



# Cameron County Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting

**Date: February 10, 2025**

**TIME: 4:30 P.M.**

**PLACE: Conservation District Office**

**CALL IN NUMBER 814-486-9313 Password: 272727**

## **AGENDA**

Call to Order

Introduction of Guests & Comments

Minutes of January Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Bills to be Paid

District Managers Report

Conservation Resource Technician Report

Watershed Technician Report

Administrative Assistant/Educator Report

Agency Reports

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- State Budget Update
- Headwaters RC&D
  - o Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Update
- Conservation Celebration
  - o Tell our Sterling Run AMD success story

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

## **ADJOURN**

**CAMERON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2025**

**In Attendance – Directors:** Mark Johnson, Steve Zoschg, Marsha Hendrickson, Dave Gelnett, Kirk Bainey

**Associate Directors:** None

**Staff:** Todd Deluccia, Jim Zoschg Jr.

**Agency Reps.:** Amanda Murdock (NRCS), Darrell Miller (PF&BC), Rachel Fish (DEP)\*

**Guests:** None

\* Via Teleconference Call

**Call to Order:** The meeting is called to order by Chairman Mark Johnson at 4:31 PM in the Cameron County Conservation District office.

**Election of Officers:** Mark yields the floor to Todd who lists the officers that are up for reelection. Thereupon, Steve nominates Mark Johnson for Chairman of the Board, Paul Lyon for Vice-Chairman, Steve Zoschg for Treasurer, and Kirk Bainey for Secretary. There being no further nominations, the nominees are unanimously reelected to their respective offices. Josh Zucal as the county commissioner member of the board is required to be sworn in annually for another term but is absent so that procedure will have to be postponed until Josh is present for a meeting. Todd yields the floor back to Chairman Johnson.

**December 2024 Minutes:** Steve makes a motion to accept the minutes, Marsha seconds, and the motion carries unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve makes a motion to accept the report, Marsha seconds, and the report is accepted unanimously.

**Bills to be Paid:** Marsha makes a motion to pay the bills, Kirk seconds, and the motion carries unanimously.

**District Manager's Report:** Preliminary stream survey data in the Finley Run drainage indicates there may be a couple problem areas; one possibly being a temperature problem due to lack of stream overhead cover and another in a tributary with an AMD issue. Steve makes a motion to accept the report, Marsha seconds, and the report is accepted unanimously.

**Conservation Resource Technician Report:** Emporium Hardwoods is keeping their permit renewals current in anticipation of some future log yard / road improvement projects. Marsha makes a motion to accept the report, Steve seconds, and the report is accepted unanimously.

**Watershed Technician's Report:** Kirk makes a motion to accept the report, Steve seconds, and the report is accepted unanimously.

**Administrative Assistant / Environmental Education Report:** Steve makes a motion to accept the report, Marsha seconds, and the report is accepted unanimously.

**Agency Reports:** (NRCS) Amanda: There have been no changes in local NRCS staff. EWP applications are being finished up with one site in Cameron County. EQIP ranking is in progress with a deadline of 14 February. There have been 88 CSP applications, which is more than usual. ACT NOW this year will focus on cover crops. IRA funds may dry up under the new administration so the USDA is trying hard to spend its allotted tax monies.

DEP (Rachel): Relevant “Field Rep Talking Points” were emphasized with Chapter 102 training being highlighted.

PF&BC (Darrell): Norfolk Southern is in the process of cleaning up the debris left at the Huntley R/R bridge, after track replacement, having hauled away a dump truck full of old track components with more to be removed from the stream when conditions permit.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Set 2025 Meeting Dates: The proposed Board of Directors meeting dates for 2025 are: Monday, 13 January; Monday, 10 February; Monday, 10 March; Monday, 14 April; Monday, 12 May; Monday, 09 June; Monday, 14 July; Monday, 11 August; Monday, 08 September; Tuesday, 14 October; Monday, 10 November; and Monday, 08 December. Steve makes a motion to accept the proposed meeting dates for 2025, Marsha seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

Envirothon Donation Request: Historically, the district has given \$500. Marsha makes a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Envirothon, Steve seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

Grazing Conference Scholarship: The event is to be held in Clarion on 13 March. The district typically covers the registration fee for anyone desiring to attend. This year that fee is \$45 and would come out of the PUC account. Steve makes a motion to pay the \$45.00 registration fee for anyone wishing to attend the conference. Kirk seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Internship vs. Scholarship Discussion: Internships bring with them certain unique issues so Todd is leaning toward granting a scholarship this year for any student pursuing an environmentally related field. His research shows the average scholarship award to be \$2000, which would come from PUC monies and is already in the proposed budget. Individuals would complete an application and a 2-page essay. Steve makes a motion to set up a \$2000.00 scholarship for 2025 in the Cameron County High School. Marsha seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

2025 Budget: All present received a proposed 2025 budget spreadsheet which Todd reviewed while fielding any questions or concerns. Steve makes a motion to accept the proposed 2025 budget, Marsha seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Nil

**ADJOURNMENT:** Steve makes a motion to adjourn, Marsha seconds, and the motion carries unanimously. The meeting adjourns at 5:12 PM. The next meeting will be Monday, 10 February 2025 at 4:30 PM in the CCCD office.

Kirk Bainey, Secretary

# Cameron County Conservation Treasurer's Report January 2025

	Date	Num	Name	Memo/Description	Deposits	Checks	Balance
* 1000 Checking-Northwest	Beginning Balance						152,856.25
	01/02/2025	1905817676	Dept. of Enviro Prot. (DEP)	CDFAP Excess Overpayment	169.61		153,025.86
	01/10/2025	19		Transfer to General	87,921.47		240,947.33
	01/10/2025	20		Transfer to General	4,577.98		245,525.31
	01/10/2025	ACH	Marco (Copies Lease)	Previously Approved Monthly Contract Billing		188.86	245,336.45
	01/13/2025	2215183931	Dept. of Enviro Prot. (DEP)	WS Wage Reimbursement			257,898.95
	01/13/2025	2025-02	CDFAP - DEP	CDFAP EXCESS FUNDS ISSUED IN ERROR AND AUTO DEDUCTED	12,562.50		257,729.34
	01/15/2025	4370	Judd A Schager, CPA	Previously Approved Monthly Billing		350.00	257,379.34
	01/15/2025	4363	Keystone Diversified Pipe Supply, Inc	Previously Approved - Bill 216144		514.43	256,864.91
	01/15/2025	4364	Cameron County General Fund	Previously Approved 3rd Qtr Wage Payment		71,626.78	185,238.13
	01/15/2025	4365	L & M Lumber	Previously Approved Stmt Billing		178.87	185,059.26
	01/15/2025	4366	VISA - Jon Marc	Previously Approved Stmt Billing		33.97	185,025.29
	01/15/2025	4367	VISA - Todd	Previously Approved Stmt Billing		329.39	184,695.90
	01/15/2025	4368	VISA Jenn	Previously Approved Stmt Billing		422.82	184,273.08
	01/15/2025	4369	Visa- Jim	Previously Approved Stmt Billing		7.09	184,265.99
01/15/2025	4371	Hugh Water Supply	Previously Approved Monthly Billing		6.75	184,259.24	
01/15/2025	4372	PRP	Annual Rent Payment	13,000.00		171,259.24	
01/15/2025	4373	Jim Zoschg	Approved Expenses Reimbursement	17.42		171,241.82	
01/15/2025	4374	Todd Deluccia	Approved Expenses Reimbursement		82.41	171,159.41	
01/15/2025	4375	Zito Business - Commercial Services	Previously Approved Monthly Contract Billing		315.75	170,843.66	
* 1102 PUC-Northwest	01/22/2025	4376	Cameron County Conservation District	Transfer to DGR		528.00	170,315.66
	01/27/2025		County of Cameron	2024 County Wage Allotment	20,000.00		190,315.66
	01/31/2025		Headwaters SSC	2024 Agricultural BMP Project	2,512.32		192,827.98
	Beginning Balance				\$ 127,743.88	\$ 87,772.15	164,155.49
01/10/2025	19		Transfer to General	87,921.47		76,234.02	
01/24/2025	115	Solveson Contracting	Fin 74 PUC Portion Payment		9,586.52	66,647.50	
* 1103 Clean Water-Northwest	Beginning Balance						37,982.90
	01/10/2025	20		Transfer to General		4,577.98	33,404.92
	01/31/2025	INTEREST		Interest Earned	0.29		33,405.21
* 1105 Savings-Northwest	Beginning Balance						33,136.46
	01/31/2025	INTEREST		Interest Earned	0.28		33,136.74
* 1106 DGR-Citizens	Beginning Balance						48,599.71
	01/27/2025		Cameron County Conservation District	Transfer to DGR	528.00		49,127.71
	01/31/2025	INTEREST		Interest Earned	2.24		49,129.95
1109 Petty Cash	Beginning Balance					50.00	
* 1110 LVR - Citizens	Beginning Balance						56,786.49
	01/31/2025	INTEREST		Interest Earned	9.65		56,796.14
* 1111 ACAP- Northwest	Beginning Balance						78,730.08
	01/31/2025	INTEREST		Interest Earned	0.67		78,730.75

\* Recon'd as of 1/31/2025

**Cameron County Conservation**  
**Unpaid Bills**  
**As of January 31, 2025**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Memo/Description</u>	<u>Open Balance</u>
01/30/2025	Advanced Computer Solutions	ACS- Tech Support WIFI	256.28
01/14/2025	George Brown Excavating	MayH10	500.00
01/31/2025	Hugh Water Supply	Water- Office Supplies	20.25
01/31/2025	Jim Zoschg	CRT 25-01 Expenses	79.80
01/31/2025	Jon-Marc Burdick	WS 25-01 Expenses	98.70
01/02/2025	Judd A Schager, CPA	Monthly QB	350.00
01/01/2025	Keystone Diversified Pipe Supply, Inc	Keystone Pipe- MayH10 Repair	514.43
01/06/2025	L & M Lumber	MayH10	519.92
01/13/2025	L & M Lumber	MayH10	16.99
01/22/2025	L & M Lumber	WS Supplies- Torch	48.90
01/10/2025	Marco (Copies Lease)	Copier Lease	188.86
01/22/2025	North Point Contracting	MayH10 Repair	5,317.20
01/01/2025	Pennsylvania Envirothon (Snyder)	Envirothon Donation	500.00
01/21/2025	Solveson Contracting	MayH10	325.00
01/26/2025	Solveson Contracting	FIN 74 Phase 2 (paid upon reimbursement)	96,060.00
01/30/2025	Steve Zoschg	AG BMP Project	2,512.32
01/31/2025	Todd Deluccia	DM 25-01 Expenses	207.90
01/13/2025	VISA - Jon Marc	Kwik Fill- WS Supplies- Fuel for tools	8.32
01/10/2025	VISA - Todd	Amazon- Office Supplies	35.48
01/16/2025	VISA - Todd	Ace- MayH10	48.34
01/06/2025	VISA - Todd	Ace- Office Supplies	31.79
01/08/2025	VISA - Todd	Amazon- Rug	60.88
01/14/2025	VISA - Todd	Ace- MayH10	10.81
01/17/2025	VISA - Todd	Ace- MAYH10	46.62
01/22/2025	VISA - Todd	Pipe Camera	285.13
01/15/2025	VISA - Todd	Ace- MayH10	10.17
01/15/2025	VISA - Todd	Reids- MayH10	13.77
01/16/2025	Visa- Jim	Postage	63.14
01/08/2025	Way Office	Way Office- Office Supplies	90.80
01/15/2025	Way Office	Way Office- Office Supplies	28.51
02/01/2025	Zito Business - Commercial Services Billi	Phone/Internet	315.75
			<b>\$ 108,566.06</b>

Previously Approved - Pending Reimbursement

12/31/2021	Cameron County General Fund	CRT 2021 4th Qtr Wages	10.00
12/31/2024	Cameron County General Fund	CRT 4th QTR 2024	14,562.23
12/31/2024	Cameron County General Fund	WS 4th QTR 2024	14,525.23
12/31/2024	Cameron County General Fund	AA 4th QTR 2024	14,572.36
12/31/2024	Cameron County General Fund	DM 4th QTR 2024	18,607.60
			<b>\$ 62,277.42</b>

Previously Approved - Pending Project Completion

06/30/2019	Gibson Township	Gibson001-06/30/2018-023-01 (Nanny Run 1/2 pmt)	5,203.08
07/14/2020	Lumber Township	Lumber Hunts Run	44,654.00
06/13/2023	Lumber Township	Sterling Run Lumber Twp LVR	14,390.00
10/12/2023	Shippen Township DGR	4 MILE, Shippen Twp LVR 50%	17,950.00

## January District Managers Report

A big part of the month was preparing for and constructing the MAYH10 intake. The existing intake had failed from the remnants of Hurricane Debby and a combination of a faulty design. A new intake was constructed using 6x6 treated timbers and the Coanda Box. The new intake with the Coanda Box works very well taking in all the flow and keeping the intake open from debris including ice. We have one more as of now to install and retrofit another system. We are in the process of waiting out the cold weather and prioritizing which system is in need of the new style intake style.

The 18<sup>th</sup> round of Sinnemahoning Watershed Grant Program was due January 31<sup>st</sup>. Another considerable amount of time was spent prioritizing sites and coming up with design and cost estimates. Jon Marc and I looked at 4-5 different stream crossings and ended up picking several sites in the Hunts Run drainage. There are quite a few crossings within this fairly pristine wild trout fishery that we thought AOP barriers in this area would have the most benefit to aquatic life. We applied for 2 culvert replacements at Deloy Hollow and Moore Draft. Both sites are undersize significantly with 36" pipes causing erosion, perched causing a barrier for movement, and failing causing a public safety risk. Both sites will be replaced with a bottomless aluminum arch box culvert 12'11" x 6'0". This allows us to set footers to hold the pipe and have a completely open stream channel to rebuild the stream with grade control features allowing for stream continuity. Once done the pipe arch is bolted to the footers, backfilled and done.

In addition to the Hunts Run AOP Initiative project, Jon Marc put together a grant for continued invasive plant management. Headwaters dissolution has take a different turn so I have been busy dealing with that and the transfer of the Sinnemahoning Endowment

The rest of the month was spent doing regular District business and attending several various meetings

Todd Deluccia  
District Manager

January 2025

Conservation Resource Technician Report

The details have been finalized for our 2025 Ag Producers Meeting. It will be held on Thursday, February 27. I have registered the meeting with the PA Dept of Agriculture so that attendees are eligible for 2 Core and 2 Category credits toward their pesticide licenses. The guest speakers at the event will be Amanda Murdock of the USDA NRCS, and Dwight Lingenfelter, Travis Wingard and Nicole Santangelo of Penn State Extension. In preparation for the program, the second week of January I mailed our annual winter letter to all local ag producers updating them on the District's program and inviting them to the ag meeting on February 27. I also called the farmers in the county and conducted a survey to see what weed problems that they were experiencing in their pastures and crop fields. Dwight Lingenfelter is developing his presentation based on this survey and will be teaching on the control of Cameron County's problem weeds.

On January 7 I participated in an ACAP webinar that explained when it is necessary to give 1099 forms to grantees.

Under the Chapter 105 program I met with someone from the Driftwood Borough to look at a site where they will be doing work on the waterline near Nanny Run. We determined that a permit will not be needed for the work, but proper E&S best management practices will be necessary when the work is completed. Besides the Driftwood Borough, I offered technical assistance to two other individuals who were looking into doing work that would need a 105 permit. The one individual was looking to rebuild a bridge and the other individual was looking to replace a failing pipe at a stream crossing.

This month there has not been much work under the Chapter 102 program. I did do some Chapter 102 training in the Clean Water Academy, though.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> I met with Mckean and Potter County Conservation District Staff and other project partners to discuss the grant application that we are working on for the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). We are planning a three-county grant project that would focus on the holistic management of local farms. It would seek funding for best management practices on both the agriculture and forestry land of local farms and for practices to improve and protect the aquatic resources found on the farms. Although the focus would be farms, non-ag land could also be eligible for project funding. If funded, the project would have a five-year duration.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> I met with Amanda Balon, the Penn State Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator for Cameron and Elk Counties. Amanda was looking for a place to host a pruning workshop. She is going to use the orchard in my farm. The workshop is scheduled for March 1 and will soon be advertised.

Sincerely,

Jim Zoschg, Jr.

## January 2025 Watershed Technician Report

I started the month by beginning the writing of the Headwaters Grant to continue the invasive work within the county. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> round of the grant. With the cost of everything rising this past year I spoke with Heather Mckean to discuss what her thought of hourly would be this year. She gave a rough estimate of around 70 Dollars an hour but if costs continue to go up it could be as high as 80 Dollars and hour. So, this year the District will be asking for \$20,000. With this amount this would give us 250 hours of work on invasive populations. The Grant application has been completed and submitted.

Todd and I spent a lot of time at the May Hollow 10 passive treatment system. This is the system that in August when we had that big storm, and the flooding events washed out our intake to the treatment system. Thanks to the WPCAMR we were able to access their Emergency Fund for situations exactly like this. To remedy the failure of the original intake we purchased a Coanda Box that filters out sediment and debris from going into the pipe and clogging up the system. The way this intake box works we had to raise the elevation of the water level so that the bottom of the box could get enough fall to the original pipe. To build the weir we alternated 16-foot and 12-foot 6x6s to stretch the entire length of the channel as well as beyond so that it is solidly supported at the ends into the bank. After building the weir we installed the box at the elevation we needed. We then ran the 6-inch pipe to the original 8-inch that was ran to the system during the installation of the system. Also, because the amount of water going into the box is greater than the systems could take, we had to install an emergency overflow pipe in the splitter box that would bypass the excess water around the system. We wrapped up the project by installing a sheet of pit liner on the upstream side of the weir to seal off water going through or under the weir then we waited for the weir to fill up. After completion of the project we noticed that one of the pipes in the splitter box wasn't taking any water. We blocked off the hole that was working and once the water got to a certain level it would work. Upon inspecting that pipe with a camera, it appears that the pipe heaved in the freeze potentially breaking the pipe and not allowing the water to go into the pond. When we get some warmer water, we will dig up the pipe and fix the issue. But for now, the one pond is taking all the water that we are receiving, so we are still getting full treatment in the system.

Also, with AMD I spent a few days doing my final round of samples for the Sterling Run Watershed study. This was my hardest round of sampling so far having to deal with the weather and snow I couldn't drive to a lot of the sample sites like I normally would. Also, I had to deal with a lot of ice because all the streams were completely frozen over and I had to chop holes in the stream to even get access to the water. With this being my last round of samples the next step when I get the data back from the lab is to compile all the data and write a report on the watershed and each of its tributaries. The report will consist of the history of the watershed, previous data samples, new data samples, fish surveys, and macro invertebrate surveys.

Jon-Marc Burdick

Watershed Technician



## Administrative Assistant/Environmental Education Report – January 2025

Things are getting exciting in the third grade and environmental biology classrooms. The trout eggs have arrived, and all the aquariums are thriving as we begin this journey from egg to fingerling. The environmental biology classroom has changed hands to a new teacher. Becky Schreiber comes from Abraxas High School, and she is very excited for the trout in the classroom program. I'm happy to report the students have stepped up and are doing great with monitoring the aquarium as Becky adjusts to her new position. Now we just wait and cross our fingers and hope we do not have any die-offs throughout the process.

I continued my visits with the third-grade classes for the month of January. I presented to the students' macroinvertebrates. I showed the students the many different macros we have in jars from the district office, along with pictures. We discussed the value the macros have to our streams along with a brief discussion on how they will look for them when they attend the end of the year field trip. I then asked the students to draw and color what the stream looks like under the water. The students were asked to imagine if they stuck their heads underwater, what would they see. They all did amazing jobs, and the drawings were quite good.

In Kindergarten and Pre-K, we discussed the different habitats animals live in. I took along a box I call "The Life Box." In this box you will find water and soil (represents food). The box which represents shelter and the space inside is the space that is needed for animals to survive. I ask the students to tell me what they might find in the box to help them survive in their habitat. After we discussed what is in the box, we then discussed what habitat we would find certain animals. I showed the students different animals from different habitats. The students then had to pick a location they would feel the animal would live in. Example a Polar Bear would live in the artic. I then give them a picture of an animal and a piece of paper and ask them to draw/color the habitat for the animal they received. The students were very descriptive with their drawings, which we shared with the rest of the class.

Unfortunately, I did not get to attend IU9 classes or second grade classes in the month of January. The Nora-virus found me and knocked me down for almost a week. I have learned through this sickness that it takes me a little bit longer to get back to 100% than what it did in my 20s.

Jennifer Dixon

Admin. Asst/Environmental Ed.

## February 2025 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points

### **DEP 2024 Growing Greener Grant Awards**

The Department of Environmental Protection published the list of 2024 Growing Greener grant recipients here: <https://www.pa.gov/services/dep/water/bwrnsm/apply-for-a-department-of-environmental-protection-growing-greener-plus-grant.html> Official announcements through regional press releases are forthcoming.

### **Leadership Development Employment Law Seminars**

The Leadership Development Program has once again contracted with Adam Long of McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC to present a series of seminars on Employment Law for Conservation Districts. The seminars are scheduled for February 18 in Cranberry Township, Feb.19 in State College, and Feb. 20 in Allentown.

The presentation will include updates on a number of significant recent employment law developments such as FSLA overtime exemption rules, ADA compliance, employee absence & leave policies, and discriminatory harassment legal requirements and policies. Registrants can provide input and suggestions on topic priorities by [completing a brief survey](#).

All Conservation District Directors, Associate Directors, management staff and partners are encouraged to attend. Networking begins at 9:30am and seminars will be held from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Seminar registration is \$35 per attendee. Lunch and refreshments are provided, and all attendees will receive a bound reference document summarizing the presentation and policy recommendations.

[Register for Tuesday February 18 – Pittsburgh Marriott North, Cranberry Twp.](#)

[Register for Wednesday February 19 – Ramada Conference Center, State College](#)

[Register for Thursday February 20 – Hilton Garden Inn Allentown West, Breinigsville](#)

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and the full day of October 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pattardo@pa.gov)) with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Chapter 102 Program

**SPEED** – DEP received 7 bids for QPs under the SPEED Program and is in the process of evaluating those bids. DEP has held 3 statewide webinars with districts to discuss SPEED. DEP has held 4 meetings with members of a Chapter 102 SPEED workgroup to assist DEP in the preparation of an internal Questions & Answers document and a draft SOP. A draft Q&A document was shared with all district staff in December. The draft SOP for Chapter 102 SPEED is currently under development.

**102 Pilot Program** – Districts have received 6 applications that have been accepted into the Chapter 102 Pilot Program to date: one in Lehigh County, two in Beaver County, one in Allegheny County, and two in Chester County. Two additional applications are expected to be received anytime by Chester County. One individual NPDES permit has been issued to date (Lehigh County) and the remainder are in various stages of review. The Pilot program utilizes certain modified procedures that are intended to improve the quality of applications received and reduce review times. The permit for the Lehigh County project was issued in 73 fewer business days than the average permit through the standard review process.

## **Chapter 102 Training**

- **2025 Chapter 102 New Hire Small Group Training** – Participants must complete the Chapter 102 Level 1 Training 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                      September 9, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
June 17, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm                      December 9, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Chapter 102 Basic Training** – 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 25<sup>th</sup>, and invitations were sent out in January. Stay tuned for more information on future regional training events.
- **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 help not just them but others on the call, and also ensures everyone is up to date with the 102 Program.

## **Chapter 105 Program**

**SPEED** – DEP has received 7 bids for QPs under the Chapter 105 SPEED Program. The evaluation of those bids is in progress, including feedback from regional offices. It should be noted that not every bid includes engineering professionals *and* environmental professionals. DEP has presented the SPEED Program at a handful of stakeholder and partner meetings, conferences, and trainings. DEP has also included bullet points for various routine updates given to partners and stakeholders. The draft SOP for Chapter 105 SPEED is currently under development. The training plan for Chapter 105 SPEED QPs is nearly completed and will be hosted on the Clean Water Academy.

**105 Pilot Program** – Despite outreach efforts from the Chapter 105 program, the Chapter 105 Pilot received very limited initial interest. The Program continued outreach effort, but also made some adjustments were made to the pilot. Additional outreach was also done by the regional offices. The first Chapter 105 Pilot project was received by the Southcentral Regional Office (SCRO) in December 2024. This interest in the Chapter 105 Pilot is was made possible due to additional outreach conducted by SCRO during their normal preapplication meetings.

## **Second Annual Clean Water Gathering of State Program and Local County Action Leaders**

The second annual Clean Water Gathering was held on January 23, 2025. This year’s theme is “Moving from problem solving and strategizing to action” and facilitated connection and action among multiple state program and local county action leaders, policymakers, and other key stakeholders in moving the Success Strategies forward.

Since January 2024, over 60 participants have contributed nearly 1,000 hours across three Clean Water Progress Teams to address the priority action area challenges generated at the inaugural October 2023 Clean Water Gathering. These efforts have culminated in 25 actionable Success Strategies aimed at accelerating Pennsylvania’s clean water progress as we work collectively to reach Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and Countywide Action Plan (CAP) nutrient pollution reduction goals benefitting local water quality throughout Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay watershed. This ongoing, collaborative effort has been the ultimate “win-win” for all partners, as this type of multi-level, collaborative approach is needed to sustain the momentum driving our clean water progress, while also supporting the work of our many local partners.

The Progress Teams’ 25 unique recommended “Strategies for Success” are categorized into six key themes aimed at overcoming challenges identified during the first Clean Water Gathering that hinder or prevent partners from being more successful, and slow down progress toward cleaner waters in the following priority action areas:

- Technical and Administrative Assistance
- Staff Building/Staff Retention
- Funding and Multi-Grant Coordination

## **Thematic Groupings of Recommendations:**

1. **Digital Tools:** Enhance funding processes and administration through centralized tools and simplified and streamlined grant applications.
2. **Streamline Best Management Practices:** Standardize practices for clean water management verification by entities outside of PA DEP.
3. **Research & Improvement:** Conduct studies and research to identify improvements to programs, partnerships, hiring, project support and hiring practices.
4. **Advocacy for Funding:** Ensure adequate and stable long-term funding for clean water projects to enhance planning and execution.
5. **Networking & Collaboration:** Form workgroups and coordinated networks to address challenges and enhance knowledge sharing.
6. **Leadership Development:** Focus on leadership development, training and capacity-building for conservation staff.

**Chesapeake Bay Program**

**DEP 2025 Countywide Action Plan Implementation Block Grant Awards** In early December, DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division awarded \$24 million in 2025 Countywide Action Plan Implementation Block Grant (CAP Grant) funding to 34 CAP county partners, as part of its annual block grant award process. In total for 2025, \$22,241,587 was awarded for CAP Implementation projects and \$1,827,824 was awarded to fund CAP Clean Water Coordinators.

Since 2021, DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division has provided annual coordinated funding for two integral parts of the CAP program: funding for a coordinator and funding for project implementation in a 12-18- month timeframe. The grant initiative supports local Clean Water Coordinators and targets projects that benefit local partners and those living downstream by supporting local partners’ effort in reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to restore the health of local streams, rivers, and lakes.

The 2025 CAP grant will fund 18 CAP coordinators and 205 projects that will be completed in the next 12 to 18 months, resulting in an estimated reduction of nearly 110,000 pounds/year of nitrogen, 42,150 pounds/year of phosphorus, and 11.8 million pounds/year of sediment. Half of these projects are agricultural projects; just over 40% are natural projects, primarily stream restorations or stabilizations; almost 10% are stormwater projects; and 143 projects are located in a Most Effective Basin Disadvantaged Community (MEB DC) area

**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 .....Feb 18
- Conference Call ..... Apr 15

**Leadership Development Employment Law Seminars**

- North Cranberry Twp. Feb 18
- State College Feb 19
- Allentown Feb 20

**Leadership Development Admin Roundtable 12:00- 1:00**

- Virtual Feb 26

**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.