

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THE MISSION of the Bradford County Conservation District is to lead, educate, and empower people to manage resources wisely.

May Board Meeting

WHEN: Monday, May 6, 2024, at 12:30 PM

WHERE: Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 832 7563 8757; Passcode: 880772

CALL IN: 1-929-205-6099; PASS CODE: 880772

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83275638757?pwd=MnhLRkd5bk53cFgyVlhBR1A1eWpvQT09>

AGENDA:

- 12:30 - 12:35 Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance
12:35 - 12:40 Introduction of Guests & Action on Minutes
12:40 - 12:50 Reports from Cooperating Agencies and Guests

Old Business

- 12:50 - 12:55 Earth Day Recap
12:55 - 1:00 County Envirothon Recap
1:00 - 1:05 Seedling Sale Recap

Committees

None

New Business

- 1:05 - 1:10 PA FFA Honorary State Degree of membership award - (D)
1:10 - 1:25 District Project Requests:
 1. Claverack Native Pollinator Habitat Project – (D/A)
 2. Intern (D/A)
 3. Opportunity to work with USGS on a 3-year effort to further develop the streamstats program – (D/A)
1:25 - 1:30 PACD Ways & Means Committee Motion – (D/A)
1:30 - 1:35 District Work Bee is May 7 – (D)

Program Updates

- 1:35 - 1:40 ACAP and CAP update (D/A)
1:40 - 1:45 Nutrient Management Plans (D/A)
1:45 - 1:50 Dirt and Gravel Contracts (D/A)
1:50 - 1:55 Commission Report - Field Representative (D)
1:55 - 2:00 Treasurer's Report & Payment of Bills (D/A)
2:00 - 2:05 Correspondence (D)

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, June 3, 2024, at 12:30 PM at Stoll Natural Resource Center
& Via Zoom

A) Action D) Discussion

AGENDA BRIEFS

Old Business:

- Earth Day Recap
- County Envirothon Recap
- Seedling Sale Recap

Committees:

none

New Business:

- PA FFA Honorary State Degree of membership award - (D) Dan Rhodes and Kevin Brown were nominated by Athens, Canton, NE Bradford & Troy FFA. Ceremony is June 11 at 7pm at PA State University, Bryce Jordan Center.
- District Project Requests
 - Claverack Native Pollinator Habitat Project - Discussion and consideration of making a donation, from district project funds, for the Claverack Native Pollinator Habitat Project. Total project cost is estimated at \$10,000.
 - Intern - Discussion and consideration of the request to use District Project money for another intern at the district. Approximate cost would be \$8,000.
 - Opportunity to work with USGS on a 3-year effort to further develop the streamstats program to include stream crossing sizing as a data output. USGS is seeking \$28,000 for year one data collection efforts. Discussion and approval to allocate District Projects funding for this effort.
- PACD Ways & Means Committee Motion - Discussion of the PACD Ways and Means Committee motion to request a voluntary donation to districts to cover PACD admin costs. District Work Bee is May 7, attendance is appreciated.

Program Updates:

- ACAP and CAP updates
- DGLVR updates/contracts

May 2024 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points

Growing Greener and 319 Grant Round Now Open

The Growing Greener and 319 Grant Round opening was posted in the Pa Bulletin on April 20th. Growing Greener and 319 Grant Round officially opened on **Monday April 22, 2024 and will close on June 21, 2024**.

Interested parties can find detailed information on guidelines and how to apply at the links below.

Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant: [Nonpoint Source \(pa.gov\)](#)

Course: [DEP Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants - FY 2025 \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

This is a presentation on the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants Program for the federal fiscal year 2025. It provides a review of the 319 Grant application process and assists potential grant applicants with developing a competitive application.

Growing greener Plus Grant: [Growing Greener \(pa.gov\)](#)

Course: [DEP Growing Greener Plus Grants - 2024 \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

This is a presentation on DEP's Growing Greening Plus Grants Program for 2024. It provides a review of the Growing Greener Grant application process and assists potential grant applicants with developing a competitive application.

Questions can be directed to Shane Kleiner (shkleiner@pa.gov) or the Regional Watershed Manager.

The 2024 Virtual Conservation District and PA Agency Ag. Meeting - The 2024 Virtual

Conservation District and PA Agency Ag. Meeting will be held via Teams on July 25th and July 31st. **Plan to attend both dates.** The annual meeting is being led by DEP staff and presenters will bring the perspectives of our various partners in conservation. Staff from CCDs, DEP, SCC, NRCS, PACD, and DCNR are encouraged to attend. The agenda will include agency updates, a retrospective of how we got where we are, and topics that are applicable to all in a general session as well as focused breakout sessions for in-depth learning. A save the date was recently provided to all 2023 attendees and the Agriculture 102 contact list. Registration is now open under the registration section of the CWA Course here: <https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/course/view.php?id=1292>.

Land Application Technical Guidance Document Revisions – Revisions the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) *Land Application of Manure: A Supplement to Manure Management for Environmental Protection* were published on April 27th, 2024 ([Pennsylvania Bulletin \(pacodeandbulletin.gov\)](#)). The published document is now available on - [DEP eLibrary \(pa.gov\)](#) for download. Printed copies will begin to be available in the fall. Tools and resources to support the revised document including Clean Water Academy trainings, printed and downloadable handouts, and the PAOneStop Manure Management Plan Module will be available this summer and fall. The revisions bring the first changes to *Land Application of Manure* in over a decade. The revisions to the document are applicable to all agricultural operations that land apply manure or agricultural process wastewater that are not CAFOs or CAOs. DEP's *Land Application of Manure* sets the standards for the land application of manure and agricultural process wastewater in the Commonwealth. It also sets the standards for the development of Manure Management Plans.

ACAP Ag Conservation Conference June 4-6, 2024

The [Center for Agricultural Conservation Assistance Training](#), administered by [Penn State Extension](#), will host the first ACAP Ag Conservation Conference. The center is funded by the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission. This conference is designed for conservation district employees, agricultural conservation professionals from the public and private sectors, and anyone associated with the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program or other conservation financial assistance programs.

The goals of the conference will allow participants to:

- Stay up to date on the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program and other conservation financial assistance programs.
- Refresh basic engineering skills and knowledge on the new job approval authority program.
- Learn about upcoming changes to the manure management plan and how to choose the correct plan for agricultural operations.
- Improve resource concern identification skills and knowledge of practices to solve these concerns.
- Gain essential skills for working with farmers and agricultural producers.

Conference organizers also will offer a variety of field trips enabling participants to explore conservation practices and increase their agricultural literacy. In addition, an evening banquet and awards ceremony will feature Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and State Conservation Commission Executive Secretary Douglas Wolfgang.

Registration is now open for the first annual ACAP Ag Conservation Con scheduled for June 4-6, 2024 in State College. See <https://www.psu.edu/news/agricultural-sciences/story/penn-state-extension-host-agricultural-conservation-conference-june-4-6/> for more information and to access the registration site.

Budget & Actual Staff Salary/Benefits Spreadsheet update: The transition to the new online system has been a successful one. CD and DEP staff worked in partnership to complete the first upload of data. Training sessions were arranged with each CD to guide data upload, answer questions, discuss suggestions to the system, and explain future processes. Thank you to the CDs for their flexibility in participating in the live training sessions and their patience as we asked them to access FY 22/23 salary & benefit info and enter additional staff details. The system will retain all staff details; it will not be necessary to re-enter information every year (unless there are changes/updates). Furthermore, future spreadsheets will be accessed via the online system and pre-populated with existing data. We are also thankful to the SCC's DGLVR program for their work in developing the system and support during recent training sessions.

The purpose of the system is to have a baseline of data regarding position salary/benefits and how they relate to years of experience, education, county class, etc. In years past, inquiries were received regarding staff salary/benefits so that CD's could consider providing a more competitive pay rate and benefits package to improve staff retention. Our goal is to answer future inquires by providing a range of data, as it relates to the request, to help CD managers and board of directors make informed decisions regarding staff salaries and benefits. As spreadsheet data is submitted annually, we will maintain current and consistent salary/benefits information for your use.

Next steps include system maintenance, testing query capabilities, creating an online system instruction sheet, and planning the submission of FY 23/24 Estimated Budget tab Spreadsheet (tentatively planned for June). Any questions or suggestions can be forwarded to Jaci Kerstetter at jackerstet@pa.gov

PAG-02 Authorization Letter Updated - The Bureau of Clean Water has updated the PAG-02 Authorization Letter template to prepare new permittees this year of the upcoming need to submit renewal Notice of Intent (NOIs) by December 7, 2024. All permittees with PAG-02 coverage prior to December 7, 2024, will need to submit the renewal NOI, even if they've only had coverage for a short while. The revised PAG-02 Authorization Letter can be found in the Chapter 102 Resource Center of Clean Water Academy. The Bureau of Clean Water asks everyone to download the latest template ([Letter Templates](#)), (Number 28) for immediate use.

Clean Water Academy (CWA)

Here are links to some new and updated CWA content:

[Course: DEP Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants - FY 2025 \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

This is a presentation on the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants Program for the federal fiscal year 2025. It provides a review of the 319 Grant application process and assists potential grant applicants with developing a competitive application.

[Course: DEP Growing Greener Plus Grants - 2024 \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

This is a presentation on DEP's Growing Greening Plus Grants Program for 2024. It provides a review of the Growing Greener Grant application process and assists potential grant applicants with developing a competitive application.

[Course: 2024 PAG-02 Overview Webinar - April 2024 \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

Recorded Webinar from April 2024 highlighting changes to the PAG-02

[Course: Hydric Soils Introduction and Indicators \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

In this course you will gain a basic understanding of hydric soil definition and concepts in Pennsylvania. This course was designed specific to meet DEP's regulatory programs related to wetland identification and the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and the associated Regional Supplements. This is not a substitute for formal soil education courses, and is meant to be introductory educational information. These courses do not cover all soils topics, terms, or other information but are meant to provide relevant training for DEP regulatory programs.

102 and 105 Attachment B on the Clean Water Academy – It is essential that Districts update Attachment B on the Clean Water Academy for the Chapter 102 and 105 Programs anytime there are staff changes at the district. **The 102 and 105 Programs use the Attachment B online forms to enable e-permitting permissions for new staff** and to disable them for former staff. The Attachment B can be found under the Data Portal tile in CWA. To update Attachment B, you need to search for your county and then select the Gear icon to edit. You can then change employment status to Former and choose an Employment End Date. This helps DEP maintain and enable all the data systems. [Course: Data Portal \(remote-learner.net\)](#)

Chesapeake Bay Program

Larson Design Group - Technical Assistance Program Announcement

Larson Design Group, Inc. (LDG) has been 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 projects that can be completed utilizing technical assistance services include, but are not limited to, stormwater, agriculture, wastewater, and aquatic resource restoration.

LDG will be accepting project assistance requests from County Conservation Districts to provide technical services for projects focusing on nutrient and sediment reduction. Examples of services that can be provided through the program include permitting, site survey, inventory and evaluation, project engineering and design, construction inspection, and project coordination. LDG will provide technical services to assist with project implementation in two county groupings.

County groupings are as follows:

North Group: Berks, Cameron, Clearfield, Columbia, Elk, Indiana, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, and Potter Counties.

South Group: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clinton, Fulton, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Snyder, Somerset, and Union Counties.

Application for Service Request

In order to evaluate County Conservation District needs, LDG will be opening the application for technical assistance requests starting **April 29, 2024** through end of business, **May 17, 2024**.

LDG anticipates the announcement of service awards for technical assistance on Friday, **May 24, 2024**.

Clean Water Progress Teams Meet to Review Small Groups' Progress

The Clean Water Progress Teams continued their work in April as part of the process to develop robust recommendations around priority action items generated at the fall 2023 Clean Water Gathering of state program and county action leaders. This latest round of meetings highlighted the timeline and expectations for deliverables and focused on further defining and advancing efforts on their action items.

Each of the three Progress Teams are addressing five different priority action items. They will create recommended "Strategies for Success" around each item. The recommendations will be drafted by a focused small group and vetted by the larger Progress Team throughout summer 2024. Recommendations will discuss what should be done to address the action item, who should be engaged, how steps should be taken to move forward, and when that should occur. The recommendations will be finalized in fall 2024, and the Strategies for Success will be shared among a broad audience of Clean Water Gathering partners in December 2024 and will be included in Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP milestone progress submitted to EPA in January 2025.

Dates to Remember

SCC Meetings – 1:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

May 14

Hybrid Meeting

July 18

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

Conference Call

June 11

Conference Call

Aug 20

102/105 Basic Technical Training

Red Lion Harrisburg Hershey in Harrisburg, PA

May 20-24

Section 319 Virtual Watershed Planning and Implementation Meeting

May 28 & 29

ACAP Ag Conservation Conference

Toftrees Golf Resort, State College

June 4-6

Chapter 102 Small Group Training Series (Virtual)

Sediment Traps and Basins

- July 9, 2024: 9 AM - 12 PM
- September 24, 2024: 9 AM - 12 PM

Channels

- June 11, 2024: 9 AM - 12 PM
- August 27, 2024: 9 AM - 12 PM
- December 10, 2024: 9 AM - 12 PM

Fall Virtual Basic Training

Two days: November 13-14, 2024: 9 AM – 12 PM both days

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. Select the "Events" tab and then the "Training Calendar" tab.