



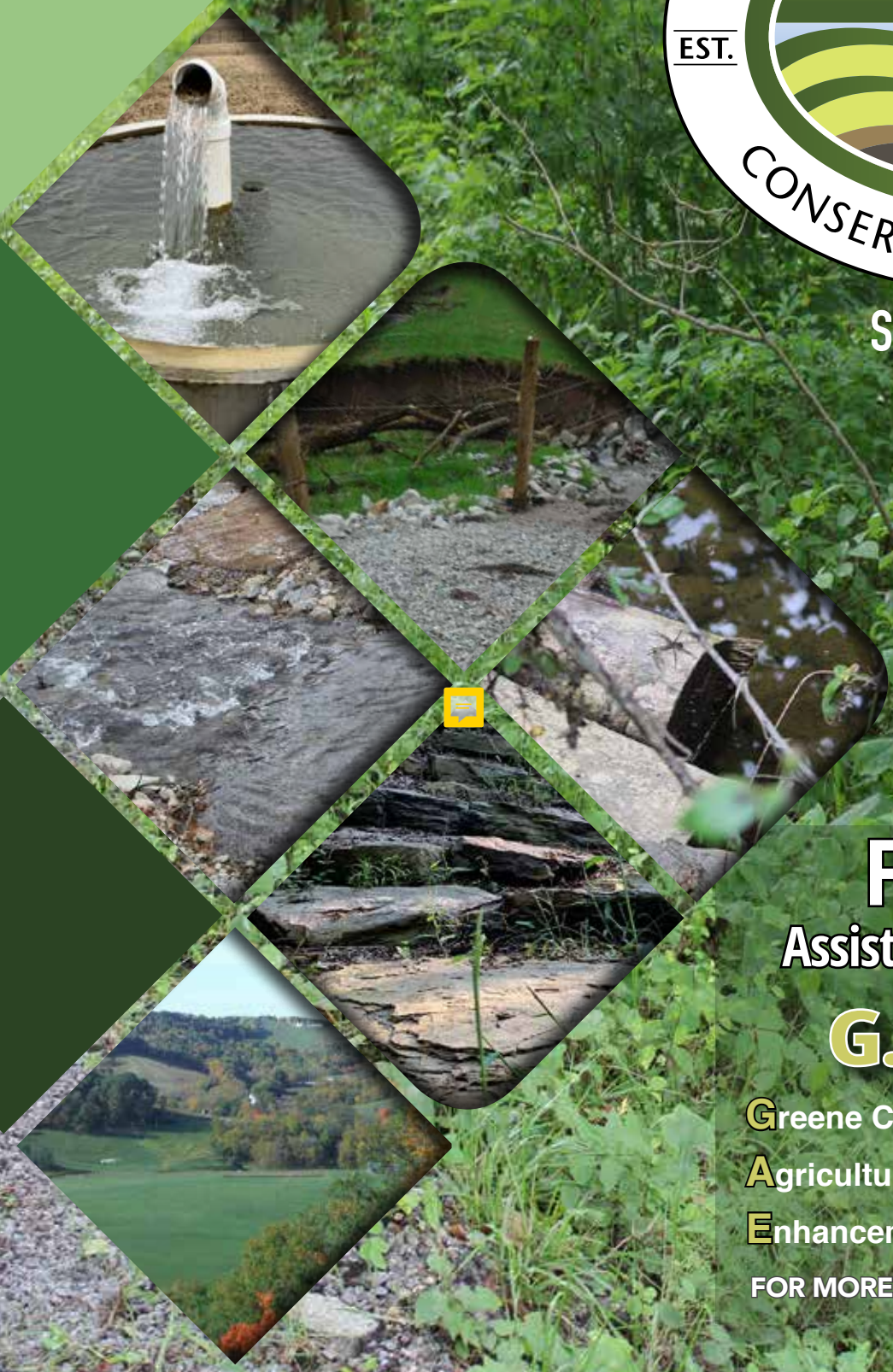
SUMMER 2021

Farmers!
Assistance is Available!

G.R.A.C.E.

Greene County's **R**einvestment in
Agriculture: **C**ost-Sharing
Enhancement Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 9



22 West High Street, Suite 204 • Waynesburg, PA 15370 • 724-852-5278
gccd@co.greene.pa.us • www.co.greene.pa.us

BOARD MEMBERS

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- Betsy McClure, Vice Chairman
- Blair Zimmerman, Secretary

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- Commissioner Mike Belding, Vice Chairman
- Greg Hopkins, Treasurer
- William Wentzel, Secretary
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- Raymond Stockdale
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- Keith Golden
- Tim Neil
- Sean Hilverding



DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Director
- Lindsay Kozlowski, District Office Manager
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Permitting Manager
- Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist
- April Morris, Fiscal Manger
- Sara Hlatky, Nutrient Management Specialist
- Benjamin Schweiger, Agriculture Conservation Specialist



COOPERATING AGENICES

- Greene County Department of Economic Development
Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
Phil Evans, District Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA Fish and Boat Commission
Eric Davis, SW Region Waterways Conservation Officer
- Penn State Cooperative Extension
Tom Beresnyak, Area 6 Client Relations Manager
- Washington/Greene County Farm Service Agency
Michal Roup, CED

DISTRICT LOCATION

Our office is located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building at 22 West High Street, Suite 204 Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone: 724-852-5278
gccd@co.greene.pa.us
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

The GCCD Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Conservation District Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building.



2021 Acreage Reporting Dates

Farm Service Agency



50 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Suite 2,
Washington, PA 15301
Phone: 724-222-3060 Ext. 2

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Washington-Greene County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

THE FOLLOWING ACREAGE REPORTING DATES ARE APPLICABLE FOR WASHINGTON AND GREENE COUNTY:

November 15, 2020	Apiculture, Fall-Seeded Small Grains
January 15, 2021	Apples, Grapes, Peaches, Pears
June 15, 2021	Spring Barley, Spring Oats, Rye, Triticale, Spring Wheat
July 15, 2021	All other crops, Perennial Forage, Hemp

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Loan Maturity for Marketing Assistance Loans

Typically, Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) mature on demand, but no later than the last day of the 9th calendar month after the month the MAL is disbursed. However, with the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, agricultural producers now have additional time to repay MALs.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides an extension of the MAL maturity to 12 months. This extension is applicable to nonrecourse loans for all commodities except seed cotton and sugar. Eligible open loans must be in good standing with a maturity date on or after July 31, 2021. New crop year loans (2021) requested by September 30, 2021, will also be eligible for the twelve-month maturity.

All current, active loans will automatically be extended the additional three months. Producers who prefer a nine-month loan maturity will need to notify their local FSA county office. Loans that are requested after September 30, 2021, will have a nine-month maturity.

MALs have a maximum loan maturity term of 12 months, therefore loans that had the maturity extended through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act of 2020 (CARES Act) are not eligible for an additional extension.

Eligible commodities include barley, chickpeas (small and large), corn, cotton (upland), dry peas, grain sorghum, honey, lentils, mohair, oats, peanuts, rice (long and medium grain), soybeans, unshorn pelts, wheat, wool (graded and nongraded); and other oilseeds, including canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sunflower seed, and sesame seed. Seed cotton and sugar are not eligible.

For more information about FSA programs please contact the Washington-Greene FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

2021 PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON STATE COMPETITION RESULTS

The 37th Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition was held virtually on May 10, 11, and 25, 2021. High school students from 58 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event.

The team representing Greene County from Carmichaels Area High School placed TENTH overall in the 2021 VIRTUAL State Envirothon competition. The team had the highest score of all teams in the state in the Soils station with a 92, second highest Current Issue score of 78, and a total score of 472 points for the competition. Only 29.33 points separated tenth and first place this year; some years this is the difference between first and second place! For tenth place, the team was awarded a wooden plaque made from Pennsylvania hardwoods. For the high station score, the team received a plaque.



Greene County Envirothon team-Carmichaels Area 1
Pictured Left to Right: Sophia Zalar, Brooke Watters, Spencer Conard, Faith Willis, and Alex Lawrence.



CARMICHAELS TEAM WINS GREENE COUNTY ENVIROTHON

The 34th Greene County Envirothon competition was held at Hunting Hills on Thursday, April 22. Forty high school students from three of Greene County's five school districts competed in this year's event.

At the Envirothon, five-member teams participated in a series of field station tests that focused on five topic areas – soils and land use, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and environmental issues. The theme for the 2021 event was "Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions."

Carmichaels Team # 1 won this year's competition with a score of 401.5 points out of a possible 500. Team members Brooke Watters, Spencer Conard, Faith Willis, Sophia Zalar, and Alex Lawrence, with team advisor Kevin Willis will represent Greene County at the PA Envirothon, which is scheduled to begin May 8th. The event will be virtual.

The Greene County Envirothon is organized each year by the Greene County Conservation District and is funded

through donations and grants from various businesses, agencies, and individuals. Thank you to the following that improved our competition – EQT Foundation, First Energy Foundation, Sheetz, CNX, Greene Team Pellet Fuel Company, LLC, Community Foundation of Greene County, Hunting Hills, Bankson Engineers, Watters Pools, and Pennsylvania Envirothon.

Each student on the first place team secured a \$500 college scholarship funded by donations from the donors and the Greene County Conservation District.

In addition to the continued financial support of sponsors, other partners that made the event successful include Greene County Commissioners Mike Belding, Betsy McClure, and Blair Zimmerman; Phil Evans, U.S.D.A. NRCS; Russ Gibbs, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry; Bill Wentzel, Greene County Conservation District, Eric Davis, PA Fish and Boat Commission and volunteers from Sheetz.



CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

The Greene County Conservation District held the annual coloring contest as part of Conservation District Week. The coloring contest was open to pre-K students across Greene County. The contest highlighted the theme "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities."

There were 72 coloring contest submissions this year and the Conservation District Board of Directors then voted to select winners.

The winners of the coloring contest were Khloe Calvert, 5, daughter of Terry and Kelsey Calvert, Nolan Johnston, 5, son of Garrett and Chelsey Johnston and Colt Roupe, 5, son of Chris and Kari Roupe. Each of the winners won a new bicycle and helmet.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all participants!



Khloe Calvert, 5 and Nolan Johnston, 5, won bicycles and helmets from the Greene County Conservation District coloring contest.

Colt Roupe, 5, won a new bicycle and helmet from the Greene County Conservation District coloring contest.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES CONTEST WINNERS

The Greene County Conservation District held a poster contest that was open to all Greene County students in Kindergarten through the eighth grade. The contest highlighted the National Association of Conservation District's 2021 theme, "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities."

Students from across Greene County participated in the contest. Contests like this one increases environmental literacy and fosters interest in science, art and other disciplines.

The first-place winners of the poster contest will go on to a statewide contest held by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all participants.

7TH-8TH GRADE CATEGORY



Emmaline Bezell,
West Greene Middle School
Grade 7



Gracie Whitlatch
West Greene Middle School
Grade 7



Payton Duncan
Home Schooled
Grade 2



Luke Patton
Home Schooled
Grade 2



Hunter Gorby
West Greene Middle School
Grade 7



Lily Giles
Carmichaels Elementary
Grade 2

2021 TIRE RECYCLING EVENTS

The 2021 Greene County Conservation West Nile Virus grant allowed a small amount of funding for tire collection. One could say the event was both successful and very unsuccessful at the same time. The District was unaware of the amount of support it would need to be able to pull off an event of this magnitude. The District Board approved the office to collect as many tires as they could to stop breeding sites for mosquitoes. In hindsight, we now know there are more tires in our community than desired.

To summarize our success, on April 24th the district partnered with Washington Township Supervisors to collect unwanted passenger tires from local residents during their spring clean-up day. That day 136 tires were collected. On May 19th a collection event was held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and open to only Greene County residents. Our event started at 2 PM and by 1 PM, we had over 20 trucks lined



up with the maximum amount of tires per person. We started the event early due to the massive line up of vehicles and by 1:15 PM, we maxed out the number of tires we could collect. Our board authorized additional dumpsters to collect more tires at the districts expense. Those additional dumpsters were filled by 3 PM. One would say it was a success to collect 640 tires in 2 hours, but the downside is folks were turned away from being able to dispose of the tires collected. To those individuals: We are truly sorry.

Moving forward from lessons learned, we are going to try to do this right. The district is working towards holding additional events throughout the year. Once funding, locations and logistics are figured out, we will post that information on the county website, social media and WANB radio. Please keep an eye out for our next event. The Conservation District Staff will make improvements and move forward efficiently with more communication to the public.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT & GREENE COUNTY FARM BUREAU CLEAN UP ROADSIDE LITTER

The Conservation District has long participated in PennDOT's Adopt-A Highway Program. The District annually maintains a section of Garard's Fort Road near State Game Lands 233. This program allows businesses, individuals and organizations to take responsibility for a stretch of area roadways.

Roadside litter is a huge problem throughout Pennsylvania that costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year. Aside from being unsightly, litter can result in human health impacts and can cause great harm to the environment, including impacts to plant growth and injury or even death of fish and wildlife.

In recent years, volunteers from the Greene County Farm Bureau have joined Conservation District staff in cleaning up this busy stretch of road. This year, we collected 44 bags of trash as well as automotive parts and other debris. Participants in the cleanup enjoyed nice weather and had an all-around good time.

The Conservation District would like to thank The Greene County Farm Bureau for all that they bring to this event. We'd also like to thank PennDot for making it possible.





GRANT WRITING: JUST ONE WAY THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT ASSISTS LANDOWNERS

Implementing practices on your farm, woodlot or home can be expensive. Many practices have positive impacts that extend far beyond a single property or landowner. They can reduce flood risk, keep soils healthy and protect water quality across entire watersheds. Grants are available; therefore, cost should not be a barrier to undertaking these important projects.

The District can write grants for any project that addresses a resource concern. For example, a stream with steep, eroded banks. Streams like this are a major headache for landowners because they pose a danger for people and livestock. Streambank erosion in some cases can threaten structures and reduce useable land. In addition to the problems they cause landowners, exposed soil on those banks is a source of sediment pollution to the stream. That sediment pollution is a valid resource concern and the District can write grants to address it. A streambank stabilization project shapes those steep banks into a safer slope, armors at-risk areas of the bank and establishes healthy plant life to keep the banks stable. Stabilization addresses the resource concern and results in a healthier, stable stream that reduces landowner concerns.

There are many cases where grants help landowners meet their individual goals while addressing resource concerns in their watersheds. The district works with farmers to install practices to maximize production and efficiency but also aid in mitigating agricultural runoff.

As they say, all good things take time and it is a timely process. From the inning point of application submission, to writing the grant, nd then finally the end result. However, a good sound project takes time.

Lastly, remember that every grant program has some match component that needs to be met. This may be a smaller percentage, like 15% but it is still important to consider. We do everything we can to help landowners find match and reduce their cost but there is usually some cost to the landowner.

Despite the need for a resource concern and a match requirement, we would encourage anyone to contact the District and discuss their situation with our staff. It might very well be something that we can help with.



GREENE COUNTY'S INTERIM FISH AND BOAT WATERWAYS CONSERVATION OFFICER

We would like to welcome Greene County's interim Fish and Boat Waterways Conservation Officer, Jonathan Stark. Mr. Stark is Fayette County's WCO and will be our county's interim

officer until a full time replacement can be hired. If you have any questions or concerns about Greene County's waterways, please contact the Southwest Regional Office at (814) 445-8974.

MEET THE INTERN AND WNV UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome Ryan Swartz to our team as our West Nile Virus Technician for the summer. Ryan is a 2019 graduate from Carmichaels High School and was on the 2018 & 2019 state champion envirothon teams. He is currently pursuing a degree in biology from Penn State University and has already made an impact on the district.

Our district has continued the state funded mosquito and tick surveillance program for 2021. Mosquito numbers have been fairly high throughout the county since sampling started in Mid-May. With zero positive samples for West Nile Virus and zero positive samples of Lyme disease in our tick surveillance samples. This year we expect some positive samples of Lyme disease, though last year we had a positive Lyme disease rate of about 6% (well below state average), so hopefully that trend continues.

We sample for mosquitoes at most sewage treatment plants throughout the county and we sample for ticks (using a piece of white felt as a tick drag) mostly throughout the game lands.

Remember to try to keep areas free of standing water around the house to cut down on mosquito breeding areas, i.e.: buckets, tarps, wheel barrows, tires, and try and keep gutters clean. Any areas that can hold an inch of water or more can breed mosquitoes. Also, remember to wear bug spray if possible during outdoor activities, this will also help to prevent tick interactions.

If you have any questions or concerns about ticks or mosquitoes please contact our office at 724-852-5278.



Farmers! Assistance is Available!

G.R.A.C.E.

Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost-Share Enhancement Program

The Conservation District Board of Directors is accepting applications for a newly expanded program that the board is directly funding. Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost-share Enhancement (GRACE) Program is a conservation-based program designed to enhance soil health within the agriculture community. **All cost-share rates are reimbursements based on receipts.**



Fencing



Water Development

Cost-share Opportunity for Farming Practices!



Forestry Practices & Plans



Lime & Fertilizer

Two NEW Practices Added!



Temporary Fencing



Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)

An application can be found online at
www.co.greene.pa.us/departement-conservation-district

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY PROJECT

The Greene County Master Gardeners have placed Spotted Lanternfly traps around the county. The SLF originally invaded 14 southeastern counties resulting in quarantine. Since 2014, they have spread to 34 counties, including Allegheny and Westmoreland. We are monitoring the traps weekly and will report any found. These are very destructive to crops and have done significant damage to agriculture in Pennsylvania. If you would like to view a trap, they are located at the Center Township Community Park, Thistlewaite Winery, Wana B Park, Greene River Trail, Yaskovich Funeral Home and Richie Park



Guidelines for Maintaining Streams in Your Community

DEP wants to help Pennsylvania communities complete all necessary stream work in a way that is environmentally-responsible, reduces the likelihood of future flooding problems, and complies with regulations. When in doubt, contact PA DEP for assistance before you start stream work projects.

Green Light—Go!

Proceed—These actions do not require DEP notification, pre-approval, or additional permits:

- Removing woody debris and manmade debris materials from the stream, banks, and riparian areas by hand or using handheld equipment
- Removing above items using heavy equipment from the bank; equipment should not enter the stream or dig into the streambed
- Removing gravel and debris in and close to bridges and culverts (Note: review permit conditions first)
- Crossing a flooded stream for emergency access to your property, if conditions are safe

Yellow Light—Slow Down!

Call DEP first—Notification, pre-approval, or emergency permits may be required:

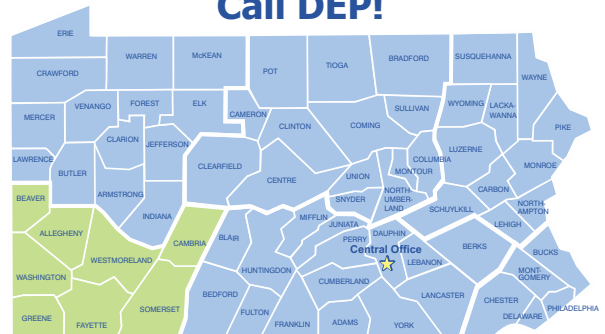
- Rebuilding roads and bridges across streams
- Streambank stabilization projects, including riprap
- Removing gravel bars from the stream channel using heavy equipment
- Repairing a bridge or culvert, or removing one in danger of failure

Red Light—Stop!

These actions require permits from DEP, and possibly from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or other agencies:

- Redirecting the flow of a stream by reshaping gravel bars, or moving gravel to the streambank
- Moving/relocating a stream
- Dredging or damming streams, or creating dikes
- Building a new bridge or culvert

Remember: When in Doubt, Call DEP!



- **Southwest (Pittsburgh) Regional Office**
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Phone: (412) 442-4000



Visit the DEP website at <http://www.dep.pa.gov> for more information about relevant permits and programs.



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Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370

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OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the District to commit to protection, stewardship, and conservation of the County's natural resources to ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of the landowners of the County.

It is the District's belief that conservation works best when people living and working in the local area work together to manage their natural resources collectively. Valuable partnerships are formed when diversity is brought into the conversation and decision-making process. Our office is a conservation-oriented organization that offers a wide variety of expertise and knowledge. The District staff can assist with questions related to permitting, offer guidance on planning for farming, and assist landowners with various natural resource related topics.