



LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING DAY OF PACKET

Wednesday December 1, 2021

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91731607863>

Business Meeting 7:30PM

Page #

7:40	I. <u>Agency Reports</u>	
	2. PA DEP Field Rep Report (attachment).....	1

***Action Required**

December 2021 DEP Conservation District Field Rep Talking Points

Grant Programs

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Announces Most Effective Basin Funding in Pennsylvania

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [announced \\$2.5 million in new grants for 10 Pennsylvania-based projects](#) that will protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding watershed. The \$2.5 million grants, when combined with the \$8.5 million in grants announced earlier this year, will together generate \$20 million in grantee match. When combined, these funds will have a conservation impact of more than \$31 million in Pennsylvania.

The awards mark the inaugural grants from the Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins (PA-MEB) Grants program and will support and enhance prior investments in Pennsylvania conservation efforts made throughout the calendar year. The PA-MEB Grants program funds projects that accelerate implementation of cost-effective agricultural best management practices in selected regions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed of Pennsylvania. NFWF works with the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office and State Conservation Commission leadership to ensure that the PA-MEB program effectively aligns with the priority initiatives in Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP. [A complete list of the 2021 Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund recipients is available here](#)

DEP to host "DEP Grants 101" webinar

If you have an idea for an environmental improvement for your community or business, let DEP help you make it happen with grant funding. Join Michele Devaney, Director, DEP Grants Office, and John Brakeall, Regional Coordinator, DEP Environmental Justice Office, for this free live webinar on how to apply for DEP grant funding. Geared for first-time applicants and based on survey feedback, this webinar will cover the essentials of applying, helping you to submit your best application possible. We'll also look at seven grant programs and answer your questions.

Topics that will be covered:

- Who can apply for environmental grants, and types of projects supported
- How to apply: an overview of the essential basics
- Debunking a few misconceptions about applying for funding
- Common application pitfalls and how to avoid them
- A look at seven grant programs and what they support

The live webinar will be held Thursday, December 2, from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. [Register here](#)

Policies and Procedures

District Director Nomination Process – The SCC has sent two emails to county chief clerks with information detailing the Director Nomination Process. Conservation district managers should confirm with chief clerks that they have reached out to nominating organizations and provide them information as to which director terms need to be filled and ensure they have current mailing addresses for nominating organizations. Director Nominations are due to the State Conservation Commission by December 1, 2021. As of November 23, we have received and processed the following director nominations: Bedford, Bradford, Fulton, Lebanon, Mifflin, Monroe, Sullivan and Warren. Questions may be directed to your Conservation District Field Rep or Barb Buckingham bbuckingha@pa.gov

District Audit Requirement - Conservation districts' calendar year 2020 Annual Financial Audit Reports are due no later than December 31, 2021. Please be sure that your auditor is working on your audit and knows the deadline. If your auditor requires documentation of Commonwealth payments or has any questions, please email those requests to kbooks@pa.gov.

Sunshine Act Amendments –Senate Bill 554 of 2021 amends the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act to include an agenda requirement. This amendment requires all agencies to post an agenda of issues to be deliberated or planned official action at least 24 hours prior to any regular or special public meetings of the agency. The agenda must be posted to Websites*, agency offices, and meeting sites, and available at the meeting itself *(including other social media platforms, such as Facebook). These changes took effect on August 29. The SCC sent an email on August 5 to all conservation districts with details of the changes and how districts need to comply. Additional information and training calendar may be found at the Office of Open Records Website: <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/index.cfm>

Retaining Virtual Participation Options for District Board Meetings – As conservation district boards begin to hold in person meetings again, the SCC recommends conservation districts continue to offer a way for board members, cooperating agencies, and the public to participate in meetings either through conference call or video conference. Cooperating agency staff may not be allowed to attend in person meetings during this time and board members and the public may not feel comfortable attending. Providing a virtual option will allow greater participation in conservation district board meetings.

Chapter 102 Program

PAG-01 General Permit - The Final PAG-01 General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Construction Activities was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on November 13, 2021. PAG-01 will serve as an alternative means for NPDES coverage for earth disturbance activities with less than 5 acres of disturbance. The primary benefit of PAG-01 is that a site-specific stormwater analysis for post-construction stormwater management (PCSM) is not required, which is one of the costliest parts of completing a Chapter 102 permit application. DEP has conducted a general stormwater analysis that will serve as the applicant's analysis. However, in order to qualify for PAG-01 coverage, applicants will need to, among other things, 1) select from a suite of PCSM BMPs that are prescribed in the general permit; 2) ensure that impervious surface does not exceed 30,000 square feet; and 3) ensure that impervious surface does not exceed 12% of the project site area. DEP is establishing an effective date for PAG-01 of March 1, 2022 so that DEP can provide training to the regulated community and conservation districts, who will be processing PAG-01 Notices of Intent (NOIs).

Chapter 102 ePermitting Updates

- ESCGP-3 release is now tentatively planned for February 16, 2022;
- Refer to [102 ePermitting webpage](#) for links to the external training and resources. You should direct applicants/to consultants to here.
- Refer to Clean Water Academy for internal trainings.

Nutrient and Odor Management Updates

NM and OM Update Webinar Materials Available On-line - The following NM and OM update webinars and PowerPoints are available on-line for reference:

- Nutrient Management Planning Spreadsheet Version 8.0 and Nutrient Balance Sheet Version 6.0 Updates
- Nutrient Management Technical Manual Version 12 Updates
- Nutrient Management and Manure Management Administrative Manual Version 6 Update
- Odor Management Program Guidance and Technical Manual Version 4 Update

The PowerPoints are available on the program website at:

<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/nutrient-management/educational>

The recording webinars can be found on the DEP Clean Water Academy at:

<https://pacleanwateracademy.remote-learner.net/>

Questions may be directed to Frank Schneider at fschneider@pa.gov

Supplemental On-Site Status Review Report - On September 14, 2021 the State Conservation Commission approved Version 6 of the Nutrient Management and Manure Management Administrative Manual. Several changes and updates were made to the manual. One notable addition is the Supplemental On-Site Status Review Report. The goal of this Supplemental Report is to better capture Supplemental Nutrient Management Best Management Practices (Supplemental NM BMPs). These Supplemental NM BMPs focus on concepts similar to the “4R” practices when placing nutrients on fields. This Supplemental Report is required to be completed along with the existing Status Review Report and the information is to be entered into the PracticeKeeper database. A webinar training for this Supplemental Report is scheduled for December 10, 2021 from 11:00 – 12:30 (<https://psu.zoom.us/j/91520441740>) and the recording will also be posted on the Clean Water Academy. State Conservation Commission sponsored Nutrient Management continuing education credits will be offered. For any questions, please contact your SCC Regional Coordinator.

Clean Water Academy

A new course just opened up in Clean Water Academy. This course was developed with assistance from one of our partners, Soil Hub. The course provides soil-focused information relevant to stormwater management planning and design. Topics include water flow in soils, redoximorphic features, measuring hydraulic conductivity, and understanding the role soils play in stormwater control measure performance.

This module also includes a completion certificate. This will be a great foundational topic for when the new stormwater manual is released.

Course: Soils Considerations in Stormwater Management (remote-learner.net)

Funding Opportunities

SRBC announces consumptive use mitigation grants for drought resilience

The [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) (SRBC) announced a new grant program for projects focused on improving water availability and water quality during droughts. The grant program is based on [SRBC's 2020 Consumptive Use Mitigation Policy](#). Consumptive use (CU) refers to water that is used but not returned to the river basin. The program is intended to attract the following projects that will improve the watershed's resiliency or ability to better withstand drought situations:

- Water storage and release projects that can enhance supply reliability or resiliency during drought (e.g., impoundments, inactive quarries, and underground mine pools);
- Projects that modify current operations or implement new practices that increase instream flows or improve flow resilience during drought (e.g., reservoir conservation releases, aquifer storage and recovery, and coordinated use of surface water and groundwater);
- Demand modification projects (e.g. projects that achieve water conservation, reuse and/or recycling); and,
- Environmental and water quality improvement projects that support the resiliency of water resources (both in terms of water quality and quantity) during drought conditions (e.g., groundwater recharge, restoring wetlands/streams/floodplains, improving stormwater management, and treating abandoned mine drainage).

Eligible applicants include SRBC's permit holders; local, state, and federal government agencies; colleges and universities; and non-profit organizations. Grant funds may be used to cover a variety of project costs, including but not limited to the acquisition of land and construction of new or expansion of existing consumptive use mitigation projects. A minimum 10% cash match of the requested funds is required.

Applications will be accepted until January 28, 2022. Funding announcements will be made after April 1, 2022. Awarded projects may begin on July 1, 2022. SRBC will host a webinar on the Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants Program on December 8 at 10:00 a.m. Anyone interested in submitting an application should attend the webinar! [For more information about the grants and to register for the webinar, click here.](#)

“Bonus Round” Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-grant Program

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) opened a “bonus” round of Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Prevention Educational mini-grants! Grants up to \$2,500 will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to conservation districts for adult educational projects that offer strategies for reducing and preventing NPS Pollution. Notifications will be made on a rolling basis so projects can start as soon as possible. Projects will need to be completed in time to submit a final report by May 6, 2022. Projects should stimulate a local awareness of water quality issues, promote the theme “We All Live Downstream,” and encourage citizen participation in activities to improve water quality in local watersheds.

The deadline for NPS mini-grant applications is December 31, 2021, or until funds are allocated. [Click here for the online application and more information.](#)

DCNR 2022 Community Conservation Partnership Program save the date announcement

The 2022 grant application period for the [Community Conservation Partnerships Program](#) has been announced. Applications will be accepted starting January 18, 2022. The deadline to apply is 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 6, 2022. All applications should be submitted through the [DCNR Grants Customer Service Portal](#).

Even though the application period is a few months away, it's never too early to [contact your regional advisor](#) to discuss your project idea and ways to make it more competitive for state grants.

Virtual workshops were held in early November for potential applicants. Anyone interested in applying for [Community Conservation Partnerships Program grants](#) in 2022 is strongly encouraged to view the recorded virtual workshops on the website.

DEP's 2022 Environmental Education Grant

The 2022 DEP Environmental Education (EE) Grants Program is open and applications are due December 10, 2021. The [Environmental Education Grants \(pa.gov\)](#) program provides funds to support a wide range of environmental education projects including meaningful, hands-on programs for students, teacher training workshops, and community conservation projects for adults.

Award Types

- Mini-Grants up to \$3,000 for local (school, county, municipality, or other defined area) environmental education projects.
- General Grants (Level I): up to \$20,000 for large-scale, regional, and/or statewide environmental education projects.
- General Grants (Level II): up to \$85,000 for non-formal environmental education programs designed to widely* engage teachers and youth at the county, state, and national levels. (*Teachers and students from at least 60 Pennsylvania counties must directly participate in the project). Projects must demonstrate that at least 30% of the EE program participants live and/or work within an Environmental Justice Area.

There was a webinar on the grant program on October 5th from 12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m. The webinar has been posted on the EE Grants Homepage: [Environmental Education Grants \(pa.gov\)](#)

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Chesapeake Bay Engineer Coverage Map

Program staff have had multiple requests in recent weeks regarding the coverage areas of the Chesapeake Bay Engineers. In response to these inquiries, attached to the Talking Points is a map to offer clarity and inform all relevant staff of the counties covered by each engineer as defined in the Chesapeake Bay Engineer Contracts

BMP Verification Update and Funding Webinar

The Chesapeake Bay Office (CBO) will be holding a follow-up session to the initial two BMP Verification sessions on December 1, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM as part of the “Webinar Wednesday” sessions. After reviewing the new and existing Countywide Action Plans and identifying needs documented and presented by all counties throughout the watershed to better inventory and assess historic BMP implementation, the CBO has additional funds available to every county that has developed a CAP, to be spent by September 30, 2022.

This webinar will discuss opportunities to leverage partners, pool resources for verification strategies like remote sensing, and expand staffing temporarily through internships, student mentorship programs, and existing volunteer networks. The webinar will also provide examples of where counties may want to focus, such as narrowing the scope to a group of priority BMPs, as well as the types of training that would be available to ensure that documentation of BMPs follows the required quality assurance protocols.

This funding opportunity is being provided through the EPA Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Accountability Program (CBRAP) grant, and is meant to be a step forward in ensuring that every BMP that has been implemented is being documented and reported for nutrient and sediment reductions in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.

Pennsylvania's Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan – Monthly e-newsletter

The Department of Environmental Protection Chesapeake Bay Office (CBO) produces a monthly newsletter to showcase progress and updates on the statewide Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan and our local partners' Countywide Action Plans. Our newsletter will highlight activities from the CBO and our partnering counties, agencies, and action team leaders; reporting and data tools; funding and grant opportunities; and major announcements.

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Newsletter.aspx>

Pilot and Tier 2 Counties Prepare CAP Milestones and Annual Progress Reports

The Pilot counties—Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, and York—finalized and submitted their Annual Progress and Two-Year Milestone reports to DEP's Chesapeake Bay Office (CBO) in October. The Tier 2 counties—Bedford, Centre, Cumberland, and Lebanon—completed their first Annual Progress reports. CBO staff will be providing each county's CAP updates to the Bay website in the coming weeks.

Tier 3-4 CAPs are Complete

All 26 of the Tier 3 and 4 counties have completed and submitted their CAPs and are finalizing their CAP narratives. CBO staff will be providing each county's CAP updates to the Bay website in the coming weeks. County Coordinators and CAP team members will attend a Transitioning to Implementation Webinar this fall, as well as regional implementation workshops. DEP Region CAP Support Teams will continue to assist Tier 3 and 4 county partners in implementing their CAPs.

Dates to Remember

SCC Meetings – 1:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting	January 18
Hybrid Meeting	March 15

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

Conference Call	December 14
Conference Call	February 15

Leadership Development Staff Conference

Hybrid – State College and Virtual	February 16-17
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Also, check the Conservation District Training/Special Events Calendar at, www.PACD.org Select the "Events" tab and then the "Training Calendar" tab.