



## Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plans (PPC Plan)

The proposed Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations clarifies that a PPC Plan will be required for every Construction site. The proposed wording is as follows:

“A PERSON SHALL PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT A PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION, AND CONTINGENCY PLAN (PPC PLAN) WHEN STORING, *USING* OR TRANSPORTING MATERIALS INCLUDING: FUELS, CHEMICALS, SOLVENTS, PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, LIME, PETROCHEMICALS, WASTEWATER, WASHWATER, CORE DRILLING WASTEWATER, CEMENT, SANITARY WASTES, SOLID WASTES, OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ONTO, ON, OR FROM THE PROJECT SITE DURING EARTH DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES.”

The Southeast Region had insisted on this after consulting with EPA officials. Several projects inspected by EPA were cited for the lack of these plans being available on site. One such instance was a project with a port-a-potty placed within a roadway under construction. The Department of Environmental Protection removed the misleading question from its Notice of Intent for a NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities around 2007.

Even though the issue has been removed from the N.O.I. and the checklist, please be aware that the requirement is still noted in the actual permit document that every permittee and design engineer should read.

*Ed Magargee, Delaware County C.D.*

## Alternative Best Management Practice A Frame Sediment Baffle

Bucks County Conservation District looks forward to the demonstration New Alternative Best Management Practices for Sediment Baffles.

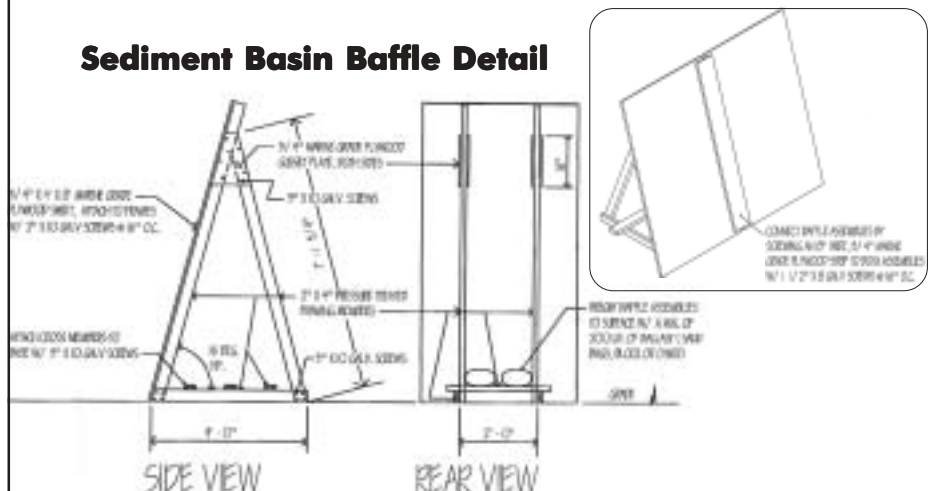
Sediment Baffles are used to increase the flow length within the basin. Flow length is increased to allow suspended sediments to drop out of the water column and become trapped in the sediment basin. Designed basins sometimes have end walls discharging close to the discharge point of the Basin Riser which may allow the increased release of sediment pollution into Pennsylvania waterways.

Construction of Sediment Baffle Details encompass 3/4" x 4' x 8' Marine Grade Plywood Sheets, attached to 4' x 4' pressure treated post established 3 feet into the earth. Most basins encounter bed rock which means post or plywood cannot be imbedded into the ground according to the details. To alleviate this problem, Frank Monti Professional Engineer with Boucher and James out of Doylestown, PA submitted a design for A Frame Baffle Walls. The A Frame Walls are constructed of 3/4" x 4' x 8' Marine Grade Plywood Attached to Frames W/ 2" x 10 Galv Screws @ 16" O.C. 200lbs of weighed ballast, sand bags or block is used to weight the baffle walls down.

Shown are the details Boucher and James Engineers submitted to Bucks County Conservation District. BCCD approved this engineering brain storm under Chapter 102 Alternative Best Management Practices which achieve regulatory standards. The practice has not been demonstrated in Bucks County as an Alternative Best Management Practice, but the design is sound. Bucks County Conservation District will regulate this new Best Management Practice under Pa State Erosion Control Laws for Chapter 102.11.

*Eric Wightman, Bucks County CD*

### Sediment Basin Baffle Detail



## Chapter 105 – General Permitting for Stream and Wetland Encroachment

The Delaware County Conservation District is the only Conservation District with a Delegation Agreement for the Chapter 105 Program in the Southeast Regional Office's portion of Pennsylvania. A few issues were recently discussed at a meeting between Conservation Districts and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Less Than 100 Acre Permit Waiver – While the State has this waiver which does apply to activities covered by its general permits the Army Corps of Engineers does not recognize this waiver. It has been found to be easier for an applicant to apply for a Pennsylvania General Permit even though work is being proposed on a stream with less than 100 acres drainage. The General Permit will come with Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP-3), which is a federal Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit that authorizes the discharge of dredge, and fill material in the waters of the United States.

Deed Restriction / Conservation Easement - Proposed activities / projects for construction or expansion of residential, commercial, or institutional subdivisions or developments that include greater than 0.25 acre of wetlands, in addition to the total wetland area directly impacted by the proposed project, located within the property boundary are potentially eligible for authorization under PASPGP-3 Category I or II Activities, provided the submitted application includes a proposed deed restriction or conservation easement which protects such wetlands from activities such as filling, draining, mowing, placement of structures, cutting of vegetation, clearing, or plowing of natural vegetation became effective July 1, 2007. The deed restriction/conservation easement is not in final form when submitted for permitting. The Corps and PADEP **must** receive a copy of the recorded instrument prior to the initiation of the permitted work. Delaware County Conservation District has acknowledged nine general permits with easements or deed restrictions, but is not aware of any of these documents to be properly recorded. The Regional Office of DEP has also experienced a similar lack of compliance. This is an Army Corps of Engineers compliance issue, and potentially could result in enforcement. It is recommended that all permittees who have secured a Pennsylvania General Permit read their permit paperwork closely and determine whether or not they have followed all the requirements correctly.

— Ed Magargee, Delaware County C.D.

## Worksheets Are Your Friends

No one can complain that there is a shortage of Worksheets to fill out with an NPDES permit application. These worksheets span the gamut from NPDES administrative items to Erosion and Sedimentation Control to Post Construction Stormwater Management. In fact I'll bet many of us believe there are too many worksheets to fill out. If for one think we can use at least a couple of more, but in all fairness I also feel at least a couple can be done away with.

Being that my opinion on that issue doesn't matter, something we all need to take note of is that the vast majority of worksheets are incredibly helpful provided they are filled out accurately and factually. Properly filled out worksheets help expedite a review, improve the quality of a review and ultimately help a project obtain NPDES permit recommendation or approval more efficiently which saves money, time and best protects the environment. Here are a few tips when submitting a plan and permit package to consider:

- Don't modify the standard text within worksheets, this includes footnotes, elevations on Sediment Basin Worksheets, etc. As a reviewer I am not opposed to adding your own explanations at the bottom of sheets when needed, but please set them apart as your notes, don't make your notes look like they are part of the Standard Worksheet.
- Information on the Worksheets should accurately represent what is being proposed on the plan. Don't fill in the worksheets to make it look like the project meets certain design standards, but a more in depth review discovers it does not. Honesty is the best policy and Conservation District and DEP staff are willing to meet with you to go over your plans and discuss options for where they may not be meeting certain standards.
- All BMPs provided for within the worksheets should be clearly illustrated on the Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan, this includes Non Structural BMPs when credits are taken on Worksheet 3.
- Ensure consistency between worksheets and the NPDES Permit NOI. For instance Worksheet 4 should be consistent with Section C.2 of the NOI and Worksheet 5 should be consistent with Section C.3 of the NOI.

*Joe Sofranko- Chester County CD*

**Ad**

## Bucks County Conservation District hosts Pond Workshop

Saturday May 15 was a perfect day to explore the pond at the Bucks County Audubon Society's Honey Hollow Environmental Education Center for Bucks County Conservation District's **Pond Management Workshop**.

Meghan Rogalus, BCCD Watershed Specialist, welcomed the crowd which included the BCCD Board Chairman, Jeff Garton, as well as over 25 other enthusiastic pond owners. Joining Meghan were presenters Bryan Swistock, Water Resources Extension Associate from Penn State University, and Ed Molesky from Aqua Link, Inc. of Doylestown.

Bryan's informative presentation covered the basics of getting to know your pond. More specifically, what do you want your pond to do for you? Are you managing it for fishing, boating, aesthetics, etc.? One pond can not do all jobs, so in order to properly manage your pond, it is important to prioritize what you want your pond to do for you. Bryan had some tips on maintaining pond structures and also spoke about managing fish and other wildlife in and around ponds.

Ed's discussion centered on the ecology of a pond and covered management of aquatic plants and algae. Ed's PowerPoint had many pictures which illustrated the do's and don't of pond management. Surveys taken at the conclusion of the workshop showed that most of the participants had ponds that are under ½ an acre in size and that the participants were interested in learning about aquatic plant and algae management. I believe that is why Ed's talk was particularly well received.

The hands-on portion of the workshop, which included a visit to the pond, did not disappoint those in attendance. The pond, which was relatively clear of algae when Meghan and Ed had visited earlier in the week, was abloom with algae, bringing home the point made during the lecture portion of the workshop about how quickly conditions in a pond can change.

Special thanks to Bryan and Ed as well as to our program sponsors, Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds, Penn State University Cooperative Extension, PA Lake Management Society, Pocono Northeast, and Bucks County Audubon at Honey Hollow.

If you would like more information about this or other workshops sponsored by BCCD, please visit our website at [www.buckscdd.org](http://www.buckscdd.org).

— Mary Ellen Noonan, Bucks County CD



*Ed Molesky of Aqua Link, Inc. speaks to the group*



*Workshop attendees visit the Audubon Pond at Honey Hollow.*

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## Regulatory Panel Vote Protects PA's Streams and Rivers from Drilling

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission recently put new rules in place that will protect Pennsylvania's streams and drinking water supplies from total dissolved solids pollution from Marcellus Shale drilling and other sources from stormwater runoff.

The new total dissolved solids, or TDS, rules will ensure that rivers and streams do not exceed the safe drinking water standard of 500 milligrams per liter. The rules also will protect businesses by grandfathering all existing discharges and allowing businesses to use a stream's ability to absorb those discharges while not exceeding drinking water standards.

"Today's IRRC vote is a great step forward in our efforts to protect one of the state's greatest natural and economic assets—our waterways," said PA Governor Ed Rendell. "Millions of Pennsylvanians rely on the state's rivers and streams for drinking water; countless numbers of our residents and visitors from out-of-state come here to fish these waters or use them for recreation; and some of our largest industrial employers wouldn't be able to operate here if not for the clean, reliable supply of water they offer. So, we cannot allow new, heavily polluted sources of wastewater to contaminate them.

The regulations now await review from the environmental resources and energy committees in the state house and senate.

"As the natural gas industry expands to access the Marcellus Shale reserves in Pennsylvania, the volume of wastewater returned to our streams could increase exponentially, and the only way to protect our water resources is to implement new wastewater treatment standards for the drilling industry," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger. "The National Association of Water Companies and many other individuals and groups strongly support the adoption of this rule and I commend

the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for taking this action. All other industries are responsible for the waste they generate and the drilling industry should be no exception."

Hanger noted that drilling wastewater contains very high levels of total dissolved solids – chlorides and sulfides – that must be removed before discharging into surface waters. High TDS levels have damaged industrial equipment, caused drinking water companies to issue drinking water advisories and even led to a massive fish kill on Dunkard Creek. Some of Pennsylvania's rivers are near their capacity to absorb and dilute additional levels of TDS.


The proposed regulations will require drillers to treat drilling wastewater to 500 mg/l or to drinking water quality at the discharge pipe if they choose to return drilling wastewater to rivers and streams. Drillers have several options to dispose of wastewater in Pennsylvania, including: reuse or recycling; disposal in deep caverns when permitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; or full treatment to the 500 mg/l for TDS standard.

The last option will only work if polluted water is properly treated to reduce high TDS levels. Several states, including Texas, Oklahoma, New York, Iowa, Virginia, Arkansas and Tennessee, prohibit returning any drilling wastewater to streams.

The panel also approved new regulations to enhance existing rules governing erosion, sediment control and stormwater to protect streams from the effects of new development, reduce localized flooding during heavy storms, and cut sediment and nutrient pollution. The new rules, which also include an updated permit fee structure, bring Pennsylvania into compliance with federal requirements.

For more information, visit [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us).

*Tom Rathbun, DEP*



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## Repairs to the Delaware Canal in Bucks County Completed

*“Some groups made a day of it taking their lunches with them. But by far the most popular times are nights when the calendar promises a moon. Then the crowd sets sail after dark, perhaps with Japanese lanterns swaying from the sides of the boat and ukuleles and banjos aboard. Such a voyage is romantic whether it is taken by day or night. It is the nearest approach to soundless motion imaginable and a trip through the darkness is one of magic.”*

*-Doylestown Nature Club's first canal boat excursion, 1911*

*“The debris swept by the flood waters was carried far down the Delaware River...the surface of the water in the Delaware at Riegelsville was covered with lumber, logs, houses, barns, pig sties, hay stacks, bridges, canal and other boats.”*

*-Recorded after a flood on June 6, 1862*

*“At Gallows Run and Durham Creek, where the rain was heaviest, the aqueducts were completely destroyed; the superstructures being carried bodily down the river, and the stone abutments leveled to their foundations. At each place, also, the bottom of the canal was washed out for several hundred feet by the water in the levels rushing out at the openings thus made.”*

*-Observations after a storm on October 4, 1877*



*Flooding on River Road in Kintnersville in 2006.*



*Flood damage to the canal and towpath at Lumberville.*

The recent repairs made to the Delaware Canal were done as result of damages sustained following three separate flood events that occurred in September 2004, April 2005 and June 2006. The costly repairs and maintenance work required to preserve this National Historic Landmark is nothing new. Fraught with problems since its inception and initial construction in 1832, the Delaware Canal today retains almost all of its features as they existed during its heyday of commercial transportation.

The 60 mile canal is a Pennsylvania State Park that runs from Easton to Morrisville. The canal is maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. It is open to visitors for hiking, biking, fishing and exploration. Walking along the towpath just north of Center Bridge one passes the early home of artist Edward Redfield. It is easy to understand why he chose this spot for so many of his prominent paintings. Much of the bucolic atmosphere of the area that attracted him in the 1800's still remains the same today. These vistas and historic perspectives are especially apparent when one walks along the towpath.

Locks, stop gates, berms, towpaths, culverts, waste weirs and River Road were damaged as a result of the floods. A NPDES permit was obtained for repair of the 19.3 mile section running from Durham Township through New Hope Borough. Approximately 234 acres were disturbed. The project consisted of removal of sediments in the canal, rebuilding of the damaged towpath, rebuilding damaged stone walls, and installing geosynthetic clay liners for protection of the canal slope. Construction was performed by section, with different contractors bidding on separate areas of work. The existing waste gates in the canal were utilized to keep portions of the canal dry during construction. Rock filter berms, silt fence, sediment bags and sandbag dams were some of the best management practices used on this project. As work progressed, disturbed areas were seeded and mulched. Erosion control blankets were used for stabilization on some of the steeper slopes of the canal berms.

*— Lisa V. Dziuban, Bucks County CD*



## PA Budget cuts conservation district funding

FY 2010-11 Budget Contains More Environmental Cuts  
The new \$28 billion General Fund budget agreed to by the Senate, House and Governor has more steep cuts for environmental funding, bringing the cuts to the Department of Environmental Protection in FY 2009-10 and 2010-11 General Fund appropriations to 33.2 percent and to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to 27.2 percent. As examples of the pain in the FY 2010-11 budget, Gov. Rendell cited an additional 11.7 percent cut in the Department of Agriculture, an additional 9.2 percent cut in the Department of Environmental Protection and an additional 11 percent cut in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (See the detailed table on the right for selected line items effecting conservation districts.) The FY 2009-10 budget cut 26.7 percent from DEP and 18.5 percent from DCNR which means over the last two years DEP's budget was cut 33.2 percent and DCNR was cut 27.2 percent.

In addition, the Chesapeake Bay Abatement Program was reduced from \$3.032 million in FY 2009-10 to \$2.741 million in FY 2010-11.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11
<b>Conservation Districts - AG</b>	<b>\$1.66</b>	<b>\$1.65</b>	<b>\$1.039</b>
<b>Nutrient Mgmt.</b>		<b>\$3.1</b>	<b>\$2.741</b>
<b>Conservation Districts - DEP</b>	<b>\$3.6</b>	<b>\$3</b>	<b>\$2,914</b>

(Source: Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts)

## An Intern's Perspective

I am currently participating in an internship at the Chester County Conservation District. I have lived in Chester County my whole life and have watched my home town of West Chester change from farmland to developments. Although unhappy about this abrupt change in land use, I am glad that our county is prospering. I hope that the remaining land can be properly maintained and used in such a way that we can produce high yielding crops to help feed our growing nation.

As a child I was always an outdoorsy and environmentally-friendly person. As I moved up through the school system, I began to direct my education towards the environment. My first taste of environmental science and management began while attending Henderson Senior High School in West Chester, PA. They offered a class called Brandywine Flows that taught the students about the local streams and the effects local farms and communities had on the aquatic life and health of the stream and surrounding watersheds. After completing this class I knew the path I would like to take when attending college at the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) the following year. Penn State is a large university and offer a multitude of majors that are relevant to environmental science, but I finally settled on one specific major – Environmental Resource Management. I have been at PSU for the past three years and will be entering my senior year this fall and working on completing two minors in watershed management and soils science. Hopefully, with my well rounded degree and experience I will gain while interning at the Chester County Conservation District, I will be able to obtain my dream job and do my part in preserving and protecting our environment.

I first stumbled upon the opportunity to hold an internship position at the Chester County Conservation District when going through online resources and doing research on some of the environmental firms and environment oriented businesses in the area. When reading the description for this internship position, it sounded like something that I would be interested in, so I sent a copy of my resume and just hoped that I would get the position. Since I

have a background of Environmental Resource Management and have done some community service work with organizations such as the Brandywine Valley Association in the past, and after a brief interview with Chris Strohmaier, District Manager, I was told I qualified for an internship.

Since the start of my internship at the District the friendly staff has made it their mission to get me out into the field and gain experience regarding their specific areas of work. I have spent time with both the agricultural and urban sides of the district and been able to see a variety of projects that are occurring in the area. When working on the agricultural side of the District, I have done soils sampling to help regulate nutrients in farmer's crops, laid out contours to try and persuade farmers to switch to contour farming, overseen the construction of manure storage and leachate control facilities, planted trees for streamside buffers, assisted in the construction of grass waterways and terraces, done surveying of mushroom farms, and helped to develop wastewater collection systems for nutrient laden runoff from mushroom composting and growing facilities.

When I have been out with the urban members of the district, I have done construction and pre-construction checks on various job sites throughout Chester County, and viewed stream restoration projects and the development of storm water management practices such as retention basins and rain gardens.

Regardless of whom I have been with in the field or what I am doing that specific day, the Conservation District has done a great job of keeping me busy and making my internship experience worthwhile all while keeping a smile on my face and providing a very friendly and welcoming work environment.

Although I am still unsure what kind of job I would like to obtain when graduating from college, the knowledge and work experience I have gained throughout my internship will be very useful and aid me in making a decision when the time finally comes.

*Colin Stoup, Intern, Chester County CD*

## Bucks County Envirothon

On May 12<sup>th</sup> under overcast skies students from three Bucks County High Schools competed in the Bucks County Envirothon. Despite the unfavorable weather, teams rotated through the 5 testing stations in Core Creek County Park with ease. To coordinate with this year's Envirothon theme of **Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning**, Tracy Carluccio of Delaware Riverkeeper Network spoke to the group about Marcellus Shale Drilling and its effect on the Delaware Watershed.

Participating schools were Central Bucks East High School who took first and third place, William Tennent High School who took second place and Neshaminy High School. The winning team from Central Bucks East went on to compete at the state level at the event hosted by PPL Montour Preserve in Montour County.

*Mary Ellen Noonan, Bucks County CD*



*(l-r) Mary Ellen Noonan, Tracy Carluccio and Gretchen Schatschneider at the Envirothon*



*The First Place team was from Central Bucks East.*

## Bucks County Conservation District partners with Doylestown Township and Delaware Valley College to promote Rain Gardens

Even though most college students had already vacated their dorm rooms, the campus of Del Val was anything but quiet on June 11. Representatives from Doylestown Township, the League of Women Voters (LWV), Bucks County Conservation District, Delaware Valley College and several community members were gathered to dedicate the recently installed rain garden.



*Rain Garden at Delaware Valley College*

Funded in part by a LWV Water Resources Education Network grant, the rain garden design was chosen from several created by Environmental Design students. The goal of this grant project was to educate the students and the community on the benefits of rain gardens.

Rain gardens are an effective for homeowners and businesses to improve water quality. These bowl-shaped gardens catch runoff water before it enters our creeks and streams and allows this water to slowly sink into the ground where pollutants can be filtered out. More information about Rain Gardens can be found at:

[http://www.bucksccd.org/cms/files/rain\\_garden\\_brochure\\_pdf\\_ID14232.pdf](http://www.bucksccd.org/cms/files/rain_garden_brochure_pdf_ID14232.pdf)

To order a rain garden kit:

[http://www.bucksccd.org/cms/files/Rain\\_Garden\\_Kit\\_Order\\_Form\\_ID73251.pdf](http://www.bucksccd.org/cms/files/Rain_Garden_Kit_Order_Form_ID73251.pdf)

For information about the rain garden at Delaware Valley College:

[http://delval.edu/cms/index.php/delval/article/news/rain\\_garden\\_project\\_aims\\_to\\_combat\\_pollution](http://delval.edu/cms/index.php/delval/article/news/rain_garden_project_aims_to_combat_pollution)

*Mary Ellen Noonan, Bucks County CD*



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