

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

March 3, 2025, MEETING

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

District Directors Attending the Meeting were: Brian Zeidner and Robert Miller. Alvin Herman and Nicole Harris joined via Zoom.

Others attending the meeting were: Chad Spencer – NRCS, Cathy Yeakel – District Manager, Rachael Fish – DEP Conservation District Field Rep, Sean Freidhof – DCNR, Jordi Comas – DEP Northeast Regional Coordinator, Kevin Brown – Ag. Team Leader, Joe Quatrini – Tech Team Leader, Lacy Powers - Natural Resource Specialist, Jenny Marino – Accounts Supervisor, Dan Rhodes – Education Coordinator, Jennifer Johns – Natural Resource Specialist, Jonathan VanNoy – Natural Resource Specialist, Miranda Neville – Agricultural Resource Specialist, Brad Cummings – 102/105 Program Manager, Glenn Bell - Agricultural Resource Specialist, and Breanna Ameigh - Administrative Assistant.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES AND GUESTS:

NRCS – Chad Spencer reported on a stream gauge in the north branch of the Towanda Creek that monitors stream health data. The office is down two employees due to recent budget cuts. EQIP rankings are in the works. There is a local work group meeting on March 20th at the Stoll Natural Resource Center at 10:00 that is open to the public.

DCNR – Shaun Freidhof provided information on the Invasive Replacement Program where people can remove invasive plants and receive new, young trees to replace the invasives. This will likely continue as long as supplies last.

DEP Office of Environmental Justice – Jordi Comas passed out a flier regarding an upcoming climate action plan meeting on March 17 that is open to the public.

Claverack – Brian Zeidner spoke about high-speed internet expansions in Middletown. Work on the pollinator plot will continue after warm temperatures and thawing occur. Brian recently traveled to Arizona to tour a solar farm and reported on his experience.

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

Robert Miller made a motion to accept the February 2025 minutes. Alvin Herman seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

WNV Position – Jolie Coates will be starting as the new West Nile Virus Coordinator on April 1. This has already been approved by the commissioners. Alvin Herman made a motion to approve the hiring of Jolie Coates. Robert Miller seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

ACAP – Joseph Quatrini handed out program policy changes to directors. One change proposed dissolving the ACAP advisory committee to streamline the process. Robert Miller made a motion to approve dissolving the ACAP advisory committee. Nicole Harris seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

Another motion was made to approve the remainder of the ACAP policy changes as presented in the handout by Alvin Herman. Nicole Harris seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

Mileage Increase – The federal mileage reimbursement rate has risen to \$0.70 per mile. The previous rate was \$0.68 per mile. A motion was made by Alvin Herman to increase the reimbursement rate to match the federal rate. Robert Miller seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

Earth Day – Earth Day will be held on May 3. Live music and vendors are participating, and more vendors are submitting applications to attend.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Nutrient Management Plans – None

Dirt and Gravel Contracts – None

Treasure's Report & Payment of Bills – The Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. Nicole Harris made a motion to accept the Report and Payment of Bills. Alvin Herman seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed.

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

Other – Women in Agriculture event is April 4, 2025.

Cathy Yeakel will be attending a round table discussion regarding flooding and maintaining streams.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm by Brian Zeidner.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025, 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Breanna Ameigh

Administrative Assistant

FEBRUARY
CORRESPONDENCE

- #1 FARMSHINE
- #2 BAY JOURNAL
- #3 DEP, Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program
 - Copy of Receipt of Final Report to Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc. for the Rush Yard, Orwell Township.
 - Copy of 310(b) Site Characterization Report Approval to Odyssey Energy Solutions, LLC for the Storage Tank System Release December 14, 2024, Wysox Township.
 - Copy of Receipt of Final Report to Resource Environmental Management, Inc. for the Ramblinrose Well Pad, Tuscarora Township.
 - Copy of Approval of Hillis BRA Pad Produced Fluid Release Cleanup, Herrick Township.
 - Copies of Receipt of Notice of Intent to Remediate and Final Report to Creston Environmental LLC for the following:
 - Crain BRA Pad, Rome Township
 - Donna BRA Pad, Terry Township
- #4 DEP, Waterways and Wetlands Program
 - Copy of E41-9999 Authorization Notification to PennDOT for structure: 08200701200000, Terry Township.
 - Copy of General Permit (GP) Acknowledgment Notification to PennDOT for the Bradford SR 1020/0030/0901 Pipe Replacement 4302, Sheshequin Township.
- #5 DEP, Monshannon District Mining Office]
 - Copy of Notification of New Large noncoal Surface Mine Permit Application to BCCD for Johnson Quarries, Inc., Stevens Township.
- #6 NACD, Thanking us for membership dues.
- *#7 Letter from Senator David Argall, Senate Majority Policy Committee, requesting Cathy's attendance at a roundtable discussion on the issue of flooding and maintaining clean streams. This will take place on Wednesday, March 12th from 1:00-3:00PM in Williamsport.
- #8 Small games of chance application from Bradford County Treasurer.

March 2025 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points

Statement of Financial Interests

All Conservation District Directors are considered Public Officials, and most District Employees are considered Public Employees. Any Conservation district employee that meets one or more of the criteria in the definition below **MUST** fill out a Statement of Financial Interest. Completing a statement is not optional. It is required by law. Statements are to be completed and filed with the Conservation District no later than May 1st. The general rule with this form is “when in doubt, fill it out”.

"Public Official" includes any person (*such as a conservation district director*) appointed by a governmental body (such as the board of county commissioners or the county council).

"Public Employee" includes any individual employed by the Commonwealth or a political subdivision (*like a conservation district*) who is responsible for taking or recommending official action of a non-ministerial nature with regard to: contracting or procurement; administering or monitoring grants or subsidies; planning or zoning; inspecting, licensing, regulating, or auditing any person; or any other activity where the official action has an economic impact of greater than a de minimis nature on the interests of any person.

Please refer to the Director Handbook (pp. 4-6) or the Red Ethics Pamphlet (p. 12-15 & 31-36) for additional information. If you require additional forms go to www.ethics.state.pa.us and click on "forms" on the left side of the page.

Pennsylvania Envirothon Seeking Volunteers

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is seeking individuals to volunteer at this year's PA Envirothon events. The Envirothon is a Conservation District Program, and your support is crucial for the success of Pennsylvania Envirothon Oral Component and Station Testing Day. All District Managers, Staff and Directors are encouraged to volunteer. If each district sends one-two volunteers this would go a long way to meeting our volunteer needs.

Event Details:

- **Oral Component:** May 14-16
May 14th- Indiana County, May 15th- Snyder County May 16th- Monroe County
- **State Envirothon Station Testing Day:** May 21 at Windber Park
- **Deadline for Volunteers Register: March 21**

*Please note that all volunteers for the Station Testing Day must submit clearances.

Ready to Sign up? [Click Here to Register!](#)

For any questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Courtney Raker at (570) 837-3000 or via email at execdirector@envirothonpa.org.

Save the Date: 2025 Annual CD Watershed Specialist Meeting

Date: October 7-8, 2025

Location: Wyndham Garden, State College

The detailed agenda is still being developed with input from the planning workgroup; however, the following has been solidified at this time:

- The morning of October 7th has been set aside as a special half-day training for new Watershed Specialists (those hired after the last in-person training October 2023).
- The afternoon of October 7th and the full day of October 8th is for the full group.
- The Watershed Managers Meeting and the Regional Breakouts will continue as a component to this event.
- There is no virtual attendance option.
- Registration will open in August.

Please feel free to contact Trish Attardo (pattardo@pa.gov) with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Chapter 102 Program

SPEED – DEP will continue to hold regular meetings with Districts to provide Chapter 102 SPEED updates as appropriate, so be on the lookout for these invitations. Bids for QPs continue to be accepted through the end of March, though that date may be further extended. Once individuals are accepted as Chapter 102 SPEED QPs, training and resources will be provided in Clean Water Academy using a unique access level that ensures they only see items pertinent to SPEED. The Bureau of Clean Water is anticipating that Chapter 102 will be the first program to start accepting SPEED applications.

Chapter 102 Documents - Many Chapter 102 documents were revised or created last year, and a [summary](#) of these documents is available publicly on DEP's [E&S Resources](#) page. Some of these went into effect in 2024, while the rest become effective March 8, 2025. After March 8, failure to submit the latest versions of these documents should be considered a completeness deficiency.

PA Bulletin – DEP recently announced changes to the process for sending Ch 102 general permit issuances (PAG-01/PAG-02) for PA Bulletin posting. This process will help alleviate extensive time spent by DEP regional administrative staff to manually enter these issuances into the Bulletin. Districts should download the latest version of the [Chapter 102 GP Actions PA Bulletin Tool](#) from Clean Water Academy, which includes instructions for how to fill it out. **Please read and follow the instructions explicitly.** Failure to do so may result in the region sending it back to the District for corrections. Districts should send one Excel file to their regional contact each Friday that contains all PAG-01/PAG-02 issuances for that week.

Chapter 102 Training

- **2025 Chapter 102 New Hire Small Group Training** – Participants must complete the Chapter 102 Level 1 Training CWA 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

March 4, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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** – Bureau of Clean Water (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 will open in March so stay tuned!
- **In-Person Regional E&S Training** – BCW is excited to announce that we will be offering six in-person E&S technical training sessions throughout 2025. Participation will be limited to allow adequate training, with newer staff given priority. The first event will be for southcentral Districts on March 25th, and the second for northeastern Districts on April 16th. Registration for the southcentral event has closed, but staff can still register for the northeast event until March 21st. Training events for the remaining regions are still being scheduled, so stay tuned for future details and invitations.
- **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 clarify details for themselves and others on the call, and also ensures everyone is up to date with 102 Program elements.
 - March 11: Discharge Points (DP) vs Points of Analysis (POA)
 - March 17: Notice of Termination SOP

Chapter 105 Program

New ePermitting Bug Reporting Procedures - Previously, all bugs and problems were handled through e-mail and the central office resource account. However, the ePermitting team has now moved to mirror other DEP systems with Service Now Tickets. The new procedure is listed below:

1. If you are encountering something which you know is a bug, such as a failure to load a permit, failure to generate documents, etc.; please submit a ticket by calling the DEP IT help desk at **717.787.HELP (717.787.4357)** between the hours of 7:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday-Friday. Make sure you inform them of the following:
 - a. This is for DEP Chapter 105 e-permitting,
 - b. Your Name and county conservation district,
 - c. Your phone number and e-mail,
 - d. Provide the APS #,
 - e. Provide the URL and the number in it from the overview screen of the permit,
 - f. A clear description of the problem and what you have done to try and resolve it.
2. If you are encountering an issue, and you are not certain it is a bug, are not sure how the system is supposed to work, etc.; please contact us here at Central Office using our resource account: RA-EPBWEWEPERDWET105@pa.gov

Quarterly 105 Permit Data Entry Reminder - All 105 Delegated CCDs must enter quarterly permit data into the new online forms. **This effort is focused on the permitting data and is separate from GreenPort entry.** Instructions are on the Clean Water Academy under the [Chapter 105 Resource Center](#). This entry method tracks who is and is not entering the data. We will be reviewing reports and reaching out to districts who are not entering the data later this year, so now is the time to get ahead of it. Specific questions on the quarterly data entry should use [the Question, Feedback and Issues form](#) (available on the Clean Water Academy 105 Resource Page for Quarterly Permit Data Entry).

Clean Water Academy

As we kick off the new year, we're looking back at 2024 to celebrate Clean Water Academy's **Top 10 Course Completion Champions** across all Conservation Districts. These individuals completed the most courses throughout the year, demonstrating an incredible dedication to expanding their knowledge and expertise. Congratulations to our Top 10 learners!

1. **Rebecca Smith**, Mercer CD – 145 course completions
2. **Morgan Lee**, Beaver CD – 87 course completions
3. **Maria Rickenbaugh**, Juniata CD – 75 course completions
4. **Jonathan Wall**, Huntingdon CD – 67 course completions
5. **Christian DeSimone**, Bucks CD – 65 course completions
6. **Jason Branning**, Susquehanna CD – 64 course completions
7. **Katelynn Decker**, McKean CD – 64 course completions
8. **Charles Kelshaw**, Monroe CD – 61 course completions
9. **Robert McDonald**, Mercer CD – 61 course completions
10. **Carli McConnell**, Clinton CD – 57 course completions

With new courses and training opportunities ahead in 2025, now is the perfect time to dive in. Click [here](#) to visit Clean Water Academy.

Please contact PACD Water Resource Trainer Kelly Davidson at kdavidson@pacd.org with any questions or to create an account.

[Course: DEP and Conservation District Legal Source of Authority](#)

This course covers the legal authority of conservation districts and the DEP in carrying out their responsibilities, including the laws and regulations that empower and limit their authority. It addresses regulatory inspections, access, and entry compliance with the Fourth Amendment and Pennsylvania Constitution. The course explains search definitions, authority under the Clean Streams Law and Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, and exceptions to warrant requirements. It also explores the State Conservation Commission's role, the Act 38 Nutrient Management program, and manure management & CAFO regulations, emphasizing collaboration among conservation partners.

[Course: Pre-Development Site Characterization Spreadsheet](#)

This course provides guidance on completing DEP's Pre-Development Site Characterization, or PDSC, Spreadsheet to assess site conditions for infiltration. You will learn how to use the PDSC spreadsheet to demonstrate the adequacy of site infiltration capabilities and gain insight on interpreting the tool's recommendations.

Chesapeake Bay Program

Second Clean Water Gathering - The Clean Water Gathering was held on January 23rd. At that event, 25 Strategies for Success by three Clean Water Progress Teams various action leaders and policymakers from local, state, federal, nonprofit, and private sectors. Staff from DEP’s Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management (BWRNSM) will facilitate action teams around each recommendation. They will also generate quarterly status updates describing action taken to advance the recommendations.

CAP 6-month QA/QC check - The 6-month QA/QC check has wrapped up. Counties should have received emails letting them know the results. All CAP-funded practices must be entered into PracticeKeeper with a Project Name and a date-stamped photo upon completion. If any entries were missing a photo or missing a date-stamp, those will be included in the next 6-month check.

Upcoming Webinar Wednesdays - Three Webinar Wednesdays are scheduled for the following dates: 3/26, 5/7, and 6/4. The March 26th date is due to a conflict with the original 4/2 date (ACAP Conference). Mark Sausser of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) will be presenting on 3/26: *Introduction to PFBC stream habitat improvement techniques and structure designs to improve water quality, and the importance of building partnerships to implement CAP-funded projects.*

New Reimbursement Request Training - The Watershed Administration and Accountability Section (WAAS) is working on a CAP reimbursement request training that should be released soon. This training is meant to walk partners through every step of how to prepare a reimbursement request for the CAP Program. The training is being developed through the Articulate platform and available on the Clean Water Academy.

Dates to Remember

SCC Meetings – 10:00 AM

- Hybrid Meeting.....Mar 18
- Hybrid Meeting May 20

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

- Conference Call Apr 15
- Conference Call June 17

Pennsylvania Envirothon Volunteer Registration Due March 21

Pennsylvania Envirothon Oral Component

- Indiana CD May 14
- Snyder CD May 15
- Monroe CD May 16

Pennsylvania Envirothon State Testing

- Windber Recreational Park May 21

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