

Conservation & You

A publication of the
Southeast Pennsylvania
Association of Conservation Districts

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SPRING 2014

Workshop - NPDES Construction Permitting May 22, 2014

This session will be conducted with Conservation District staff and DEP staff. This session will present information for the beginner as well as serve as an update for the veteran plan designer.

Changes to Chapter 102, NPDES, and Post Construction Stormwater Management requirements have been significant recently. This training will help provide guidance and direction for you on how these changes are being implemented.

Time Schedule

- 8:30 – Registration
- 9:00 – Program Starts
- 12:00 – Lunch
- 3:00 – Questions & Answers

The training will be held at the Science Center auditorium 213 at Montgomery County Community College. Registration time will include a continental breakfast. The workshop is a joint effort of the Bucks, Chester, Dela-

ware and Montgomery County Conservation Districts. We would like to encourage plan designers, E.I.T.'s, new engineers, and municipal officials to attend. Registrations will be accepted on a first come / first serve basis. The deadline for registering is May 8, 2014. If you experience delays in having a check cut, please reserve your seat by faxing the registration form to us at (610)892-9489. Your check should be mailed as soon after as possible. A box lunch will be provided as part of the \$90.00 registration fee. Exhibitor Space (6ft Table) is available (however, limited) for a fee of \$200.00. Please contact Ed Magargee at DCCD (610) 892-9484 to make arrangements.

Science Center auditorium 213 at Montgomery County Community College. 340 DeKalb Pike Blue Bell, PA 19422.... "Montgomery County Community College is not affiliated with the event and the College should not be contacted regarding the program."

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Registration Deadline: May 5, 2014



Workshop - May 22, 2014

Attendees:

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Composting, a tool for Stormwater Management

Compost has been used since the dawn of man but its benefits for stormwater management are still being realized. Besides traditional uses and benefits such as amending garden soil and cutting down on what we throw out, composting is now more than ever being used for filtration and stormwater management. Stormwater BMP's like compost blankets, compost filter berms, and compost filter socks provide effective treatment of stormwater. We also see significant growth in the use of compost in areas where soils need to be amended to meet stricter permitting guild lines.

Compost is a combination of sand, silt and clay particles held together by the gums and gels formed by bacteria. Fungi, root hairs and roots hold these aggregates together while insects and earthworms build the spaces that air and water can trickle through. This is how healthy soil, full of organic matter, holds not only water, but also the nutrients around plant roots, where they can be used efficiently. In other words, compost adds much needed nutrients to deficient soil while being porous enough to retain and filter stormwater.

Let's quickly identify some of the many benefits of Composting. Compost retains a large volume of water, thus helping to prevent/reduce erosion, reduce runoff, and establish vegetation. Compost also improves downstream water quality by retaining pollutants such as heavy metals, nitrogen, phosphorus, oil and grease, fuels, herbicides, and pesticides. Nutrients and hydrocarbons adsorbed and/or trapped by compost are decomposed by naturally occurring microorganisms. And finally, compost improves soil structure and nutrient content, which reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.

When Tree Clearing Becomes A Disturbance

A recent site inspection of simple tree clearing managed to provide some insight into how to identify when tree clearing may lead to earth disturbance. Tree clearing by definition is not necessarily considered earth disturbance. When you add many different factors to the mix it's easy for disturbance to occur.

In this particular instance after the initial clearing a wood chipper and track hoe were used to grind the felled trees. The movement of the tracked chipper and track hoe over ground had led to disturbance.

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In addition to the benefits of compost being numerous, we continually find new and creative ways for it to be utilized. So gather your food scraps and yard clippings and start composting!

Jake Borden, CNPPS,
Bucks County Conservation District

Obviously with most tree clearing operations there is going to be some disturbance that cannot be helped and of course grubbing the root system would be considered earth disturbance. This would be even more apparent in dense, large scale clearing projects. After the clearing has occurred consideration must be given to how the area will be revegetated or if implementation of E&S controls will be necessary prior to clearing.

Projects that are larger or have a dense population of trees should be discussed with your Conservation District prior to clearing.

Kevin Boyle
Delaware County Conservation District

Sustainable Agriculture/ Locally Grown

The Current Issue for the Envirothon makes you think of Spring And Green – lots of salad greens, that is!

Think Spring! That is just what three members of the Chester County Conservation staff did as they toured the Charlestown Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) this March. Gaye Lynn Criswell, Chester County Envirothon Director, Maureen Ford, Envirothon Administrative Assistant, and Chotty Sprengle, Watershed Coordinator stopped in to learn how CSA's operate and to better understand of the current issue topic of the 2014 Envirothon- Sustainable Agriculture/Locally Grown.

Charlestown Farm owned and operated by Liz and Bill Andersen, Charlestown, is on 40 acres, minutes away from Phoenixville, and involves over 100 families with its produce shares. It is like other CSA's throughout Chester County that it has a partnership between the farm and the community. The production season starts with strawberries in May and ends with squash in November. However, Charlestown Farm CSA has extended its growing season throughout the year by utilizing hoop houses to grow greens to sell at the local farmers market.

So, what did the staff learn? Liz Andersen gave them a two hour tour of the farm and shared why they use the machinery that they do; the importance and set up of electric deer fence to protect corn production; hoop house construction and operation; planting schedules for multiple harvests; membership; and share administration. In addition, there is much time and effort put into weed management with a variety of ways to pull and destroy weeds. Finally, soil fertility and conservation is of great importance. As Liz explained, "Our farm is all about the partnership with the community, which to us is also preserving a way of life and a sense of place. These days, people want to know where their food comes from and how it was produced, they want to Buy Fresh Buy Local". Gaye Lynn Criswell summed the tour up very nicely, "What a great learning experience and what a great theme for the Envirothon this year! "



Charlotte "Chotty" Sprengle, Watershed Specialist, Chester County Conservation District

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Permit Obligations for NPDES Construction Permittees

DEP wants to take this opportunity to remind permittees of the various obligations that are necessary after receiving an NPDES Construction Permit from either DEP or the Conservation District. Forms for each of these follow-up items are provided in hard copy and are also available online. DEP has also recently updated their NPDES Construction Permit cover letters to make this information more apparent. It is essential that permittees review all the information and attachments that are provided with their permit.

Below is a quick break down of the obligations that are common for all permittees:

1. **Transferee/Co-Permittee:** Once an operator/contractor has been selected for the project, the NPDES permit must either be transferred to the operator/contractor or the operator/contractor must be made a co-permittee and enter into an agreement with the permittee.
2. **PCSM Instrument Filing Notice** – The permittee shall record an instrument, using the notice provided by DEP, with the Recorder of Deeds Office, within 45 calendar days from the date of permit issuance. The long-term operation and maintenance plan shall be recorded along with the instrument and the permittee shall provide the Department with proof of filing (the date and place of recording along with a reference to the docket, deed book or other record) within 90 calendar days from the date of permit issuance. Failure to comply is a violation of the permit and can result in compliance/enforcement action which may include work stoppage and/or penalties.
3. A pre-construction conference is required as specified in 25 Pa. Code § 102.5(e). The purpose of this conference is to review all aspects of the permit with the permittee, co-permittees, operators, consultants, the inspectors and licensed professionals or their designees who will be responsible for the implementation of the critical stages of the approved PCSM plan. Prior to scheduling a preconstruction conference, the permittee must ensure that all other necessary permits and approvals are obtained. The permittee should also demonstrate compliance with Item 2 above (as applicable) relating to the PCSM Instrument Filing Notice. Failure to come prepared can result in postponement of the preconstruction conference.
4. **Monitoring, Inspection and Reporting Requirements.** It is a condition of NPDES permit that as part of the maintenance program for the operation and maintenance of Best Management Practices (BMPs) the permittee or co-permittee must conduct inspections of the BMPs



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- on a weekly basis and after each stormwater event to include the repair or replacement of BMPs to ensure effective and efficient operation (see permit condition part A, 2 (a).) The Visual Site Inspection Report Form must be used to document these required site inspections and be available on site upon an inspection by the Department or Conservation District.
5. The Notice of Termination (NOT) must be completed and filed when construction activities have ceased and final stabilization has been achieved as required by the permit and Ch. 102 regulations. The NOT must identify the responsible person(s) for the long term operation and maintenance of the Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) BMPs. It is important to note that the permittee and/or co-permittee remain responsible for all operational maintenance for the project site until the NOT has been filed and acknowledged by the reviewing agency.
6. **Permit Renewals.** It is very important that permittees keep track of their permit expiration date. Neither DEP nor the Conservation District are obligated to keep track of permit expiration dates or to provide notification to permittees. All NPDES Permits, both individual and general, currently have permit coverage for five years from the date of issuance. If the permit expires and work remains on the site requiring earth disturbance, a new permit application will need to be submitted which meets the current regulatory standards at the time of application for the new permit. Additionally, all renewals submitted after January 2013, also need to comply with current regulatory standards. Permit renewals should be submitted 180 calendar days prior to the permit expiration date. An expired permit cannot be renewed.
7. The E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation and the PACD Education Mini-Grant Program provided funding for this project. The Education Mini-Grant is also funded by the PA DEP Growing Greener Grant program.

Domenic Rocco, P.E., Waterways and Wetlands Program Manager DEP, Southeast Region PA DEP

Do you want to speed up the permit review process?

One of the common deficiencies with permit applications submitted to both DEP and county conservation districts is that submittals are on either outdated or incorrect forms. To get a copy of the most up to date forms, please visit DEP's Document Repository – eLibrary at www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us.

Here is a helpful hint. To narrow your search, utilize Google or other search engines. For instance, if you were looking for a GP-5 for a utility line crossing, type in a search for "pa dep gp-5". The search result referencing eLibrary should take you right there. Save this link for future reference, as the document may change. If needed, you may choose other search parameters such as the DEP Document Number to narrow the search.

Another way to speed up the permit review process is to make sure that you have calculated the proper fees and include a check made out to the proper entity. In some cases, you may need to supply more than one check that is made out to different entities. Be sure to refer to the application instructions. When in doubt, contact the reviewing agency. 15 minutes on the phone can save you considerable review time.

You are reminded that in March 2013, all Chapter 105 General Permits were changed to include registration fees. The fee calculation sheet can be found on the current registration form as referenced above.

Domenic Rocco, P.E., Waterways and Wetlands Program Manager DEP, Southeast Region PA DEP



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Mid-Atlantic Stormwater Infrastructure Roadshow

Register now for IECA's Mid-Atlantic Chapter Roadshow! This one-day workshop will provide quality education from a national, state and local perspective. The content is area specific and will address issues related to stormwater management that affect those who coordinate and manage stormwater programs.

Date and Time:

June 19, 2014 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location:

Valley Forge Casino Resort
at Radisson Hotel Valley Forge 1160 First Ave
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Cost:

Now until May 23: \$85 for members/\$95 for non-members. May 24 or later: \$95 for members/\$105 for non-members. Onsite registration: \$110 for members and non-members (based on availability)

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Tentative agenda to include:

- Presentation from the PA Stormwater Technical Workgroup by Mark Bowen, Senior Ecological Engineer at Kleinschmidt Associates
- Case Study: Thinking Outside the Big Box - from Detention Basin to Department Store. A look at the growth of a community from rural farmland to commercial mecca while providing innovative solutions to modern problems. Presented by Jason Bailey, Brentwood Industries
- Genetic Integrity of Native Plants - Provenance is Forever Presented by Don Knezick, Pineland Nurseries
- USEPA Stormwater Calculator - Tamara Mittman, Environmental Engineer - EPA
- Green City, Clean Waters. Philadelphia's 25-year plan to protect and enhance out watersheds by managing stormwater with innovative green infrastructure. Presented by Philadelphia Water Department
- Case Study: Gray Complements Green. A discussion of the use of manufactured treatment devices in a treatment train series to remove pollutants before they enter LID/GI. Presented by Gene Lamanna, Terre Hill Concrete

Visit www.ieca.org/roadshow for more information.

Unlock the Potential of Soil

Many agricultural operations in the Southeast have experienced financial and environmental benefits by changing their management to a no-till system. Over 50% of Pennsylvania farmers are now using no-till techniques on their operations. The adaptability of Pennsylvania's agricultural community is a leading factor in their continued success. No-till systems may be the leading advancement for the 20th century farmer, but it never hurts to ask... What can we do better?



Soil health is a system; it is not linear, nor is it simple. Soil is a biotic soup that functions like its own multicellular organism. It is made up of air, water, minerals, decaying material, and organic matter. It efficiently recycles what was once living and now dead into useable energy. Healthy soils improve crop production and increase profitability of the land by maximizing the potential of the soil structure and nutrient move-

ment. In addition, healthy soils house millions of organisms that glue soil particles together: helping infiltration and moisture retention and reducing the harmful effects of runoff while increasing soil's ability to resist drought.

Below are four basic principles to help improve soil health.

1. Use crop and plant diversity to increase the diversity of soil organisms
2. Disturb the soil as little as possible
3. Use cover crops and rotation to feed the soil
4. Keep the soil covered (in vegetation) as much as possible

Following these principles not

only ensures the protection of a vital resource, but will build organic matter in the soil over time. Most farmers can increase their soil organic matter in three to ten years using good management practices. Imagine reducing energy and fuel costs because of reduced tillage and tractor hours. More importantly, imagine cutting costs on fertilizers, irrigation, and even pesticides because the soil is doing the work for you. Unlock the potential of your soil!

For more information contact your local Conservation District office or USDA-NRCS Service Center. Soil Health Awareness USDA

Kent L. Himelright, ACT,
Bucks County Conservation District

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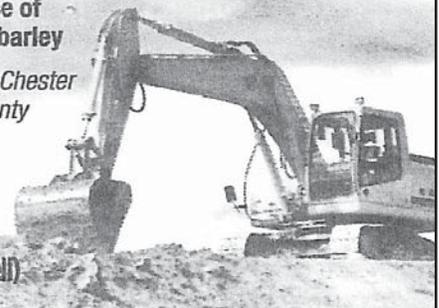
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Chotty Sprenkle, CCCD Watershed Specialist, Receives "Keeper of the Stream" Award

On Thursday, March 27, 2014, Chotty received the Carl Dusinberre, "Keeper of the Stream" Award for her service to the Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU), and the Valley Creek watershed. "This award is very special to me," said Chotty. "Carl was one of my watershed warriors and a conservation hero. The TU club members are outstanding to work with and have the best interest of the watershed always in their minds and actions."



Dust Control Measures on Construction Sites

As weather conditions become increasingly dry consideration should be given to how dust will be contained on site. It has been estimated that active construction sites have a dust emission rate of 1.2 tons per acre a month. Water tends to be the most common practice due to its accessibility and ease of application.

To complement the application of water there are several other options to contain dust that may warrant a second look. These can be used individually or in conjunction with water. Here's a listing of practices that can be found on page 451 of the PA DEP E&S manual:

- Vegetative cover – Limiting disturbance or leaving vegetated areas undisturbed increases the chance of containing dust on site. This practice should always be utilized especially on larger, more complex sites.
- Mulch – After areas have been disturbed mulch can be applied to stabilize these areas.
- Wind Breaks – The practice of creating a natural or constructed barrier. Leaving trees or shrubs in place helps limit disturbed areas exposure to wind. Some ex-



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amples of artificial barriers would be wind fence, snow fence, tarp curtain, hay bale, crate wall, sediment wall.

- Tillage – Deep tillage in large open areas brings soil clods to the surface where they rest on top of dust, preventing it from becoming airborne.
- Stone – Where mulch/seed are not always options. Stone can be used for access roads, haul roads and on lot construction entrances.
- Spray on Chemical Soil Treatments – Chemical treatments on construction sites are used less often but do have a high rate of effectiveness. Table H.1 in the manual provides an application rate for common dust suppressants. Before using any chemical suppressants be sure to check if it is an approved method.

Source: PA DEP Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Manual, pp. 451-453

Using one or more of these practices on your site will increase dust control's effectiveness. There may be times when a site may not be able to accommodate some of these practices. As always be sure to monitor all practices put in place to ensure that they remain effective throughout construction.

Kevin Boyle
 Delaware County Conservation District



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Two size ads are offered: Business card size (2" x 3.5") \$75/issue, Quarter Page (3.5 x 4.5" - vertical) \$125/issue. A 10% discount is offered for inserting an ad in two or more issues. Ad deadline for the Fall 2013 issue is September 15, 2014. Send your check payable to the Delaware County Conservation District and camera-ready copy to Ed Magargee, Delaware County Conservation District, Rose Tree Park - Hunt Club, 1521 N. Providence Road, Media, PA 19063; Phone (610) 892-9484. Email: MagargeeE@co.delaware.pa.us

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