

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

February 3, 2025, MEETING

The February 2025 meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District was called to order by Keith Heimbach on February 3, 2025, at 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center.

District Directors Attending the Meeting were: Keith Heimbach, Alvin Herman, Robert Miller, Anthony Ventello, Daryl Miller, and Brian Zeidner

Others attending the meeting were: Ty Moon – PA Fish & Boat Commission, Chad Spencer – NRCS, Cathy Yeakel – District Manager, John Sullivan – Associate Director, Kevin Brown – Ag. Team Leader, Joe Quatrini – Tech Team Leader, Lacy Powers - Natural Resource Specialist, Jenny Marino – Accounts Supervisor, Jonathan VanNoy – Natural Resource Specialist, Miranda Neville – Agricultural Resource Specialist, Glenn Bell - Agricultural Resource Specialist, and Breanna Ameigh - Administrative Assistant,

Via Zoom: Rachael Fish – DEP Conservation District Field Rep

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS:

Commissioner's Office – Daryl reported on ongoing capital projects including bridge replacements, communication towers, and fiber projects where approximately 400 miles of fiber are installed

NRCS – Chad passed around the 2024 PA NRCS Accomplishments. In Pennsylvania, NRCS serviced around 43,402 practices on various forms of land to improve water, air and soil quality as well as wildlife habitat. In Bradford County, NRCS contracted 10 EQIP contracts totaling over \$192,000. Ranking is ongoing. Emphasis is being placed on training staff and conservation districts.

PA Fish and Boat Commission – Ty states that the opening day of trout season is April 5. The stocking schedule is on their website and will take place between February and May. Mentor youth day is March 29. Construction will begin on a new building for offices in March.

Claverack – Brian explained that the team at Claverack is preparing for the higher electric bills due to cold temperatures. Over 2500 customers are now connected to fiber. The annual meeting will be held in the office this year.

Commission Report – Field Representative - a handout of the February 2025 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points was handed out and discussed.

Daryl Miller made a motion to accept the January 2025 minutes. Brian Zeidner seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

USC Contract for Buffer Steward Positions – We will be looking to hire three interns for the season with a \$16,000 contract with USC. Funding also will come from the West Nile grant. A motion was made to hire three seasonal employees by Brian Zeidner. Anthony Ventello seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

Contract with BC Commissioners for GG grant implementation – The work from this project was completed in 2024 but requires signature from the commissioners. Al Herman made a motion to sign this contract. Robert Miller seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

WNV Open Position – This position is now being advertised. No applications have been received at this time.

Federal Funding Freeze – Employees are being advised to do business as usual.

Building Security – A concern was made about building security due to recent, difficult interactions. There was a discussion on potential lockdown measures including locking additional doors or using a buzz-in system for visitors. Consultations will be completed with other agencies in the building.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Ag Updates – Towanda Rod and Gun Club will be hosting Crop Days on February 5 from 10-2. There have been questions about the recent influx in the application of biosolids in the area. There have been new recent positive tests of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the state. Biosecurity measures were discussed.

ACAP Update – 2024 funding is wrapped up.

Nutrient Management Plans – No new plans.

Dirt and Gravel Contracts – Daryl Miller made a motion to approve two Dirt and Gravel contracts and one Low Volume Road contract. Robert Miller seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

D&G: Orwell Township – Cooley Road: \$275,000.00

Wells Township – Ameigh Valley Road: \$385,022.50

LVR: Ridgebury Township – Mormon Lake Road: \$98,000.00

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

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

Other – Many events are coming up. Sponsors and donations are needed.

DGLVR meeting will be held on March 20 at the Wysox Fire Hall.

Women in Agriculture will be held on April 4 at the Wysox Fire Hall.

Earth Day will be held on May 3 at the BCCD.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm by Keith Heimbach.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025, 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Breanna Ameigh

Administrative Assistant