

Taking Stock of
CONSERVATION



LANCASTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Taking Stock of Conservation



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The 2022 Annual Report for the Lancaster County Conservation District offers an opportunity to take stock of the conservation efforts throughout the county. Glancing back at 2022, it was a productive year to install conservation best management practices on farms, within construction projects, on dirt and gravel roads, in streambank stabilization projects, and shared through community outreach and education programs.

In 2022, the Conservation District expanded its capacity for managing grants and coordinating the ability to share meaningful data regarding the impact of best management practices. Two new positions were designed and filled with skilled staff including a grants coordinator and a data coordinator. The long-standing Conservation District community service and fundraiser: Annual Tree Seedling Sale added online ordering successfully.

*Back Row (Left to Right): Roger Rohrer, Robert Shearer, Commissioner John Trescott, Jay Snyder, Herb Kreider
Middle Row (Left to Right): Sonia Wasco, Dale Herr Jr., Kent Weaver
Front Row (Left to Right): Robert Wagner – Director Emeritus, Daniel Heller, Ken Meck – Director Emeritus*

Decisions and change were also part of the year. Two staff members with longevity at the Conservation District decided to retire, Dennis Eby – Plain Sect Outreach Coordinator and Gerald Heistand – Business Manager. Their dedication and service to the Conservation District was celebrated and we recognized their lasting contributions.

Reading through our 2022 Annual Report, you'll see the both the quantitative value and the qualitative value of the work of the staff in partnership with the Board of Directors. Join us in promoting the stewardship of our natural resources in Lancaster County and beyond.

In partnership,

DANIEL C. HELLER
Board Chairperson

CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON
District Manager

2022 GRANT FUNDERS	# GRANTS SUPPORTED
PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	2
LANCASTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: ARPA	1
CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE PROGRAM	1
NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION	4
CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST	2
ARCONIC FOUNDATION	1
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	3
GROWING GREENER	1
EPA/SECTION 319	3
PENNVEST	3
PA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION	1
EXELON/CONSTELLATION ENERGY	3
PA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	1
PA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	1

DISTRICT DIRECTORS 2023

DANIEL C. HELLER, *Chair (Farm Director)*
 ROBERT SHEARER, *(Farm Director)*
 KENT WEAVER, *(Treasurer)*
 HERB KREIDER, *(Farm Director)*
 DALE A. HERR JR., *(Farm Director)*
 ROGER ROHRER, *(Farm Director)*
 JAY SNYDER, *(Public Director)*
 SONIA WASCO, *Vice Chair (Public Director)*
 JOHN TRESLOT, *Commissioner*
 DONALD M. ROBINSON, *Director Emeritus*
 ROBERT E. WAGNER, *Director Emeritus*
 KENNETH S. MECK, *Director Emeritus*
 RAY D'AGOSTINO *(2022)*

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS 2023

FRANK R. BURKHART, *Since 2015*
 GREGORY STRAUSSER, *Since 2013*
 JENNIFER ENGLE, *Since 2023*
 LISA A. GRAYBEAL, *Since 2010*
 JUSTIN WELK, *Since 2019*

LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

COUNTY FUNDING INCOME	\$ 325,000.00
NON-LAPSING PROGRAM FUNDING	1,421,644.60
GRANT ADMINISTRATION INCOME	347,365.29
FEE INCOME	837,682.50
INTEREST INCOME	96,165.63
SALES INCOME	41,530.74
ACTIVITY INCOME	11,540.46
RELEASE OF FY2021/2022 HEALTH POOL	27,119.73
OTHER INCOME	-37,303.78
GRANT INCOME	7,703,569.93
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,774,315.10

EXPENSE

EMPLOYEE SALARY AND WAGES	\$ 2,102,735.01
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	655,884.40
TRAVEL EXPENSES	30,451.21
MEETING EXPENSES	12,985.66
SUPPLIES	20,355.97
POSTAGE AND METER RENTAL	6,632.05
OFFICE RENT	107,371.36
IT SUPPORT & COMMUNICATION	23,888.32
SERVICES-HR, AUDIT, PAYROLL, 457	32,025.32
CONSULTING, INSURANCE, MEMBERSHIP	34,837.66
EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE	22,982.90
CRM:GRANTS MANAGEMENT SOLUTION/TREE SALE DATABASE	19,557.35
DISTRICT ACTIVITIES	50,877.32
MISCELLANEOUS	5,306.36
BMP/GRANT PROJECTS	3,998,918.89
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,124,809.78

2022 NET CHANGE IN CASH ASSETS

GENERAL OPERATIONS & RESERVE	\$ -149,854.17
E&S DEPARTMENT	262,946.88
DISTRICT ACTIVITIES	3,739.02
GRANT FUNDS	3,532,673.59
NET CHANGE	\$ 3,649,505.32



Back Row (Left to Right): Matt Scharvis, Andrew Pauls-Thomas, Chris Thompson, Kevin Seibert, Jim Saltsman, Kevin Lutz, Steve Reiff, Adam Hartz, Brady Bosworth, Kent Bitting, Ryan Reibling.
 Middle Row (Left to Right): Alex Flurry, Amanda Goldsmith, Kaylyn Gordon, Samantha Adams, Steve Wyld, Ben Seldomridge, Shelly Dehoff, Noelle LeFaver, Adam Stern, Tyler Keefer.
 Front Row (Left to Right): Greg Heigel, Emma Findeisen, Liz Martin, Lauren Brodbar, Holly Shaub, Suzanne Kopp, Sallie Gregory, Matt Kofroth.
 Absent from photo: Eric Hout, Jason Reuter

STAFF 2023

ADMINISTRATION

CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON, *Administrator*
 STACEY MEYER, *Finance Manager*

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

ADAM STERN, *E&S Program Manager*
 ERIC HOUT, *E&S Technical Manager*
 SUZANNE KOPP, *Admin Specialist E&S*
 RACHEL DIROSATO, *Resource Conservationist*
 ALEXANDRA FLURRY, *Resource Conservationist*
 KAYLYN GORDON, *Resource Conservationist*
 RYAN RIEBLING, *Resource Conservationist*
 STEPHEN WYLD, *Resource Conservationist*

AGRICULTURE

KEVIN LUTZ, *Ag. Program Manager*
 KENT BITTING, *Asst. Ag. Mgr./Professional Engineer*
 SAMANTHA ADAMS, *Ag Conservation Tech*
 BRADY BOSWORTH, *Ag Conservation Tech*
 LAUREN BRODBAR, *Ag Conservation Tech*
 EMMA FINDEISEN, *Ag Conservation Tech*
 ADAM HARTZ, *Ag Eng Tech Spec*

GREG HEIGEL, *Ag Tech/Plain Sect Outreach*

ELISABETH MARTIN, *Ag Engineering Tech*

STEVEN REIFF, *Ag Conservation Tech*

JASON REUTER, *Ag Conservation Tech*

JAMES SALTSMAN, *Ag Eng Tech Specialist*

MATTHEW SCHAVNIS, *Ag Conservation Tech*

KEVIN SEIBERT, *Ag Compliance Coordinator*

BENJAMIN SELDOMRIDGE, *Ag Compliance Specialist*

HOLLY SHAUB, *Ag. Admin. Asst.*

WATERSHED AND EDUCATION

SHELLY DEHOFF, *Ag/Public Liaison*

SALLIE GREGORY, *Education Coordinator*

MATTHEW KOFROTH, *Watershed Specialist*

AMANDA GOLDSMITH, *Watershed Assistant*

TYLER KEEFER, *Watershed Resource Tech.*

NOELLE LAFAYER, *Data Management Coordinator*

ANDREW PAULS-THOMAS, *Grants Coordinator*



AGRICULTURE PROGRAM: INVESTING IN CONSERVATION

Emma Fredeisen, Greg Heigel

Investing is something we all do daily. Whether it's investing in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, education, relationships, or mental health, it is integral to our daily lives. Investing in conservation efforts is one of the most important things to invest in. The Conservation District's mission is, "to promote the stewardship of natural resources for Lancaster County and beyond". The Agriculture Department does this in many different ways: providing technical support through our engineering department; planning Best Management Practices (BMPs) to preserve natural resources and prevent pollution; and providing support with the Act 38 program to farmers. Here is a brief recap of the accomplishments of Conservation District's Ag team in 2022.

Every year the Ag team is tasked with working through the Act 38 program. This year technicians reviewed 102 Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans (NMP). Along with reviewing plans, Ag technicians complete status reviews on an annual basis. More than 302 status reviews were completed in 2022. More than 1,300 acres were covered with a Conservation Plan or an Ag Erosion and Sedimentation plan. The Ag team has also welcomed 3 new Ag technicians to help with the increasing workload.

ENGINEERING:

With an increase in grant funding to the Conservation District supporting BMPs, more projects have been awarded to farmers to install best management practices. In total 31 projects were awarded through Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) funding support, Countywide Action Plan (CAP), Exelon, the Chesapeake Bay Agriculture Inspection Program (CBAIP) Phase II, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Initiative. This year more than 125 best management practices were implemented. These best management practices will help limit soil erosion and manure runoff and prevent further pollution. In the coming years, Lancaster County will be implementing the Pennsylvania Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) to assist in implementing best management practices on farms around the state. District staff has been working diligently to bring this funding to Lancaster County. Over 15 million dollars has been allocated to Lancaster County over the next three years. The engineering department has been working to plan and design BMPs to get this funding spent, and practices installed.

AG COMPLIANCE:

The Ag Compliance Program within the Ag Department has the task of completing on-site farm inspections associated with CBAIP Phase II. These inspections are done to ensure operators have the proper paperwork for their operation. This may include having a manure management plan for operations with animal concentrations under two thousand pounds of animals per acre. Also, having an Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Plan or Conservation Plan for any fields that are being cropped or used for animals. The compliance program gained new staff in 2022. They picked up on inspections quickly and were able to complete inspections for this year.

Phase II inspections included farm operations that have already been visited by the compliance team once. This was done to ensure the conservation plans that were made were properly followed and executed. Funding for operators was also available through Phase II inspections to implement BMPs as indicated in their conservation plans.

PLAIN SECT OUTREACH

Dennis Eby, Plain Sect Outreach coordinator retired in the spring of 2022. Greg Heigel spent many hours with Dennis before Dennis's retirement, and Greg has now assumed the role of Plain Sect Outreach, as well as continuing as an Ag Technician. Spring 2022 saw the return of farmer meetings combined with the Burley tobacco company Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) tobacco meetings and Penn State Extension pesticide meetings, continuing into the fall. The manure injection project succeeded with the Keith Campbell Foundation funding, which is extended into spring 2023. Participation in the manure injection incentive program included 40 farms. A total of 3,436 acres were injected with manure. Of that total 65 acres were injected by horse-drawn implements. Both commercial injection and horse-drawn injection options have funding available through the project and Greg presented the options to various audiences at the meetings he attended. The original Penn State Extension/Conservation District Plain Sect outreach horse-drawn no-till transplanter project began with one transplanter in 2008 and currently continues with Solanco Machinery having 18 units available for 2023.

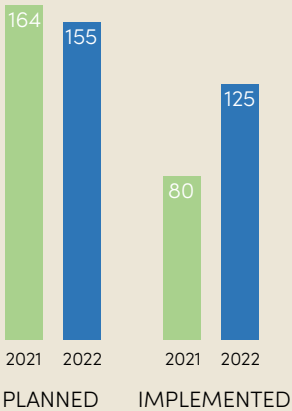
While continuing Ag Tech responsibilities, Greg reaches out to the Plain Sect farmers with opportunities. There is more funding available, and agencies are planning to work together with a retired Plain Sect farmer liaison to assist farmers one on one. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has started a Plain Sect education course, popular with technicians from our area and many states to familiarize staff who work with the Plain Sect but may not understand their lifestyle. Manure Management Plans and Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Plans continue to be written, with continued implementation required.



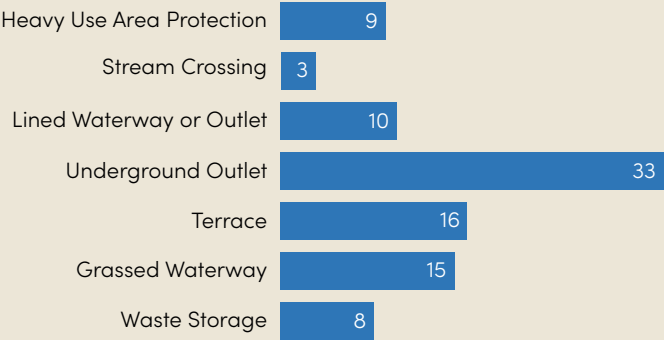
Manure Injection



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)



IMPLEMENTED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES





69TH AWARDS BANQUET

Sallie Gregory

The Lancaster County Conservation District recognized outstanding efforts in natural resource conservation in Lancaster County at the District's 69th Awards Banquet held this summer. The setting sun spread a warm light over the yellow barn floor at the Landis Valley Farm Museum. The celebration of conservation was extra special after a two-year hiatus.

Lee Hawley, an Environmental Science teacher at Hempfield High School received the Conservation Educator Award for his dedicated teaching, commitment as an Envirothon Advisor, and his support of student projects and authentic learning experiences. Fellow educator, Dan Lynch, retired PA Game Commission Education Specialist was honored with the Youth Conservation School Service Award for his many years of wildlife instruction at the summer field school.

The Low Volume Road Award was presented to Lititz Borough. The award recognized the municipality's commitment to the

environmentally sensitive maintenance of Low Volume Roads and the protection of water resources in the process. Rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavers, and streambank stabilization have been used by the borough making a huge impact on the watershed.

Ashley Spotts, a Stream Restoration Biologist for the Pennsylvania Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation was honored to receive the Watershed Service Award. For more than 16 years, Ashley has been actively working to protect the natural water resources of Lancaster County through her work and service as the county's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) biologist. All of the watershed accomplishments of the Lancaster County Conservation District would not be possible without assistance from dedicated partners like Ashley Spotts and the valuable resources she provides.

Brad Gochnauer, owner of Vortex Environmental, Inc. received the Conservation of Natural Resources award for the building industry. Vortex conducts wetland and stream delineations on behalf of land developers and consultants. Brad was recognized for his consistent and timely work with clients that supports the Conservation District's efforts in reviewing plans.

Jeff and Susan Mitchell of Mitchell Farms were presented with the Outstanding Cooperator Award. This distinction is given to farm operations that have a well-developed working relationship with the Conservation District and have demonstrated a commitment to conserving the natural resources on their farm.

Since the 1990's a wide range of best management practices have been installed on the farm including water diversions, a concrete barnyard, two stream crossings, streambank fencing, grassed waterways, roof runoff structures, two animal trails, and a pasture rotation plan. A well-deserved recognition.

The Lancaster County Conservation District is pleased to have the opportunity to honor these outstanding conservation efforts making a difference and sustaining a future for Lancaster County's natural resources.



EROSION & SEDIMENTATION (E&S) PROGRAM

Alex Flurry

While the rest of the world tried to return to a sense of normalcy, 2022 was yet another year of change for the E&S Department. Development in the county didn't seem to slow down and neither did the work coming into the office. A record 1,630 acres (about 2.5 square miles) of new earth disturbance were reviewed by the E&S Department, a 38% increase from 2021. A resultant \$725,600 was collected in E&S plan review fees, exceeding 2021 by over \$150,000 and 2020 by over \$315,000. In addition, staffing and programmatic changes posed even more challenges on top of an increasing workload. Thanks to the talent and dedication of the E&S team, 2022 closed out with a hopeful outlook for the future.

The first of many changes within the E&S Department occurred on February 18 when the District terminated its Chapter 105 delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Due to the lack of funding and increased workload, a difficult decision was made and it was determined that administering the Chapter 105 program was no longer sustainable for the District. Moving forward, water obstruction and encroachment permits and related complaints in Lancaster County will be reviewed by DEP's Southcentral Regional Office.

2022 also brought the departure of two Resource Conservationists and the E&S Program Manager. This loss of knowledge and expertise was felt throughout the District. Four Resource

Conservationists were tasked with reviewing E&S plans, handling complaints, and conducting site inspections for the entirety of Lancaster County, typically covered by a full staff of seven. Each of the four remaining team members took on an additional coverage area on top of a full workload to divide up the 25 municipalities left by departed staff. With the team spread so thin, review timeframes increased and routine site inspections decreased in order to accommodate the approximate 75% increase in experienced workload.

Luckily, help was on the way. Steve Wyld joined the E&S Department as a new Resource Conservationist in June and Ryan Riebling soon followed in October. Steve and Ryan bring unique new perspectives to the team and they have been quick to learn the ins and outs of E&S control. In October, Adam Stern was promoted to the new E&S Program Manager and Eric Hout was promoted to E&S Technical Manager. Adopting a new co-leadership concept for the E&S Department recognizes both Adam and Eric's individual skills and strengths and divides the managerial responsibilities of the complex Chapter 102 Program. So far it has been a success.

While 2022 had its fair share of ups and downs, in the end, it came back into balance. More than anything, this year demonstrated the importance of a diverse team and the value of the investment, both in current employees as well as new ones. As we close the books in 2022 with a goal to be fully staffed in 2023, the future looks hopeful for a return to regular workloads and increased presence in the field.



CHAPTER 102 ACTIVITY

TOTAL PLAN SUBMISSIONS	331
TOTAL PLAN ACRES	6,559
TOTAL DISTURBED ACRES	1,630
E&S PLAN REVIEW FEES	\$725,600
GENERAL NPDES PERMITS ISSUED	149
INDIVIDUAL NPDES PERMITS ISSUED	20
NPDES PERMIT FEES COLLECTED	\$104,520
TOTAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	86
TOTAL SITE INSPECTIONS	392





*Before & After of
Big Beaver Creek
Stream Restoration*

WATERSHED PROGRAM: FROM ROOT STOCK TO STREAM BANK

Amanda Goldsmith

In 2022, the Watershed Program was busy taking stock of our stream's health and investing in restoration projects to better Lancaster County's water quality. Like a bank, the work we do every day is an investment for the future. Every student educated on watersheds becomes a future steward of their stream. Every data point collected paints a picture of the progress we've accrued. Every restoration project builds upon each other, saving the Chesapeake Bay from excess sediment and nutrients. With all the work we do, we continue to look for ways to branch out and expand the work we are doing to improve our local waters and beyond.

During early spring, a project along a tributary to Mill Creek was getting started with help from U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Thanks to funding from the Exelon Habitat Improvement Funds, 1,250 linear feet of the stream were restored and 1.5 acres of riparian buffer were planted. A full case study of this project is available at www.lancasterwatersheds.org.

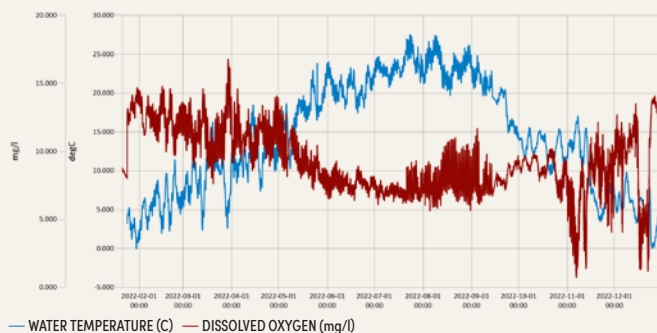
Mill Creek continues to be a focus area to invest in. We are pursuing native riparian buffer plantings along tributaries to Mill Creek. One highlighted project included a buffer with eleven rows of trees and shrubs in one section!

Next, the Muddy Creek project was funded by Exelon Habitat Improvement Funds. A bend on the creek was eroded and steep and a liability to nearby livestock. After the restoration, the bend was transformed into a 200' mudsill. In total, almost 1,000 linear

ft of the stream with a 0.5 acre buffer was restored. The landowner was excited about the project and is pursuing a fishing derby at his farm for all of his neighbors and friends.

Another project in fall at the Big Beaver Creek, brought challenges, opportunities, and a success story to count on for future years. Spurred by a restoration project upstream, two landowners agreed to restore 2,700 linear feet. Deep in a valley, the landowners were struggling with gullies on both sides of the stream, intense flooding, and vegetated sediment bars that divided the channel into a disconnected mess. Despite bedrock limiting our ability to pin in-stream structures, we persevered and accrued structure after structure. The project will have a 5-acre native tree and shrub buffer with associated fencing finished in 2023.

WESTERN MILL CREEK DISSOLVED OXYGEN & WATER TEMPERATURE





*Mill Creek
Row Planting*

We didn't stop at stream restoration so let's give credit to the data we collect too. Our improved website details water quality monitoring data from our volunteer coalition and in-stream monitoring units. We continue to expand the number of units we have across the county and produce graphs that detail trends in streams to guide future management decisions.

In 2023, we will be cashing in on successes from previous years. A 2020 project along Pequea Creek in Gap, PA resulted in two more projects that are just a few miles down the road. Thanks to our partnership with the Clean Water Partners, these projects are permitted, awaiting construction, and will help us meet Countywide Action Plan goals.



48TH TREE SEEDLING SALE

Sallie Gregory, Matt Kofroth

The 48th Annual Lancaster County Conservation District Tree Seedling Sale took place in April 2022 as a drive-thru event. Staff packaged and organized 556 orders with over 21,000 plants and trees picked up and planted throughout the Commonwealth. New online ordering through Square was popular and efficient for customers. As the largest fundraiser for District projects the Tree Sale totaled \$10,033. Both Solanco and Manor FFA participated in helping to raise funds along with 5 local Watershed Associations. Each of the participating organizations

received a 20% refund of sales for their groups with a total of \$289.40 refunded. Also, new in 2022 was a Round Up feature allowing customers to round up their total with the additions supporting Lancaster County Youth Conservation School donating \$516.00. Special thanks to the District staff who were part of the prep, packing, and clean-up to make the event a success. The support of dedicated staff truly makes the event possible and the dividends will go on for generations.

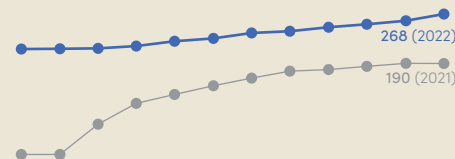
2022 SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Amanda Goldsmith

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



2022 WATERSHED DEPT. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PROJECTS COMPLETED	6
MILES OF STREAM RESTORED	1.13 mi.
RIPARIAN BUFFER PLANTED	10.6 ac.
STREAMBANK FENCING INSTALLED	11,150 ft.
STREAM CROSSINGS INSTALLED	6
PERMIT & DESIGNS COMPLETED	4

DIRT & GRAVEL/LOW VOLUME ROAD PROGRAMS: INVESTING IN CLEAN WATER

Matt Kofroth

The Lancaster County Conservation District's Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Road Program invested heavily in clean water projects in 2022. The dividend of this investment will be seen for years to come in better roads and cleaner streams, the Dirt & Gravel Road Program Motto. Four grant-awarded road projects were completed in 2022 including 1 Dirt & Gravel Road project and 3 Low Volume Road projects. These projects totaled over \$180,000 worth of water quality road improvement projects in the county.

Several projects focused on improving road drainage either to or away from roads. The Low Volume Road project installations on Twin Hill Road in East Earl Township and Valley Road in Rapho Township highlighted the value of proper drainage around these fragile road systems to protect nearby streams and creeks. The conveyance of runoff around any road is important for public safety but doubly important when these roads are close to infrastructure and other public services.

The program is also seeing urban municipalities use the program to comply with mandated stormwater requirements. An example of this is the City of Lancaster which completed a Low Volume Road project this past year on Landis Drive. The project featured several in-road infiltration trenches to catch stormwater runoff from this road and neighboring properties. The road is on a peninsula surrounded by the Conestoga River, catching that first flush of stormwater is critical in these fragile areas. Being able to infiltrate this stormwater instead of directing it to the river or the Combined Sewer Overflow within the city limit makes good water quality sense.

Finally, the District worked with Strasburg Township on a new bottomless arch culvert for a tributary to the Little Beaver Creek on Sides Mill Road. After working with the township on drainage challenges to this road in previous projects they were ready to address the double culvert on the project that was vastly undersized for storm flows and structurally failing. Working with the Dirt and Gravel Road program and others they were able to get a much larger culvert in place that not only solved their flooding issues but also allowed for improved water quality because of the open bottom concept of the culvert which in turn allows for aquatic organism passage through the culvert. Overall a great success for the dirt and gravel road and low volume road near county rivers and streams.



Swale development to control stormwater on Twin Hill Road



Before & After

During installation picture of Sides Mill Road culvert showing the same angle as the before picture





PA OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM: TAKING STOCK OF A SITUATION

Shelly Dehoff

Taking stock of a situation is what the PA Agricultural Ombudsman in eastern PA does regularly. Listening. Letting people vent. Talking to others who are not as involved in a situation emotionally. Then piecing together all the details to decide how to best handle a contentious situation. One of the best investments a farmer can make is connecting with neighbors and vice versa. When farmers and neighbors connect personally, the friction between neighbors tends to decrease greatly, returning great dividends. The PA Ag Ombudsman Program handles public relations, education, and conflict management related to agriculture.

PA Agricultural Ombudsman's efforts to invest in a community's future included providing middleman communication in multiple stormwater runoff issues; explanations given, questions answered and referrals provided. Reviewed 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 ACRE review to encourage the future of agriculture in PA; provided input on model ordinances, and provided input to municipalities on the keeping

of poultry and livestock on smaller lots. Responded to 23 fly complaints in 10 counties to encourage fly control minimization techniques around farms and residences. Provided moderation between parties in conflictual situations in 6 counties.

Continued in 2022 to administer and promote the Manure Injection Program, using 2 grants held by the Conservation District to encourage the use of manure injection instead of traditional surface application. Processed over 50 incentive payment applications and invoices from farmers. Organized field days and continued promoting the environmental benefits of injection. Presented about the horse-drawn injection unit at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) meeting in Cambridge, MD.

The PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program is partially funded by the State Conservation Commission and serves all Conservation Districts in PA. It is the top priority and focus. Other sources of funding must be pursued to support the program position. Those other sources of funding also create additional goals and priorities.



Manure Injection Program

Shelly Dehoff is subcontracted through the South Central Task Force (SCTF), as the Agricultural Planning Specialist. The task force focus relates to emergency and safety preparedness for farmers and agri-businesses and building bridges between law enforcement, first responders, and the agricultural industry. In 2022: procured 4-grain bin rescue kits for the region, and organized the accompanying training for 3 fire departments. Partnered with other entities to offer “Stop the Bleed” training to the farm/ag community on the proper use of tourniquets, packing wounds and direct application of pressure can help a victim survive until the trained professionals can arrive at 6 different farmers’ meetings. Sponsored 2 breakout sessions at the 2022 regional Homeland Security Conference on agroterrorism, and the “Beagle Brigade” from Customs and Border Protection agency. Hosted weekend K9 First Aid training offered for working dog handlers, taught by UPenn Vet Medicine.

Shelly also is subcontracted with the Lancaster County Agriculture Council to provide administrative assistance. She supported the Executive Director and Board Chair. She planned the Denim & Pearls fundraising dinner.

In 2022, Shelly continued assisting the Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County (501.c.3 in support of Lancaster Co Conservation District). This included assisting the President to organize and facilitate the meetings, creating agendas, keeping the communications flowing between Foundation members; organizing more frequent meetings to be more timely with decision-making; encouraging more involvement and engagement to create energy on the Board; and working toward intentional strategic planning and updating guidance documents in 2023.

EDUCATION PROGRAM: GROWTH IN THE FUTURE TAKES STOCK IN LEARNERS

Sallie Gregory

Banking on the future, Education is all about putting opportunities in front of learners of all ages to build accrued interest that will pay off in conservation actions today and beyond.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

122 Educational programs were held reaching 3,502 participants. Both virtual and in-person lesson presentations were shared with students, teachers, and county residents. Lessons addressed PA state standards of education for the environment and ecology with a focus on watersheds, water quality, and soil stabilization. Grant-supported funding enabled updates and re-publishing of the Watershed booklet student resource first designed in 2008.

District collegiate interns during the spring semester and summer break worked with the District Educator to provide lessons in addition to assistance to the county Envirothons, teacher professional development, and Youth Conservation School. A summer intern project included the completion of three informative videos about the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

2022 was the final year of grant funding building awareness of control methods for spotted lanternflies. Control methods from fly swatters to sticky tape with bi-catch prevention screening were made available along with reminders of educational videos and resources at www.lancasterconservation.org. Invasive

species lessons were also shared in several classrooms, at regional municipality meetings, and at churches in the county.

LANCASTER COUNTY ENVIROTHON

The Lancaster County Envirothon program, an academic contest for students in grades 3-12, was held in person at the Lancaster County Parks and Recreation Environmental Center. A fourth-grade team from Doe Run Elementary, Manheim Central School District had the overall high score at the Junior Envirothon, grades 3-6. Treasures of Grace homeschool placed first at the Middle School Envirothon (grades 7-8). Pequea Valley High School placed first at the Senior High Envirothon (grades 9-12) and represented Lancaster County at the state Envirothon.

LANCASTER COUNTY YOUTH CONSERVATION SCHOOL

The 44th Lancaster County Youth Conservation School was held July 24-29, 2022. The program is a partnership between the Lancaster County Conservation District and the Federated Sportsmen of Lancaster County. The field school was held Sunday through Friday evening. A large group meal to honor sponsors was not held due to Covid-19 concerns. 16 students registered for the program. Professional cameras were purchased with grant funds for use by the students. In small groups, students used cameras to tell a story of conservation. With special thanks to generous donors participating in the ExtraGive and the Reidler Foundation that funded the Conservation School and Envirothon program.

OUTDOOR LEARNING NETWORK INITIATIVE

Funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Arconic Foundation supported a third teacher professional development entitled the Lancaster Outdoor Learning Network Initiative. The District Educator worked in collaboration with the Leadership Team of teachers from Ephrata Area School District and the

Conestoga Valley School District along with backbone partners Stroud Water Research Center and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The five-day training brought teachers to stream sites in Lancaster County and to Stroud's Center and Longwood Garden's new trial meadows.

Putting stock in the learners of today is a guaranteed investment in the future.

Teachers dissecting a leaf pack during OLNI.



Conservation School students

CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OF LANCASTER COUNTY

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

GRANTS RECEIVED	1,524,888.17
GIFTS & DONATIONS	57,299.76
EXTRAORDINARY GIVE	7,502.90
FEES GENERATED (CONSORTIUM EVENTS)	2,625.00
ADMINISTRATIVE INCOME	167,262.90
FUNDRAISING INCOME	0
PROGRAM INCOME	2,890.24
TOTAL	\$ 1,762,468.97

EXPENSES

GRANT EXPENSES	1,199,351.46
OPERATING EXPENSES	55,659.48
EXTRAORDINARY GIVE	7,502.90
SPONSORSHIP EXPENSE	50,300.00
FUNDRAISING EXPENSE	0.00
OTHER EXPENSES	1,023.36
TOTAL	\$ 1,313,837.20

CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OF LANCASTER COUNTY 2022

Shelly Dehoff, Stacey Hertz

The Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County (the Foundation) is a tax exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. It is intended to serve as a fundraising arm for the District, and its mission is to promote, support, and sustain the stewardship, education and conservation activities undertaken by the Lancaster County Conservation District and our local partners.

The Foundation does not have any staff of its own. Assistance with paying grant invoices is provided by Stacey Meyer, LCCD Finance Manager. Shelly Dehoff, LCCD's Ag Ombudsman, provides support for Foundation Board member communications, meeting facilitation, and overall liaison services between LCCD staff and the Foundation Board and officers. LCCD hired a Grants Coordinator in 2022, and Andrew Pauls-Thomas quickly began supporting Foundation efforts by coordinating grant details that go beyond paying the bills.

2022 began a meeting of the Executive Committee on the odd months between bi-monthly Foundation meetings. This was designed to minimize extraneous discussion at full Foundation meetings and streamline the full meetings. Some strategic planning is discussed at the Exec Comm meetings, and we anticipate a full Board strategic planning session will be facilitated later in 2023 since the Foundation is approximately 15 years old, and founding paperwork and future goals should be discussed strategically to set a course for the future.

Because the Foundation provides a place for LCCD and non-LCCD entities to utilize the 501(c)3 status, while applying for grants, a significant portion of the money included on the above table are pass through funds. The District is working to improve efforts to retain some administrative funds to help with the direct LCCD staff time invested in support of the Foundation.

Grants held in 2022 under the umbrella of the Foundation, and the applying entity included:

- *ARCONIC Foundation - Phase 3 (LCCD)*
- *BEST Program (LCCD, CWP)*
- *Campbell - Technical Assistance Lancaster (CWP)*
- *Campbell Advancing Ag (CWP)*
- *Campbell DEI Training (CWP)*
- *Campbell Exec Outreach (CWP)*
- *Chesapeake Bay Trust Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (LCCD)*
- *Chesapeake Bay Trust Regional Capacity Building Initiative (CWP)*
- *CW Implementation Large Pequea Cr. (CWP)*
- *CWP - Campbell Operating (CWP)*
- *DEP Growing Greener: Cocalico Creek FPR (LCCD, LandStudies)*
- *Campbell Foundation Manure Injection (LCCD)*
- *Kentfields Foundation (CWP)*
- *NFWF Crescendo in Collaboration (CWP)*
- *NFWF PA LGI: Cocalico Creek FPR (LCCD)*
- *RCPP (CWP)*

THE 2022 EXTRA GIVE

Total Gifts to Conservation Foundation: **\$8,239** Total Donors: **67**

We're thankful, donations support Lancaster County Conservation District education programs: Lancaster County Envirothon and the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School.

LANCASTER CLEAN WATER PARTNERS

Elvira Felix, Megan Blackmon

2022 was a year of incredible, steady progress and collaboration for the Lancaster Clean Water Partners! With collaboration from our partner organizations and stakeholders, we continued to accelerate the implementation of best management practices, identify and secure sustainable funding sources, mobilize the rapid stream delisting strategy, expand capacity, and engage diverse voices from existing and new partner organizations.

Collectively, our partnership saw an increase in resource funding for projects and people from new sources like the national American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and from flexible, locally administered block grants, such as the Countywide Action Plan (CAP). Funds and skilled community partners manage and implement the associated work that fuel our accelerated efforts to achieve clean and clear water with partners from multiple sectors.

The Partners lead the collaborative work as the CAP Coordinator team, along with the Conservation District, LandStudies, Lancaster Farmland Trust, and David Miller Associates.

This included managing implementation dollars, establishing processes for data collection, getting shovels in the ground, plus storytelling to multiple stakeholders and audiences.

Spearheaded two rounds of large implementation grants from Lancaster Clean Water Fund's CAP grants, through the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

In the first round, \$1.7 million was awarded to five projects. And, an additional five projects have just gotten underway to begin their second round of funding, totaling \$1.5 million. These ten Clean Water Fund Large Implementation projects will reduce over 30,000 lbs of nitrogen from local waterways annually.

Bolstered public outreach by collaborating with small, diverse grassroots organizations to accelerate educational campaigns to diverse audiences.

\$108,000 awarded to ten Clean Water Fund Community Conservation and Small Implementation projects. The 2023 funding round opens on March 10th!

Expanded collaborative efforts and accelerated Lancaster's common agenda for clean water.

Twelve organizations collectively drove and will continue to lead the rapid stream delisting strategy through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) leadership teams. Conservation practices on nine farms have been contracted in 2022 through the RCPP: Lancaster's Common Agenda for Clean Water, totaling \$1,780,543.

Began more authentic storytelling of the transformational impacts from watershed restoration projects through improved water quality monitoring data collection.

County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve \$3.4 million of available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for eleven water quality projects. Additional priority projects include supporting buffer establishment for landowners in collaboration with the District and other partner organizations. All of the projects are already in motion, and this funding will take them over the finish line.

Recruited specialized, qualified candidates to expand our capacity and impact through our network.

Partners welcomed a Technical Coordinator to quickly progress specific catchment areas where rural and urban land uses meet for unique municipal support opportunities. This is part of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that focuses on adding additional capacity.

The Partners began the process to become a subsidiary LLC of the Conservation Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Conservation District. The process was approved in February 2023. The Partners' Steering Committee welcomed a new member - Michelle Marsh with the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority. Jeff Swinehart with Lancaster Farmland Trust serves as chair of the Steering Committee.

We're excited for all the possibilities 2023 will bring as we forge ahead with a bias towards action to achieve clean and clear water by 2040!

ALLYSON GIBSON, *Executive Director*

MEGAN BLACKMON, *Grants Coordinator*

ELVIRA FELIX, *Communications & Partnership Coordinator*

*More than
\$8 million
contracted
locally for
clean water
projects in
Lancaster
County*

LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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