

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

March 2026 Meeting

The March 2026 meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District was called to order by Keith Heimbach, Chairperson of the BCCD, on March 2, 2026, at 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center, Wysox, PA.

District Directors attending the meeting were: Keith Heimbach, Brian Zeidner, Robert Miller and Al Herman. Nicole Harris attended the meeting via Zoom.

Others attending the meeting were: Rachael Fish - DEP Conservation Field Rep, Sean Freidhof – DCNR, Adam Chorba – District Forester, Tim Robson – Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Specialist, Glenn Bell – Agricultural Resource Specialist, Jolie Coates – West Nile Virus Coordinator, Jennifer Johns – Natural Resource Specialist, Brad Cummings – 102/205 Program Manager, Miranda Neville – Agricultural Resource Specialist, Dan Rhodes – Education Coordinator, Lacy Powers – Watershed Specialist, Kevin Brown – Ag Team Leader, Jonathan VanNoy – Natural Resource Specialist, Jenny McNeal – District Account Supervisor, Breanna Ameigh - Administrative Assistant.

Robert Miller made a motion to accept the February 2026 minutes as written. Al Herman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS:

DCNR – Sean Freidhof explained the Invasive Replace-ive Program where invasive plants can be removed with evidence, and native plants can be given in exchange. BCCD’s Earth Day event will be a pickup location for this program.

Commission Report – Field Representative - a handout of the March 2026 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points was handed out and discussed.

Claverack – Brian Zeidner stated that Claverack is working on annual evaluations. The company has worked on shooting footage of linework and the pollinator habitat to test the software for the recently acquired VR goggles.

NRCS – Kevin Brown presented the information on behalf of NRCS. NRCS is currently working on rankings.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Bank Account – Al Herman made a motion to remove Cathy Yeakel as the principle account owner and replace with Joe Quartrini. Rob Miller seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

First Citizens Community Bank Credit Card Account – Rob Miller made a motion to remove Cathy Yeakel and add Joe Quartini as the primary account holder. Brian Zeidner seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Stream Improvement Program Agreement – This agreement would be a contract with a DEP engineer out of Harrisburg in the amount of \$550,000 for stream improvement program funding. Brian Zeidner made a motion to sign the contract with DEP for the implementation of stream rehabilitation projects. Rob Miller seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Stream Crossing Contract – Herrick Township is looking to receive help with a stream crossing on Goose Hill Road. Al Herman made a motion to enter into a contract with Herrick Township in the amount of \$5000 for a stream crossing replacement project on Goose Hill Road. Brian Zeidner seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

USC Buffer Steward Contract – This contract would be for three seasonal interns for assisting with buffer work, engineering, and WNV with Upper Susquehanna Coalition in the amount of \$17,000. Rob Miller made a motion to enter into this contract. Al Herman seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

LDG Contract for State Game Lands AML/AMD Project – This project would involve a \$473,220 contract to provide survey and design for multiple acid mine drainage and land BMP's on State Game Lands 12 and 36. The contract is expected to last two years. Brian Zeidner made a motion to event into this contract with Larson Design Group. Al Herman seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Nutrient Management Plan – None

ACAP Local Policy Changes, Ranking Form Changes – A handout was given to the directors. There are proposed policy changes to prioritize riparian buffers and changes to the screening questions. Brian Zeidner made a motion to approve the new ranking forms. Al Herman seconded the motion; it passed unanimously. Brian Zeidner made a motion to approve the ACAP policy update. Al Herman seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

DGLVR – Three contracts needed approval. Ridgebury Township, Cummings Road for \$157,200. Smithfield Township, Old School Road for \$292,900. Litchfield Township, French Road for \$190,000. Rob Miller made a motion to enter into contract with Ridgebury, Smithfield, and Litchfield Township. Brian Zeidner seconded the motion; it passed unanimously. The Annual update meeting will be held on March 18th at the Wysox Fire Hall.

Requests for Membership – Endless Mountains Heritage Region requires \$150 for membership. Al Herman made a motion to send the \$150 membership fee to EMHR. Rob Miller seconded the motion; it passed unanimously. A second membership option for the National Watershed Coalition; the district will refrain for now.

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

OTHER:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM by Keith Heimbach.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be held on April 6, 2026, at 12:30 PM at the Stoll Natural Resource Center and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Breanna Ameigh
Administrative Assistant

March 2026
Conservation District Field Rep
Talking Points

Larson Design Group - Technical Assistance Program Round Open March 9 – May 1, 2026

The next Technical Assistance Program (TAP) application round will be open from **March 9 – May 1, 2026**.

TAP will be accepting project service requests from County Conservation Districts within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to provide technical services for agricultural projects focusing on nutrient and sediment reduction. Proposed projects must be located within a Most Effective Basin, and have current agricultural plans which contain the Best Management Practice(s) (BMP(s)) that services are being requested for, to be eligible to receive service awards.

Applicants may select services from either Phase 1 or Phase 2:

Phase 1: Outreach, design, engineering, site survey, I&E, and permitting

Phase 2: Bid management, contractor management, and construction inspection

More Information:

Updated Technical Assistance Program resources will be available on the Clean Water Academy Website starting March 9th, 2026.

PA DEP and LDG recognize that every project is unique, and we encourage you to reach out to us so we can address any questions that may arise during project application submission or throughout awarded services. Questions may be directed to Tammy Piper at tapiper@pa.gov

Agriculture Inspection Training: Conducting Inspections, Reporting, and Follow-up – Registration NOW OPEN

This training is intended for DEP agricultural staff and County Conservation District staff not participating in the Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspection Program. This includes districts outside the Chesapeake Bay AND districts in the Chesapeake Bay that do not have a Chesapeake Bay Technician agreement. The session will review regulatory requirements and procedures related to conducting agricultural inspections, completing an inspection report, and performing follow-up activities.

Training options:

- Monroe County Conservation District — April 7th, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Penn State Extension Building (Mercer County) — April 9th, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

There is no cost for this training, but registration is required. Lunch will be provided, and Nutrient Management Credits are currently being evaluated.

Registration:

Please register using the link below:

<https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=1691>

Please look on the Clean Water Academy registration page for a list of recommended pre-requisite courses to complete before the training.

If you do not have a log-in for Clean Water Academy, please contact Allyson Hanawalt at ahanawalt@pa.gov or visit the Clean Water Academy home page and select “Contact Us” to request a new account.

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.

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: Register at Envirothonpa.org.

For questions or additional information, contact:

Courtney Raker

Email: execdirector@envirothonpa.org

Phone: (570) 837-3000

Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program Trainings

The Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program has several sessions scheduled for 2026. These include trainings on Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance (ESM), DGLVR Program Administration, DGLVR Finances, DGLVR Technician Bootcamp, and Road-Stream Crossing Replacements. Trainings are free for conservation district staff and partner agencies to attend; online registration is required. Details and registration are online at the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies website: <https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/>

Upcoming DGLVR Trainings:

- Mar 25 - 26, 2026: ESM Training (Bucks County)
- Apr 8 - 9, 2026: ESM Training (Wayne County)
- April 14 - 16, 2026: DGLVR Technician Boot Camp (Centre County)
- Apr 28, 2026: DGLVR Financial Training (Centre County)
- Apr 29 - 30, 2026: ESM Training (Crawford County)

Chapter 105 Program

YouTube Release of The Importance of Wetlands Education Video - The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Division of Wetlands Encroachments and Training, in conjunction with Commonwealth University, announced last fall the release of an educational video via the [Clean Water Academy](#), addressing the societal and environmental significance of wetlands. In collaboration with Communications, the Bureau has broadened the video's accessibility through its release on YouTube. This strategic expansion aims to enhance public awareness and understanding of the crucial function's wetlands perform. By disseminating this educational resource across multiple platforms, the Bureau seeks to foster environmental stewardship and augment ecological literacy among Pennsylvanians, reinforcing the importance of wetlands. [The Importance of Wetlands - YouTube](#)

Upcoming Chapter 105 Webinar on Trenchless Technology Guidance Document: Please join the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Chapter 105 regulatory program for this webinar on DEP's February 2024 technical guidance document title [Trenchless Technology](#). During the webinar we will present on the background and impetus of the guidance, explain and walk through the guidance document, and cover practical application of the guidance. The webinar will be held April 15, 2026 from 10-11am online. You must [register online at this link to attend](#).

New Chapter 105 Clean Water Academy Courses - The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Division of Wetlands Encroachments and Training (Division) has recently completed 3 efforts to more easily share the various wetland trainings we offer on the [Clean Water Academy](#) (CWA). These wetlands trainings are incredibly beneficial for Chapter 105 staff, but also have great value that extends into various other programs areas, like ag compliance and grant programs. You are welcome to navigate the CWA independently, but the Division hopes you find these 3 items useful to your team's particular learning needs.

- **Chapter 105 [Wetland Training](#) Update for February of 2026** – This quick 2-page list furthers our goal of ensuring well-designed training is accessible and beneficial to all learners. The Division anticipates numerous updates this year, including over 15 hours of interactive training courses, PDHs, informative webinars and videos.
- **[Intro to Wetlands Course](#) List** – This comprehensive list of trainings within the larger Introduction to Wetlands Determination course is geared towards learners seeking a foundational understanding of wetlands. This new wetland identification course includes informative videos, webinars, trainings and even a few quizzes. Interested learners can continue their experience with courses focused on restoration and other recommendations.
- **[Technical & Educational Resources](#) webpage** – This updated webpage is intended to share current initiatives regarding advancements in technical and educational resources, as well as to inform the public of forthcoming developments expected in the coming year. By increasing the visibility of these initiatives, the Division seeks to further promote its program and engage the public.

Please share these resources with your managers, staff and any stakeholders that you think may appreciate the learning opportunity!

Please note that the CWA is undergoing a restructuring during 2026 to offer improved navigability and a better user experience. As such, some links will require updating, so keep an eye out for updated resources.

If you have any questions about wetlands trainings, please email RA-EP105QUESTIONS@PA.GOV (also copied above).

[Update to the Technical and Educational Resource Webpage](#) - The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Division of Wetlands Encroachments and Training (Division), has updated its Technical & Educational Resources webpage. This update is intended to share current initiatives regarding advancements in technical and educational resources, as well as to inform the public of forthcoming developments expected in the coming year. By increasing the visibility of these initiatives, the Division seeks to further promote its program and engage the public. The updated webpage can be found at [Technical and Educational Resources | Department of Environmental Protection | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#).

Chapter 102 Program

PennDOT KEES Review – As of the end of 2025, PennDOT is now submitting all new Individual NPDES Permit applications and new PAG-02 NOIs through KEES for review. DEP reminds District Managers that when a submission is received, District Managers must take the first step in KEES to assign a permit number and set up the review team. If District Managers do not complete this step, no one else at the CCD will be able to access the application/NOI to begin review. DEP hopes to improve this functionality in the future to provide more flexibility, but until that occurs it is critical that District Managers do not ignore KEES submission notifications. KEES training is available in Clean Water Academy, and any questions about this process may be sent to RA-EPCHAPTER102@pa.gov.

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. Since then, 11 CCDs have been participating, though most projects have been in just a few counties. There have been 16 projects that were deemed eligible to participate and 11 of the pilot permits have been issued to date. We have seen some preliminary success with the program; compared to the standard process, permits are being issued at least 25% faster. However, it has been determined that a larger sample size is needed before making conclusions about the new processes.

Therefore, the 102 Pilot program is being expanded to statewide participation. Any CCD who wishes to participate or has questions can contact the Bureau of Clean Water (BCW) at RA-EPCCHAPTER102@pa.gov. Participation will require a delegation agreement amendment. Additionally, the PAG-02 is being added to the program. Any CCDs who are currently participating can contact BCW to further amend their delegation agreement to include PAG-02 review.

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 CCD 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

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 are intended for new staff, with a focus on sediment basin/trap review. Completion of the Level I Training Program and event registration is required. Details and sign-up are available on Clean Water Academy: <https://pacleanwateracademy.remotelearner.net/course/view.php?id=922>.

- Southcentral – March 18
- Northeast – June 17
- Southeast – August 5
- Northcentral – September 10
- Northwest – October 14

Clean Water Academy

[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: Stormwater Control Measure \(SCM\) Suites Planning Tool](#)

This course introduces the SCM Suites Planning Tool and explains how it can be used to support early-stage PCSM planning.

Chesapeake Bay

Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Agreement Closeout Considerations - DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division will be closing out Countywide Action Plan (CAP) agreements which have periods of performance ending on June 30, 2026. As counties send in their final reimbursements that will draw down the last of the funds on those agreements, they should be sending in a list of the completed projects funded during the period of performance of the agreement. With that last reimbursement request, they will provide a data-pull from PracticeKeeper of all the best management practices (BMPs) that were CAP-funded. DEP Project Advisors will check to make sure that all BMPs have an associated project name and date-stamped photo.

Webinar Wednesday Scheduled March 18th from 9:30 am to Noon - DEP's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division will be hosting a virtual Webinar Wednesday via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, March 18th from 9:30 am to noon with a 15-minute break scheduled from 10:45 am – 11:00 am. The date was originally scheduled for March 4th but was changed to March 18th due to scheduling conflicts. The following topics will be discussed:

- Discussion on CAP Grant Changes
 - DEP will present updates to the CAP Implementation Block Grant and review tools to support county partners.
- Growing Greener and 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants – What's New?
 - DEP will present new features of the upcoming Growing Greener Plus and Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants Programs.

Dates to Remember

2026 State Conservation Commission Meeting and Conference Call Dates

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

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

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

Agriculture Inspection Training

Monroe County Conservation District	April 7 th , 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Penn State Extension Building (Mercer County)	April 9 th , 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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

Leadership Development Assertive Communications and Empowered Conflict Management

French Creek State Park - registration closed	March 10
Latrobe, PA	March 17
State Collete, PA	March 19
Dallas, PA	March 25
Reno, PA	March 31

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Oral Component (Fully Virtual – Volunteer Remotely)	May 14 and 15
State Envirothon Station Testing Day (In-person, Camp Mt. Luther)	May 20

102 Regional Small Group In-Person E&S Training

Southcentral

March 18

Northeast

June 17

Southeast

August 5

Northcentral

September 10

Northwest

October 14

DGLVR Trainings:

ESM Training (Bucks County)

Mar 25 - 26, 2026

ESM Training (Wayne County)

Apr 8 - 9, 2026

DGLVR Technician Boot Camp (Centre County)

April 14 - 16, 2026:

DGLVR Financial Training (Centre County)

Apr 28, 2026:

ESM Training (Crawford County)

Apr 29 - 30, 2026:

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