

Thank you, Senator Yaw and the Senate Majority Policy Committee for inviting the Bradford County Conservation District the opportunity to speak about flooding and maintaining clean streams in our County.

Stream Pilot Program

The Bradford County Conservation District has extensive history of aiding residents and municipalities with flooding and stream issues throughout the county. This is the reason the Bradford County Stream Pilot was developed a few years back. Through that program and in cooperation with USGS, we were able to update StreamStats with new regional curves for the entire state, to include channel dimensions for any given point selected on a stream. We then had a training with municipal officials and contractors to teach them the science behind the program. 50 people attended that training and only a few projects were put on the ground. The projects are working, but the interest of those who attended isn't there. The whole point of this program is to connect the stream to its floodplain again by using existing substrate/gravel bars as the material, along with other practices to stabilize the bank. As of now, the program is over; however, we have received notice that there may be interest in starting it back up again, at least in Bradford County, as no other counties have shown interest in participating.

Growing Greener and Dedicated Funding

One of our main holdups in any stream project is dedicated funding. We can apply for Growing Greener funding, but there is no guarantee we will receive it. There are years that we haven't received funding and then we are left with a list of projects ready to go that are just sitting there waiting. If districts had a dedicated funding source, such as the Ag Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) programs, it would alleviate the uncertainty of project planning and allow us to plan and budget accordingly for the upcoming years. A program such as this would also eliminate application preparation and review time as the funding would be based on identified sites that had already been reviewed.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Cathy Yeakel
District Manager
Bradford County Conservation District