

**BRADFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Stoll Natural Resource Center, RR 5, Box 5030C, Towanda, PA 18848**  
**Telephone (570)265-5539 Ext. 6 - Fax (570)265-7435**

FEBRUARY 2009 MEETING

The February meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District was called to order by Jim VanBlarcom, Chairperson of the BCCD, on February 2, 2009, at 12:30 PM, at the Stoll Natural Resource Center, Wysox, PA.

OLD BUSINESS:

Menagerie Permit – The PA permit has been received for the raptor pens. We still have to get US Fish & Wildlife Service permit, which they suggested be issued to the Conservation District rather than an individual. The Chairman will sign for it. We also need to get a permit from Wysox Township. Dean Jackson made a motion to apply for a US Fish & Wildlife Service permit in the Conservation District name. Keith Heimbach seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. John Sullivan made a motion to get a permit from the Township to build the raptor pens. Dean Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Tire Cutter – Arrangements have been finalized with Tioga County (NY) Soil & Water Conservation District to make available the use of a tire cutter, which cuts the sidewalls out of scrap tires, to reduce primary breeding grounds for mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus. The cutter, which is capable of cutting up to 150 tires per hour, is available for public use within Bradford County at a cost of \$25.00 per day. The Conservation District is taking sign-ups for the machine on a first come, first served basis, for use this spring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building Committee – The Committee hasn't met yet. Have been trying to find the source of leaks in the roof. It appears they are being caused by ice dams due to the nature of the roofing system we have. Three roofing contractors have looked at the problem and they are preparing bids. Nothing can be done until spring, so in the meantime we have been knocking down ice dams as they develop.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clean Water Farm Award – Profiles for three nominations were presented. John Sullivan made a motion to accept the staff recommendation and nominate Al Herman for the Clean Water Farm Award, as well as for our Outstanding Cooperator award. Dean Jackson seconded the motion and it was passed with Al Herman abstaining.

DEP Environmental Education Grant – Bruce Chase, Rich Gulyas, and Mike Lovegreen developed a pre-application proposal, which has been accepted by DEP, to train people to do energy audits for people who might not be able to afford a professional audit. This wouldn't compete with commercial auditors, because they do a more detailed audit. Dean Jackson made a motion to submit this application for a DEP Environmental Education Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 John Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

PALMS Conference – Bruce Chase made a motion to send Rich Gulyas and Joe Quatrini to the PA Lake Management Society Conference in State College on February 25 & 26, and ask them to give a report at the next Board Meeting. Al Herman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

NM Ed. Outreach Strategy – Dixie Lehman presented a Nutrient Management Delegation Educational Outreach Strategy for 2009. The only change from last year was to hold a grazing conference on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Troy Fire Hall. Bruce Chase made a motion to accept this Nutrient Management Delegation Educational Outreach Strategy for 2009 as modified. Al Herman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## REPORTS:

Ag. Team Retreat – Nate Dewing presented a summary of the retreat where the Ag. Team left the office for a half day to talk about where they have been and where they are going. They discussed how they work as a team and looked at the trends they see in agriculture in Bradford County and how this affects our programs.

PACD – Mike Lovegreen reported on the Partnership Forum where all agencies had an austerity message as a result of tightened budgets. DEP may see some programs not staffed. It is possible the \$3,000.00 cost of sharing the NRCS computer system can be negotiated through services to NRCS. NRCS did get some funds targeted for Chesapeake Bay, but they all went south of Route 80. DEP is considering using Special Project funds to hire people to help implement the NRCS Bay Funding, but this could create a reduction in BMP dollars the northern counties. PDA may be closing regional offices and having people work from their homes. It is not known if there will be any more Growing Greener grant funding.

Carbon trading still isn't making any money, and won't until there is legislation to force air clean up.

The proposed Streamside Improvement and Buffer Initiative would not require E&S plans to have conservation district review for adequacy. It will take a couple years to get revisions through.

Bruce Chase reported on the resolutions passed by PACD. One supported adoption of severance tax, another concerned carbon trading and global climate change, and a third was in favor of all E&S plans being required to have district review.

Flood Summit – A second Flood Summit will be held at the Wysox Fire Hall on April 24<sup>th</sup>. A brochure will be mailed out to municipal officials. They will be spending part of the day in the field.

PA Holstein Assoc. – John Sullivan made a motion to join the PA Holstein Association and the Bradford County Association at \$22.50 for half price first year membership. Al Herman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Tree Seedling Sale – Order forms are at the printer and should be available soon. Mark your calendar for seedling packaging on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Distribution will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

BSFLA Tour – The Bradford/Sullivan Forest Landowners Association will host a tour of the Wyalusing school bio-mass heating plant on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM by Jim VanBlarcom, Chairperson.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be on March 2, 2009, at 12:30 PM at the Stoll Natural Resource Center, Wysox, PA.