

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Greene County Conservation District Nominating Organizations are the backbone to a diverse conservation district board. These organizations provide County Commissioners with potential district directors. All nominating organizations are approved by the State Conservation Commission at the district’s request. Diverse nominating organizations provide directors with different points of view on a board that make critical decisions about how to manage natural resources in Greene County.

Our current Nominating Organization members are Penn State Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, Association of Township Officials, Bar Association, Greene County Fair Board, Pomona Grange #63, Farm Bureau, Farmland Preservation, Fireman’s Association, Tourist Promotion Agency, Historical Society, Planning Commission, Izaak Walton League, Richhill Agricultural Society, Southwestern PA Woodland Owners. Contact the District for information about how County organizations can be considered for approval as Nominating Organizations.

If the conservation district seems like an organization that you would like to be involved with, you can request a nominating organization to submit your organizations name. Each September the county commissioners send out the nomination forms to each organization requesting nominations for board members and select the members that serve as directors. Those not chosen as directors can then be selected each year to serve as associate board members by the district board.

BOARD MEMBERS

2023 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Mike Belding, Chairman
- Betsy McClure, Vice Chairman
- Blair Zimmerman, Secretary

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Cowell, Jr., Chairman
- Commissioner Mike Belding, Vice Chairman
- Greg Hopkins, Treasurer
- William Wentzel, Secretary
- Glodenna Halstead, Director
- Dave Shipman, Director
- Dan Bazzoli, Director

2023 ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Jerry Day
- Jim Willis
- Dominick Barbetta
- Rebecca Salosky
- Carol Adamson
- George Scull
- Keith Golden
- Sean Hilverding
- Lewis Crouse
- Doug Willis
- Kevin White
- Rebecca Trigger
- Ryan Wise
- Matt Robison

DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Director
- Lindsay Kozlowski, District Office Manager
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Permitting Manager
- Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist
- Heather Yorke, Fiscal Officer
- Tiffany Stewart, Conservation Technician

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
Dorian Siebel, 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 at the Greene County Fairgrounds 4-H Building, located at 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January through December 2022

Donation Income	3,902.61
Envirothon	4,200.00
Grant Income	79,956.77
Interest Income.....	25,976.54
Misc. Income.....	64.51
Program Income.....	808,603.44
Rental Income	2,322.00
Soil Test Kits.....	891.00
Topo Maps.....	12.00

Total Income \$925,928.87

Advertising/Marketing/Events	17,429.42
Audit	6,500.00
Contracted Work.....	469,929.29
Donations	7,440.48
Dues	4,030.00
Employment Expenses.....	238,417.13
Envirothon Expense	1,876.83
Equipment/Automobile	5,033.49
Farmland Easement Purchase	2,000.00
Information Technology	2,000.00
Office Equipment and Supplies	4,303.48
PNDI Search.....	400.00
Postage Machine/Copier.....	4,603.75
Scholarship.....	1,000.00
Surety Bonds.....	1,750.00
Telephone	817.28
Travel.....	5,772.00

Total Expense..... \$773,303.15



CONSERVATION DISTRICT HONORS 11 AT ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

December 14, 2022 the Conservation District honored those within the county who have shown an outstanding commitment to soil and water conservation. Honorees for 2022 included Kevin White, recipient of the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year Award; Dan Bazzoli, recipient of the Outstanding Forest Conservationist and Alex Shultz, recipient of the Outstanding Conservation FFA Speaking Award. Eight District and Farmland Board directors were honored for years of service.

Kevin White and his family were honored as the 2022 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year. This award is given to local farms that have shown substantial improvements to their operations by committing to the use of conservation practices that are intended to improve soil and water quality. Mr. White's farm is located in Greene Township near the White Covered Bridge. The Whites manage and farm 47 acres with a herd of 15-20 angus cattle. Mr. White has worked to improve pasture conditions, implement rotational grazing, develop water resources and control stormwater. By implementing these farming practices that protect our natural resources were leading factors in being selected for this award.

Dan Bazzoli was presented the Outstanding Forest Conservationist Award for his tireless work improving the forest stand on his Jefferson, PA farm. Mr. Bazzoli

has implemented his 2020 Forest Management plan by planting over 200 trees and completed 18-acres of woody vegetative management. These practices only enhance Greene County's local forests and valuable forest resources.

Alex Shultz, a 2022 graduate of Waynesburg Central High School and was recognized for her outstanding speaking skills at the county speaking contest with her speech entitled "Cover Crops: Why are they important?". During the 2022 speaking contest year, she advanced won the Conservation Speaking contest. Shultz is the daughter of Kris Shultz and Cindy Orndoff.

The district honored eight for their years of service to either the Conservation District Board or the Farmland Preservation Board. Those members were Dominick Barbetta, 5-year Service Award-Conservation; 15-year Service Awards were presented to five Farmland Preservation Board Members including Bill Cree III, Chairman; Dave Shipman, Vice-Chair; Rick Thistlethwaite, Treasurer; Jim Willis and Charlie Day. Two 15-year Service Awards were presented to Greg Hopkins, Treasurer and William Wentzel, Secretary of the Conservation District Board.



Lisa Snider, presented Alex Shultz, the 2022 Outstanding Conservation FFA Speaking at the Greene County Conservation District's annual award ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 14.



Lisa Snider, presented Kevin White along with his wife Andrea and children William and Jodine with the 2022 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year Award



Dan Bazzoli was presented the 2022 Outstanding Forest Conservationist Award by Russell Gibbs, PA DCNR Service Forester



William Wentzel, Jim Willis, Bill Cree III, Dave Shipman, Greg Hopkins, Dominick Barbetta and Rick Thistlethwaite were presented Service Awards

RALPH K. BELL BIRD CLUB OF GREENE COUNTY 2022 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



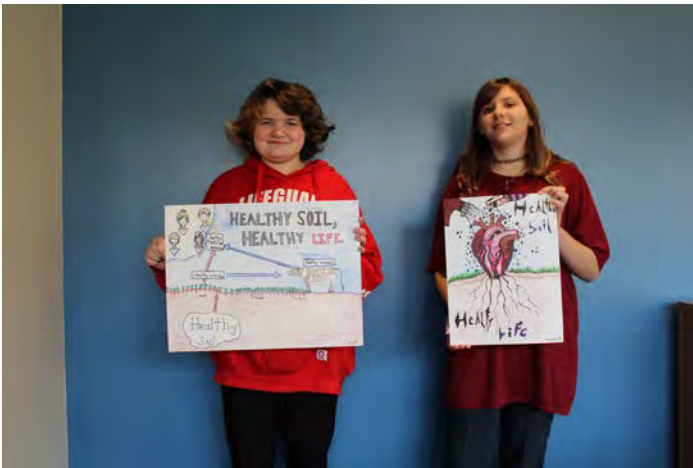
In honor of Ralph K. Bell, former director of the Greene County Conservation District, an annual district contribution is made in his name to the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club for their Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Bell was a member of the district from 1976-2006 where he was treasured as a great bird enthusiast and conservationist.

This year the club honored Taylor Burnfield as their 2022 Ralph K. Bell Bird Club Memorial Scholarship winner with a check for \$500. Miss Burnfield is a 2022 graduate of Jefferson-Morgan High School where she earned valedictorian honors. She is the daughter of Ronnie and Jodie Burnfield of Jefferson. While at Jefferson-Morgan she maintained a 4.5 GPA, was the president of both NHS and Spanish Club, vice-president of the student council, member of the debate team, Science Olympiad, Envirothon, SADD

and reading club. Burnfield earned a 4-year letter for the Waynesburg rifle team, was the recipient of the DeMasse HER eSTEAM scholarship, the Army Specialist Gregory A. Cox Memorial Scholarship, and the Russel A. Guthrie memorial scholarship.

Taylor plans on attending West Virginia University the fall of 2022 where she plans on majoring in business.

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



Zianna McDonnell, 2nd place, 4th- 6th grade
and Morgan Barnhart, 1st place, 4th- 6th grade.



Elodie McGowan, 1st place, K-1st grade;
Julianna Kirsch, 1st place, 2nd- 3rd grade
and Joanna Harrison, 3rd place, 4th- 6th grade



Camryn Hawfield, 1st place, 7th- 8th grade;
Cheyenne Pierson, 2st place, 7th- 8th grade
and Natalie Phillips, 3rd place, 4th- 6th grade.

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS



Left to right; Emery Pears, Brennan Bedilion,
Harper Fraley

2022 ENVIROTHON



2022 First Place Team (Carmichaels): Kevin Willis, Advisor; Alex Lawrence; Spencer Conard, Sophia Zalar, Faith Willis, Brook Watters, James A. Cowell, GCCD; Charity Fleenor, EQT Corporation; Klorissa Williams and Derek Kurdilla; Sheetz, Inc.



2022 Second Place Team (Carmichaels): Kevin Willis, Advisor; Ava Smith, Levi Krampy, Gavin Husentis, Robbie Wilson-Jones and Ali Jacobs, James A. Cowell, GCCD; Charity Fleenor, EQT Corporation; Klorissa Williams and Derek Kurdilla; Sheetz, Inc.



2022 Third Place Team (Mapletown): Amber Burkett, Advisor; Grant Murin, Hannah Knutsen, Zack Rockwell, Emma Nine, James A. Cowell, GCCD; Elizabeth Ryan, Charity Fleenor, EQT Corporation; Klorissa Williams and Derek Kurdilla; Sheetz, Inc.



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



DISTRICT AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES

GRACE PROJECT SUMMARY

Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost-share Enhancement (GRACE) Program is a conservation-based program designed to empower the agricultural community to enhance and improve soil health and water quality. The GRACE program provides technical and financial assistance to farmers and forest landowners with practices that promote soil and water conservation efforts within Greene County. These practices lead to better animal production and adds value and profit to the land.

Practices include but are not limited to lime, fertilizer, fencing, watering systems, planning and forestry practices. The district's goal for the program is to support the mission of ensuring healthy soils for viable farming, in a way that is easy to navigate and has a quick turnaround. 2022 yielded a total of 55 applications and funded approximately \$150,000 in projects.

It was noticed during the 2022 round of funding and gathering of lime information, many farms that had been in the program at its conception were beginning to cycle back through the program with fields that had lime applied 3 plus years ago. Many of those fields previously limed did not require a new lime application to the fields or very little lime, based on the updated soils test.

INTRODUCTION OF ACAP: AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

July 2022 brought forward an opportunity for Pennsylvania's Conservation Districts to provide financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations within the Commonwealth. The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created through the Clean Streams Fund established by the FY2022-2023 Pennsylvania Budget and is administered by the State Conservation Commission. Greene County has been awarded approximately \$500,000 per year over the next 3 years to reduce non-point source pollution in local streams and rivers by implementing BMPs that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution on local farms.

The Greene County Conservation District (GCCD) Board of Directors have chosen to enter into a delegation agreement with the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to implement the program within Greene County. The GCCD Board will be working towards informing the public on fund availability.

Funds for the program are a direct result of PA Act 13 that the district receives annually to foster conservation efforts within Greene County. These funds are obtained through an 'impact' fee and the district believes that the money received should be used on the ground where the impacts were made.



2022 APPROVED PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- 1,130** tons of lime to condition 685 acres of pasture/hay
- 597** acres of farm land fertilized
- 6** projects of a total of 5980 feet interior fencing projects for pasture division
- 15** full water development projects
- 10** pipeline projects
- 4** trough replacement/repairs
- 5** hydrant projects
- 3** forest management planning projects
- 5** forest management woody vegetative management practice projects

Interested applicants must have a written agricultural erosion and sediment control plan or conservation plan and a manure management plan or nutrient management plan that includes the BMPs required to control nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Applications must also address and abate other Animal Concentration Areas (ACA) on the farm. All projects must meet design and construction standards set by the SCC.

GCCD decided to embrace this program in an effort to protect and preserve local soil and water which will ensure future generations of farming in Greene County and is hopeful that this program will improve the overall health of soils and water. ACAP is a reimbursement grant that lowers the financial burden on landowners and farmers.

For any questions please contact us at 724-852-5278 or gccd@co.greene.pa.us for further information.

DISTRICT AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

COOPERATOR PROGRAM

The Greene County Conservation District is proud to offer assistance to all Greene County landowners. The District's Technical Assistance Program aids landowners not only in planning and executing projects but also in obtaining financial assistance when funds are available. District staff can assist landowners with cropland, woodland, agricultural waste, wildlife habitat and grassland management, streambank protection, erosion and sedimentation control practices, surface water control, irrigation and livestock watering, planned grazing systems as well as many other practices. This program is purely voluntary and encouraged by staff and board members. The District's GRACE program has drawn in many new applicants. In 2022, nine landowners, farming 2,657.5 acres, enlisted as new cooperators.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The GCCD delegation agreement administers nutrient and manure management programs for Greene County. These programs regulate Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), Act 38 volunteer animal operations (VAO's) and any landowner utilizing manure in Pennsylvania. The GCCD Agricultural Technician position was open in 2022. The District's Water Quality Specialist attended training to obtain certification as a Nutrient Management Planner and has taken on additional duties in support of this program. In 2022, the Water Quality Specialist assisted one CAO remain in compliance, began the process of writing two plans and reviewing two plans for full certification and responded to one nutrient management-related complaint.

GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Agriculture is the leading economic enterprise in Pennsylvania with a \$75 billion total economic impact. Preserving prime farmland for the future is crucial. Farmers face a tough challenge when it comes to keeping their land profitable through Agriculture. Pennsylvania has developed some 1.14 million acres, or 1,800 square miles, of fields, open space, and natural land between 1982 and 1997-the sixth largest such conversion after Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and California. This equates to 209 acres per day, or 9 acres per hour, every hour (The Brookings Institution.)

In 1988, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture created the Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program and began its effort to preserve prime farmland from being lost to non-agricultural uses. Farmland preservation ensures prime farmland availability for future generations. The program has protected more farms and acres than any other state program in the nation. Approximately \$1.6 billion dollars have been invested by federal, state, county, and local agencies to preserve over 5,329 farms with more than 552,702 acres for future agricultural production within Pennsylvania.

Greene County joined the movement in 2007 by preserving its first farm in the county. Since 2007, a total of seven farms consisting of nine farm parcels with over 935 acres has been preserved and over \$1.28 million dollars of state and county funds have been invested into purchasing these easement rights.

In 2022, the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board encumbered its tenth property, the Dominick and Kimberly Barbetta Farm, a 79-acre parcel located in Morgan Township.



WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

DEP STREAM IMPROVEMENT FUNDS – STREAM OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

The Conservation District has been awarded \$60,000 in funding to remove a low water crossing from the South Fork Tenmile Creek, near Jefferson, PA. This structure has been in place since at least the 1930's and has become both a resource and safety concern. The structure is a significant source of sediment pollution to downstream areas by causing channel alteration and bank instability. It has also become a barrier to aquatic organisms that rely on up- and downstream passage. Additionally, it has become a danger to recreational use of the waterway. The structure is significant risk of injury or death, particularly to kayakers moving between recently-built Kayak launches.



Bridge 1: This photo shows the crossing at moderate flow. Water can be seen flowing over and under the bridge. This dual flow causes dangerous conditions for people using the stream for recreation activities like kayaking.



Bridge 2: This photo shows the new channel that the stream has carved around the crossing. The stream has washed away an untold amount of sediment from this bank and is a major source of sediment pollution.

GROWING GREENER – CREE FARM BMP IMPLEMENTATION

The Conservation District has been working with the Cree Dairy Farm, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and other partners on a number of improvements that will make the farm more efficient and protect nearby natural resources.

Using funds from NRCS' EQIP Program, the Cree's were able to work with R&R Engineering to complete a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for the farm in 2021. The plan highlighted places where the operation could be improved and provided initial designs and cost estimates for improvements.

Now that the plan is complete. We are working with our partners to implement these improvements. The District Watershed Specialist is in the process of writing grant applications to cover some of the costs of these improvements.



Cree Before 1: The photo is indicative of conditions throughout the site. Liquid manure accumulates and mixes with runoff. This nutrient-laden runoff is not collected and flows from the Freestall Barn, Milk House and Heifer Barns downhill to the stream. You can see Mr. Cree had attempted to install roof gutters on the front portion of these barns at some point in the past. They are currently failing or have fallen down along almost their entire length and are doing nothing to control runoff.



Cree Before 2: This photo shows one of two lots in need of heavy use protection. The site is devoid of vegetation and sediment is readily transported by every rain storm. Behind the lot, is a small clump of trees. An intermittent stream forms at those trees and flows past the proposed site of the manure storage tank. Part of this project is to fence that stream to exclude cattle and install a stabilized crossing.

GROWING GREENER – WILLIS FARM STREAM STABILIZATION & BMP IMPLEMENTATION

The Conservation District has been awarded a Growing Greener grant for \$111,000 to stabilize streambanks, install streambank fencing and implement agricultural best management practices (BMP) to address resource concerns on the Willis farm, located in the Pumpkin Run watershed, Greene County, Pennsylvania. This watershed is listed as impaired by the Department of Environmental Protection and is a priority watershed for restoration activity.

Willis Before 1: The stream exhibits steep, eroded banks exposing bare soil to erosive forces. Soil loss has impacted existing fencing, allowing cattle access to the stream which only exacerbates the issue.



Willis Before 2: Cattle are currently crossing the stream to access adjacent pasture. Mechanical destabilization from this traffic results in further erosion and increased sediment loads.



EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022

The Conservation District maintains a delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) to administer earth disturbance (Chapter 102) and water obstruction and encroachment (Chapter 105) permits. Our office has also been tasked with inspections of these permits to ensure compliance is being met with the Clean Stream Law. Assisting landowners and developers with these permits ensures that proper controls are installed effectively and maintained to minimize sediment pollution.

The Conservation District's goal is to assist landowners and help developers achieve compliance with Clean Stream Law. Sediment is the widest spread pollutant to Pennsylvania's waterways. We administer these Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 programs to manufacture our best effort to protect our waterways from excess sediment discharges and also to protect the loss of our soils through runoff and accelerated erosion. Erosion is a natural process, but add in human activity, such as construction and land development, erosion can be accelerated and result in sediment discharges to our waterways if proper controls are not utilized.



Best management practices (BMP's) are controls and/or activities (such as silt-fence, compost filter sock, grass seed and hay/mulch, etc.) that help minimize the effects of accelerated erosion and sedimentation and increased storm water to our waterways. Anyone proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities are required to implement and maintain these BMP's.

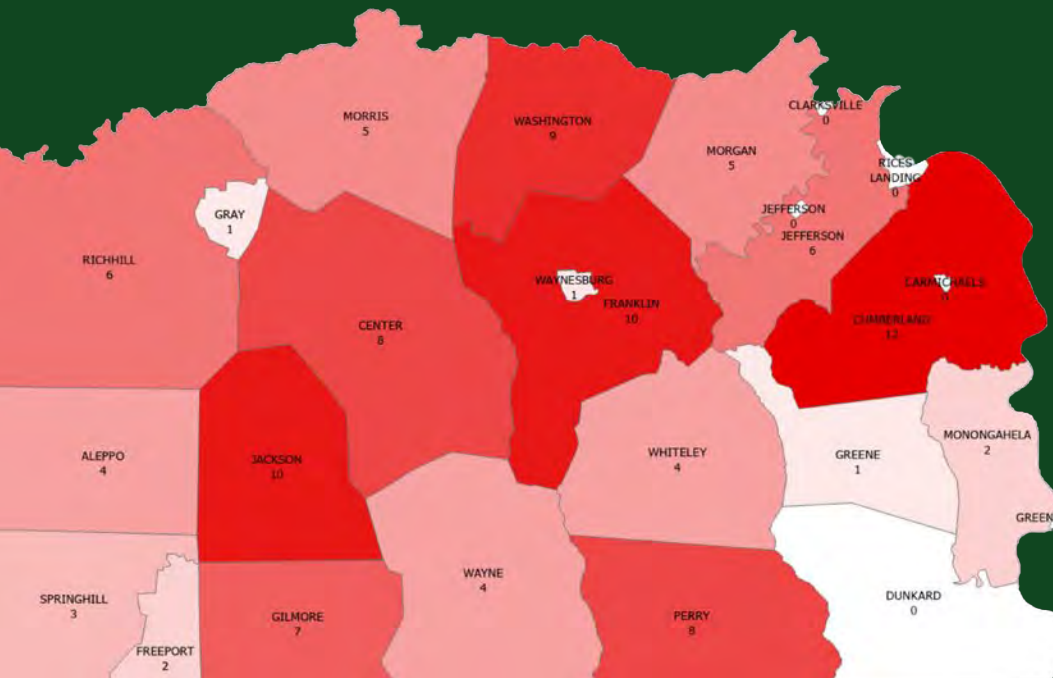
Different permits are required for various earth disturbance activities, based on the size and the type of the project. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required when one acre or more of earth disturbance occurs over the life of the project. This permit covers earth disturbance that is not associated with Oil & Gas activities. Erosion and Sediment Control General Permits (ESCGP-3) are required for projects associated with oil and gas activities that disturb five or more acres.

Permits are also required for work in or near a stream or wetland. There are many different permits depending upon the work that is proposed. Our office assists with General Permits #'s 1 – 9. There are additional permits that are issued by PA DEP that do not fall under these categories. All of these permits are now available to be applied for online or submitted as a hard copy to our office.

If a landowner or developer is planning a project, it is always a good idea to contact our office to see if any permits are required. We are always here to help!

Greene Co. 2022 Projects

This map illustrates projects that our office received in 2022, and in which municipality they are proposed or have already taken place. Quite a few of the projects we received were linear projects (pipelines, waterlines, etc.) that crossed multiple townships and boroughs. This illustration shows how dispersed our county's projects are and how having a knowledgeable overview of the county's topography can come in handy in our reviews. We review each of these projects with careful consideration of Greene County's streams, land, and its residents!



Some of the larger projects that were received and/or are under construction in 2022 were:

Wisecarver Park – Construction started for phase 1 of the project in summer of 2021. This phase includes a parking lot, a softball field, and a walking trail. More recreational activities are planned for further phases of the park!

Hatfield Ferry Power Station Demolition and Site Restoration – Demolition of the existing Hatfield Power Station and restoration of the land.

Greene County PA Fiber Project – A county wide project to add wireless internet to many rural parts of the county.

2022 EROSION AND SEDIMENT PROGRAM PROJECT UPDATE

Our office received 70 projects in 2022. These projects varied from Chapter 102 projects (earth work only) and Chapter 105 projects (work within/near streams and wetlands). Of these 70 projects, 55 were approved, 5 were withdrawn, and 10 are still under review through our office and/or PA DEP. We conducted 171 inspections across the county. These inspections include pipelines, building construction, stream crossings, culvert replacements, etc. Overall, our office collected \$157,425.00 in fees, an increase of \$55,500 from 2021.

DEVELOPERS WORKSHOP

The Conservation District partnered with the County Commissioners, and Greene County Planning and Community Development to host a Department of Environmental Protection Workshop.

The workshop focused on navigating the process of obtaining permits in Pennsylvania for local developers and businesses.



2022 DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROAD PROGRAM SUMMARY

In 2022, the district awarded grants to four municipalities for projects to implement quality Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance practices this year.

Low Volume Road Projects Awarded

Monongahela Township-Robena Road - \$85,900 to install a storm sewer system

Dirt and Gravel Road Projects Awarded

Jackson Township-Moore Road - \$48,632.14 for base improvements, streambank stabilization, drainage

Aleppo Township-Quiet Dell Road - \$131,300 for replacement of undersized stream crossing and road fill

Cumberland Township-Presock Road - \$133,900 for road fill and base improvements

Projects Completed

Aleppo Township completed a project on Jacobs Road and Hewitt Run Road. The project included the replacement of two undersized stream crossings, streambank stabilization, replaced cross pipes and added 418 tons of road fill. Before the project, the undersized culverts would cause water to back up and deposit large amounts of rock and sediment and the road would flood. Since the installation of the new culverts and several large storm events, the stream did not overtop the structures and there is no sign of erosion.



Springhill Township completed the fourth and final stream crossing replacement on Coon Run Road. The project included re-creating the streambed through the structure to avoid head cutting upstream. All of the previous structures were undersized and the road became the stream during large storm events. There have been some large rain events and all structures are functioning as designed.

Wayne Township completed the second phase of the Goodwin Hill Road project. The project included the installation and replacement of 6 cross pipes, 811 tons of road fill and slip repair.

Jefferson Township completed a large slip repair on Sugarcamp Road. A 103 ft long block wall was installed into the rock ledge and the road was shifted approximately 15ft. The upper road bank was then stabilized and the ditch was repaired. There was also a channel deflector installed in the stream and 2 cross pipes replaced and installed.

Center Township completed phase two of the Barton Hollow Road project. It included the installation of 840 ft of underdrain, one new cross pipe installed, and 966 tons of road fill added.

In July of 2022, the new stream crossing and technical guidance requirements became effective. Staff members have been certified on the new policy to allow us to continue to do stream crossing projects in the future. The local policy has been updated to reflect the new policy changes and requirements and the district staff is always willing to meet with applicants to view potential projects and help with the application process.

WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITIES

2022 TIRE RECYCLING EVENTS

The district held 2 large scale tire clean up events at the Greene County Fairgrounds in May and June. We also provided dumpsters at multiple township clean up days throughout the county. All in all, we collected 3,478 tires! A newsletter from the Department of Environmental Protection stated that the whole state only collected 10,092 tires in total. That means that our district collected and recycled nearly 35% of all the tires that were collected in the entire state! We would like to personally thank the Maintenance Department for providing workers and loading equipment, as well as all of the Townships that helped make this clean up season an absolute success!

We would also like to regretfully inform the public that our funding was cut in half for the 2023 tire clean up events. We will collect as many tires as our funding allows, but we won't be able to collect nearly as many as in 2022. These clean-up events will most likely take place in Mid-May / June. We will begin advertising in the near future.



WEST NILE VIRUS / TICK SURVEILLANCE

The West Nile Virus Program was administered from May 9th through October 13th. Throughout the year, 7,369 mosquitoes were collected with 7 of those samples testing positive at 4 different locations throughout the county. That is a positive rate of 0.095%, which is far below the state and national average.

Samples were taken from 12 sites across the county, mostly sewage treatment plants. The mosquitoes that are most common to carry WNV (*Culex pipiens* & *Culex restuans*) are attracted to the sewage smell. That being said, an average of less than 1% of all mosquitoes carry WNV. 80% of people have no symptoms if infected, but children and the elderly population are most likely to show symptoms (flu like symptoms).

The tick program went a little different this year. The tick program runs from mid-April through the end of August. Throughout those 3 ½ months, only 3 ticks (1 adult and 2 nymphs) were collected. It was an odd trapping year. In 2021, we collected over 40 specimens. The program will continue in 2023 from Mid-April through August again. Hopefully we collect more samples to obtain more data about Lyme disease rates and other tick-borne illnesses.

DEP ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT – STUDENT-DRIVEN STREAM INVESTIGATION AND WATERSHED ASSESSMENT

The Conservation District was awarded \$1,400 to purchase equipment that students will use to engage in citizen-science activities. They will examine insect populations in local streams and learn how watershed-wide conditions affect stream health.



District Rented the No-Till Drill to 9 farmers in 2022 Planted 224 acres



District Rented the two available spreaders to 10 plus farmers in 2022

SOUTHWEST PROJECT GRASS ANNUAL GRASSLAND EVALUATION CONTEST

Grassland Evaluation Contest is an educational opportunity for PA high school students enrolled in FFA and 4-H programs, or members of a high school affiliated club. The contest is aimed at educating youth about the value and benefits of grazing and other conservation practices. The Grassland Evaluation contest is hosted by Southwest Project Grass, SWPG and the event is held at Penn State's Ag Progress Days site.

Congratulations to Carmichaels Area High School for placing second in the state at the 2022 Grasslands Evaluation Competition. Team members individually completed exams in four areas, including:

Grassland Condition, Wildlife Habitat, Soil Evaluation, and Plant Identification. Team members include: **(Photo left to right)** Spencer Conard, Sophia Zalar, Alex Lawrence, Faith Willis and their advisor Kevin Willis. Each team member received a \$250 scholarship for the second-place finish.

The Conservation District is honored to assist students with funding to help attend special educational events such as this. In 2022 the district donated \$500 toward scholarships and assisted Carmichaels High School with transportation funding to the 2022 event.



Episode #13

The County Conservation
District-County Conversations



County Conversations is the official podcast of the Greene County Commissioners of Pennsylvania. This podcast allows for the Pennsylvania Commissioners to speak on the current events and news occurring within the county that all residents should be aware of. It also allows for the opportunity for the Commissioners to speak directly to residents about topics that the residents want to hear more about. If you have a specific topic or feedback for the Commissioners, don't hesitate to let us know on social media! County Conversations is released on the first of every month and can be listened to on Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts and YouTube'

“EMBRACING THE PAST- FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE”

2022 GREENE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

WOMEN’S COMMITTEE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

July 13, 2022-Waynesburg, PA-Greene County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee Regional Leadership Conference was held at Valley View Farm. Over 126 guests attended the event from nine Pennsylvania Counties and three states. The keynote speaker for the event was 1990 PA Fair Queen, Denise Leigh of Washington County. Ms. Leigh presented an inspiring presentation on growing stronger leaders. Guests enjoyed breakfast from Willow Tree Farms, delicious coffee from Hilltop Packs Coffee Company, a beautiful lunch by Back Bay Catering and cupcakes by Canonsburg Cake Company. Attendees also enjoyed listening to the stories of Thistlethwaite Vineyards, Lippencott Alpacas, Orndorff Farm Belgians and Valley View Farm wedding venue. Everyone enjoyed meeting a Belgian mare and her foal along with a soft fuzzy alpaca. In addition, eighteen displays showcased the best our beautiful county has to offer to those in attendance.

The event was sponsored by the Greene County Farm Bureau and the Greene County Chamber of Commerce. The Conservation District awarded the GCFB a donation of \$1,500 to assist with the event.





22 West High Street
Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370

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Permit No.108



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.