

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

May Board Meeting

WHEN: Monday, May 5, 2024, at 12:30 PM

WHERE: Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 851 2711 7992; Passcode: 943058

CALL IN: 1-929-205-6099; PASS CODE: 943058

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85127117992?pwd=yztFl8opucFReHBQyEDuidWzdOdUI5.1>

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

- 12:50 - 12:55 Seedling Sale Recap
- 12:55 - 1:00 County Envirothon Recap
- 1:00 - 1:05 Earth Day Recap

Committees

None

New Business

- 1:05 - 1:10 Proposed PACD Dues Increase (D)

Program Updates

- 1:35 - 1:40 ACAP and CAP update (D)
- 1:40 - 1:45 Nutrient Management Plans - None
- 1:45 - 1:50 Dirt and Gravel Contracts (D/A)
- 1:50 - 1:55 Commission Report - Field Representative (D)
- 1:55 - 2:00 Treasurer's Report & Payment of Bills (D/A)
- 2:00 - 2:05 Correspondence (D)

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, June 2, 2025, at 12:30 PM at Stoll Natural Resource Center
& Via Zoom

A) Action D) Discussion

AGENDA BRIEFS

Old Business:

Seedling Sale Recap
County Envirothon Recap
Earth Day Recap

Committees:

none

New Business:

- Proposed PACD Dues Increase – Discussion of proposed dues increase

Program Updates:

- ACAP and CAP updates
- DGLVR updates/contracts – Doc Lee Road, Warren Township

APRIL
CORRESPONDENCE

- #1 PA DEP, Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program
 - Copy of Statewide Health Final Report Approval to Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC for the Crain 4H Bra Pad PWT Release, Rome Township.
 - Copy of Approval of Elwell BRA Well Pad – Final Report to Chesapeake Appalachia LLC for the Elwell BRA Well Pad Produced Fluid Release, Wilmot Township.
 - Copy of Approval of Indian Foot BRA Well Pad - Final Report to Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC for the Indian Foot BRA Produced Fluid Release #2, Monroe Township.
- #2 PA DEP, Waterways & Wetlands Program
 - Copy of GP Acknowledgement Notification to PennDOT for the following:
 - o 76157 SR4022 over Chemung River 4022 017 4361, Athens Township.
 - o SR 14-117 over South Creek Bridge Replacement 3678, South Creek Township.
 - Copy of E41-9999 Authorization Notification to PennDOT for the following:
 - o Structure 08106200120000, Cayuta Creek, Sayre Borough.
 - o Structure 08402201200705, Over Chemung River, Athens Township.
- #3 PA DEP, Bureau of Oil and Gas Operations
 - Copy of Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit (WOEP) Issuance to Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC for the North Marcellus Hatch WI – Black Creek WP Temporary Waterline, Albany, Monroe and Overton Townships.
 - Copy of WOEP to Blackhill Energy, LLC for the Black Pearl Extension Pipeline, Springfield Township.

May 2025 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points

Growing Greener and 319 Grant Round

The Growing Greener and the 319 Grant Rounds **opened on April 22**. The Growing Greener website has been updated for the 2025 grant round. Interested parties should visit the website: [Apply for a Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Plus Grant](#) to watch application tutorials and apply for grants. All applications must be submitted through the eGrants online system. The Application period ends **June 20, 2025**.

FY 2025-2026 Watershed Specialist Contract Renewal

The current Conservation District Watershed Specialist (CDWS) Grant is entering its third year in July. On an annual basis, each conservation district administering this grant must request the renewal of the grant in order for funding to continue. Details were emailed to conservation districts on **April 21st**. The items of note include:

- Districts have until **May 30th** to return both the renewal form and budget worksheet in advance of the start of the new state fiscal year.
- In addition to the general funding for the position, the renewal request and budget may include a request up to \$5,000 in mini-grant funding.
- On the DEP website, the Watershed Specialist webpage ([CDWS webpage](#)) has been updated and includes links to several documents which also have been updated.

FY 2025-2026 Contracts and Applications

Program staff are preparing applications and forms for several programs for FY 2025-2026. Districts should watch for email notifications inviting them to update budgets and grant renewals sometime in late May or early June for the following Programs:

- Nutrient Management/Manure Management Budget Update
- Chesapeake Bay Technician Budget Update
- Chesapeake Bay Engineer/Engineer Assistant Budget Update

State Water Plan Regional Advisory Committees

The Department is in need of the insights, expertise, and passion of County Conservation District Directors to serve on the State Water Plan's regional advisory committees. These committees represent a unique opportunity to meet with a multidisciplinary committee with diverse backgrounds to discuss Pennsylvania's water resources. The next round of meetings is in October, in person as well as virtually. We are looking especially for representatives from Potter, Crawford, Erie, Franklin, Adams, Fulton, Bedford, or Somerset counties.

Pennsylvania Agriculture Conservation Stewardship (PACS) Certification Verifier Training

A training for all verifiers participating in the soft release of the PACS training was provided by staff from the DEP Agriculture Compliance Section, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) and State Conservation Commission (SCC). Representatives from Team Ag, Inc., Larson Design Group, Inc., Hubert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., Chester County Conservation District, Lancaster County Conservation District, and Clearfield County Conservation District participated in the training, and are working to be approved PACS verifiers. A training for all interested PACS verifiers is scheduled for July 29, 2025, in preparation for a broad release of the program during Ag. Progress Days 2025. – **Kate Bresaw, 717-772-5650**

Release of new Manure Management Plan Nutrient Balance Sheet Documents

The new Manure Management Plan Nutrient Balance Sheet Spreadsheet and Word version will be released at the beginning of May. To find these new documents, visit PSU's Nutrient Management Program website, <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/nutrient-management>. Along with the ability to perform nutrient calculations to determine manure application rates, this spreadsheet also allows the user to print out a Summary page and a Winter Spreading page that meet the requirements for Manure Management Plans. This removes the need for the user to copy all of the information from the Nutrient Balance Sheet spreadsheet into the MMP Workbook.

PAOnestop Manure Management Module

Staff from PSU are working with developers to create the Manure Management Plan module for PAOnestop. The module will integrate Nutrient Balance Sheet calculations, allowing users to complete all aspects of the Manure Management Plan on the website. This is on track to be completed by July 1st, with more announcements to come when we are closer to the release date. After the module's completion, farm operators will be able to complete both their Manure Management Plan and Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plan on PAOnestop.

Larson Design Group - Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Update

Larson Design Group, Inc. (LDG) will be opening a third round for project assistance requests from eligible County Conservation Districts (CCDs), providing technical services for projects focusing on nutrient and sediment reduction. Examples of program services include permitting, site survey, inventory and evaluation, project engineering and design, construction inspection, and project coordination.

LDG will be opening this round of technical assistance applications starting in June 2025. Please note that project eligibility parameters have changed for this round therefore, application instructions should be reviewed carefully.

Thank you to all CCDs who provided input regarding TAP late last year. Your time and contributions were greatly appreciated! For more information, please contact Tammy Piper at tapiper@pa.gov

Chapter 105 Program

Wetland Training Reminder - The DEP Water Obstruction and Encroachment Program has released a new training series, [*Constructed and Restored Wetlands in the Agricultural Landscape*](#), available on Clean Water Academy. This training was developed jointly by Penn State Extension and DEP. It is intended for agricultural producers, agricultural landowners and managers, and conservation professionals to understand current and historic wetland environments and losses and the potential for wetland restoration, creation, and treatment wetlands on agricultural operations. This online training consists of three interactive modules for learners to explore at their own pace. There was also [a pamphlet](#) developed for this training which can be distributed as well.

A primary goal of this training is to expand understanding and knowledge that wetland restoration can increase overall watershed health through nutrient and sediment processing and habitat restoration while still allowing productive agricultural operations. Often these restorations couple with stream restoration and take up no more than or less space than riparian buffers. The training series also focuses on design opportunities to have treatment wetland BMPs which also provide wildlife and waterfowl habitat, and restoration opportunities with mitigation banking. Conservation Districts are encouraged to take the training, but also promote the training as they interact with the public.

Chapter 105 SPEED Update – DEP has received bids from 27 firms resulting in the review of 130 individuals to be a possible Qualified Professional (QP) under the Chapter 105 SPEED Program for Individual Water Obstruction and Encroachment permits. All of the 27 current bids have been reviewed with 24 firms having at least one QP. Those 24 firms yielded 89 QPs and 41 individuals not meeting the requirements. DEP continues to present the SPEED Program at stakeholder and partner meetings, conferences, and trainings. DEP also continues with routine updates to partners and stakeholders. The draft SOP and training plan for Chapter 105 SPEED QPs are nearly completed and will be hosted on the Clean Water Academy.

Wetland Determinations Training Reminder - The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands' Division of Wetlands Encroachment and Trainings developed a comprehensive 8-hour training, done over 6 courses, [Introduction to Wetland Determination – 2024](#), available on the Clean Water Academy (CWA). This training was done in collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). This training will be expanded over the next two years with current collaborators to eventually be a complete resource on wetland determinations within the state of Pennsylvania.

This training will give participants a basic understanding of how to properly recognize wetlands in Pennsylvania and at the conclusion they will be able to identify and evaluate the three components that make up a wetland; hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soil. This training was designed specifically to meet DEP's regulatory programs related to wetland identification and the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and the associated Regional Supplements. This training is not a substitute for field experience and is meant to be foundational educational information. These lessons do not cover all wetland topics, terms, or other information but are meant to provide relevant training for DEP and the public.

This training is available for all staff and public to access on the CWA as a valuable resource on wetlands in the state of Pennsylvania.

Chapter 102 Program

SPEED – DEP will continue to hold regular meetings with Districts to provide Chapter 102 SPEED updates as appropriate. DEP may also send email announcements as the start of SPEED gets closer, so be on the lookout for these invitations and emails. The Chapter 102 Individual Permit will be the first to start accepting SPEED applications.

Chapter 102 Documents - Many Chapter 102 documents have been revised or created in the last year, and a [summary](#) of these documents is available publicly on DEP's [E&S Resources](#) page. The remainder of these documents became effective March 8, 2025. Failure to submit the latest versions of these documents should be considered a completeness deficiency. It is important to note that as we move forward with the effectiveness of new or updated forms that unless there is a specific date given (such as the March 8, 2025, date) it is permissible to accept older versions of 102 permit documents for up to six (6) months from the latest revision date on the document.

Chapter 102 Training

- **2025 Chapter 102 New Hire Small Group Training** – Participants must complete the Chapter 102 Level 1 Training Program before registering. It is also recommended to review the specific E&S Manual chapters prior to attending the trainings. Registration is available through [Clean Water Academy](#). Limited to the first 10 people who register.

Channels

June 17, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

September 9, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

December 9, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

- **Chapter 102 Basic Training** – BCW is already gearing up for its biggest training event of 2025. Save the date for Chapter 102 Basic Technical Training May 19-23, 2025, at the Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg – Hershey in Harrisburg, 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 is open on the CWA.
<https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=1409>
- **In-Person Regional E&S Training** – BCW continues to offer six in-person E&S technical training sessions throughout 2025. Participation will be limited to allow adequate training, with newer District staff given priority. Districts are encouraged to bookmark the dates below; invitations and registration information will be sent as the events get closer:
 - Northwest: June 11th (Registration closes May 28th)
 - Northcentral: August 20th
 - Southeast: September 17th
 - Southwest: October 22nd
- **Webinars** – BCW will continue to hold topic-based webinars throughout 2025. Meeting invitations will be emailed out as early as possible to allow staff to schedule around them. Most webinars will either be recorded or converted into a Clean Water Academy lesson, but District staff are *strongly encouraged* to attend live. Doing so allows staff to actively ask questions that may help not just them but others on the call, and also ensures everyone is up to date with the 102 Program.

The recent [Discharge Points \(DPs\) vs Points of Analysis \(POAs\) training](#) is now available in Clean Water Academy for everyone, no login needed. Staff should feel free to direct applicants and consultants to this training.

Clean Water Academy

Clean Water Academy Surpasses 50,000 Completed Courses – The Bureau of Clean Water is excited to share that the **Clean Water Academy (CWA)** has surpassed **50,000 course completions** since its launch! Of the 52,264 total course completions, **23,165 (45%)** were completed by conservation district staff. In addition, district staff completed a total of **777 training programs** during this reporting period.

To celebrate this milestone, the Bureau of Clean Water partnered with PACD to develop a **Clean Water Academy Report** highlighting key insights on course engagement and completion trends.

While the report focuses on platform success and completion data for Conservation Districts, we also want to recognize the many **DEP Water Program staff** who have played a vital role in developing and supporting CWA content—your contributions are a big part of what makes this resource so impactful!

If you haven't explored the CWA yet, now's the perfect time. It's a valuable online training library for **DEP staff, conservation districts, sewage enforcement officers, and the public**—supporting both onboarding and continued learning.

New Course

[Course: Proper Stormwater Conveyance: During and After Construction](#)

At the end of this course, learners will understand how land use changes impact stormwater runoff, recognize natural flow conditions, and identify appropriate conveyance practices during and after construction. The course will also cover proper drainage areas, temporary conveyance strategies, and the importance of both short- and long-term maintenance.

Chesapeake Bay Program

CAP Program Update Regarding Disadvantaged Communities in Most Effective Basins -

Previously, CAP Grant funds awarded from federal sources were required to be directed toward projects located within geographically identified disadvantaged communities (DC) within most effective basins (MEB).

In compliance with recent Executive Orders and Agency Guidance, the EPA requirement to target federal funding to disadvantaged communities (MEB DC) has been rescinded. All other MEB requirements as detailed in [Attachment 9](#) of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) Grant Guidance remain in effect.

EPA has rescinded the MEB DC layer and updated the link to the online MEB map. The MEB map is now located here: <https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/wip/meb/>

Upcoming Webinars

- May 7th Webinar Wednesday
 - Purpose: Summary of outreach to Plain Sect communities in the Octoraro Creek Watershed and implementation of upstream agricultural best management practices (BMPs) on predominantly Plain Sect farms in Lancaster and Chester Counties.
 - Presenters: Tyler Shenk with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Alexandra Neumann with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Jeremy Weaver with Weaver Environmental Consulting
- June 4th Webinar Wednesday
 - Perspectives on CAP Program Administration: Participants will learn practical steps to successfully execute projects from concept to completion via the RFP and contracting process.
 - Presenters: Josh Glace with Larson Design Group, Allyson Gibson with Lancaster Clean Water Partners, and Lancaster County Conservation District
- July 2nd Webinar Wednesday
 - Participants will learn about buffer programs' structure, highlights, and successes – Blair County, York County, and DCNR
 - Presenters: Chelsey Weyant and Sarah Oreskovich with Blair County Conservation District, Rachel Stahlman with York County Planning Commission, and DCNR staff

If you would like to participate in one of the Webinar Wednesday sessions and do not already have the Teams Meeting information, you may contact Jim Spatz at jspatz@pa.gov

Clean Water Action Teams Meeting Throughout 2nd Quarter

Since the second annual Clean Water Gathering was held on January 23, 2025 (addressing priority action area challenges generated at the inaugural October 2023 Clean Water Gathering), the DEP Chesapeake Bay Team has organized Clean Water Action Teams to implement the specific recommended Success Strategies that were presented at the Clean Water Gathering.

Kick-off meetings are being held throughout the second quarter of this year to bring together identified Committed Partners and Progress Team Members that helped develop the recommended Success Strategies.

Collecting Newsletter Items for the May 2025 Edition of the Healthy Waters Newsletter

If you are aware of a recently completed CAP project, please email Jim Spatz at jspatz@pa.gov. The CAP Program would like to feature CAP success stories from a variety of counties in every issue. These projects can be partially or wholly funded by CAP.

Dates to Remember

SCC Meetings – 10:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting.....May 20
In-Person Meeting July 17

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

Conference Call June 17
Conference Call Aug 19

PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference

Seven Springs Resort, Somerset County July 15-17

Section 319 Virtual Watershed Planning and Implementation Meeting

May 27-28

2025 Annual CD Watershed Specialist Meeting

Wyndham Garden, State College Oct 7-8

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