

BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Stoll Natural Resource Center, RR 5, Box 5030C, Towanda, PA 18848
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APRIL 2009 MEETING

The April meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District was called to order by Jim VanBlarcom, Chairperson of the BCCD, on April 6, 2009, at 7:00 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center, Wysox, PA.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gas – DEP has made some program changes in the last several weeks. One was to allow gas companies to include areas as large as the whole County in the project areas, which results in only one public review for all activities and only one permit fee. Another change removes conservation districts from Chap. 102 & 105 activities related to gas projects. They also want us to turn over all our files associated with oil and gas.

Walter Warburton made a motion that we respond with a letter similar to a draft letter presented at this meeting to express our concerns. Bruce Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

We should also continue to think about how to handle the workload if this delegation comes back to us in the future.

Tree Planter – Our tree planter has seen little use in the past 19 years. Bruce Chase made a motion to sell the tree planter. Dean Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Leadership Development – Bruce Chase made a motion to return \$2,000.00 that is not anticipated as being needed under the District Visits contract so the State can redistribute these funds. Walter Warburton seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Chesapeake Bay Special Projects – Nate Dewing presented a project for \$15,696.00 to do roof run off work and manure spreader shed improvements on the Paul Allen farm. A second project was for \$8,640.00 for milkhouse waste on the Mike Bride farm. Keith Heimbach made a motion to approve these Chesapeake Bay Special Projects. Al Herman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park The Plow – Terry Lutz presented the Minutes of the March 11th Park The Plow committee meeting, which included the following recommendations:

- All elements of the Park The Plow program and the Chesapeake Bay Special Projects program should be consistent to avoid confusion.
- Farmers should be allowed to submit multiple billings while under the contract period, as long as the maximum amount of cost share is not exceeded.
- The Conservation District should seek to develop a more intensive agronomic/nutrient management support system for farmers. This could be in the form of a type of crop management service. Funds from Park The Plow, CBP and other sources could be investigated to supplement any farmer support.

Bruce Chase made a motion to accept these three recommendations from the Park The Plow Committee. Walter Warburton seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Finances – The Conservation District’s treasury is in a single bank and is secured through assets and securities held by that bank. Consideration should be given to the possibility of diversifying some of our funds to other banks at limits protected by FDIC.

Chesapeake Bay Special Projects – Nate Dewing has submitted a project application that proposes the Conservation District develop an agronomic support initiative. This would provide two years of funding for a person to provide ongoing technical and day to day support for farmers transitioning to no-till systems, and for development and implementation of nutrient management plans. Dean Jackson made a motion to approve this Chesapeake Bay Special Project proposal. Keith Heimbach seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition Stream Work – The Conservation District has been providing technical assistance to the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC). They have requested our Stream Team to provide assistance for all USC stream work and to help build the capacity of their technical staff. This could bring as much as \$250,000.00 per year to Bradford County from their Chesapeake Bay Program allocation and other sources. Bruce Chase made a motion to proceed with this, but to review it again before we accept any funds from the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. Dean Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Meaningful Watershed Experience – Dean Jackson made a motion to sponsor two grants for “Trout-In-The-Classroom” programs, one each in Wyalusing and Towanda School Districts, for a total of \$3,000.00. Walter Warburton seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Computer Monitors – Mike Lovegreen was able to make a trade of some of our old non-functioning monitors for newer flat screens. Walter Warburton made a motion to remove the following monitors from our equipment list:

<u>Brand</u>	<u>Serial #</u>
KDS	0201006049
DELL	MX-04N736-47605-44Q-B5JJ
CTX	XA1995N01A-OT182000334
DELL	MX-04N736-47605-44Q-B5J9
CTX	AFO-5200460

Keith Heimbach seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Engineer Assistance – Potter Conservation District is requesting design assistance from our engineer for a Heavy Use Area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM by Jim VanBlarcom, Chairperson.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be on May 4, 2009, at 7:00 PM at the Stoll Natural Resource Center, Wysox, PA.