US EPA Region 3 MOU & TownHall Recap

By: Jamie Stilley

As I update PACA on the significance of this Memorandum of Understanding with EPA Region 3, I want to be clear: this is an important step forward for our association, our members, and the future of our industry. This MOU matters because it creates a formal framework for PACA and EPA Region 3 to continue working together on environmental stewardship, information-sharing, best practices, and the real-world challenges our members face every day. It reflects the fact that our industry wants to lead, not react, when it comes to environmental responsibility.

What makes this agreement especially important is that it moves the relationship beyond occasional conversations and into a more deliberate, organized partnership. The MOU specifically states that its purpose is to encourage ongoing and productive discussions, improve understanding of environmental practices by PACA and its members, and improve stewardship and outcomes at member facilities. That is a meaningful commitment. It gives PACA a stronger voice at the table and creates more opportunities for our members to better understand expectations, share practical concerns, and help shape more informed discussions around compliance and stewardship.

This is important not only because of what it says, but because of what it represents. PACA is recognized in the document as Pennsylvania's leading voice for the crushed stone, ready mixed concrete, sand and gravel, and cement industries. EPA Region 3, in turn, serves Pennsylvania and the broader Mid-Atlantic region with a mission to protect human health and the environment. Bringing those two voices together in a formal agreement reinforces that our industry has both a seat at the table and a responsibility to lead constructively. That is a strong message to our members, regulators, and communities alike.

Just as important, this MOU is voluntary and non-binding, which gives it the right structure. It does not create legal obligations, endorsements, or outside rights. Instead, it creates space for good-faith collaboration while preserving the independence of both parties. That balance is important because it allows PACA to advocate for its members while still building a more transparent and productive relationship with EPA Region 3.

Finally, this is not a symbolic one-day effort. The agreement takes effect upon signature, remains in place for four years, and may be extended or modified by mutual consent. It was signed on April 10, 2026, by EPA Region 3 Regional Administrator Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey and me on behalf of PACA. That gives this collaboration real substance and real staying power. In my view, the importance of this MOU is simple: it positions PACA to lead,

strengthens our credibility, and creates a lasting pathway for better environmental communication, better stewardship, and better outcomes for our members.

Read the press release.

Town Hall Review

PACA's Town Hall was an exceptional event and a strong example of our association at its very best. From the moment members gathered in State College, the energy, participation, and quality of the program made it clear this was far more than a routine meeting. It was a meaningful opportunity for members to learn, connect, and leave better prepared for the challenges ahead. The agenda brought together timely industry topics, practical sessions, and valuable networking, but what truly set this year's Town Hall apart was the keynote focus on leadership in crisis.

Carol "Rollie" Flynn was a tremendous keynote speaker and brought a level of credibility and perspective that made a real impact. As President and CEO of The Arkin Group and a 30-year veteran of the CIA who held senior leadership roles in counterterrorism, intelligence, and foreign intelligence relationships, she offered insights grounded in high-stakes experience at the highest levels. Her presentation on "Leadership in a Crisis" highlighted the stages of a crisis and the key steps leaders must take to prepare for one, manage through it, and emerge successfully on the other side. That message could not have been more relevant for PACA members, who lead teams, operations, and businesses in an environment where calm decision-making, preparation, and resilience matter every day.

The keynote on leadership in crisis by Carol "Rollie" Flynn set a strong tone, while sessions on land use strategy, PACA's economic impact study, politics, AI in industry, operational efficiency, concrete performance, and regulatory developments ensured there was something meaningful for every attendee. The schedule also made room for PACA's Safety, Technical, and Regulatory community conversations, reinforcing that this event was not just informative, but highly practical and member focused.

Just as important, the Town Hall created real opportunities for relationship-building. Repeated networking breaks, exhibitor engagement, receptions, dinners, and the golf outing all helped strengthen the connections that make PACA such an effective association. This was more than a conference; it was a chance for members to learn from experts, share ideas, and build momentum together. PACA Town Hall showcased our industry at its best, engaged, forward-looking, and committed to leadership. It was an awesome event and a credit to everyone who helped make it happen.