

**State Conservation Commission
Conference Call Notes
October 21, 2025
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 230 214 215 904 2

Passcode: Zs9hC3V7

Dial in by phone

[+1 267-332-8737,,151200256#](#) United States, Philadelphia

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 151 200 256#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

Recording this meeting requires the consent of all participants. Automatic transcription and AI tools may not be used to transcribe, summarize, or annotate meetings with Commonwealth employees or contractors. If such a tool is detected, it must be disabled; otherwise, Commonwealth employees must leave the meeting.

[Privacy and security](#)

1. Opportunity for Public Comment

- 2. Agency Updates** – Agencies and organizations that are a part of the Commission are asked to provide brief updates from their organizations. NRCS, DCNR, DEP, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Cooperative Extension, PACD, DCED, and PDA.

3. 2023 Audit Extension Update- Jaci Kerstetter, DEP (A)

On March 18, 2025, the State Conservation Commission approved audit extensions for Carbon and Lackawanna Conservation Districts to May 31, 2025, with flexibility to extend further if needed. Additionally, Northampton Conservation District described a planned timeline of outreach and audit completion from April to August of 2025.

Carbon and Lackawanna 2023 Audit reports were submitted in late August of 2025. All required information was included and reviewed. Carbon and Lackawanna have each secured a new CPA firm to complete future audits for the next 3 years.

Northampton Conservation District is actively working with an accounting firm and an assigned staff person to complete their 2023 audit. They anticipate having the audit finalized by the end of October. This same firm will be completing Northampton's 2024 audit. The current work schedule plans 2024 audit completion close to the end of the year. Currently, an audit extension is not anticipated but Northampton's CD manager will closely monitor the progress of the audit compared to the Dec. 31st due date.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Jaci Kerstetter or Karen Books.

4. CEG Allocations update- Sarah Xenophon, SCC (A)

Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) program was provided for under the 2019 Pennsylvania Farm Bill for agricultural best management practices (BMPs) in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The last delegation agreements for the CEG program ran from October 1, 2020, until June 30, 2025. Those delegated agreements are now expired. To prepare new delegation agreements, which will span 2025-2030, the fiscal year 2025/26 allocations must be established and sent to the budget office. The nutrient management program has earmarked \$2.0 million in fiscal year 2025 to allocate to county conservation districts taking part in the CEG program. In preparation for allocation determinations, SCC staff have met with each of the 7 original counties (Bedford, Centre, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York) to understand each county's needs for fiscal year 2025. Recommended allocation amounts are based on demonstrated, shovel ready project needs. Staff will seek commission approval of the spending threshold, contingent upon passage of the budget, recognizing the current impasse.

Next Meeting – November 18, 2025 – In person only and via Microsoft Teams – PA Department of AG Building, Lobby Conference room

Adjournment