

**State Conservation Commission  
Conference Call Notes  
December 16, 2025  
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

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**1. Opportunity for Public Comment**

- 2. Agency Updates** – Agencies and organizations that are a part of the Commission are asked to provide brief updates from their organizations. NRCS, DCNR, DEP, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Cooperative Extension, PACD, DCED, and PDA.

**3. Updated FY25-26 ACAP Allocations – Justin Challenger, SCC (A)**

The final approved FY 25/26 budget included an increase in anticipated ACAP funding due to interest monies from previous/current year that get rolled over to the new budgeted amount. The FY 2025/26 spending threshold was approved in July, contingent upon passage of the budget, and based upon a lower anticipated budgeted amount. Justin will seek Commission approval of the revised threshold figures. Counties are required by law to spend or commit these funds within two years.

**4. Conservation District Board Member Per Diem Policy- Justin Challenger, SCC (A)**

Justin will seek Commission approval of a per diem policy for district boards. The Conservation District Law allows district directors to receive payments for per diem and for reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses. Historically, in the absence of a state policy, counties have not offered per diem to directors. The request came to the

Commission in late 2023 to develop a policy related to per diem. The policy that we will seek approval for includes feedback from the Conservation District Advisory Committee (CDAC) and conservation districts. Payments could be made from the county governing body and/or the Commission, per policy.

**5. Fee Policy Amendment – SCC Policy 2004-01 (A)**

Doug will seek Commission approval to amend the Fee Policy to require districts to rename Chapter 102 “plan review” fees to “service fees” or other more generic term. This was initially brought to DEP earlier this year and subsequently provided to the SCC to evaluate the existing policy. As the Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development (SPEED) Act is implemented, DEP wants to ensure districts are able to continue to collect fees to support the work that they do with Chapter 102 (including but not limited to conducting inspections), even if they are not directly involved in the plan review. This issue was brought to the Conservation District Advisory Committee (CDAC) for feedback.

**6. Conservation District 2024 Audit Update and Extension Requests- Jaci Kerstetter, DEP (A)**

Jaci will provide an update on district audits and seek extension requests for those not yet completed.

**7. Updated PSU Nutrient Management Education Program Budget and Scope of Work - Robb Meinen, PSU and Brady Seeley, SCC (A)**

Brady and Robb Meinen from PSU will propose using miscellaneous nutrient management administrative funding to purchase a “dribble bar” for research purposes. A dribble bar is a tool bar or boom (48 to 60 ft. wide) with drop hoses at seven to 10-inch spacing that touches the soil. It requires less horse-power than injection equipment and can cover a larger acreage in a shorter period of time. Liquid manure is applied to the surface, potentially to growing crops such as wheat, forages and standing corn. The toolbar can also apply manure after wheat harvest, potentially mixing and manure seeding cover crops in the same application. It’s effectiveness at improving nutrient efficiency as a conservation practice could use further research here in PA.

**8. Year in Review**

Doug will close out the last meeting of 2025 by highlighting Commission accomplishments over the past year and share his perspectives on the year ahead.

**Next Meeting – January 20, 2026 – In person and via Microsoft Teams – PA Department of AG Building, Lobby Conference room**

**Adjournment**