

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

February Board Meeting

WHEN: Monday February 2, 2026, at 12:30 PM

WHERE: Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 848 2193 2115; Passcode: 309152

CALL IN: 1-929-205-6099; PASS CODE: 263690

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84821932115?pwd=aFZ00qcgAb1Cf4EpyFEjVmTZMPPhZy.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

- 12:50 - 1:00 Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control (D/A)

New Business

- 1:00 - 1:10 PFAS Discussion (D)
- 1:10 - 1:20 Membership Request from PA Farm Bureau (D/A)
- 1:20 - 1:30 Watershed Program Contract (D)

Program Updates

- 1:30 - 1:35 NM Plans – None
- 1:35 - 1:45 Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads
- 1:45 - 1:55 Farmer Resource Expo Recap
- 1:55 - 2:05 Riparian Buffer Presentation
- 2:05 - 2:10 Commission Report - Field Representative (D)
- 2:10 - 2:15 Treasurer's Report & Payment of Bills (D/A)

Other

- 2:15 - 2:20 Correspondence (D)

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, March 2, 2026, at 12:30 PM at Stoll Natural Resource Center & via Zoom

A) Action D) Discussion

AGENDA BRIEFS

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEES

- E&S Committee Report - Recommend updating our Chapter 102 Review Fees. Fee schedule was last updated in 2022

NEW BUSINESS

- PFAS and Biosolids Discussion
- Membership Request from PA Farm Bureau
- Consider signing a new contract with the Bradford County Commissioners for the Bradford County Watershed Program in the amount of \$200,000

PROGRAM UPDATES

- NM Plans – None
- DGLVR
- Farmer Resource Expo
- Riparian Buffer Presentation

OTHER

Correspondence

February 2026 Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points

Growing Greener Plus Grant Award Announcement

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is investing **\$17,325,163** for 89 projects across Pennsylvania that will restore streams, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and reclaim mine lands. The 2025 Growing Greener (GG) grants were announced on January 21 via a [press release](#). Twenty-four conservation districts were awarded thirty-four grants totaling \$7.4 million dollars. Districts should have received award letters with instructions on next steps to complete the contracting process. If districts have any questions, they should contact their watershed managers.

Pennsylvania Envirothon – Volunteers Needed for 2026

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is seeking volunteers to support this year's Oral Component and Station Testing Day. As a Conservation District program, the Envirothon relies on the expertise and commitment of District Managers, Staff, and Directors. If each district provides one or two volunteers, we can fully meet our needs for a successful event season.

Oral Component (Fully Virtual – Volunteer Remotely) May 14 and 15, 2026

Volunteers will assist in half-day judging blocks. All oral component judging is conducted online, allowing volunteers to participate from any location.

State Envirothon Station Testing Day (In-person) May 20, 2026

Camp Mount Luther – 355 Mt Luther Ln, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

In-person volunteers are needed to support station testing; *volunteer clearances are required*.

Volunteer Registration is open 2/1/26-3/20/26

Visit Envirothonpa.org sign up

For questions or additional information, contact:

Courtney Raker

Email: execdirector@envirothonpa.org

Phone: (570) 837-3000

Leadership Development

Director “Back to Basics” Orientation Workshop - The Leadership Development program's 2026 Board Development Initiative will include a regional “Back to Basics” Orientation Workshop designed for newly-appointed Director and Associate Directors. The program will include a condensed overview highlighting crucial information on district form and function, Director roles and responsibilities, legal requirements, partner relationships, and board development. Regional Orientation Training Sessions are scheduled for March 11 at Clinton CCD, March 12 at Cumberland CCD, March 18 at Westmoreland CD, March 24 at Monroe CCD, April 1 at the Lawrence County DPS, and April 23 at Berks CCD. Networking starts at 9am, the training will run 10am – 1pm and includes lunch. All Directors and Associate Directors, as well as district and partner staff, are welcome to attend. Visit PALeadership.org for more information and to register.

Manure Management Program

Request to Update Links to DEP Manure Management Brochures and Guidance Documents on Websites - DEP is requesting that all Conservation Districts who link to the *Land Application of Manure* Technical Guidance Document, the Manure Management Plan Workbook or any DEP Manure Management brochure handouts on their websites please verify that the links are to the newest versions. Along with the 2024 revisions to the *Land Application of Manure* Technical Guidance Document, DEP also released new Manure Management handouts for use by Conservation Districts. It has been noticed that some District websites are still using 2011 versions of the MMP Workbook and Manure Management informational handouts. The Technical Guidance Document and the 2024 handouts can be downloaded on the Manure Management Plan Workbook and Short Form course page on Clean Water Academy.

Manure Management Plan Workbook and Short Form Course

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

If you have any questions, please contact Nathan Radabaugh at Nradabaugh@pa.gov.

New CWA Course “Review of Nutrient Balance Sheets in a Manure Management Plan” - DEP has released a new course on Clean Water Academy for Conservation District and DEP staff who review Manure Management Plans. The course is titled “Review of Nutrient Balance Sheets in a Manure Management Plan”. The course provides a basic overview of Nutrient Balance Sheets and their review when they are used as part of a Manure Management Plan. This course explains some of the requirements for a Manure Management Plan that differ from the Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan requirements when it relates to Nutrient Balance Sheets. The course also provides a basic overview of the review of the MMP Nutrient Balance Sheet Spreadsheet printouts. Click here: [Review of Nutrient Balance Sheets](#) to go directly to the course or use the search function of the Find Learning page to search for “Nutrient Balance Sheets”. If you have any questions about this course or the content reviewed, please contact Nathan Radabaugh at Nradabaugh@pa.gov.

Regional Permit Coordination Office, Renamed

On January 12, 2026, the Regional Permit Coordination Office, known as RPCO, was renamed to **Major Projects Permitting Division**.

The Division remains responsible for the review and decision-making associated with complex and multi-region projects, including FERC-regulated natural gas transmission pipelines, large-scale linear infrastructure, transportation projects, and projects involving complex engineering or geologic considerations. Reviews are limited to activities requiring authorization under Chapter 102 and/or Chapter 105 and typically involve projects that span multiple counties or DEP regions, require coordinated review across DEP programs, or present elevated technical complexity.

An additional responsibility for the Division is to support the review of select major economic development projects where coordinated review, technical complexity, or workload redistribution is necessary to ensure timely permitting decisions under Chapter 102 and/or Chapter 105.

Chapter 105 Program

Chapter 105 General Permit SOP Meeting Held: On December 4, the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands' (BWEW) Division of Wetlands Encroachment and Training (Division) finalized and issued the revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Chapter 105 General Permits (GP). The [SOP](#) and the [GP Review Checklist](#) (found in the SOP Appendices) are available in the Clean Water Academy's [Chapter 105 Resource Center](#). On January 13, 2026, the Division held a statewide meeting for all Chapter 105 DEP reviewing offices and delegated County Conservation Districts on the revised and updated GP SOP. The meeting was well attended with over 90 attendees. The meeting highlighted some of the more significant changes from past practices and the changes made to increase review efficiency. There were also several helpful questions for clarification in the meeting as well. The Division will make the recorded meeting available to all 105 offices for reference. Considering the constructive feedback received, the Division offered to consider any additional clarification questions or issues sent to ra-ep105questions@pa.gov through the end of January. After which, the Division will update the SOP and publish the revised version and a Frequently Asked Question document for all offices to be able to reference on the Clean Water Academy.

Fayette County Conservation District - Chapter 105 Delegation: Upon receiving Fayette County Conservation District's (FCCD) request for delegation of the Chapter 105 General Permitting program, the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Division of Wetlands Encroachment and Training Division (Division) began an internal review of FCCD's capabilities to administer the Chapter 105 program and determined that their interest would assist the Department in permitting efficiencies. The Delegation Agreement is a contract document requiring several reviews within and outside of the Department and the request came at a time when these review processes were going through major revisions. In August 2025 the agreement was ready to be signed by FCCD and then was routed for the rest of the required approvals. On January 14, 2026, FCCD was sent a fully executed Chapter 105 delegation agreement. FCCD will coordinate with the Division and Southwest Regional Office staff to begin the necessary training and preparation to assume the program responsibilities on March 16, 2026.

Webinar on Mitigation Banking in Pennsylvania 101: History, Process, and Results: On January 14, Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) hosted a free webinar entitled "Mitigation Banking in Pennsylvania 101: History, Process, and Results". This webinar provided up-to-date intel on mitigation banking in Pennsylvania today by breaking down the history, regulatory framework, and real-world ecological outcomes in a clear and practical way. The webinar also touched on insider perspective on how mitigation banking has evolved, what makes Pennsylvania's program distinct, and how to successfully integrate banking into project planning and permitting timelines. Dave Goerman, a Water Program Specialist in the Bureaus of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Division of Wetlands Encroachment and Training (Division), was invited as a guest speaker to provide the regulatory details. The webinar was very well received with over 200 participants spanning a mix of professionals (including DEP), many of which remained on the webinar an extra 30 minutes as the Q&A session ran overtime! The webinar recording will be posted to the Clean Water Academy.

Water Quality Standards Trainings Updated to Include Wetlands – The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and wetlands, Division of Wetlands Encroachment and Training (Division) is pleased to announce that the training "Introductory Water Quality Standards" on DEP's Clean Water Academy has been updated to include a second lesson on "[Water Quality Standards-Wetlands](#)". The Division worked with the Bureau of Clean Water Training Section add this lesson to the existing Introductory Water Quality Standards course. This lesson guides learners through the Chapters 93 and 96 regulations on water quality standards, and how they set water quality standards for wetlands in relation to Chapter 105. It provides a clear synopsis of how all of the regulations work and tie together to establish standards for wetlands. This training is available to all DEP and County Conservation District staff. All 105 Regulatory Staff are expected to complete this new online lesson on Clean Water Academy.

Webinar on Guidance for completing Wetland Determination Forms with review considerations – On December 16, 2025, 119 representatives of state, federal, or local government organizations performing wetland identification and regulation work in Pennsylvania participated in this webinar focusing on completing the Wetland Determination Form, as well as key review considerations. This webinar was presented by Frank Plewa, a leading wetland expert Wetland Specialist from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Baltimore District’s Regulatory Program. Mr. Plewa brought an unparalleled wealth of knowledge to this session, having performed thousands of delineations and jurisdictional determinations and conducted hundreds of wetland identification trainings and seminars throughout his career. This webinar was recorded and added to the Clean Water Academy: [Guidance For Completing Wetland Determination Data Forms with Review Considerations](#).

PA Centric Webinar on New NRCS Manual Training on Clean Water Academy– On Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 124 representatives of state federal and local governments involved in wetland identification and hydric soil identification participated in a webinar on the USDA NRCS’ new compendium of **Hydric Soils of Problematic Conditions and Altered Materials**. This manual, released earlier in 2025, references our current understanding of problem conditions and altered soil scenarios which can cause difficulty in hydric soil identification, and it also provides solutions to address these circumstances. Aaron Miller, an NRCS soil scientist, member of the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, and author of this publication, presented on this manual and explained its purpose and use, and discussed specific components of this manual most applicable to Pennsylvania. This webinar was recorded and added to the Clean Water Academy: [Course: Hydric Soils of Problematic Conditions and Altered Materials-PA Centric \(Recorded Webinar\)](#). Please share this with other government organizations who may benefit.

Chapter 102 Program

Chapter 102 Quarterly Newsletter – The newsletter was emailed out the first week of January. It is also always available in the 102 Resource Center of Clean Water Academy, under [DEP Guidance, Policies, and FAQs](#). CCDs are encouraged to review the newsletter each quarter for reminders, updates, and tips. CCD staff are also welcome to make their own contributions to the newsletter; if interested, contact Luke Graver at lugraver@pa.gov.

District Websites and Fee Schedules – After receiving multiple notifications about outdated or incorrect Chapter 102 information on CCD websites last year, DEP requests that CCDs review their websites and make necessary updates. As a reminder, CCDs should provide links directly to documents on DEP’s website; do not download documents and upload them to your own web server.

CCDs are also reminded to review their fee schedules and associated documents/forms to revise any verbiage that indicates “permit review” or “plan review” fees to “service fees”. This terminology switch is more indicative of the processes and services that CCDs provide over the life of a permit, from application submission to permit termination. It also clarifies why applicants are still required to pay district fees even when they use SPEED for permit review. Adding an explanation statement or disclaimer to the fee schedule is not adequate unless you’ve also changed the terminology.

Chapter 102 Basic Training – Save the date for the Chapter 102 Basic Technical Training on June 1-5, 2026, at the Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, PA. This training is open to Conservation District and DEP staff who work with the Chapter 102 program. The curriculum is designed for new or newer technicians and incorporates classroom learning and a field component. New staff are encouraged to participate in Basic Training for two years, if possible. Registration coming soon, stay tuned!

Upcoming Events

- CCD Listening Session on Permit Efficiency (SPEED) – March 3
- Regional In-Person E&S Training – DEP’s Bureau of Clean Water will be hosting one-day small group E&S training events again in 2026. Be on the lookout for registration announcements!
 - Southwest – February 25

Clean Water Academy

[Course: Foundations of Pennsylvania Soils](#)

The course covers the fundamentals of soil science across four lessons. Learners begin by understanding how soils form, including the five soil-forming factors and the influence of parent materials on soil properties. They then examine soil physical properties such as color, texture, and structure, and how these characteristics affect soil profiles. The course also introduces how soils are described and classified using published data, soil taxonomy, and tools like the Web Soil Survey. Finally, learners are introduced to hydric soils in Pennsylvania, including their definition, identifying characteristics, and how soil descriptions relate to hydric soil indicators.

[Course: How to Access the Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Programs](#)

This training contains a short instructional video on how to create a Login in Clean Water Academy and access Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Programs. There are two QVSI Training Programs. A general QVSI Training program for those covered under the PAG-02 and a PennDOT specific QVSI Training Program.

[Course: Encountering Acid-Producing Rock/Coal During Construction Activities](#)

Sharon Hill from the Bureau of Mining Programs explains how to manage acid producing rock and coal during construction. She discusses identifying these materials, their impact on land development, and the planning needed to prevent pollution. Key topics include site characterization, testing for sulfur content, and the importance of licensed professionals in managing these materials. The presentation also addresses common questions about coal removal and APR handling.

[Course: Hydric Soils of Problematic Conditions and Altered Materials-PA Centric \(Recorded Webinar\)](#)

This webinar is on the USDA NRCS’ new compendium of Hydric Soils of Problematic Conditions and Altered Materials. This manual, released earlier in 2025, references our current understanding of problem conditions and altered soil scenarios which can cause difficulty in hydric soil identification, and it also provides solutions to address these circumstances. Aaron Miller, an NRCS soil scientist, member of the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, and author of this publication, presented on this manual and explains its purpose and use, and discusses specific components of this manual most applicable to Pennsylvania.

[Course: MRC \(Managed Release Concept\)](#)

In this course, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will introduce the foundational principles of MRC Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) and their design standards. Through this course, participants will gain the knowledge and skills needed to effectively implement MRC SCMs. This course is designed for professionals involved in stormwater management, planning, and design, providing practical guidance to support sustainable and compliant stormwater practices. Additional lessons are under development.

Learners may also explore this course to help them decide if they wish to pursue certification as a Sewage Enforcement Officer.

Chesapeake Bay

Webinar Wednesday Scheduled March 4th at 10:00 am - DEP's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division will be hosting a virtual Webinar Wednesday via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, March 4th at 10:00 am. During the webinar, Kate Beats, Environmental Group Manager, will be presenting on Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Program updates. Anticipated discussion points include the revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and implications for CAP, discussion on spending tracking tools, the timeline for CAP grants, etc.

Dates to Remember

2026 State Conservation Commission Meeting and Conference Call Dates

<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Conference Calls</u>
March 17, 2026 *	February 17, 2026**
May 19, 2026 *	April 23, 2026 (Thursday)**
July 23*	June 18, 2026 (Thursday)**
September 8, 2026 *	August 18, 2026**
November 17, 2026*	October 20, 2026**
	December 15, 2026**

*SCC Meetings – 9:00 am Briefing Session, 10:00 am Business Meeting

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

Leadership Development Director “Back to Basics” Workshops

Clinton CD	March 11
Cumberland CD	March 12
Westmoreland CD	March 18
Monroe CD	March 24
Lawrence County Public Safety	April 1
Berks CD	April 23

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Oral Component (Fully Virtual – Volunteer Remotely) May 14 and 15

State Envirothon Station Testing Day (In-person, Camp Mt. Luther) May 20

Chapter 102 Basic Training – Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, PA June 1-5

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