

# BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Stoll Natural Resource Center  
200 Lake Road, Suite E, Towanda, PA 18848  
Telephone (570)265-5539 Ext.

NOVEMBER 4, 2024, MEETING

The November 2024, meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District was called to order by Keith Heimbach on November 4, 2024, at 12:34 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center.

District Directors Attending the Meeting in person were Keith Heimbach – Chairman, and Daryl Miller – Vice Chairman.

District Directors attending the meeting via Zoom were Alvin Herman – Secretary/Treasurer, Nicole Harris – Board Member, Brian Zeidner – Board Member, and Robert Miller – Board Member.

Others attending the meeting in person were Cathy Yeakel – District Manager, Jenny Marino – Accounts Supervisor, Breanna Ameigh – WNV Coordinator, Lacy Powers – Natural Resource Specialist, Glenn Bell – Ag Resource Specialist, Brad Cummings – Chapter 102/105 Program Manager, Adam Chorba – Forest Specialist, Patrick Cullen – Chesapeake Bay Engineer, Bruce Chase – Associate Director, and Rachael Fish – DEP CDFR.

Others attending via Zoom: Kevin Brown – Ag Team Leader, Dan Rhodes

## **REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS:**

Commissioners - Daryl Miller reported that they are currently working on getting the budget prepared. In addition, they are busy getting ready for election day tomorrow.

Commission Report – Field Representative – A handout of the November 2024 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points was handed out and discussed. Important training and dates were highlighted by Rachel Fish.

Claverack REC – Brian Zeidner reported that they are working on their budget. They are still getting new customers for their fiber connections. Brian also reported that they are hiring a new Engineer and currently interviewing for a Jr. Accountant.

NRCS – Chad Spencer reported that they are starting into FY 2025, first round sign up for EQIP was Nov. 1. CSP first round sign up deadline is Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. NRCS is working on CSP renewals, status reviews for CREP renewals, and assessments for first round EQIP. They are also continuing Q&A for construction projects and cert./processing payments for cover crops and CSP payments. Chad also announced that Kellen Krape, new CET, started today.

Daryl Miller made a motion to accept the October 7, 2024, minutes as written. Brian Zeidner seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**COMMITTEES** - None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Pike Township Dirt and Gravel Roads Contract Extension – Due to some stream culvert delivery delays on South Hill Road in Pike Township, a 1-year contract extension was requested by the Dirt and Gravel Roads team. This contract extension would end on December 31, 2025. Daryl Miller made a motion to approve the contract extension request for South Hill Road. Brian seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

District Project Request – A request was brought before the Board to approve the use of District Projects funds for staff appreciation. The total to be used would be \$11,500 for staff appreciation gift cards. Brian made a motion to approve the use of District Project funds, in the amount of \$11,500, for staff appreciation gift cards. Alvin Herman seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

## **OTHER**

Manchester Scholarship Applicants – Four applications for our Manchester Scholarship were received. Cathy consulted with the Manchester family regarding their recommendation of how much should be awarded. They would like to award all of the applicants with \$2,000 each. Daryl Miller made a motion to award all four of the applicants \$2,000 each. Nicole Harris seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

Land Swap – Cathy reported that the final deed documents for the land swap between the conservation district and Randy Williams has been received.

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

Nutrient Management Plans – None

D&G Contracts – None

Forestry Updates – The seedling sale is live online. Paper order forms are being sent out and are available at the conservation district office. Packing dates will be April 22-23, 2025, and pick up dates will be April 24-25, 2025. We received a request from the PA Farm Bureau to provide 300 seedlings for a program about trees for elementary school students. Brian Zeidner made a motion to budget \$500 for the purchase of seedlings and containers for the seedlings. Daryl Miller seconded the motion; motion was unanimously passed.

Treasure's Report & Payment of Bills – The Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. Brian Zeidner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills. Daryl Miller seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed.

Correspondence – A summary of correspondence received was provided at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm by Keith Heimbach

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024, 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Yeakel

District Manager

## **November 2024 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points**

### **Last Chance! ... DEP's Environmental Education Grants Program applications due November 15**

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.

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.

Questions may be directed to: [RA-epEEgrants@pa.gov](mailto:RA-epEEgrants@pa.gov)

### **Larson Design Group - Technical Assistance Program Input Request**

Agriculture Compliance Section staff is working with the Conservation District Field Representatives (CDFRs) to obtain Technical Assistance Program input from all County Conservation Districts (CCD) located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Survey questions were developed with the goal of collecting specific information to identify potential program improvements and understand each CCD's engineering services workload. All CCDs within the Chesapeake Bay watershed will be contacted throughout the next couple of months to schedule a brief meeting with the Agriculture Compliance Section staff and their respective CDFR to review the survey questions together.

Larson Design Group, Inc. (LDG) was retained by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide technical services for project implementation to assist Pennsylvania in reaching its clean water goals. Examples of services that can be provided through the Technical Assistance Program include permitting, site survey, inventory and evaluation, project engineering and design, construction inspection, and project coordination.

For more information, please contact Tammy Piper at [tapiper@pa.gov](mailto:tapiper@pa.gov)

### **Spotted Lanternfly Program Grants for Conservation Districts; 2024-2025 Application Period:**

This is an opportunity for all Pennsylvania County Conservation Districts to improve their ability to assist in our fight to prevent the spread of the spotted lanternfly! Applicants will have the opportunity to work individually or in regional work groups to improve regional communications, relations, and stakeholder knowledge on this infamous plant pest. Individual or groups of CCDs searching to receive funding to purchase extension materials related to spotted lanternfly, to host workshops, perform pest education, or other non-treatment related tasks related to spotted lanternfly should strongly consider applying for this opportunity. Interested applicants must submit a complete electronic project proposal and grant application using the Department's Electronic Single Application web site at <https://grants.pa.gov/Login.aspx> and should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the potential acceptability of any desired activities, please contact Jacob Henry with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture ([jachenry@pa.gov](mailto:jachenry@pa.gov), 717-908-6530).

## **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. The QP Information For Bid (IFB) was posted on October 4, 2024. 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 three statewide calls, 8/5/24, 9/16/2024, and 11/5/24, 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](mailto: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 PAG-02 Compliance Strategy SOP for any permittees who fail to submit their renewal by December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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**

On October 10, 2024, the transition to stop use of the Clean Water Chapter 102 ePermit System was announced via email. As of November 8, 2024, users can no longer start a new application or Notice of Intent (NOI) within the ePermit system for Chapter 102 permits administered by DEP’s Bureau of Clean Water (Individual NPDES Permit, PAG-02 General NPDES Permit, Individual E&S, and ESCGP-4). **All applications or NOIs must be submitted before December 8, 2024, to be reviewed in the ePermit system.** Applications or NOIs not submitted at that time must be submitted “on paper” or via other accepted electronic means. *This notice does not apply to ESCGP-4 NOIs submitted to DEP’s Oil & Gas Program, which will continue to use ePermit.*

## Keystone Environmental ePermitting System (KEES)

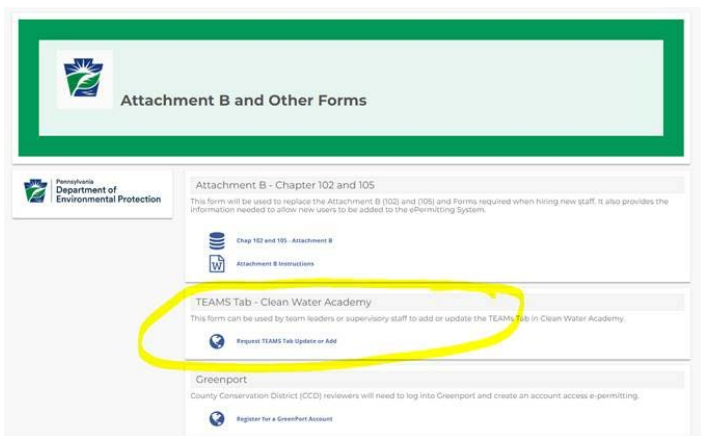
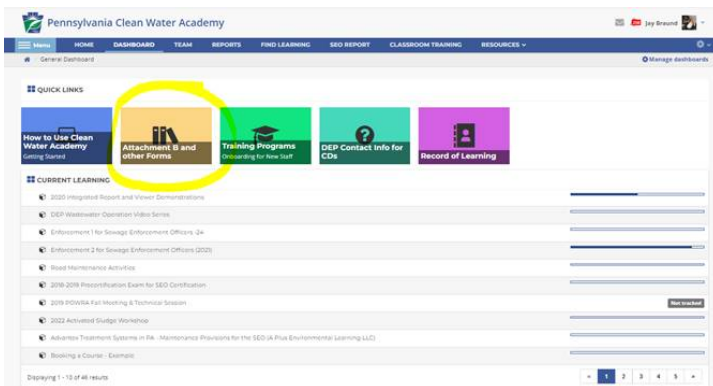
BCW has partnered with PennDOT to bring Chapter 102 PennDOT application reviews to the KEES platform, similar to the Chapter 105 program. This does not replace the Chapter 102 ePermit system, but instead provides a successful mechanism for electronic review of PennDOT applications. The KEES Individual Permit review is expected to be available by the end of November, but staff are not expected to use it until training is provided by PennDOT. PennDOT will be providing regional training opportunities to ensure CCDs receive proper training on the system, likely starting with the southcentral region and associated CCDs. Please be on the lookout for these training announcements.

PAG-02 review and Individual Permit review enhancements are 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.

## Clean Water Academy

“[The “Attachment G”](#) course on Clean Water Academy has been updated to include an instructional video on how to document the Manure Management Plan (MMP) Short Form in PracticeKeeper. The new video shows what information needs to be included when documenting the MMP Short Form in PracticeKeeper. For any questions regarding this topic, please contact Nathan Radabaugh at [Nradabaugh@pa.gov](mailto:Nradabaugh@pa.gov) or at 717-772-5698”

**Managers and Other Supervisory Staff May Activate the TEAMS Tab in Clean Water Academy –** The TEAMS tab in CWA allows managers to create training programs and assign courses to their staff. To update or activate the TEAMS Tab click on the Attachment B and Other Forms Quick Link. Next click on the “Request TEAMS Tab update or Add”



## Some New CWA Academy Courses for District Staff:

### [Program: Landowner Engagement - Level 1 - Training Program \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

This training program provides practical strategies and techniques for promoting and selling conservation practices to landowners. Participants will explore the ecological, economic, and social benefits of conservation, focusing on how to effectively communicate these benefits to diverse landowners. The program emphasizes relationship-building, understanding landowners' needs, and tailoring conservation solutions that align with their goals. The use of social media as a tool to promote and sell conservation is also discussed. This training program will take 6 to 8 hours to complete.

### [Course: Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit 4 \(ESCGP-4\) \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

The session covers training for department staff in the oil and gas industry, focusing on erosion and sediment control. It discusses non-discrimination laws, objectives for transitioning to ESCGP 4, and key regulatory changes in Pennsylvania. Clarifications on transfer forms, permit expiration dates, and the renewal process are provided. Recorded sessions will be available online, encouraging ongoing engagement and participation.

### [Course: Riparian Buffers for Game Species \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

This webinar will discuss marketing and opportunities to promote riparian buffer establishment to hunters and sportsman

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup>. **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>

**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.....Dec 10

**Chapter 102 Internal Trainings (Virtual)**

**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>

**Also**, check the Conservation District Training/Special Events Calendar at, [www.PACD.org](http://www.PACD.org). Select the "Events" tab and then the "Training Calendar" tab.

OCTOBER  
CORRESPONDENCE

- #1 FARMSHINE
- #2 PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER & BOATER
- #3 NTHA – Membership Renewal
- #4 DEP, Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program
  - Copy of Receipt of Final Report to Moody & Associates, Inc. for the Nichols A Pad, Smithfield Township.
  - Copy of Statewide Health Standard Final Report Approval to Chesapeake Energy Corporation for the Chesapeake Appalachia Hopson Well Pad, Asylum Township.
  - Copy of Receipt of Final Notice of Intent to Remediate and Final Report to Creston Environmental, LLC for the Hopson BRA 1HC on the Hopson BRA Pad, Asylum Township.
- #5 DEP, NCRO
  - Copy of E41-9999 Authorization Notification to PennDOT for Structure 08105500801100, Rome Township.
- #6 DEP, District Oil and Gas Operations
  - Copy of Environmental Assessment for the Bonin Well Pad, Orwell Township.
- #7 Manchester Scholarship Applications
- #8 Copy of Executed Deed from Landy & Rossettie, PLCC for the Land Swap between BCCD and Randy Williams.