BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Stoll Natural Resource Center
200 Lake Road, Suite E, Towanda, PA 18848
Telephone (570)485-3144

October 2026 Meeting

The October 2026 meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District was called to order by Daryl Miller on October 4, 2026, at 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center, Wysox, PA.

District Directors attending the meeting were: Daryl Miller, Al Herman, Brian Zeidner, Tony Ventello and Nicole Harris.

Others attending the meeting were: Joe Quatrini – District Manager, Chad Spencer – NRCS, John Sullivan – Associate Director, Brad Cummings – 102/205 Program Manager, Jonathan Vannoy – Natural Resource Specialist, Miranda Neville - Agricultural Resource Specialist, Lacy Powers – Watershed Specialist, Adam Chorba – District Forester, Tim Robson – Dirt & Gravel Roads Specialist, Dan Rhodes – Education Coordinator, Glenn Bell – Agricultural Resource Specialist, Kevin Brown – Ag Team Leader, Patrick Cullen – District Engineer, Jolie Coates – West Nile Virus Coordinator, Maggie Norton – Program Director, and Jenny McNeal – District Account Supervisor

Al Herman made a motion to accept September 2026 minutes as written. Brian Zeidner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS:

Commissioner's Office – Daryl Miller reported that budget season is under way and provided an update on the Bradford County broadband project.

NRCS – Chad Spencer provided the following updates:
Software down for end of FY cleanup.
EQIP- Finished up mods. and extensions on current contracts
Completing site visits for FY27 application
CREP- no word on replacing CREP biologist yet with PF
NRCS State Office engineer was up to do damn reviews on several state game lands

Claverack – Brian Zeidner reported that budget season had begun. PACD had contacted Brian to consider filling a regional director spot, but Brian had to decline due to other obligations.

Program Director – Maggie Norton was introduced as the new Program Director.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

2027 Budget– Brian Zeidner made a motion to approve the 2027 budget as presented. Tony Ventello seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

ACAP – Brian Zeidner made a motion to approve the amended 2026/2027 ACAP priority ranking list. Nicole Harris seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Dirt & Gravel Roads - Tim Robson reported that Smithfield Township had been nominated for and won Municipality of the Year at the statewide Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program annual conference.

OTHER:

Treasurer's Report – Brian Zeidner made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Tony Ventello seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

NFWF Grant – The District was awarded a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation small watershed grant for $97,400. The grant will support planning and technical assistance for forestry and stream related work.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 PM by Daryl Miller.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be held on November 2, 2026, at 12:30 PM at the Stoll Natural Resource Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny McNeal
Accounts Supervisor

October 2026
Conservation District Field Rep
Talking Points

Executive Order 2026-05 – Protecting Pennsylvania Consumers from Data Center Impacts

On August 18, Governor Josh Shapiro signed **Executive Order 2026-05** – Protecting Pennsylvania Consumers from Data Center Impacts. On Sept. 22, DEP Deputy Secretary Whitcomb sent an updated clarification memo to conservation districts. The program clarification memorandum (PCM) is provided to ensure uniform interpretation and implementation of the Pennsylvania Executive Order 2026-05 and provides specific steps to be taken by conservation districts that are delegated the Chapter 102 and 105 Programs. Districts shall consult with the regional office before formally accepting any permit application or registration request for a data center project to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EO. The full PCM (PCM - Data Centers (9-2026).pdf) can be found on the Clean Water Academy https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/mod/folder/view.php?id=6094 . Districts are encouraged to discard the clarification memo sent in August, become familiar with the guidance sent on 9-22 and, watch for additional updates from the Department.

2027 DEP Environmental Education Grant Application Opens October 5 - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announces a new round of Environmental Education Grants to open **October 5, 2026.** Applications must be submitted electronically through the Single Application for Assistance at https://www.esa.dced.state.pa.us/Login.aspx by **11:59 PM on November 13, 2026.** Applications submitted by ineligible organizations, past the deadline, or through mail, email, or fax, will not be considered. The project period is July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028.

Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis and awarded to environmental education projects that promote DEP's mission and/or engage people living, working, recreating, and/or attending school within Environmental Justice (EJ) areas or underserved audiences unidentified as an EJ area. DEP PennEnviroScreen assists in determining audiences within designated EJ areas.
Projects may:

- Engage learners of all ages and demographics
- Be delivered in classrooms, community centers, field sites, etc.
- Introduce new environmental concepts or build upon existing knowledge/programming

Three levels of funding are offered:

- **Seed Grant (up to $5,000)** for local environmental education projects
- **Grow Grant ($5,001-$30,000)** for large-scale environmental education projects, such as school district-wide projects, multiple community, or county collaborations, countywide, regional, ***or*** statewide projects.
- **Impact Grant ($30,001-$65,000)** for program capacity and sustainability development. Impact projects must target broad-scale audience engagement at three (3) levels: *county, regional, **and** state.*

The 2027 Environmental Education Grants Program guidelines and application instructions are available at Environmental Education Grants | Department of Environmental Protection | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Applicants are encouraged to attend a free applicant training webinar on October 13, 2026, from noon to 1 p.m. The training link will be available on the listed website. Questions concerning the 2027 Environmental Education Grants Program should be directed to the DEP Environmental Education and Information Center at RA-epEEgrants@pa.gov.

Teaching Green Newsletter Reinstated! - Environmental Education is excited to announce republication of *Teaching Green*, DEP's environmental education newsletter! The reinstated newsletter is a resource for formal and non-formal environmental educators, partners, and communities across the Commonwealth. *Teaching Green* creates a space for educators and programmers to explore educational activities, resources, ideas and funding and professional development opportunities to support meaningful environmental education in classrooms, communities, and beyond. Enjoy the latest edition at https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/residents/environmental-education/teaching-green.

Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Now Open - The Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program provides reimbursement grants for applicants who want to improve urban agriculture infrastructure in Pennsylvania. There are two levels of grants including 1) **Micro grants**: for one-time projects or a single entity applicant. The maximum grant amount for these applications is $2,500, not to exceed 85% of project costs. Applicants will only need to match 15% of the total grant amount. 2) **Collaboration grants**: demonstrate cooperative or regional efforts which share resources, aggregate agricultural products or producers, promote the sharing of resources among agricultural entities, and support community development. These applications should include several partners in a project. They have a maximum grant of $50,000, not to exceed 85% of project costs. Applicants will only need to match 15% of the total grant amount.

Eligible costs include:

Gardening/growing equipment	Greenhouses/hoop houses
Contracted labor/installations	Harvesting equipment
Soil remediation	Soil amendments
Soil testing	Site design or planning (contracted)
Lighting (for growing only)	Cold storage/temperature control equipment
Utility connections/off-grid energy or water systems	

Find more information here: Apply for the Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Applications must be submitted through the Single Application for Assistance online application system.
Application period is **open until Friday, October 16, 2026 at 5 pm**.

Chapter 102

District Staff Updates through Attachment B Forms – Under the current Chapter 102 delegation agreements, districts are required to notify DEP of all staff changes within 30 days, using the electronic Attachment B form available online in Clean Water Academy (CWA). This includes new hires, resignations, retirements, and terminations, as well as title, position, or duty changes related to the 102 Program. Over the last few months, the Bureau of Clean Water (BCW) has become aware that many districts are not keeping their Attachment Bs current. Each District Manager should be completing this task or designating a specific individual to do so; staff should not be expected to maintain their own records. Please keep in mind that having a new hire create CWA and Greenport accounts is just the first step; the district's Attachment B still needs to be updated. Additionally, when someone leaves a District, their Attachment B record should be updated with an end date of employment. If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact RA-EPCHAPTER102@pa.gov.

Recent PA supreme court case "Punxsutawney Hunting Club & Pitch Pine Hunting Club v. PA Game Commission" - The recent opinion does not change how or what the CCDs do as it relates to inspecting permitted and non-permitted sites. As always, they should be following the relevant program's guidance regarding conducting inspections. This includes making every effort to contact the entity being inspected proactively, show identification, and be ready to provide the reason why the inspection is being conducted (e.g. Clean Streams Law, Nutrient Management Act, etc.).

Chapter 102 Pilot Program – The Chapter 102 Pilot program was launched May 1, 2024, to try new processes to see whether they accelerate permit review times for Individual NPDES Permits. As of August 2026, PAG-02 reviews have also been added to the Pilot program. Any CCD who wishes to participate or has questions can contact the Bureau of Clean Water (BCW) at RA-EPCHAPTER102@pa.gov. Participation will require a delegation agreement amendment. Any CCD who is currently participating may also request that BCW amend their delegation agreement to include PAG-02 review.
It is critical that any CCD participating in the Pilot follow the SOP for the program. Straying from the Pilot procedures by issuing multiple technical deficiency letters, granting applicants extra time extensions, etc. diminishes DEP's ability to determine the Pilot's effectiveness.

Chapter 102 PNDI FAQ – BCW recently posted a new "Chapter 102 PNDI Process" FAQ on DEP's E&S Resources page. This FAQ is meant to answer PNDI and IPaC questions for the Chapter 102 program only and should not be applied to any other program. The FAQ includes a variety of example scenarios to assist applicants and staff with the process. All Chapter 102 review staff are asked to read the FAQ thoroughly, and any questions may be sent to RA-EPCHAPTER102@pa.gov.

Upcoming Events
Regional In-Person E&S Training – DEP's Bureau of Clean Water is hosting one-day small group E&S training events again in 2026. These in-person events focus on sediment basin/trap review, with designated time for Q&A on any E&S topic. Completion of the Level I Training Program and event registration is required. Details and sign-up are available on Clean Water Academy: https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=922.
For those wondering, channel review has been incorporated into DEP's annual Chapter 102 Basic Technical Training event.

- Northwest – October 14

Chapter 105

Stream Continuity Training and Educational YouTube Video –The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Division of Wetland Encroachments and Training (DWET) created a comprehensive training initiative focused on stream continuity. This initiative, a successful partnership with The Center for Dirt and Gravel Road, Fish and Boat Commission, Conservation Districts, State Conservation Commission, Soil Hub, and Bloomsburg University, aims to significantly enhance understanding and application of stream continuity principles. This collaborative effort has resulted in the development of two distinct courses designed to meet people where they are, whether they just need the basics or are looking for more advanced options.

- The first training was built for a general audience and can be completed in just one hour. It provides a high-level overview of stream continuity fundamentals and the permitting process.
- The advanced training is geared towards future practitioners and moves from a high-level overview into in-depth technical material. A detailed case study based on work in Elk County is used to show these principles in action. Those who complete this advanced 5-hour training are eligible to earn 2PDHs.

Additionally, an educational video on the importance of stream continuity was developed and is showcased on YouTube. This training will serve as a vital resource for the continuous education of our own staff, ensuring their proficiency in stream continuity principles and enhancing the impact of future in-field trainings. Remember to be sure you are logged into Clean Water Academy.

Updates to Stream Continuity Webpage: The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Division of Wetlands Encroachment and Training (Division) has updated it Stream Continuity Designs for Culvert and Bridge Crossings Webpage to include the recently released Stream Continuity online trainings on Clean Water Academy. These training courses are valuable to promoting best practices for environmental design and resiliency.

Clean Water Academy

Course: Introduction to Stream Continuity
Pennsylvania is defined by its waters. From the small mountain streams to our major river systems, the way we cross these waterbodies partially dictates the health of our ecosystems. In this introductory course, we will explore the intersection of infrastructure and the environment. We'll look back at the legacy of stream crossing practices, the impact of the unintended consequences associated with traditional crossings and why stream continuity is no longer just an option, but a viable solution for a critical environmental and societal issue. Whether you are a student, or a concerned citizen, this course provides an introductory background on stream continuity and how it could benefit your communities.

Course: Foundations of Stream Continuity
Stream continuity represents the fundamental principle of maintaining an uninterrupted connection, ensuring that a waterway remains consistent in character upstream, downstream, and through a road-stream crossing. This ecological and structural harmony encompasses a wide array of critical attributes, including the waterway's slope, width, and shape, as well as the specific composition of streambed materials and features such as pools, riffles, and steps.

This training is designed to provide practitioners and professionals with a comprehensive foundation in the principles of stream continuity, tracing its evolution from historical perspectives to modern-day implementation. Participants will explore the technical lifecycle of a project, covering essential phases such as data collection, design, permitting, and construction. By the conclusion of this course, individuals will have gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of stream connectivity and know how to get started with their own future projects.

Here are some other new or updated courses.

Course: CD Watershed Specialist Grant Administration - 2026
Upon completing this course you will understand the reporting and invoicing timeframes, forms, and documentation utilized while administering the Conservation District Watershed Specialist (CDWS) Grant. The intended audience includes Conservation District Watershed Specialists, District Managers, and other staff involved in the compilation of CDWS Grant paperwork.

This is an updated training as of September 2026.

Course: Sewage Management Basics (Non-Credit)
Discover how smart and proactive sewage management protects communities. Sewage Management Basics gives SEOs the essential knowledge and tools to help municipalities build an effective Sewage Management Program (SMP) that can provide for long term use of on-lot sewage systems. Learn the core steps, explore practical implementation options, and walk away ready to strengthen wastewater oversight in your municipality.

Chesapeake Bay

Federal Executive Order Rescinding part of EO 13508 - "We want to reassure partners and stakeholders that the recent executive order rescinding portions of EO 13508 concerning the Chesapeake Bay cleanup does not affect our work. Since we do not impose or administer stormwater fees as part of our Chesapeake Bay initiatives, the change in policy has no bearing on our ongoing efforts. We remain fully committed to supporting our partners and delivering results—continuing to implement on-the-ground projects that improve water quality, restore habitats, and reduce pollution within the watershed. Our mission endures unchanged, and we look forward to collaborating closely with all stakeholders to advance restoration and protection goals across the Bay. DEP is continuing to review the EO."

The Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Draft Milestone and Annual Progress Updates are due November 4th, with the **final report due December 1st**. The CAP Block Implementation grant will open January 1 and close January 31.

In preparation for the next round of CAP funding, it is useful to review what types of activities are eligible for funding through the CAP coordinator funding to assist the counties holistic efforts to improve water quality:

- Annual progress and milestone updates
- Networking and outreach with stakeholders and partners
- Clean water educational events, including the creation of materials
- Engineering/design/permitting of CAP related projects
- Entering BMPs into PracticeKeeper
- BMP verification activities
- Grant writing for any grant that addresses clean water (ex. Growing Greener, NFWF, DCNRs C2P2, etc.). This can be extended to other applicants beyond the direct CAP grantee.
- Interns
- Clean water website or Story Map development
- Targeting tools or project mapping tools
- Feasibility studies and I&Es for CAP related projects
- Contracting assistance for data entry and permit writing

Dates to Remember

2026 State Conservation Commission Meeting and Conference Call Dates

Meetings	Conference Calls
November 17	October 20
	December 15

SCC Meetings – 9:00 am Briefing Session, 10:00 am Business Meeting
SCC Conference Calls – 8:30 – 10:00 AM

102 Regional Small Group In-Person E&S Training
Northwest — October 14

Conservation District Watershed Specialist Annual Conference
Wyndham Garden, State College — October 21-22

2026 Management Summit — October 27 - 29
Wyndham Garden, State College

DGLVR Trainings

Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance (ESM) Training: ESM Training Registration - Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies
Susquehanna County — October 21 & 22
Centre County — November 17 &

DGLVR Administrative Training
State College — November 18

DGLVR Financial Training
State College — November 19

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

September 2026 Monthly Report

PACD North East Region Meeting

NE Mid-Atlantic Forest & Water Forum

ACAP Convention

PA County News Article

In September PACD:

- Held three region meetings
- Held New Manager Training: PA Laws: Ethics, Sunshine, Right to Know
- Attended the ACAP Ag Conservation Con
- Hosted Quarterly District QuickBooks/Admin Forum Meeting
- New Manager Training: Partner Programs – State Conservation Commission
- Coordinated Conservation Planning Part 2 Training
- Met with the PA Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) to plan the October 15 Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) Virtual Review Course and spring engineering training
- Facilitated a breakout session during the Northeast Mid-Atlantic Forest and Water Forum in Williamsport, PA
- Article on conservation districts featured in *PA County News*

PACD
Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.

Highlights:

AG PLAN REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

In just under two years, the PACD Ag Plan Reimbursement Program funded 437 grants for a total of $900,000. These grants provided cost-share reimbursement for 782 plans covering just over 99,000 acres across the state–639 in the Chesapeake Bay, 94 in the Delaware River Basin, and 49 in the Ohio River Basin. Of these, 179 plans covering 23,847.95 acres were on a preserved farm or being considered for easement sale through the Farmland Preservation Program.

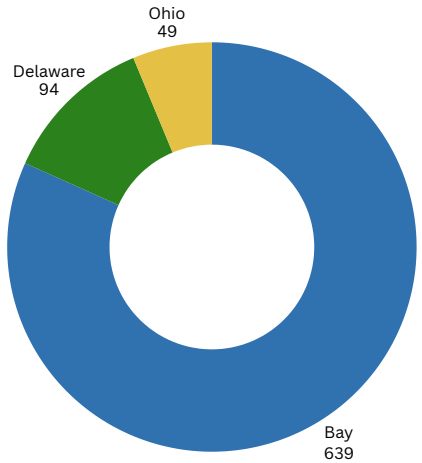
NEW NACD GRANT

PACD signed an MOU with the National Association of Conservation Districts to support the NRCS Soil Health Assessment Protocol and Evaluation (SHAPE) Project.

PACD REGION MEETINGS

The first three region meetings were held in September. The remaining three are scheduled for October.

Ag Plan Reimbursement Program
Plans Reimbursed by Watershed (12/2024–9/2026)



COMING UP...

October 7, 2026 from 10 a.m.-Noon - PACD North West Region Meeting, Erie Conservation District, Erie, PA
October 13, 2026 from 10 a.m.-Noon - PACD NC Region Meeting, Tokishi Training Center, Wellsboro, PA
October 14, 2026 from 10–11:30 a.m. - New Manager Training: Partner Programs – PA DEP (Webinar)

DISCOUNTED SERVICES FOR PACD MEMBERS

-PACD Holds a Small Games of Chance License for district use
-Law Office of Andrew H. Shaw, Esquire
andrew@ashawlaw.com | 717-243-7135 | www.ashawlaw.com
-R&B Insurance Services, LLC
800-473-6807 | www.rbinsuranceservice.com

Thank you to our agency partners for their continued support. Partners include the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, PA State Conservation Commission, PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Environmental Protection, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Penn State Extension.

www.pacd.org