

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Satterlee Creek Project Permits – One of the Satterlee Creek projects involves a number of landowners. Usually the landowner submits permit applications. John Sullivan made a motion that in this case, the Conservation District apply for the permit and require each landowner to sign an agreement to accept responsibility for operation and maintenance. Dean Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Topographic Map Sales – Due to the increase in our dealer cost for topographic maps, Dean Jackson made a motion to raise the price we charge customers for topo maps to \$8.50 per map. Keith Heimbach seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

RC&D Delegate – RC&D has once again requested that we consider appointing someone as our delegate to the Endless Mts. RC&D Council. There was no one willing to do this.

Tire Cutter – Arrangements with Tioga County (NY) Soil & Water Conservation District to make available the use of their tire cutter have not worked out due to insurance companies not being willing to provide coverage for this. Dean Jackson made a motion to simply refer anyone interested to the Tioga County Conservation District. Keith Heimbach seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Rivers Conservation Plan – A draft copy of the Rivers Conservation Plan for Towanda and Sugar Creeks was sent out for comment to municipalities, steering committee and advisors.

Armenia Mountain Wind Energy Inspection – The Armenia Mt. windmill project is ready to move forward on March 4th. A preconstruction meeting has been held. Since approximately half of the project is in Bradford County and half in Tioga County, Keith Heimbach made a motion to approve a one year contract (through December 31st) for Tioga County Conservation District to reimburse the Bradford County Conservation District \$30.00 per hour and \$.55 per mile up to \$10,000.00 to inspect projects on the Bradford County side of the Armenia Mountain wind energy project. Dean Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

NTHA Office Rental – Al Herman made a motion to sign a one year lease with the Northern Tier Hardwood Association for 150 square feet of office space at \$12.00 per square foot for \$1800.00 per year at a rate of \$150.00 per month, and include a lease escalation clause in the event that utility expenses increase. John Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

DCED/PSATS Contract – Al Herman made a motion to sign a contract with Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors to continue floodplain assistance services for \$3,775.00 to do the following elements: develop/maintain library, assist 1 municipality with ordinance update, provide assistance to other conservation districts at \$40/hr., and conduct 5 Community Assistance Contacts. Keith Heimbach seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

My Growing Tree – For about the last 20 years the Bureau of Forestry was able to secure tree seedlings through Craft Master for the My Growing Tree program in local schools, and the Conservation District has printed the posters that are used with them. Craft Master is no longer donating these seedlings, so they have found some local organizations to cover the cost of this program. Gerald Hoy will still be getting the seedlings out to the schools with Conservation District and Bradford/Sullivan Forest Landowners Association assistance. Keith Heimbach made a motion that the Conservation District take the responsibility for the administration of the My Growing Tree program. Al Herman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Water Sampling for DEP – We received notice of failure to monitor Nitrate Nitrogen in our water supply. This is the second time Microbac laboratory has failed to do our testing for DEP. We are now working with Benchmark to collect our water samples for the building. We also are no longer acting as a public water sample pick up point for Microbac.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Nutrient Management – Abe Brister reported that Manure Hauler/Broker training was held on February 26th, with about 15 participants. There has been some discussion of local manure spill response training.

PALMS Conference – Joe Quatrini reported on the PA Lake Management Society conference that he and Rich Gulyas attended. They discussed aquatic invasives and storm water best management practices. The PA Fish & Boat Commission gave a presentation concerning the possibility of invasive species becoming a bio-security issue in Pennsylvania. There is still DEP funding available from Growing Greener and 319. The National Lake Assessment done in 2007 will be repeated in 2012 on 18 lakes in Pennsylvania. Stephen Foster Lake was used as an illustration for phosphorous removal in lakes.

Rich Gulyas reported that Cornell University has been doing a lot of research on the control of invasive species, and have made progress with Purple Loosestrife. There is discussion now about separating storm water. The PA Fish & Boat Commission also referred to our participation in work around their boat launches.

Building Cost Summary – Mike Lovegreen presented a 2008 and 10 year cost summary for the Stoll Natural Resource Center.

Grant Applications – We are involved in several watershed groups' Growing Greener grant projects. The PA Fish & Boat Commission received funding through Growing Greener for a project at Alparon Park. Energy grant is in the final round. Two watershed grant applications were submitted. Wysox Creek watershed will be targeted through AWEP and EQIP. Chesapeake Bay Foundation received a Growing Greener grant to do some more agricultural work in Bradford County through our office.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM by Jim VanBlarcom, Chairperson.

The next meeting of the Bradford County Conservation District will be on April 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Stoll Natural Resource Center, Wysox, PA.