservation Commission staff facilitate training and certification programs for persons interested in 'commercial' or 'public' certification in order to develop or review odor management or nutrient management plans under the Act 38 *Facility Odor Management or Nutrient Management* programs. Training is also facilitated for commercial manure haulers and brokers seeking certification under the Act 49 *Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker Certification* program.

Program Accomplishments (January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016)

1. The Winter/Spring certification cycle for the Nutrient Management Specialist certification program ended in June 2016. Seventeen (17) individuals completed the necessary certification coursework to achieve provisional certification. The Summer/Fall certification cycle began in August 2016 with 22 persons enrolled to begin their certification classwork.
 2. Two certification cycles of coursework for the Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker certification program was offered in March and September 2016. Twenty-three (23) commercial manure haulers or brokers completed their required coursework and certification requirements.
 3. Program staff completed eighteen (18) reviews of nutrient management plan reviews for certification requirements. *Note: This is an internal review conducted on NMPs under review by public review specialists seeking final certification.*
 4. Program staff issued the following licenses to individuals who successfully completed certification requirements and/or continuing education requirements for license renewals:
 - a. Nutrient Management and Odor Management Specialists:30
 - b. Nutrient Management Specialist (Provisional License)26
 - c. Commercial Manure Haulers and Brokers: 150
- Total licenses monitored and maintained by Commission staff on behalf of PDA:
- a. *Nutrient Management Specialists*.....310
 - b. *Commercial Manure Haulers and Brokers*700
 - c. *Odor Management Specialists* 39

5. Approved credits for eligible continuing education programs scheduled up to October 31, 2016:
 - a. Nutrient Management Specialist certification: 35 events
 - b. Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker certification: 15 events

Note: Most of these events are occurring during the months of February, March & April 2016.

6. Three compliance investigations under the Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker Certification program were assessed and corrective actions were imposed and completed by the licensees. The cases are closed.
7. One compliance investigation under the Nutrient Management Specialist and Odor Management Specialist certification program remains open pending completion of corrective actions by the specialist.



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

DATE: October 31, 2016
TO: State Conservation Commission
FROM: Johan E. Berger
 Financial, Certification and Conservation District Programs
SUBJ: 2016 “To date” Program Accomplishments
 Resource Protection and Enhancement Program (REAP)

REAP Program Summary

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program allows farmers, businesses, and landowners to earn state tax credits in exchange for the implementation of conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) on Pennsylvania farms. REAP is a “first-come, first-served” program – no rankings. The program is administered by the State Conservation Commission and the tax credits are awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Eligible applicants receive between 50% and 75% of project costs in the form of State tax credits for up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation.

Program Accomplishments

January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016

The FY2016 REAP application period opened August 2016 with an annual tax credit allocation of \$10 million. Below is a summary of the FY2015 and FY2016 rounds of REAP applications (1), and a summary of REAP activities from January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016 (2).

(1.) FY 2015

Applications	Total Cost	Other Public Funds	REAP Requests	Credits Granted
FY2015 344	\$25.6 million	\$4.0 million	\$10.5 million	\$6.52 million
FY2016 88	\$8.67 million	\$2.37 million	\$3.54 million	\$955,000

a) <u>REAP Request – project types</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>
1) Proposed.....	\$3.4 million	\$1.90 million
2) Completed Projects	\$7.3 million	\$1.65 million
b) No-Till Equipment.....	\$5.1 million	\$1.80 million
c) Structural BMPs	\$4.3 million	\$1.66 million
d) Plans (Ag E&S, Conservation, Manure Management, Nutr. Mgmt.)	\$162,500	\$54,000
e) Low Disturbance Residue Management Equipment	\$660,000	\$14,000
f) Precision Ag Equipment	\$206,000	\$8,000

(2.) January 01, 2016 - October 31, 2016

1. Tax Credits issued to applicants for completed, eligible projects *\$8.5 million*
2. Number of BMPs completed associated with issued tax credits..... *518 projects*
3. Number of tax credit 'sales' completed *138 sale transactions*
4. Total tax credits processed through 'sales'*\$2.4 million*
5. Number of site inspections conducted on completed projects*76*
6. Educational and promotional activities included five (5) farmer meetings various visits to conservation districts and NRCS offices across Pennsylvania.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Date: October 25, 2016

To: State Conservation Commission

From: Roy Richardson, Dirt and Gravel Roads Program Coordinator

Through: Karl G. Brown, Executive Secretary

RE: Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads Program (DGLVRP) Update

Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC) - Since the July meeting, 11qaqcs have been conducted. To date, 47 have been completed with 3 additional scheduled for 2016. Staff is on track to meet the goal of visiting each county at least once every three years.

Education and outreach –Commission and Center staff have conducted the following trainings:

Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Training (ESM) - 6 ESM trainings were held since April:

4/13-14:	Adams	76 attendees
4/26-27:	Blair	75 attendees
5/11-12:	Susquehanna	76 attendees
5/24-25:	McKean	40 attendees
6/1-2:	Erie	29 attendees
6/21-22:	Monroe	42 attendees
7/12-13	Chester	32 attendees
10/19-20	Sullivan	39 attendees
11/15-16	Centre	47 registered to date

Annual Workshop - The 2016 Maintenance Workshop attracted over 175 attendees to York, PA. This year's workshop consisted of multiple classroom sessions ranging in a wide variety of topics including DSA sampling, stream pipe installations, prevailing wage, and others. The workshop field trips visited several different sites and focused on stream crossings, completed projects, and a unique combination diagnostic.

Tech assists - from information reported on the TechAssist tracker, 55 tech assists have been performed by Center staff since July.

Administrative Manual Update - Staff has been working with the Policy and Planning and Low Volume workgroups to revise and update the DGLVR administrative manual.

DRAFT



BUILDING BRIDGES

Farmers* Municipalities* Citizens
Conservation Districts* Agribusiness

To: Members
State Conservation Commission

From: Beth Futrick
Agriculture/Public Liaison

Through: Karl G. Brown, Executive Secretary
State Conservation Commission

Re: Ombudsman Program Update - Southern Alleghenies Region

October 21, 2016

Activities: August 31, 2016- October 21, 2016

- Administer Blair County's NACD-Urban Ag Grant.
 - Meet with various partners to coordinate urban ag outreach efforts
 - Develop workshops and meetings to connect urban ag technical support partners with potential clients
 - Organizing a bus tour to local community gardens
 - Organizing events for Healthy Harvest-fest to promote BCCD's new urban ag program
- Coordination and site checks with green infrastructure installations - bio-swale and rain garden
- Partnering with the Center for Dairy Excellence (CDE) and Center for Beef Excellence (CBE) farmer outreach and workshops on manure management and ag e/s plan development.

Meetings/Trainings/Events

- Blair Co Urban Ag meeting with NRCS and Penn State Extension partners (Sept 1)
- Planning meeting with CDE and CBE
- Meeting with Heritage Poultry Management Systems at a Lycoming Co farm (Sept 7)
- Meeting with Altoona City Council to assist with Altoona Jr High School's aquaponics farm program (Sept 8)
- Healthy Blair County Coalition meeting - collaborating on 2016's Healthy Harvest-fest (Sept 20)
- Green Infrastructure planting day with area FFA students (Sept 27)
- Reconvene PA in the Balance workshop (Oct 12)

Conflict Issues/Municipal Assistance -

- Lycoming County- fly complaint
- Bedford County - fly complaint

Reports & Grant Applications

- Application to DCNR for Multifunctional Riparian Buffer
- Prepared and submitted a financial report to NFWF

**BUILDING BRIDGES**

Farmers * Municipalities * Citizens
Conservation Districts * Agribusiness

To: Members
State Conservation Commission

From: Shelly Dehoff
Agriculture/Public Liaison

Through: Karl G. Brown, Executive Secretary
State Conservation Commission

Re: Agricultural Ombudsman Program Update

November 8, 2016

Activities: Since mid-September 2016, I have taken part or assisted in a number of events, including the following:

- Coordinated overall details for 2nd annual Lancaster Co. Ag Week 2016
- Attended daily events during Ag Week
- Beginning efforts to possibly create a manure recordkeeping app for mobile devices
- Planning for SouthCentral Task Force Ag Subcommittee presentation at PA Assoc'n of County Fairs convention in early 2017
- Working on a new publication for ag compliance action plans
- Attended Soil Health and Grazing Field Day
- Met with Centers for Dairy and Beef Excellence representatives to discuss providing farmer workshops to obtain baseline Ag E&S plans
- Beginning to plan "Fly Camp" for 2017
- Met with computer software company working on assorted software and recordkeeping for farmers
- Serve as Secretary for Coalition for Smart Growth Board and Exec Comm
- Serve as Chair of the South Central Task Force Agriculture Subcommittee
- Attended and assisted at Lancaster Co. Agriculture Council meetings

Local Government Interaction: I have been asked to provide educational input regarding agriculture:

Lancaster Co—continued efforts with Rep. Cutler's office about neighborhood issue with composting facility
Cumberland Co—received request from farmer with ordinance/ACRE questions

Moderation or Liaison Activities: I have been asked to provide moderation or liaison assistance with a particular situation:

Chester Co—on-going issue regarding phorid flies in Chester Co. Included public meeting(s).
Adams Co—questions about neighbor and corn fodder

Research and Education Activities:

None Currently

Fly Complaint Response Coordination: I have taken complaints or am coordinating fly-related issues in:

Chester Co—phorid fly complaints
Lancaster Co—received new fly complaint
Susquehanna Co—received complaint about food waste resulting in flies