

20/20 VISION IN

2019



LANCASTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

IN THIS ISSUE

Chairperson's Message	3
Erosion and Sedimentation Program	4
Agriculture Program.	5
Watershed Program Review 2019.	6
Dirt & Gravel Road, Low Volume Road Programs	7
Conservation Education	8
Vision for the Ombudsman Program 2019.	10
Plain Sect Outreach	11
USDA NRCS 2019 Accomplishments	12
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.	13
Tree Seedling Sale.	13
Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County Financial Report.	14
Affiliate Highlights.	15

INCOME

County Funding Income	273,914.43
Non-Lapsing Program Funding	1,552,978.10
Grant Administration Income	186,293.87
Fee Income	535,265.75
Interest Income	59,628.46
Sales Income	38,548.03
Activity Income	15,444.87
Other Income (eg. Self-funded Health Care)	25,752.15
Grant Income	721,393.52
Total Income	3,409,219.18

EXPENSE

Employee Salary and Wages	1,670,127.89
Employee Benefits	540,600.91
Travel Expenses	29,906.04
Meeting Expenses	15,808.59
Supplies	29,912.50
Communication Costs	3,432.54
Postage and Meter Rental	9,150.96
Office Rent	102,196.60
Equipment and IT Support	35,280.90
Administrative	45,111.23
Miscellaneous	1,241.27
District Activities	40,708.26
BMP/Grant Projects	983,378.24
Total Expenses	3,506,855.93

2019 NET CHANGE IN CASH ASSETS

General Operations & Reserve	118,740.70
E&S Department	30,790.46
District Activities	10,511.22
Grant Funds	-257,679.13
Net Change	-97,636.75





BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

It has been my privilege to work along sign my fellow volunteer directors of the Board of the Lancaster County Conservation District and the 35 member staff to develop 20/20 vision in 2019. The Conservation District has grown in 69 years and reached new audiences tackling new projects in 2019 that will continue into 2020. The expansion of the Conservation District Watershed program is just one example. The Watershed Resource Technician created in 2019 will provide support for the many tree plantings and riparian buffers established through Conservation District efforts while also planning and organizing new plantings.

Our vision is becoming more defined with the direction put forth in a new strategic plan which began in 2019. Staff and board members are working together to take a proactive perspective on the future needs and abilities of the Conservation District. The final strategic plan will be approved by the board in spring 2020.

Focus for the future is where it's at in 2019. Read on to learn more about the 2019 accomplishments of the Lancaster County Conservation District.

–Daniel Heller, Board Chairperson

*Left to Right Back Row: Gregory Strausser (Associate Director),
Herb Kreider (Director), Jim Hershey (District Advisor),
Commissioner Craig Lehman (Director), Roger Rohrer (Director),
Robert Shearer (Director), Sonia Wasco (Director), Daniel Heller (Director),
Justin Welk (Associate Director)*

*Left to Right Front Row: Frank Burkbart (Associate Director),
Robert Wagner (Director Emeritus), Jay Snyder (Director),
Ken Meck (Director)*



EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

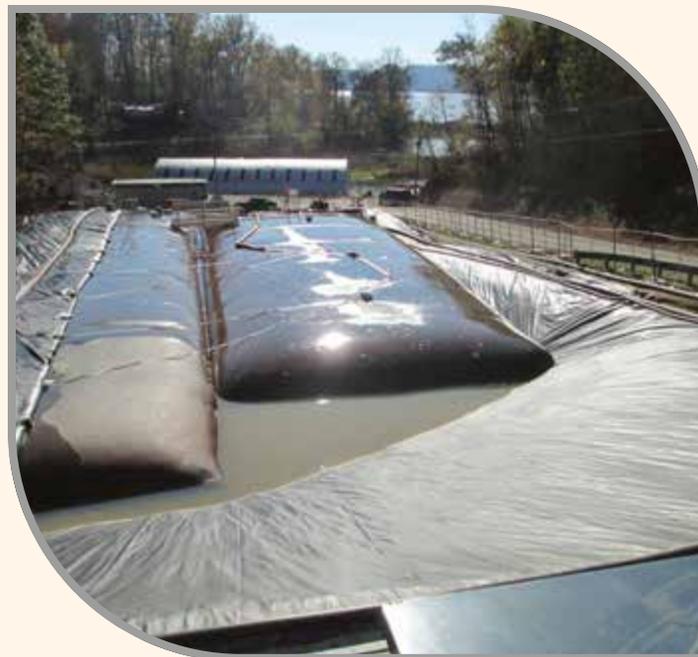
2019 was another eventful one for the Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Department. One of the most noteworthy highlights includes the many changes for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was required to review and reapprove the general NPDES permit conditions known as PAG-02. As part of this process many of the forms and supporting directions/guidance have been revised or completely re-written. There were multiple reasons that precipitated these changes to the program. Some of these revisions were prompted by discussions with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), while other changes were made in an effort to streamline the application process and promote consistency for both plan writers and reviewers. Another reason some of the changes occurred was to prepare the program to move towards “E-Permitting” at some point in the future. The E&S team is committed to working with PA DEP and the regulated community as we are all on a learning curve with the release of so much new information. We are hopeful that this will lead to more consistent plans and permitting across the state.

The E&S team acknowledged 86 Chapter 105 permits in 2019, and responded to as many earth disturbance complaints. Although slightly fewer new E&S plans were received in 2019 than in 2018, disturbed acreage and incoming review fees increased this year. The E&S team conducted nearly 350 Chapter 102 plan reviews, totaling over 1300 acres of earth disturbance.

New technicians to the Lancaster E&S team in 2019 included David Bednar, Adam Stern, and Ryan Weck. They have done a terrific job supporting the rest of the E&S team to provide a strong field presence and responsiveness for the plan and permit review process.

The Chapter 102 and 105 programs provide guidance for planning and permitting for the thriving construction industry in Lancaster County. 2020 promises to be yet another busy construction season as some large pipeline projects are beginning to wrap up while others are slated to begin. Many residential and commercial development projects are in various stages of planning and construction as well. As Lancaster County’s economy continues to thrive, so too does the construction industry.

–Nate Kurtz, E&S Program Manager

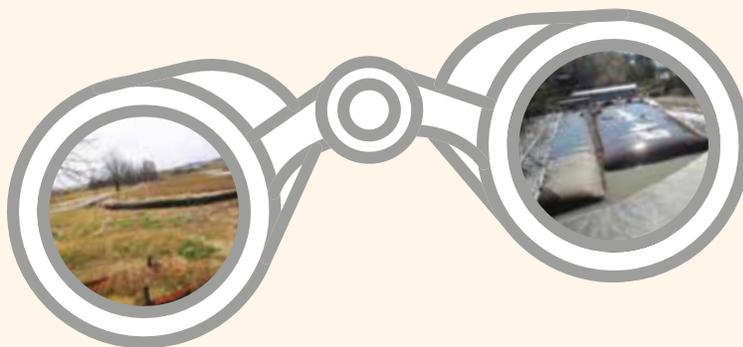


Peach Bottom Marina dredging operation

YEAR 2019 CHAPTER 102 / CHAPTER 105 ACTIVITY	
E&S Plans	342
Project Acres	4754
Disturbed Acres	1371
Review Fees Collected	\$405,550
General NPDES Permits	136
Ind. NPDES Permits	9
NPDES Permit Fees Collected	\$104,520
Complaints Received	87
Site Inspections	1003
Chapter 105 General Permits	86
Enforcement Actions	1



Filter sock protecting Brubaker Run



AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Looking back, 2019 was another busy year for the Agriculture (Ag) department.

Manure Management Plans and Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) examine the current animal numbers and the condition of fields to aide farmers in making informed management decisions valuing both the environment and production. Over 250 Status Reviews of current Act 38 NMP were completed and 97 new or renewed Act 38 NMP were reviewed in 2019.

Ag Erosion & Sedimentation (Ag E&S)/Conservation Plans are a physical guide for realizing the vision of retaining high quality environmental resources as agricultural production continues to grow and become more concentrated. Ag E&S and Conservation Plans address resource concerns on agricultural operations and call out BMP's needed to both protect the environmental resources on the farm and by extension aid the sustainable production goals of the farmer. In 2019 over 1,940 acres were planned in Ag E&S/Conservation Plans in Lancaster County by the district. In 2020 we hope more plans will be written and cataloged, not just by the district but also through numerous partnerships and collaboration with private contractors. Looking forward we will continue to work to increase the data available to us to recognize both accomplishments and areas for improvement.

Numerous plans were also logged into Practice Keeper from the Chesapeake Bay compliance efforts. The compliance team was very busy over 2019 accomplishing 306 compliance inspections over the year. That is almost 1.25 visits per day accounting for the number of working days in the year. Of the farms visited for compliance 37% had both a

AG E&S AND CONSERVATION PLANS

- Ag E&S Plan-222
- Conservation Plans – 26

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- New NM Plans (excluding Act 38)- 195
 - Manure Management Plans – 171
 - NRCS 590 Plans - 26
- Nutrient Balance Sheets – 21



Stream stabilized crossing

AG DEPT. 2019 AT A GLANCE

1,940	Acres Planned Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag E&S Plans • Conservation Plans
170	Best Management Practices Designed
100	BMPs Implemented
97	New Act 38 NMPs
>250	Act 38 Status Reviews Completed
306	Compliance Inspections

conservation plan or Ag E&S plan and a NMP or Manure Management plant at initial visit. 35% had neither of these plans at the initial visit and 28% had one of the two required plans.

In 2019 Practice Keeper recorded 248 Conservation and Ag E&S plans and 195 new non-Act 38 NMPs.

2020 appears to promise an even larger workload demand as Phase 2 compliance brings funding sources for not only writing plans but also to implement the BMP's called out in the plans.

BMPs are the pathway to forming the vision of improved water quality in our local watersheds. District staff designed 170 BMP's and implemented 100 BMP's in 2019. With Phase 2 of compliance approaching the demand for BMP design and implementation will only increase in 2020. Experienced staff has geared up to handle the increased work load, and the three new Ag Conservation Technicians hired at the end of September are learning quickly. The Ag department will continue to strive toward the vision of promoting environmentally sensitive and effective agricultural production methods and policies in 2020 and beyond.



Field diversion draining to a grass waterway

–Hannah Hunsberger, Ag Conservation Technician

WATERSHED PROGRAM REVIEW 2019

The ever evolving world of the Watershed program had a little bit of everything in 2019. With local stream projects being completed, an ongoing watershed initiative growing and thriving, developing a clean water plan for the county's future, and adding additional staff to the Watershed program. All were in the mix throughout the year.

One of the numerous stream projects the Conservation District completed and assisted with was the Historic Poole Forge project along the Conestoga River in Caernarvon Township. The project was a partnership between Caernarvon Township, Historic Poole Forge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Habitat Forever, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Exelon, and the Lancaster County Conservation District in the late spring of 2019. The project involved stabilizing fragile stream banks from erosion, providing in-stream habitat for fish, and planting a riparian buffer. The partnerships supporting this project enhanced the benefits and beauty of the property and created a showcase for the local community on illustrating an improved and healthy stream.

The Chiques Creek Re-Envisioned project, an initiative started several years ago through Penn State's Ag and the Environment Center, really ramped up during the year. The project aims to educate and implement projects within the Chiques Creek Watershed and its tributaries. The



Before (above) and after (below) photos of Poole Forge recent stream restoration project



District's role in this grant involved assisting with some of the Ag outreach efforts and to act as a local funder with grant dollars from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for implementing best management practices. Several riparian buffers, waterways, native meadows, and stream projects were completed through this initiative in 2019 with more to be completed under this grant in early 2020.

Time was also dedicated to creating a county wide Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) or County-wide Action Plan (CAP). Lancaster was designated a Tier 1 county by the state to create this first of its kind WIP. The goal of the WIP is to put in writing the goals and objectives of the county for reducing the impact of county land use on the Chesapeake Bay. Due to the county's proximity to the Bay and number of impaired streams in the county, coming up with a plan that works for all sectors of the county took many hours and partners. With the Lancaster Clean Waters Partners (program within the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County) leading these efforts the District's Watershed program was front and center to develop achievable goals moving forward. The main objective of the WIP involves reaching set goals by 2025 which will not only improve the Chesapeake Bay but more importantly improve local water quality.

Finally, through a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant the Watershed Program was able to expand the District's team to add more staff by employing a Watershed Resource Technician. This position was filled in August 2019. Bryce Workman, the technician has a goal of completing a lot of the field work to maintain buffers, assisting in stream restoration efforts, and maintaining stream monitoring devices the District will be deploying. All of this work will first start with District projects but will eventually assist other partners with field work and projects. With all the great work happening in the county more field verification and oversight is needed to make sure things are moving ahead as planned. This new position will assist in these objectives.

-Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist



Before (above) and after (below) photos of Hollinger recent stream restoration project



DIRT & GRAVEL/LOW VOLUME ROAD PROGRAMS

2019 was one of the busiest years on record for the District's Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Road Programs. 23 grant awarded road projects were completed in 2019: 9 Dirt & Gravel Road projects and 14 Low Volume Road projects. These projects totaled over \$680,000 of water quality road improvement projects in the county. Add on to that total the 9 Dirt & Gravel Road projects and 8 Low Volume Road projects awarded funding in 2019 totaling over \$300,000 and one can quickly see the value of this very important program.

Several projects this year focused on increasing the size of severely constricted road culverts. The projects on Cherry Hill Rd. in Eden Township (Dirt & Gravel Rd. project) and Mentzer Rd. in West Lampeter Township (Low Volume Rd. project) highlighted the value of the program's 100% bank full width policy. This policy is meant to not constrict or limit flow through any new structure on these roads, yet also allow aquatic life passage at the same time. These two projects showcase this policy.

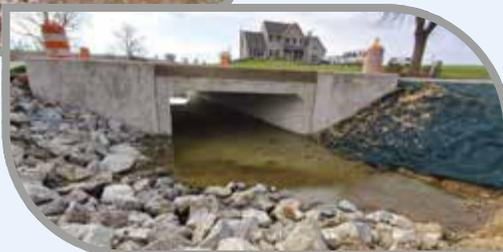
Quite a few municipalities are also combining the Low Volume Road program with stormwater requirements they are mandated to follow. For example, Lititz Borough completed two Low Volume Road projects on West Lockup Lane and North Lane. These two projects incorporated green infrastructure practices and Low Volume Road concepts. On North Lane the Borough incorporated a rain garden infiltration area along the road that captures runoff from North Lane and another nearby street. For the West Lockup Lane project the Borough put in their first "Green Alley" with an infiltration bed in the middle of the street to capture and treat excess stormwater flows.

During all these new projects, the program maintained its roots as far as a Dirt & Gravel Road sediment reduction program. Projects on Tucquan Glenn Road (Martic Township) and Peters Creek Road (Fulton Township) demonstrated that simple road improvements, like road base improvements, French mattresses, and road regrading can go a long way to improve local water quality. Whether new or old concepts all of the projects completed under the program is meant to improve local streams and creeks and that they do.

-Matt Kofroth, DGLVR Coordinator



Before (left) and after (below) photos of West Lockup Lane project



Before (above) and after (right) photos of Mentzer Road project

DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD PROJECTS FUNDED IN MARCH 2019

Municipality	Road	Awarded
Elizabeth	Segloch Road	\$ 3,187.00
Strasburg	Sides Mill Road	\$ 18,079.00
Elizabeth	Pumping Station Road	\$ 3,747.00
Fulton	Brabson Road	\$ 1,767.00
Rapho	Johnson Mill Road	\$ 22,109.00
Fulton	Peters Creek Road	\$ 5,676.00
Drumore	Bald Eagle Road	\$ 18,617.00
Conestoga	Green Hill Road	\$ 10,668.00
Clay	Camp Road/Stony Lane	\$ 16,150.00

LOW VOLUME ROAD PROJECTS FUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 2019

Drumore	Scalpy Hollow Road	\$ 17,678.00
Fulton	Cherry Hill Road	\$ 4,420.00
Providence	Snyder Hollow Road	\$ 13,402.00
Eden	Loop Road	\$ 15,900.00
Christiana Borough	Dorinda Drive	\$ 20,000.00
Earl	Snapper Drive	\$ 71,994.00
Elizabeth	Pumping Station Road	\$ 17,415.00
Penn	Airy Hill Road	\$ 46,528.00
TOTAL		\$ 602,680.60

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

With a keen vision, the actions of education reached youth and adults inspiring learning from one end of the county to the other. The District Education program included 6,798 participants who attended 184 programs. The Lancaster County Conservation District Conservation Educator presentations addressed the PA Science/Technology, and Environment and Ecology Standards featuring natural resources, watersheds, water conservation, and soil. Lessons and presentations regarding the wise use of our natural resources took place in the classroom and in the field.

The District Educator participated on a team of cooperating agencies and businesses working with the Library System of Lancaster County to develop the Summer Fitness Quest. The quest featured 27 walking/hiking locations in Lancaster County along with exercise and literacy connections. 1,347 visits were submitted as part of the program. Participants were encouraged to follow a healthy nature prescription while visiting each site. The vision of this program is growing and a second year of the program will continue in 2020.

Amanda Goldsmith, the District's 2019 summer intern brought new ideas to District programming, a wealth of background knowledge, and did an outstanding job assisting both the Education program and the Watershed program. She appreciated the diversity of intern challenges and opportunities assisting in fish surveys, stream restoration projects, a teacher training, public educational presentations, and the Youth Conservation School. Amanda provided incredible resources for the Youth Conservation School including an Ornithology lesson, and the outline structure for the week long study focus entitled, A Plastic Planet. Amanda was a great asset to the District during her short stay over the summer.

Educational programming was supported in various ways including the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County. The Extraordinary Give, the largest one day of giving in Lancaster County was truly extraordinary in 2019. Setting a new record for the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County, more than \$4,000 was raised in support of Lancaster County Envirothons and the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School.

LANCASTER COUNTY ENVIROTHONS

The Lancaster County Junior Envirothon, an academic environmental contest for students in grades 3-6 was held at the Lancaster County Central Park in May. Pennsylvania forest ecosystem was the study focus. Teachers and parents organized students in teams of 5 to demonstrate their natural knowledge at 4 stations relating to forest ecosystems: mammals, trees, birds, and pollinators. 14 schools representing 8 school districts brought 44 teams with 217 students participating.

JUNIOR ENVIROTHON RESULTS

- 3rd grade 1st place – Doe Run Elementary
- 4th grade 1st place – Homeschool Region #3
- 5th grade 1st place – Landis Run Intermediate
- 6th grade 1st place – Landis Run Intermediate

The Lancaster County Middle School Envirothon in its third year included a broader representation of Lancaster County schools. 9

schools representing 8 school districts brought 24 teams with 120 students participating. Study materials for both Junior and Middle School events involved a collaboration with WITF PBS television featuring a TV film about Pennsylvania conservationist, Gifford Pinchot. Teachers found the unique resource very helpful not only for the Envirothon students but also entire classrooms of students became introduced to historical figures impacting Pennsylvania woodlands.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENVIROTHON RESULTS

(schools are able to enter 3 teams)

- 5th place – Manheim Central MS
- 4th place – Lancaster Mennonite MS
- 3rd place – Swift MS
- 2nd place – Cocalico MS
- 1st place – Manheim Township MS

The Lancaster County Senior High Envirothon was hosted by the Conservation District included 8 high schools, 116 participants with 20 teams of students. Hempfield High School placed first and represented the county at the State Envirothon placing third overall. The Hempfield team advised by Lee Hawley, Hempfield High School Gifted Teacher, included 5 motivated seniors who appreciated the opportunity to go on to the State contest and compete so well. They were ecstatic to place third. The Conservation District is proud of their accomplishments through their many hours of independent study in preparation their ability to work as a team during the event.

SENIOR HIGH ENVIROTHON RESULTS

(schools are able to enter 3 teams)

- 1st – Hempfield HS (placed 3rd at State Envirothon)
- 2nd – Conestoga Valley HS
- 3rd – Hempfield HS
- 4th – Warwick HS
- 5th – Pequea Valley HS

DONATIONS: (F) FINANCIAL, (IK) IN KIND

- F/IK – The Hershey Company
- F – Optimist Club of Lancaster
- F – Brossman Sweigart Foundation
- F – Monica Barber DVM
- F – Extraordinary Give



*State Envirothon third place team,
Hempfield High School, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*

- F – Warwick Run Animal Clinic
- F – Federated Sportsmen of Lancaster Co.
- F – Refreshing Mountain Camp
- F – Lancaster County Bird Club
- F – Donegal Trout Unlimited
- F – Mack Engineering
- F – Caenarvon Township
- IK – Dieffenbach Potato Chips



LANCASTER COUNTY YOUTH CONSERVATION SCHOOL

The Lancaster County Youth Conservation School was held July 21-27, 2019. The 41st class of students was a standout group who shared respect and kindness for one another as well as the staff during the week. Students mixed in ages from 14-16, background knowledge, and abilities all blended together with a common goal of learning as much as possible over 7 days. Faced with extreme heat and humidity at the start, the week progressed to adaptable temperatures throughout the week. Hannah Haughery and Auguste Nolt were named outstanding students with the opportunity to return as Junior Counselor.

The students painted the best picture of the week with their words:

“I learned many things and had tons of great experiences to go with them. This week really changed my perspective on the world.” - Andreas

“Learning how to cast a rod, different canoeing strokes, how to do a controlled burn, and survival skills were highlights for me.” – Bevalee

“This school has definitely made a positive impact in my life.” - Auguste

“We did so many fun hands on things that let me put the things I learned into use and made it a super enjoyable time. My favorite activity that we did was actually the final “test”. It was more like a set of activities that we learned about throughout the week and it was a blast! I wish I could do more things like this in school all the time. – Owen

“I loved being immersed with others who shared the same interest of conservation. One major concept I picked up over this week was how much work goes into conserving and protecting natural resources.” – Hannah

“This past week at school has provided me with more confidence, knowledge, connections, and a great time. I also learned more about how to protect the environment so that future generations may prosper on a healthy Earth. On top of that, my uncertainty of what my future career may be has become more focused.” – Brianna

The impact of the school has both short and long term effects. School founder, Robert Mowrer’s vision lives on reflecting on the historic impact of the CCC or Civilian Conservation Corp, the Conservation School continues to immerse students in learning, a focused week of working with conservation, studying conservation, and actively conserving. The program is made possible by a dedicated group of volunteers who believe in the mission of the school and give of their time to instruct and guide a new class of students. The program stands on the sure footed pillars of facilitating work of the Conservation District, financial and promotion support of Sportsmen Clubs and community organizations, and the many valued instructors and Friends of Conservation School who advocate the program.



Youth Conservation School

CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPOTTED LANTERNFLY GRANT

This year the line of sight for education included an opportunity to teach others about the invasive spotted lanternfly.

2019 jumped into gear with 4 regional municipality meetings regarding the spotted lanternfly. These meetings provided more than 100 municipality and public works employees with an introduction to the bug’s life cycle, the ailanthus (tree-of-heaven), current university level research, and known control methods. The Conservation District held a grant with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) State Conservation Commission in support of education and awareness about the bug. Though Lancaster County is in the state quarantine to control the movement of the bug, some areas of the county have yet to see an infestation. Along with a reimbursement program for proactive treatments on municipality properties, the grant supported District staff to provide education presentations to youth and adults, production of a calendar highlighting the need to make a control plan, and additional educational resources.

A spotted lanternfly informational napkin could be spotted at community fairs throughout the fall. Napkins were also shared with local restaurants and the Pennsylvania Farm Show so that everyone could be reminded of what the adult spotted lanternfly looks like. As the grant concluded, District staff surveyed 5 properties with Ailanthus tree populations. The trees were treated by approved contractors. District staff also coordinated 14 additional properties to be treated in the next grant round. Most importantly, the grant has allowed the Conservation District to support the work of the PDA, federal partners, and Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences – Penn State Extension.



–Sallie Gregory, Education Coordinator

VISION FOR THE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

We often use the expression that hindsight is 20/20. While 20/20 is considered *perfect* vision, it's only when we look back on completed events are we able to see clearly or *perfectly*. Nothing is perfect, but 2019 looks good for the Pennsylvania (PA) Agricultural Ombudsman Program from the *Year 2020* vantage point. The PA Ag Ombudsman Program handles public relations, education and conflict management related to agriculture.

2019 PA Agricultural Ombudsman activities included:

- presentations to Adult Farmer meetings about good neighbor relations and fly control importance
- reviews of many ordinances from a non-legal standpoint to offer input, and to decide if any should be submitted to the Attorney General's office for an (Agriculture, Community, and Rural Environment, 2005 law) ACRE review
- working with legislator's offices to help them solve issues for constituents
- working with American Farmland Trust to organize a "Women for the Land Learning Circle" event in Lancaster County
- presenting to Advanced Placement Environmental Science high school class about modern trends in agriculture, farming practices, and environmental impact.
- helping to organize a "farmer focus" group in Tioga and Bradford Counties to assist PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in registering feedback on PA's Watershed Implementation Plan
- coordinating responses to 28 fly complaints from 6 different counties in eastern PA.
- researching answers to 15 assorted requests for information.
- working on 21 "special projects" as the eastern PA Agricultural Ombudsman, assisting Lancaster County Conservation District co-workers, or as a subcontractor for different funding sources.

The PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program is partially funded by the State Conservation Commission, and serves all Conservation Districts in PA. Supplementary funding sources are needed and these sources provide goals and priorities in addition to those set forth by the program. For example, in 2018, a subcontracting opportunity through the South Central Task Force (SCTF), as the Agricultural Planning Specialist, provided additional support. The role began in early 2019 with a focus including responsibilities related to emergency and safety preparedness for farmers and agri-businesses, and building bridges between law enforcement, first responders and the agricultural industry. A goal of the PA Ag Ombudsman Program is to "build bridges".

2019 Bridge building examples:

- moderated a panel of subject matter experts for the PA State Association of County Fairs related to activists' tactics and how to prepare/react
- moderated sessions for regional Homeland Security Conference related to agriculture
- worked with municipal organizations to connect with supervisors and staff

- coordinated training for fire departments in Adams and Franklin Counties for grain bin rescue kits
- learning more about being the agriculture representative in County Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in times of training or real emergencies
- organized County Animal Response Team (CART) coordinators in 8 counties to discuss future direction of CARTs
- worked with Penn State Extension to print collectible cards related to farm safety for Plain Sect children

Lancaster County Agriculture Council subcontracted with the PA Ag Ombudsman program to provide administrative assistance and events planning, supporting the Executive Director and Board Chair. This responsibility also involved planning events for Lancaster County Agriculture Week, featuring:

- interactive display during Harvest Breakfast at Central Market in Lancaster
- a Farmer Breakfast for diversifying farm operations
- the Denim & Pearls fundraiser gala held at the Springside Barn in East Earl, PA

—Shelly Dehoff, PA Agriculture Ombudsman

PHOTOS RELATED TO MY EFFORTS THIS YEAR...



Farmer breakfast during Lancaster Co Ag Week



Interactive displays during Harvest Breakfast during Ag Week



Training for first responders for grain bin rescues sponsored by the South Central Task Force Ag Subcommittee



Training for County Fair leaders about being prepared for active shooter situations, sponsored by the South Central Task Force Ag Subcommittee

PLAIN SECT OUTREACH



Dennis Eby speaking at a meeting in Gap, PA

2019 was the beginning of a transition for the Plain Sect Outreach coordinator position. For the last 12 years Dennis Eby has been working full-time as the outreach person to the Plain Sect agriculture community. April 1, Dennis went to a part-time position. Greg Heigel began working with Dennis during this time of transition. This involved serving together at some meetings and working individually at others.

Greg brings a wealth of knowledge to the outreach position. Greg graduated from Penn State and served as a Peace Corps volunteer, before working 18 years in produce production for Amos Funk. For the past 12 years, Greg has worked as an Ag Conservation Technician for the Lancaster County Conservation District, which involves writing conservation plans, designing farm Best Management Practices (BMPs), as well as certification as a Nutrient Management specialist. During this time, Greg's work has connected to Plain Sect community.



Powl's Feed Expo

During the winter farmer meeting season Dennis continued to participate with many Ag businesses at their annual meetings. This involved setting up an informational display with conservation literature or presenting a safety message at pesticide meetings. Dennis continued to help farmers develop their Manure Manage Plans, which was a good outreach opportunity to educate farmers one-on-one about the responsible use of manure generated on their farms.

A highlight from 2019 was a 1 ½ hours, evening conference phone call where Mennonite farmers were able to listen in or ask Dennis about conservation issues, funding, and compliance. The phone conference call was initiated by Mennonite leaders; and at one point during the call-in 180 people were participating.



Display at action meeting

In 2018, Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD) launched a new No-till Tobacco Incentive Program with 13 participants. This program was for farmers who wanted to try no-till tobacco and were reimbursed for their planter rental cost plus an additional \$100 per acre incentive payment. If the participating farm did not have the required Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Conservation Plan and Manure Management Plans, the program paid for those plans to be developed. The program continued in 2019 with 20 participants planting 63 acres of no-till tobacco. No-till tobacco acres continued to grow in Lancaster County, especially south of Route 30, as a result of the work of LCCD in receiving a grant to develop a new no-till transplanter in 2015. There are now 15 planters similar to the LCCD prototype plus many other no-till transplanters in the county.

The Plain Sect Outreach team will continue to share the mission of the Conservation District in 2020 with Lancaster County Plain Sect communities.

-Dennis Eby, Plain Sect Outreach Coordinator

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

“Today we are simply retracing our steps across the land in an effort to correct past mistakes in the interest of the future.”

-Hugh Hammond Bennett

CONSERVATION PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION

NRCS staff in local field offices and technical centers draw on decades of experience in a variety of sciences and disciplines to develop solutions to complex resource concerns on private lands. These solutions not only protect or restore the natural resource, but also meet the goals and objectives of the landowners with which we work.

COMMON CONSERVATION PRACTICES INSTALLED IN LANCASTER COUNTY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Waste Storage Facilities (no.)	11	13	24	17	16
Grassed Waterways (ac.)	18	18	18	12	9
Terrace Systems (ft.)	16,500	32,900	22,600	17,889	12,998
Conservation Plantings & Buffers (ac)	25	111	167	102	17

CONSERVATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

NRCS continues to offer innovative financial assistance programs intended to ease some of the economic burden that may arise when landowners implement conservation practices on their land. This is just one additional way to provide landowners with the necessary means to protect our natural resources.

CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ALL NRCS PROGRAMS	\$2,146,743.00	\$3,032,577.00	\$3,637,616.00	\$1,154,093	\$1,788,080

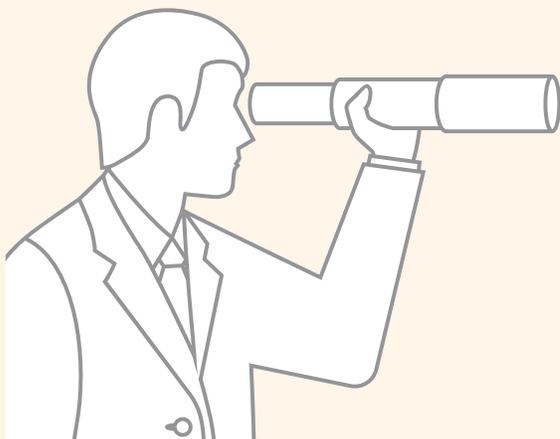
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ALL NRCS PROGRAMS	\$1,783,112.00	\$1,605,043.00	\$2,350,184.00	\$2,024,484	\$2,034,250

NRCS OF THE FUTURE — NEW MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

NRCS is helping private landowners improve the health of their operations while protecting our natural resources for the future. We are working to ensure the long-term sustainability of American agriculture.

Our mission and vision statements serve as the foundation for our work and help guide our efforts when faced with competing demands, exciting challenges, and new opportunities that stem from complex Farm Bills and fluctuating industry needs.



NRCS MISSION STATEMENT — 2020

We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

NRCS VISION STATEMENT — 2020

A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

Forested riparian buffers and native trees are part of the county's vision for the future. They are beneficial in helping to clean up our local streams and rivers through filtering run off from agricultural, suburban, rural land uses. Trees along streams help to protect stream banks during flooding. They help decrease stream water temperatures when forested. With trees along streams, they will increase in width, slow down water, and provide more wildlife habitat on the landscape and in the water.

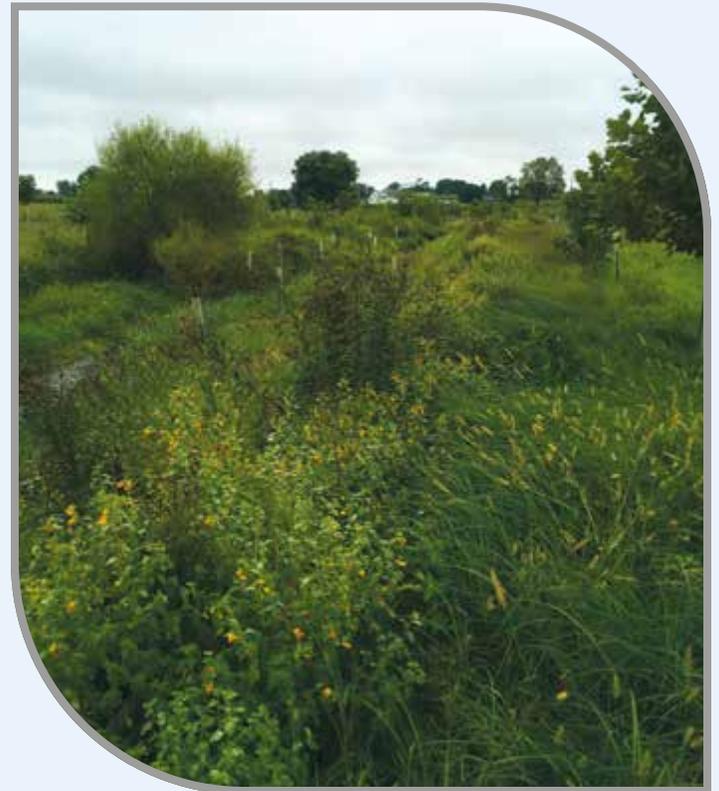
To achieve goals of the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), Lancaster County will need to plant more native trees and shrubs on the ground and create more forested stream corridors. The goal for the county is to install 5,000 to 7,000 acres of new forested riparian buffer throughout Lancaster. These areas will include agricultural land, urban areas, municipal owned lands, parks, to name a few.

Organizations that work within the county are receiving grant funding for the installation and care or stewardship of these plantings. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) a federal program administered by the Farm Service Agency will be opening in 2020 to landowners and will help to pay for the installation of forested riparian buffers and includes rental payments for the land taken out of pasture or production. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) currently has the Environmental Quality and Incentive Program (EQIP) that has cost share payments for the installation of forested buffers and fence/crossings.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Department of Conservation and Natural Resource (DCNR), Chesapeake Bay Foundation all have programs or funding to increase the number of native trees planted in Pennsylvania and the Bay watershed. The Lancaster County Conservation District has one of the more diverse tree sales in the state and offers a wide array of native trees and shrubs for the county.

The Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership is a collaborative effort between agencies, conservation organizations, businesses, and citizens to improve the state landscape by planting 10 million trees by 2025. The Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership is looking to plant trees along streams, in upland areas, and along streets within towns and cities in the state. Street trees and upland trees are also very important to the landscape in Lancaster. There are many opportunities out there for landowners, homeowners, farmers, townships to increase the number of native trees and shrubs and diversity on the landscape.

–Ashley Spotts, Streambuffer Specialist, Chesapeake Bay Foundation



45TH ANNIVERSARY - TREE SEEDLING SALE

The 45th Annual Lancaster County Conservation District Tree Seedling Sale included 443 orders for more than 25,000 plants and trees. A team of Conservation District staff and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff along with several volunteers filled each order. Hosted at the Farm and Home Center, several perennials and trees that didn't appear on the order form were offered for sale the day of pick up. Free compost was made available to customers courtesy of Manheim Township composting.

Eight local Watershed Associations participated in the sale as a fundraiser for their individual groups. \$522 was refunded to these associations. Garden Spot FFA, Lampeter Strasburg FFA, and Manor FFA also participated this year as a fundraiser for their chapters, earning back 20% of all sales. \$202 was refunded to their chapters.

\$8,544 were raised to continue valuable Conservation District education programs relating to watersheds, wetlands, and conservation practices.

–Sallie Gregory and Matt Kofroth, Co-Chairs



Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County

CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OF LANCASTER COUNTY

INCOME

Grants Received	510,702.89
Gifts & Donations	3,668.80
Fees Generated	14,490.00
Administrative Income	14,014.88
Fundraising Income	0.00
Program Income	18,118.30
Total	560,994.87

EXPENSES

Project Dollars Expended	504,438.57
Administrative Expense	6,492.37
Consulting Expense	2,420.11
Sponsorship Expense	6,250.00
Fundraising Expense	0.00
Program Expense	4,344.34
Total	523,945.39

FISHING CREEK GRANT FOR THE FISHING CREEK WATERSHED

Grant received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The collaborative partnership was developed to pursue 100% stream exclusion of livestock in three sub-watersheds of the Fishing Creek Watershed. The Foundation portion of the grants which is ongoing will focus on contracting with the District to review the conservation plans and then to provide coordination and funding for livestock exclusion fencing along Fishing Creek. Streambank fencing will be completed in 2020.

EXTRAORDINARY GIVE PROJECT

Grant received from the Lancaster County Community Foundation. 72 Donors participated in Lancaster County's Largest Day of Giving, the Extraordinary Give. Donations of \$4,534.51 supported the Lancaster County Envirothons and the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School.

COCALICO CREEK HEADWATERS FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION GRANTS

Grants received in 2018 and January 2020 from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the floodplain restoration of the Cocalico Creek and an unnamed tributary. It is anticipated the design and permitting will be completed in 2020. The project will produce quantifiable benefits in the form of sediment and nutrient load reductions, stream and wetland restoration, invasive species removal, native habitat establishment and flood storage and stormwater management. Additional grants are being sought for the remainder of the construction cost. Should the Foundation successfully receive sufficient funding, construction is planned for November 2020.

–Kent Bitting, Professional Engineer

LANCASTER COUNTY CLEAN WATER CONSORTIUM

- Redefined the LCCWC Priorities and Work Plan.
- Sponsor of Lancaster County Water Week.
- Hosted the 1st annual MS4 forum during Water Week raising \$14,000 for the Stormwater Mini-Grant Program.
- Sponsored through a grant the development of the Chiques Watershed Report Card.
- Revised LCCWC meetings to six business meetings a year at the Farm and Home Center and six non-business meetings a year around the County as Stormwater Action Team educational series meetings (every other month respectively).
- Participated in the Chiques Creek Watershed Expo.
- A sub-committee was formed to evaluate the work plan for the NFWF Grant, WIP and Ag and possible restructuring between Clean Water Partners and the Consortium.
- One Stormwater Mini-Grant was awarded in 2019 to Rapho Township in the amount of \$10,000.
- Held Engineers Roundtable to discuss the final results of the WIP and also Codes, Ordinances and Buffers.
- Held an educational workshop called Homeowners Guide to Stormwater – Train the Trainer Workshop.

AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHTS

CLEAN WATER PARTNERS

2019 was a year of steady improvements and increased collaboration for the Lancaster Clean Water Partners (CWP). With over 200 partners involved in action teams, creating a shared measurement system, state and regional funding opportunities, and continuous communication that all address the common goal of clean and clear water in a generation, we're definitely seeing progress!

After presenting the local Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in January, the year kicked off with the launch of our collaborative watershed mapping tool thanks to the support of the Chesapeake Conservancy and Partners Watershed Action Team. With over 1100 visits to the electronic tool, the team started to compile feedback and started thinking about version 2.0. The communications plan and website that Green Fin Studios developed and then launched in March helped the Partners share the mapping tool with partners through the CWP new website, newsletters, and social media.

In an effort to leverage more local and Bay-wide dollars for sustainable clean water project funding, the Partners worked with the Lancaster County Community Foundation to create Lancaster's Clean Water Fund. The Fund used seed money from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Focus Lancaster grant, and gave over \$150,000 to agriculture and stormwater projects that will be completed by September 2020. The Partners secured additional dollars for the Fund later in 2019 and continue to share the Fund as a perfect option for financial supporters who want to be part of Lancaster's clean water story.

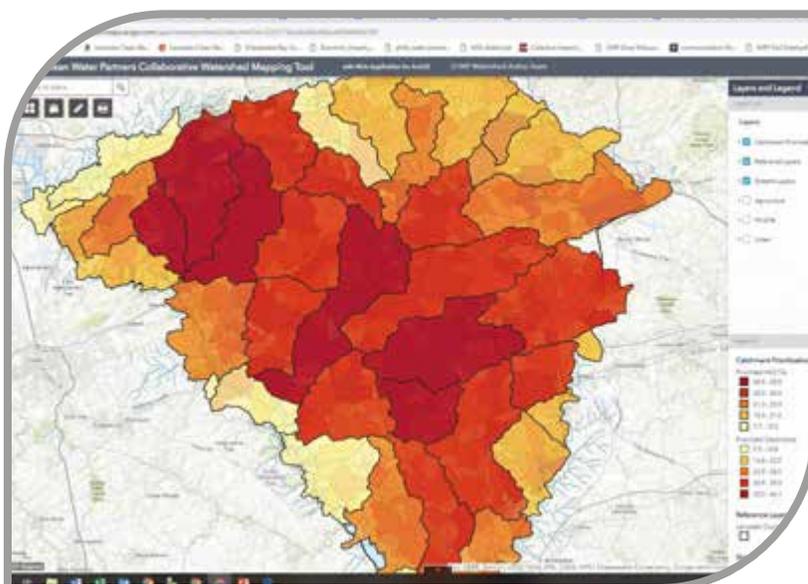
The Coordinator and Steering Committee serve as the backbone organization, and CWP is very grateful for the strength of both the Lancaster County Conservation District and the Conservation Foundation in that role as well. Thanks to generous support from The Campbell Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we had a healthy 2019 budget and they helped to grow the 2020 budget. The backbone subsequently grew with new Steering Committee members like Gordon Hoover from Salisbury Township and now



Eric Scott with Oak Tree Development Group. The budget and backbone support will allow CWP to hire a new Communications and Program Manager in February 2020. With large partner projects including kicking off the inaugural Watershed Leadership Academy in the fall 2019, the 3rd year of Lancaster's Water Week in June 2019, and a 2-day water quality monitoring data summit in October 2019 to establish a shared measurement system, that support went a long way in 2019.

We're seeing clearly now - clean and clear water are within our collective grasp!

-Allyson Gibson, CWP Coordinator



Clean water partners collaborative watershed mapping tool

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel C. Heller, *Chairman*
Robert Shearer, *Vice Chairman*
Kent Weaver, *Treasurer*
Herb Kreider
Kenneth Meck
Roger Rohrer
Jay Snyder
Sonia Wasco
Craig Lehman, *County Commissioner*
Donald M. Robinson, *Dir. Emeritus*
Robert Wagner, *Dir. Emeritus*

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Darrell Becker
Frank R. Burkhart
Lisa A. Graybeal
Ernest M. Orr, Jr.
Gregory Strausser
Debra Seibert
Garrett Weaver
Justin Welk
Greg Wilson

DISTRICT ADVISORS

John Beiler
James E. Hershey
Matthew J. Mack
David D. Miller
Kenneth M. Rutt
Kathleen V. Schreiber
Deb Seibert
Alfred Wanner Jr.
Matthew Young
Cynthia Zawrotuk

LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

Administration

Christopher Thompson, *Administrator*
Gerald Heistand, *Business Manager*
Kim Dugan, *Sec./Receptionist*
Holly Shaub, *Sec./Receptionist*
Stacey Meyer, *Finance Manager*

Erosion and Sedimentation

Nate Kurtz, *Department Manager*
David Bednar, *Resource Conservationist*
Emily Broich, *Resource Conservationist*
Eric Hout, *Resource Conservationist*
Suzanne Kopp, *E & S Secretary*



Agriculture

Jeff Hill, *Ag. Program Manager*
Kevin Seibert, *Ag Compliance Coordinator*
James Saltsman, *Ag Eng Tech Spec*
Adam Hartz, *Ag Eng Tech Spec*
Kent Bitting, *Professional Engineer*
Francesca DePrator, *Ag Compl. Insp*
Justin Furnia, *Ag Compliance Insp*
Greg Heigel, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Kevin Lutz, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Steven Reiff, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Maddie Klein, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Samantha Adams, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Emily Corkhill, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Derrick Fidler, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Hannah Hunsberger, *Ag Conservation Tech*
Dennis Eby, *Plain Sect Outreach*

Watershed and Education

Shelly Dehoff, *Ag/Public Liaison*
Sallie Gregory, *Education Coordinator*
Matthew Kofroth, *Watershed Specialist*
Nate Straw, *Watershed Assistant*
Bryce Workman, *Watershed Resource Tech.*
Allyson Gibson, *Clean Water Partners Coord.*



USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Heather Grove, *District Conservationist*
Kefeni Kejela, *Soil Conservation/District Conservationist*
Gary Ballina, *Civil Engineering Tech*
Mark Myers, *Soil Conservationist*
Mark Long, *Soil Conservationist*
Patricia King, *Soil Conservationist*
Mick Albert, *Soil Conservationist*
Meeghan Orr, *Program Assistant*
Ashley Spotts, *Restoration Specialist-CBF*
Jeff Sholly, *TAG Engineer*
Julia Smith, *Wildlife Biologist, Pheasants Forever*

VISION STATEMENT

The Lancaster County Conservation District will be the premiere conservation organization regarded by all citizens as a leader in the innovative stewardship of our natural resources. We will be a source of up-to-date technical assistance to address environmental concerns and a central clearinghouse providing credible, current information and education regarding the environment. We will coordinate environmental protection for future generations while encouraging profitable business enterprises.

THE MISSION Promoting the stewardship of Natural Resources in Lancaster County and beyond.



LANCASTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1383 Arcadia Rd., Room 200 • Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone: 717-299-5361 • Fax: 717-299-9459
www.lancasterconservation.org

All photos within this report provided by LCCD, NRCS, and the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County.