

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THE MISSION of the Bradford County Conservation District is to lead, educate, and empower people to manage resources wisely.

August Board Meeting

WHEN: Monday, October 7, 2024, at 12:30 PM

WHERE: Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 850 4587 3305; Passcode: 409794

CALL IN: 1-929-205-6099; PASS CODE: 409794

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85045873305?pwd=qK2VfJAmFVstSpOGhqBArzws7DeaAL.1>

AGENDA:

- 12:30 - 12:35 Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance
- 12:35 - 12:40 Introduction of Guests & Action on Minutes
- 12:40 - 12:50 Reports from Cooperating Agencies and Guests

Old Business

None

Committees

None

New Business

- 12:50 - 12:55 2024 Budget – (D/A)
- 12:55 - 1:00 2024 Goals and Objective – (D/A)
- 1:00 - 1:05 Third Quarter Above and Beyond Winner

Other

None

Program Updates

- 1:05 - 1:10 Nutrient Management Plans (D/A)
- 1:10 - 1:15 Dirt and Gravel Contracts (D/A)
- 1:15 - 1:20 Commission Report - Field Representative (D)
- 1:20 - 1:25 Treasurer's Report & Payment of Bills (D/A)
- 1:25 - 1:30 Correspondence (D)

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, November 4, 2024, at 12:30 PM at Stoll Natural Resource Center & Via Zoom

A) Action D) Discussion

AGENDA BRIEFS

Old Business:

- none

Committees:

- none

New Business:

- 2024 Budget - D/A - Discussion and Consideration of approving the 2024 Budget
- 2024 Goals and Objectives - Discussion and Consideration of approving the 2024 Goals and Objectives
- Third Quarter Above and Beyond Winner

Other

Program Updates:

October 2024 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points

DEP's Environmental Education Grants Program now accepting applications

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) 2025 Environmental Education Grants Program is **accepting applications through November 15, 2024**. Projects must be implemented during the period of July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026. Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis.

Funding priority will be given to environmental education projects that engage people living, working and/or attending school within **Environmental Justice (EJ)** areas in topics related to **Climate Change** and/or **Water**. Use the DEP [PennEnviroScreen](#) to determine if the project will engage audiences within designated EJ areas.

Awards range from up to \$5,000 for local projects to \$30,000 for regional or statewide initiatives. Additionally, proposals that meet the General Grant Level II requirements (Engaging students and teachers from at least 60 Pennsylvania counties at *three levels*, local, state, and national; AND at least 30% of the audience lives, works or attends school within an EJ area) may be awarded up to \$65,000.

The 2025 Environmental Education Grants Manual and other pertinent information is available at [Environmental Education Grants](#). The Environmental Education Grants Program has supported a wide range of activities from tours and workshops to hands-on field experiences and action projects. Go to [2024 EE Grant Awards](#) for a listing of projects that were awarded funding in Spring 2024.

A free 2025 Environmental Education Grants Program webinar will be held on October 10, 2024 from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. DEP staff will provide proposal tips and instructions for completing required application forms. The program will conclude with a Q&A session. **Registration is required by September 30, 2024:** [2025 EE Grants Program Webinar Registration](#).

Questions may be directed to: RA-epEEgrants@pa.gov

Coastal Zone Grant Round Now Open

Applications for Coastal Zone grants are being accepted from Monday August 26 through Tuesday October 15, 2024, at 11:59PM. Eligible applicants include government entities and incorporated non-profits conducting projects in the two Pennsylvania Coastal Zones: the Lake Erie Coastal Zone and the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone. Funds can be used for a variety of projects. Conservation Districts in the Coastal Zones are encouraged to apply. The Coastal Zone includes Berks, Bucks, Delaware, Erie, Montgomery and Schuylkill Counties. For more information, see the Coastal Zone grant webpage ([Grants \(pa.gov\)](#)) or contact Shane Gutsie at sgutsie@pa.gov.

2025 Conservation District Director Nominations

Information packets for 2025 Conservation District Director nominations and appointments were sent out to county chief clerks and copies went to district managers. District managers are encouraged to contact chief clerks to discuss the 2025 nomination process and to answer questions regarding upcoming vacancies on their board. Appointments are due to the State Conservation Commission by December 15. Conservation District Field Representatives and the State Conservation Commission are available to answer questions concerning the director nomination process.

Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development (SPEED)

The SPEED program requires the use of qualified professionals (QPs) to augment DEP and CCD staff for the review of Chapter 102 permit applications and NOIs, as well as certain Chapter 105 applications, dam safety, and air quality approvals. A workgroup consisting of Chapter 102 CCD and DEP staff has been formed to develop guidance on SPEED implementation and will be meeting monthly for the foreseeable future. To date, DEP has held two statewide calls, on 8/5/24 and 9/16/2024, to answer questions about how SPEED may impact the Chapter 102 program and will continue to hold monthly calls moving forward. Please be on the lookout for invites to these meetings, and in the meantime, you may continue to send questions to RA-EPCHAPTER102@pa.gov.

2024 PAG-02 General Permit

The final PAG-02 General Permit was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on August 31, 2024. The permit goes into effect on December 8, 2024, and all Renewal NOIs must be received (postmarked) by December 7, 2024. Renewal NOIs received before December 7th may be reviewed and approved before December 8th, *as long as page 1 identifies an effective date of December 8, 2024*. Please reference the “Cheat Sheet” provided in Clean Water Academy for various renewal scenarios, as well as the internal webinars happening this fall.

A PAG-02 General Permit Course has been created in Clean Water Academy and made available to the public. A Clean Water Academy user login is not required to access this course unless the individual desires a course completion certificate. This course includes explanations of the differences between the 2019 and 2024 versions, how to complete the NOI, the permit requirements, and more. The course can also be found by searching for “PAG-02” in Clean Water Academy. Please inform the general public and regulated community about this new resource!

Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit 4 (ESCGP-4)

The final Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit 4 (ESCGP-4) was published in the PA Bulletin on October 5th. Staff will notice that it includes many similar changes made for the 2024 reissuance of the PAG-02 General NPDES Permit. On October 9th, DEP’s Bureau of Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management provided an overview of the ESCGP-4 requirements, application process, and transition plan from ESCGP-3. This session was recorded and posted in Clean Water Academy. Districts who review these permits are recommended to review the recording if they were unable to attend the training.

Chapter 102 ePermitting

BCW is currently discussing a transition period to pause ePermit submissions. CCDs may recommend submission outside of the system, however, at this time, use of the ePermit system cannot be denied, except for straight PAG-02 renewals which are not available in the system. It is likely that CCDs will be granted access to DEP’s Public Upload Platform (PUP) as part of this transition as a way to continue to accept electronic permit submissions, but those details are still being worked out. Please stay tuned for future updates and as always, if you run into any issues with ePermitting or have questions, please reach out to RA-EPChapter102@pa.gov.

Keystone Environmental ePermitting System (KEES)

BCW has partnered with PennDOT to bring Chapter 102 PennDOT application reviews to the KEES platform, similar to the Chapter 105 program. This does not replace the Chapter 102 ePermit system, but instead provides a successful mechanism for electronic review of PennDOT applications. A handful of DEP and CCD staff are currently user testing the system and **rollout for Individual Permit review is expected at the end of October**. PennDOT will be providing regional training opportunities to ensure CCDs receive proper training on the system. Please be on the lookout for these training announcements. PAG-02 review is expected to rollout in February 2025 for KEES. Until then, staff should continue to accept KEES-generated PDFs and/or standard “paper” submissions for all PAG-02 submissions.

DEP’s Manure Management Plan Workbook and Short Form Course is Now Open on Clean Water Academy.

On August 2nd, the new Manure Management Plan Workbook and Manure Management Plan Short Form course went live on Clean Water Academy. The course provides an overview of the Manure Management Planning requirements and reviews the content of the Manure Management Plan (MMP) Workbook and the MMP Short Form. The learning activities for the MMP Workbook and the MMP Short Form walk the learner through the different parts of each. The course provides completed examples of the MMP Workbook and the Short Form. The course page also provides links to download the MMP Workbook, the MMP Short Form, the *Land Application of Manure* appendices, and record keeping templates. It is open to the public and County Conservation District staff are encouraged to share the link with their customers and as part of their outreach efforts.

The content in this course reflects the changes that were implemented in the April 27, 2024 publication of the *Land Application of Manure* Technical Guidance Document revisions. This course is open to anyone to utilize, including the public, and can be accessed without the need to create a Clean Water Academy account. As DEP continues to develop content and resources related to the Manure Management Plan Workbook, they will be added to this course.

Course Title: Manure Management Plan Workbook and Short Form

<https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=1308>

ACAP – Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program

The State Conservation Commission approved ACAP funding for Fiscal Year 24-25 at its September meeting. Individual district allocations were included in the meeting packet. Original federal funding must still be spent by 12/31/26. Ag Conservation Keystone training is set for October 7-9 in State College. This is a “intro” to ag conservation that is meant to prepare ACAP techs to be able to get started in the program.

Sustainable Ag Board

The **Sustainable Agriculture Board (SAB)** has been appointed and will meet on October 4 to begin the process of awarding \$1 million in EPA Most Effective Basin (MEB) funding to soil health, climate, sustainable agriculture projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Clean Water Academy

New Staff Training Programs - PA Clean Water Academy has a wide range of New Staff Training Programs. Training Programs are collections of courses designed to teach fundamental concepts for different job responsibilities. To see the list of all Training Programs please login and click on this link. Or click on the Training Program button on the DASHBOARD.

[PA Clean Water Academy - New Staff Training Programs](#)

New CWA Water Resource Trainer - To help support water resource training efforts and PA Clean Water Academy, DEP has provided funding to PACD to hire a Water Resource Trainer. Kelly Davidson was recently selected for the position and has been working in this role for about a month. She holds a Master of Environmental Management and a Certificate in Geospatial Analysis from Duke University, as well as a Bachelor’s degree in Biology from North Carolina State University. Prior to her current role, Kelly served with AmeriCorps at the Borough of State College where she contributed to community-based environmental initiatives. She is looking forward to continuing to support water quality improvement efforts across Pennsylvania in this role.

New Course Under Development - The Bureau of Clean Water, Penn State Extension and Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands are collaborating on a new course on “Constructed and Restored Wetlands in the Agricultural Landscape” In this course you will learn what wetlands are and why they are important and how to leverage constructed and restored wetlands within the agricultural landscape to restore and improve water quality, reduce erosion, improve flood storage and reduce damage, and restore natural habitats while still enabling agricultural production.

The Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Program is live and is being actively used by members of the regulated community. CWA just passed 100 completions for members of the regulated community for the Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Program. Our surrounding states such as NY, MD and DE have had similar curriculum for years. Feedback from users is mostly positive. A handful of learners have indicated, they have little experience with E&S and SCM Inspections but have been assigned to perform inspections by their employer, and have found the examples, photos and training helpful. As an added bonus the training is free, and participants gain professional development hours. This was a large project with many moving parts, we would like to thank all those that have helped make this a reality.

As of Sept.30 we have had a total of 140 Completions of the Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Program broken down as follows:

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 104 | Completions from Public Users |
| 14 | Completions from DEP Users |
| 21 | Completions from CD Users |
| 1 | Completion from a SEO |

401 Users have enrolled and are in various stages of completion.

Chesapeake Bay Program

Two-Year Milestone Updates - Tier 2 Counties (Bedford, Centre, Cumberland, and Lebanon) should be preparing their Two-Year Milestone Updates. As part of this, Tier 2 Counties were provided a spreadsheet showing their 2023 progress, current CAST scenario numbers, and state recommendations for the county. Tier 2 Counties made numeric changes to BMPs, and these were sent to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for them to run updated scenarios in CAST. The results are anticipated to be shared back with the Tier 2 Counties the week of September 23rd. **Draft Two-Year Milestone Updates are due on October 1, 2024. Final documents are due December 2, 2024.**

Annual Progress Reporting - All other counties are responsible for providing their Annual Progress Reporting. **The draft documents are due on October 1, 2024 to the county's Project Advisor. Final documents are due December 2, 2024.**

Information about Annual Progress Reporting and Two-Year Milestone Updates can be found here:

<https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=1316>

2025 CAP Grant round will open October 1st and close on October 31st - Counties are encouraged to start identifying projects now and should be prepared to discuss the projects they intend to apply for during the August and September monthly CAP 1-1 calls. The minimum allocation threshold for counties will be \$200,000 again this year, as long as the county applies for at least that amount of funding. **Note:** In an effort to streamline the application process we will no longer be requiring counties to calculate BMP nutrient reductions. This means that counties will not be entering projects into FieldDoc. Instead, they will be providing the quantity and type of BMP for each project, as was discussed on the July 3rd Webinar Wednesday. A link to the webinar can be found here:

<https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=1306>

Project Name Entry in PracticeKeeper: As part of the submission of CAP projects into PracticeKeeper, we will now require the inclusion of a **project name** for **each** BMP Instance. The project name field will be included in the 6-month QA/QC check on the CAP grant and final report, along with the inclusion of a date-stamped photograph. **Note:** Pilot and Tier 2 counties whose original agreements are ending December 2024 – the project name attribute field is not a required part of the final report for **those old agreements only** as some counties closed their agreements prior to this update.

Dates to Remember

SCC Meetings – 1:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting.....Nov 12

SCC Conference Calls – 8:30 – 10:00 AM

Conference Call.....Oct 8

Conference Call.....Dec 10

Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Trainings

Annual Workshop - DuBois, PA Oct. 8 – 10

Admin and Financial Training, Luzerne County Oct 16 & 17

See CDGRS website for registration

New Manager Training

Wyndham Garden, State College Oct 23

Chapter 102 Internal Trainings (Virtual)

PAG-02 Compliance and Inspections Oct. 22 1:00 – 2:30 PM

PAG-02 Permit Review SOP and Exceptions SOP Oct. 30 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Notice of Terminations (NOT) Nov. 6 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PAG-02 General Q&A Nov. 19 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Calendar invitations for all webinars will be sent out by Krystal Bloom or Krista Brown, feel free to forward to staff as appropriate. These webinars will be recorded and saved on Clean Water Academy.

Chapter 102 Small Group Training

Fall Virtual Basic Training – This two-day, six-hour training is not meant to be a substitute for in-person attendance at the annual Basic Training (TBA Spring 2025), but instead provides abbreviated training for those who were hired after May of this year. (Seats are still available!)

Two days: Nov. 13-14 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Channels (Please join the waitlist!) Dec. 10 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

To register, log into Clean Water Academy and visit: <https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=922>

Verbal Judo

In-person – Toftrees, State College Oct 16 & 17

Also, check the Conservation District Training/Special Events Calendar at, www.PACD.org. Select the "Events" tab and then the "Training Calendar" tab.