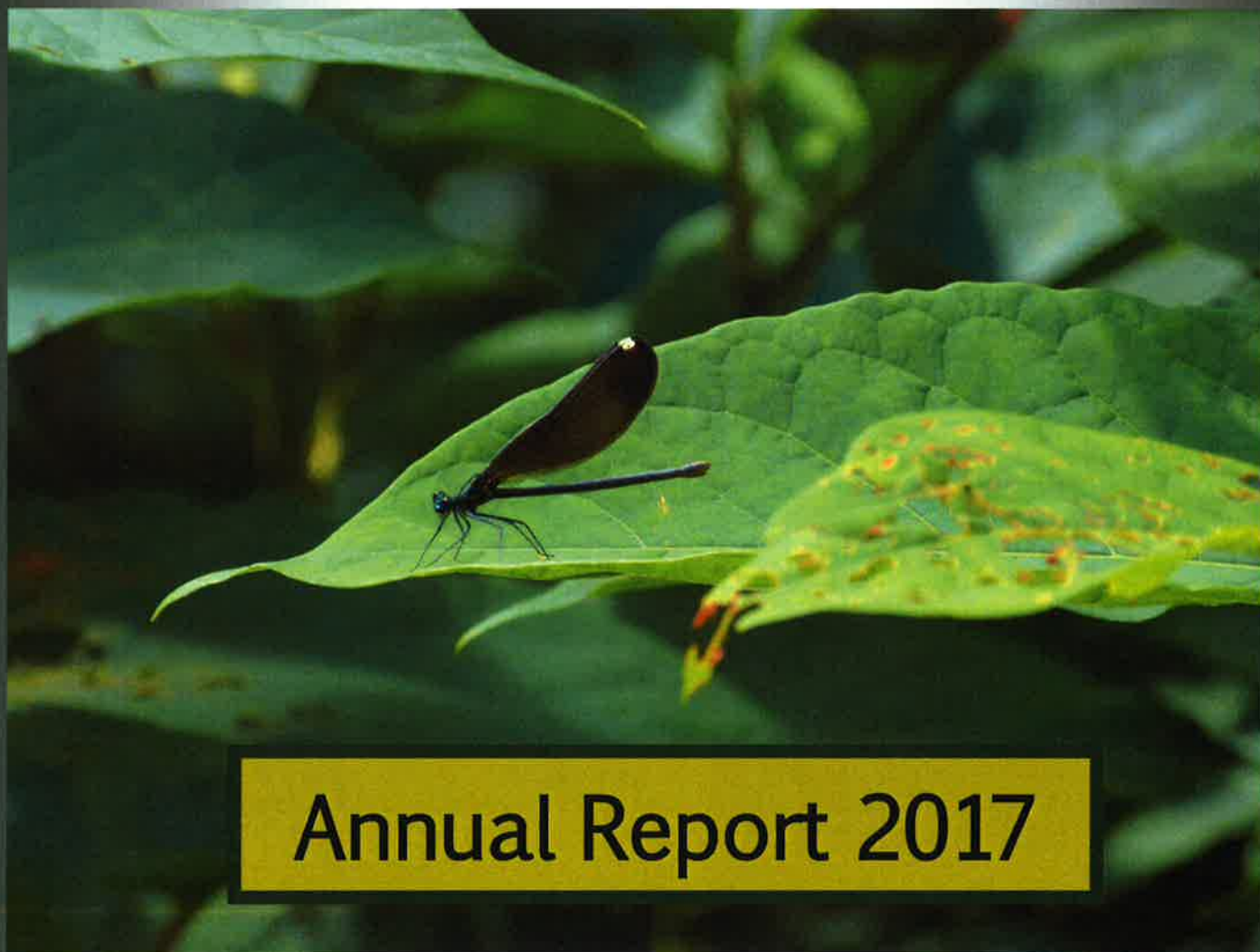
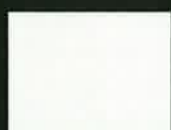
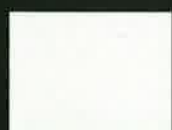




# *Potter County Conservation District*



Annual Report 2017

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### Our History

The **Potter County Conservation District** was organized on November 28, 1945 as the state's first such entity. Much of the effectiveness of conservation districts is due to their ability to successfully work with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. Conservation Districts are equally comfortable being environmental mediators and peacemakers as they are environmental planners and program originators.

### Our Vision

The Potter County Conservation District is dedicated to establishing innovative conservation practices with leadership and education through partnership with the community we serve. It is our goal to foster stewardship of our natural resources by inspiring current and future generations to preserve the legacy of conservation.

### Our Mission

The Potter County Conservation District will provide leadership to ensure the protection of the natural resources of Potter County through project implementation, educational programs, technical assistance, and by fostering public and private partnerships.

## WHO WE ARE

### DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Earl Brown (public) —Chairman  
Phil Lehman (farmer) —Vice Chairman  
Jon Blass (farmer) —Treasurer  
Doug Morley — Commissioner  
Stan Hess (public)  
Kevin Smoker (farmer)  
Chris Robbins (farmer)

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Dr. Pete Ryan  
Bob Volkmar  
Charlie Tuttle  
Chris Robbins  
Bart Ianson  
Jeff Cady

### STAFF

#### **Jason Childs—DISTRICT MANAGER**

[j.childs@pottercd.com](mailto:j.childs@pottercd.com)

#### **Glenn Dunn II—RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST**

[g.dunnii@pottercd.com](mailto:g.dunnii@pottercd.com)

#### **Alexander Veto—DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD / LOW VOLUME ROAD PROJECT SPECIALIST**

[a.veto@pottercd.com](mailto:a.veto@pottercd.com)

#### **Casey Boyer—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN /CHESAPEAKE BAY TECHNICIAN**

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#### **Jared Dickerson—WATERSHED / NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN**

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#### **Vacant—OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR**

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### New Faces 2017

Casey Boyer has joined the Potter County Conservation team as the new Agricultural Conservation (ACT)/Chesapeake Bay Technician. She is from Somerset, PA where she grew up playing and helping on her uncle's dairy farm and showing goats at the county fair. She was very active in 4-H and FFA and received her American Degree in 2014. After high school, Casey attended the University of Wyoming. There she studied Agroecology and Soil Science. She was very active in organizations throughout college and participated in the 2016 National Soil Judging Competition in Manhattan, KS. After graduating in three and a half years with her bachelor's degree Casey has come to make her home here in Potter County. Casey is excited to work with the local farming community.

## **No-Till Program Update**

The District continues to promote the practice of no-till through the rental of two seed drills and a corn planter. Several farmers continue to utilize the District's equipment as do sportsman planting wildlife food plots. A no-till demonstration field day was held in early November to instruct folks who rent the equipment on proper setup for various applications.

In recent years numbers have gone down as far as number of acres planted with the District's no-till equipment. This is due to farmers purchasing no-till equipment of their own. This is a huge success and is the ultimate goal of the program.

The District will continue to offer the use of the seed drills and corn planter at the rates listed below. The table below also sums up the approximate acreage planted using no-till methods in each of the three major watersheds within the county with District equipment. For more information or to schedule to use the no-till equipment contact the District at (814) 274-8411 ext. 4.

### No-Till Corn Planter & Drill Usage

Watershed	2017
Chesapeake Bay Acres	124.6
Genesee Acres	126.3
Allegheny Acres	16.7
<b>Total Usage</b>	<b>267.6 Acres</b>

	Great Plains 1006 No-Till Drill	John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill	John Deere 7000 No-Till Corn Planter
<b>Rental Rate</b>	\$12 acre	\$12 acre	\$15 acre

**\$25 Delivery Fee within Potter County, \$1 per mile delivered outside of Potter County**



## Chesapeake Bay Program

### Chesapeake Bay Activities

- ◆ 30 Manure Management Plans
- ◆ 25 Ag E&S Plans
- ◆ 480 acres of Cover Crops
- ◆ 34,472 feet of Stream bank fencing / riparian buffers
- ◆ 2 Special Project Funding Grants
- ◆ Pasture Walks and Workshops

The Potter County Conservation District continues to participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program. The District's goal is to assist those who need Agricultural Erosion and Sedimentation (Ag E&S) plans and/or Nutrient/Manure Management plans so that they will be in compliance with the state regulations. District staffers Casey Boyer, Jared Dickerson, and Jason Childs are all available to write the required plans for farmers.

Every operation that produces or mechanically spreads manure is required to have a Manure Management Plan. Operations who also till ground to grow crops or have an animal concentration area (ACA) over 5,000 square feet are also required to have an Ag E&S Plan. Again, the District can develop both of these plans for any operation who requests one free of charge.

In addition, the District continued to make visits to farms located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in 2017. A total of 45 farms were visited throughout the year. District staff members Rob Thompson, Jared Dickerson, Jason Childs, and Casey Boyer assisted farmers in developing the necessary plans as needed. During 2017 alone, 30 Manure Management Plans were developed along with 25 Ag E&S Plans totally approximately 2,282 acres. An additional 25 farms will be visited over the next several months in order for the District to meet its obligations of inspecting 50 farms for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Outreach efforts are being continued as much as possible. The District continues to seek funding to help assist farmers with resource concerns on their farms and to help install best management practices (BMPs).

## Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Grant



In 2017 the Potter County Conservation District was successful in receiving two Chesapeake Bay Special Projects grants administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Combined the grants will bring \$111,263.00 in funding to Potter County to assist farmers within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The first, a Cover Crops grant project, has been successful in illustrating the economic value of retaining nutrients and soils on the farm. Cover crops reduce soil erosion after the harvest of row crops like corn and soybeans. They also retain nutrients for the next years crop to utilize. In 2017, \$58,838.00 in funding was dedicated to this project. Incentive payments of \$65.00 per acre are paid to qualified farms for planting cover crops. As a result, approximately 480 acres of cover crops have

been established and incorporated into the farming systems at five different farms within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This grant program will continue to be made available next fall (2018) and is available to any farm within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Potter County that plants cover crops and meet the guidelines of the program.

The District was also awarded a Non-point Source Pollution Prevention grant in 2017 in the amount of \$52,425. This project is centered on three farms in the Bay that are implementing BMPs including underdrain, roof runoff structures, stacking areas, stream bank fencing, and heavy use area stabilization. Other BMPs include reducing soil erosion by converting cropland to pasture and reducing NPS pollution. These projects will be set in motion by summer of 2018.

## Nutrient Management

### Program Highlights

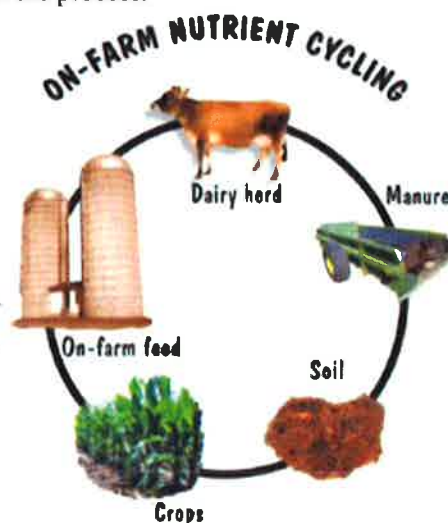
#### Nutrient Management

- ◆ **75+** One-on-One Technical Assistance Provided
- ◆ **4** Act 38 Plans Being Developed
- ◆ **2** Act 38 Plan Reviewed
- ◆ **30** Chapter 91 Plans Developed/Assistance
- ◆ **25** Ag E&S Plans Developed/Assistance

The nutrient management program continued at a reduced capacity in 2017 as funding was cut in half from \$28,000.00 per year to \$14,000.00. Annual status reviews for farms participating in the ACT 38 Nutrient Management Program were conducted. Casey Boyer and Jared Dickerson are both working with NRCS and local farmers to develop Nutrient Management Plans for operations seeking funding through NRCS programs. Having these plans will help the respective farmer rank higher in the process.

In addition plans were reviewed and acknowledged for two of the three Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) within the county. Jared Dickerson took the lead at reviewing these plans.

Plans for next year include hosting the fourth Agstravaganza a partner program with Cornell Cooperative Extension and NRCS out of Belmont, NY. In addition a pasture walk and manure management plan training meeting will likely be held in 2018.



## 2017 Crops and Planting Clinic



On January 27, 2017 the Potter County Conservation District partnered with Penn State Cooperative Extension to host the annual Crops and Planting Clinic at the Tri-town Fire and Ambulance Hall in Ulysses, PA. Nearly 100 people were in attendance. Attendees included farmers, consultants, and agency staff. Topics included a farmer panel discussion on the Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Cover Crop Program, the advantages of baleage, soil pH and forage quality, Department of Transportation regulations

and how they relate to agriculture, and perennial weed control and new label changes with regards to pesticides and herbicides. Both pesticide and nutrient management continuing education credits were made available to those who attended. The Tri-town Fire Auxiliary put on a delicious, hot meal, on what always turns out to be a cold snowy day in January.



## Agricultural Conservation



Casey Boyer, the Agricultural Conservation Technician, assisted the Coudersport FFA with a CEC study day at Saulter's Preserve. She was able to dig a soil pit and allow the FFA members to texture soil and teach them about soil microorganisms. The students had a hands on experience that allowed them to get their hands dirty and to really understand the importance of soils to not only agriculture, but also the ecosystem as a whole.

In November, the District held a No-Till Demonstration for farmers. The demonstration allowed farmers to gain a better understanding with regards to proper set up and use of the District's no-till equipment. Representatives from both Empire Tractor and Valley Ag and Turf LLC gave demonstrations on the Great Plains and John Deere drills respectively.

Attendees were able to gain first hand knowledge of not only the setup of each drill but also the different features that each one has to offer for various seed varieties and planting conditions.

Those who attended left feeling much more comfortable in renting the District's no-till drills and the staff is now better able to assist those who rent the drills.



## Farmland Preservation



Preserving our viable farmland is very important. Once, large continuous tracts of thousands of acres, many farms today are now being subdivided and developed for commercial use. Ensuring that there is sufficient productive farmland available to grow crops and raise livestock in the Commonwealth is essential to the economy, both locally and on the state level. Currently, Potter County has 7 farms totaling 1,136 acres in the Farmland Preservation Program and soon will have its eighth. Over \$800,000 in funding has been utilized.

Applications were received and ranked during the first 4 months of 2017. Ranking criteria includes soil classifications, surrounding land use, acreage, road frontage, proximity to other eased farms, and duration of family farming activity. After receiving applications the top ranking farm was selected and is now moving forward in the Farmland Easement process. An appraisal has been conducted, an offer made and accepted by the landowner of a 163 acre farm in Sweden Township. The final steps of the process will be complete over the next few months.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production. The program guarantees a future food supply and contributes to a healthier economy. It also assures a way of life Pennsylvanian's cherish will continue for generations to come.

## Dirt & Gravel/ Low Volume Road Program

When the dust settled on the 2017 construction season, only then could the sheer volume of projects be appreciated. The linear distance of roads stabilized exceeded 11.2 miles and the price, a mere \$789,000.00. The low \$70,400 per mile price tag was made possible by stakeholders who thanklessly completed projects for municipal constituents and stream inhabitants alike.

Grant owners (listed below) boasted more feature installations than had ever before been recorded by the county program within a single year. Accolades aside, the betterment of roads and stream quality is visible and quantifiably improved in these stabilization areas.

The Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Roads Program's success can be attributed to the three organizations responsible for its effectiveness. The State Conservation Commission, Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads, and Potter County Conservation District who supervised the allotment of merit based environmental funding to enhance water quality. Partners who work closely with this program will attest to the dynamic variety of projects that assist road owners with the development of long term solutions to persistent erosion.



### Projects Finalized Last Year

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Remediation Site</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Remediation Site</i>
Allegany Township	Cobb Hill Road	Keating Township	Upper Bark Shanty Road (Section 1)
Austin Borough	Railroad Street	Oswayo Borough	Turner Avenue
Hebron Township	Dwight Road	Summit Township	Deering Run Road
Eulalia Township	Townline Road	Sweden Township	Watson Road
Genesee Township	Whitney Hill Road	Sylvania Township	Big Moores Run Road
Harrison Township	Hurlburt Hill Road	West Branch Township	Lyman Run Road (Phase 1)
Homer Township	Quimby Road	-	-



Deering Run Road in Summit Township during the pre-application meeting. Note the substantial volume of sediment laden flow.



The same section of road during the final inspection. Surface stabilization of the cart way combined with pipes cut fluvial erosion.



## Upcoming Projects

Site assessments conducted by the Potter County Conservation District prompted the commitment of funds to areas deemed to be monumental contributors to water quality impairment. A multitude of in-house designed and site specific restoration activities are to be implemented at these locations as a result. The purpose of which, improve transportation infrastructure associated with poor hydrologic function.

Road owners that receive conservation funds, collaborate with the District to develop plans for restoration of degraded sections of roads that negatively affect stream habitat. The design for each project is specific to the site and detailed during the prerequisite site meeting. Sustainability and longevity of infrastructure is as important as water quality improvements for every given location. The scope of project installations range from standard water management to complex engineered stabilization.

The 14 new projects this year, and 6 remaining from last year, will commence once the freeze thaw cycle is definitively over. Installations will vary from traditional to innovative solutions to enhance road and stream quality. PCCD anticipates a busy and productive year of road projects.



A massive persistent erosion sloth on the South Branch of the Sinnemahoning is exacerbated by stream meander. The approximately \$150,000 face lift will use soil nails to hold concrete stabilizer in order to prevent the cliff from further collapse. To allow such a collapse would result in a complete loss of the road located on the precipice.

## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant



District staff have finalized a year long environmental venture of monumental importance. The project sought to expand on a section of stream that limited trout passage. Restoring the section on Ludington Run included site identification, grant procurement, permit writing, survey, construction management, and biological monitoring to fully rectify the previously existing impediment.

The result is brook and brown trout accessibility to improved habitat totaling over 2 miles with improved access to an additional 10 miles. A newly functional stream corridor will additionally reduce frequency of flooding and sediment loading.

Special thanks to National Fish and Wildlife, Bingham Township, Penn DOT, DEP, and Trout Unlimited along with many others who all collaborated on this barrier rectification of paramount importance. In-house labor limited cost of the final product to under \$80,000.



Pictured Top left: A road type impediment to fish movement slated for replacement.. Top right: The new structure ready for aquatic organism navigation. Above: Native Brook Trout collected during post construction population sampling. The coloration of this male indicates the approaching spawning season.

## My Growing Tree



As a means to celebrate the history and importance of Arbor Day the Potter County Conservation District partners with DCNR Bureau of Forestry each year to give a presentation to each of the 1st grade classes in the county public schools. On occasion Smokey the bear even tags along. The importance of trees as a natural, renewable resource is discussed as well as the importance of clean drinking water. The relationships of trees and water within the environment is also explained. Each student is given an Eastern Hemlock tree (*tsuga canadensis*) to take home and plant. Proper planting instructions, tree care, and growth are also described to the students. Approximately 200 students are reached through this program each year with a goal of educating the future leaders of conservation.

## Conservation Field Days

One of the most well attended programs put on by the Potter County Conservation District each year is the 5th Grade Conservation Field Days event. In 2017, the event was held on at the Potter County Fairgrounds in Millport over two consecutive days (May 16-17). The event brings over 200 hundred fifth grade students from each of the five public schools within the county together to learn valuable environmental lessons by spending a day outside of the classroom learning through hands on activities.



Resource Conservationist Glenn Dunn II teaches students about Maple Syrup Production.

During this years program students participated in an Elk biology lesson given by the PA Game Commission, a wildfire demonstration put on by District Director and volunteer at large Stan Hess, and a maple syrup making demonstration put on by staff member Glenn Dunn II. Other events included a forestry activity put on by Service Forester Eric Monger with Pennsylvania DCNR, a Penn State Extension activity about invasive species, as well as a stream biology/water quality activity where all but one of the students were able to get in the stream, look for macroinvertebrates and stay dry.

## Potter County Junior Conservation School

Environmental minded students from across Pennsylvania attended the Potter County Junior Conservation School during the second week of August 2017. Participants had a full agenda which included field trips to fish hatcheries, sewage treatment facilities, a dairy farm, and state parks. Some of the topics included wetland and stream ecology, electroshocking to conduct fish surveys, invasive species, songbirds, macroinvertebrate identification, soils, trap shooting, black powder shooting, archery, trapping, fly-fishing, kayaking, and much more.

Students were able to enjoy and learn about the importance of utilizing our natural resources properly. They were also able to enjoy the many recreational opportunities the great outdoors has to offer. These students were housed at the Black Forest Conservation Camp on Back Road, south of Coudersport, PA. Each year one camper is selected as the "Outstanding Camper of the Week". Other campers received awards for Camp Spirit. The Potter County Conservation District participated this year by assisting with the Wetland/Stream Ecology, Soils, Black Powder, and Archery sections of the week long camp as well as providing tuition support for two attendees.





## Stream Rehabilitation Projects

In 2017, five stream rehabilitation projects were completed by the District covering a wide portion of the county. Each of the major watersheds in the county received some form of project. In addition to projects planned and completed by the District, watershed specialist Jared Dickerson assisted the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy with a Large Wood habitat project on Meade Run in McKean County.



New for the district this year was the implementation of Large Woody Debris for stream habitat restoration. Germania Branch of Kettle Creek was selected by the Conservation District and DCNR as a good location to test this method as there is little infrastructure and the stream is lacking in natural woody material. Trees were selected and felled as deemed appropriate to help replicate natural stream conditions that would have occurred in a more mature forest stand. The logs added to the creek will help to scour fish habitat and provide overhead cover for wild brook and brown trout found in the stream. This technique is relatively new in the state and this project is being used as an example to implement Large Woody in other locations, especially in state forests.



The **Portage Road Project** was constructed the week of September 25th, 2017. This stretch of Freeman Run had an existing stream restoration project that did expand far enough downstream to help fix the entire erosion problem. There were 10 original multi-log vane deflectors. The District attempted to fix the problem by installing seven more multi-log vane deflectors that will further stabilize the banks protecting the road above, and will reduce future erosion. This project had the added benefit of hand placed rock "J"-hooks at the end of each structure that will hopefully help to create deep water trout habitat. This project was completed funded by the Dirt and Gravel Road Center for Portage Township.



The **Sylvania Project** was constructed the week of August 7th, 2017. This stretch of Southwoods Branch had an incredibly high eroded bank that was threatening a local road. The District attempted to fix the problem by installing four multi-log vane deflectors that will stabilize the toe of the bank as well as installing 200 feet of modified mudsill cribbing to act as a toe protector. The mudsill will also catch material sloughing off from the hill above the project. This project was funded by the Dirt and Gravel Road Center for Sylvania Township.

**Moving Forward:** The District already has several projects slated for the 2018 construction season including further partnership with the DCNR Bureau of Forestry on continued large wood projects as well as with the Pennsylvania Game Commission on traditional stream restoration using Fish and Boat approved structures. The District has received a DEP Growing Greener Grant along with our existing PFBC Grants to help in these efforts.



### 3rd Canoe/Kayak Access Constructed on the Genesee River



In 2017, the Conservation District was successful in constructing the third Canoe/Kayak access point over the past three years. These three access points are located in the Allegheny and Genesee Watersheds. The newly constructed access is located on the Genesee River at the Genesee Town Park, just upstream of the New York State Line. The project was made possible by a grant from the Western Conservancy's Canoe Access Development Fund as well as additional funds donated by residents and the Genesee Park Committee. This project was kicked off two years ago with the installation of four multi-log vane deflectors to help correct eroding banks and provide fish

habitat. The Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association donated large rocks to help prevent vehicles from attempting to use the launch and local university students helped to install signage and parking facilities. Final seeding and willow plantings completed the project. This launch serves as a southern headwaters gateway to an extensive system of put-in and take-out locations further downstream in New York State.

### Farm and Fishes Tour



Resurrected this year was an event called the Farm and Fishes Tour (formerly known as the "Farm and Forest Tour"). Agriculture students from Couderdport High School were invited to tour both the Oswayo Fish Hatchery as well as Hoffman Family Farm, LLC, a dairy farm near Shinglehouse, PA. At the hatchery students heard first hand from fish culturists and biologists about education requirements as well as career paths. At Hoffman Family Farms, LLC, the students learned about some of the challenges of managing a large family owned dairy including manure management and staffing issues. The day ended with District staff giving a brief explanation of their education and work related backgrounds as well as receiving some treats provided by the Hoffman's.

### Galeton Mock Interviews

With an emphasis on preparing students beyond high school the Conservation District participated in a mock interview day with high school juniors from Galeton High School. Students were provided with an actual application and job description for the Watershed Specialist position and were instructed by their teachers on properly filling out the application, crafting a resume, and proper interview etiquette. District staff and Directors conducted interviews with 30 students. Students were



Left to Right: Jason Childs, Alex Veto, Bob Volkmar, Berty Kurtz, Jared Dickerson, Stan Hess

then given feedback about their interview, applications, and resumes. Students were very receptive to feedback and the majority of the students were well prepared to answer questions. The interviews also served as an opportunity to share the message of what conservation districts provide to benefit the local community.

## 2017 Potter County Envirothon

On May 4th, fifteen teams, comprised of five high school students, each from Austin, Coudersport, Galeton, Northern Potter, and Oswayo Valley schools traveled to the PA Lumber Museum to compete in this year's Envirothon competition. Students armed themselves with pencils, ready to complete the tests provided by the PA State Envirothon in hopes of capturing first place. This year's winner earned the opportunity to represent Potter County at the State Competition, which was held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown.



This year, the "Mapling Dogwoods", a team from Coudersport Area High

School, won the Potter County Envirothon Competition. The "Lions" team from Galeton High School, placed second overall. Third prize went to the "Screaming

Nuts" from Oswayo Valley High School. The "Mapling Dogwoods" then went on to place 36th out of 65 teams at the state competition.

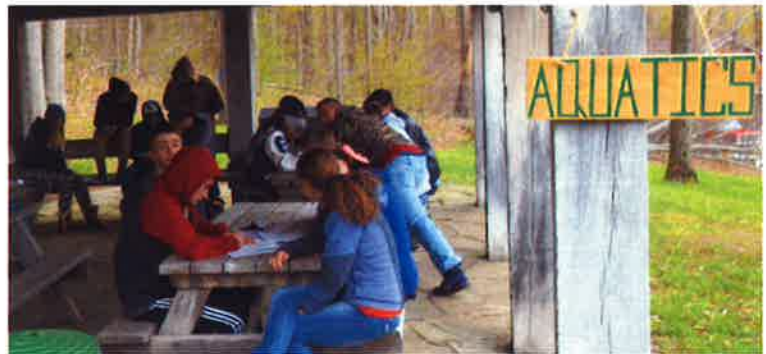
A special thanks goes out to this year's volunteers and agency personnel who helped make the event a success. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, DCNR, Conservation District Staff, and Lumber Museum Staff all played a major role.



This Year's Medal for First Place



Coudersport's winning team "Mapling Dogwoods" with Josh Roth (far left) of the hosting PA Lumber Museum and Envirothon coordinator Jared Dickerson (far right)



Students take the Aquatics portion of the test proctored for the first time by Fish and Boat Commission WCO Justin Boatwright.

This year's sponsors included: The Upper Allegheny Watershed Association, The Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association, God's Country Chapter of Trout

Unlimited, The Black Forest Conservation Association. Gas Field Specialists, Inc., Wending Creek Farms, First Fork Sinnemahoning Watershed Association, and the Pennsylvania Envirothon Association.

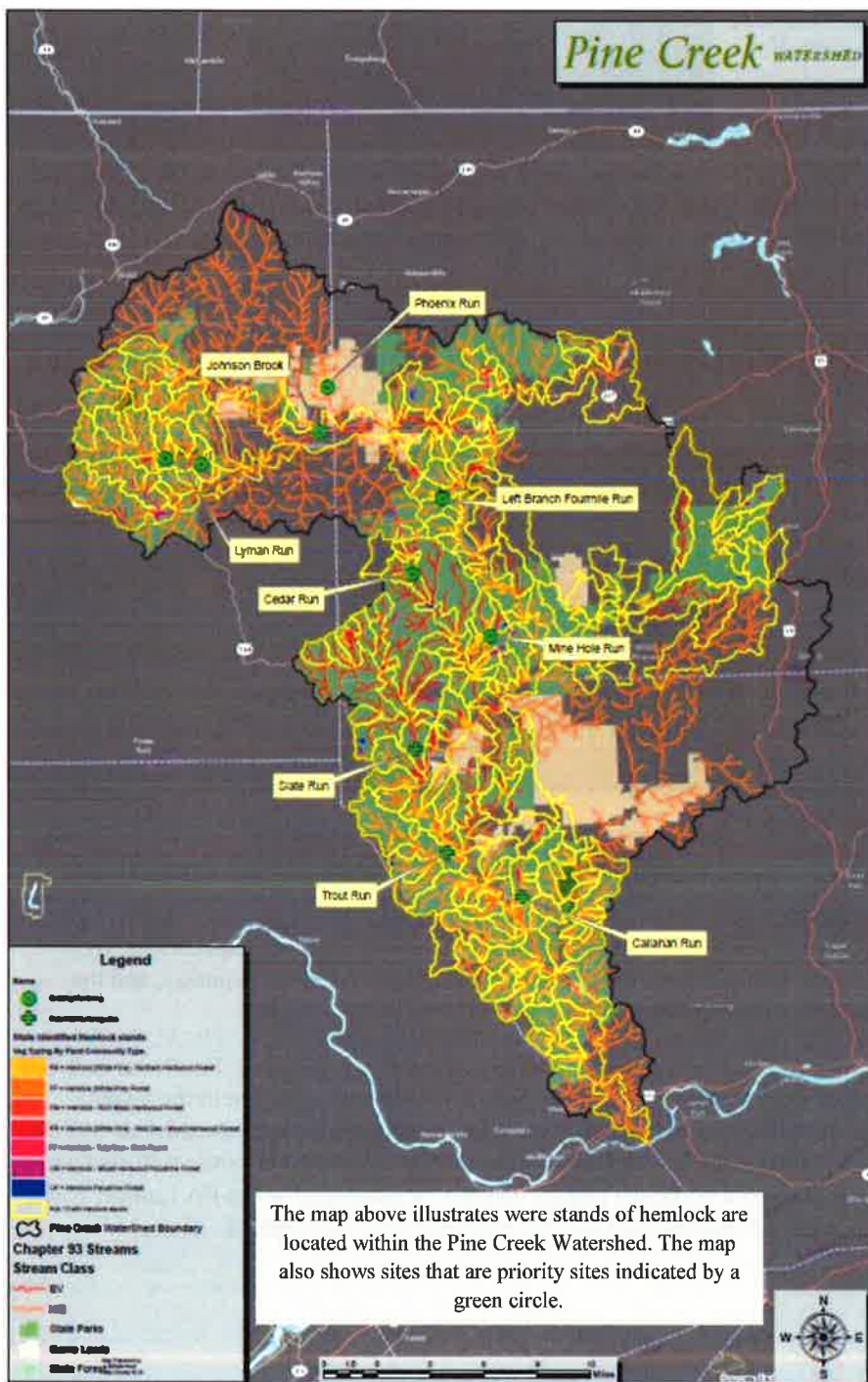
Students enjoyed the outdoor setting and newly renovated facilities. Food was catered by the staff of Cole Memorial Hospital. New this year was a change in the awards handed out to the top 3 teams, medals were laser engraved on local hardwoods by Elkwood Arts of Brookville, PA. Annual winners of the county Envirothon will also get their name placed on a perpetual plaque that will be displayed at the PA Lumber Museum. It was a fun and educational day for everyone who participated.



## Continuous Water Monitoring Efforts

The Potter County Conservation District continued to support the Pine Creek Watershed Council by monitoring water temperature as a part of their “Headwaters Hemlock” Project. The project is being used to create a watershed protection plan for the upper portions of Pine Creek. The basis of the “Headwaters Hemlock” Project is to prepare for the unfortunate

deforestation of Native Eastern Hemlock stands in the Pine Creek Watershed due to the Hemlock Wolly Adelgid. Continuous water monitors were placed at locations within Potter County where streams are surrounded by Hemlock stands. The goal is to establish a baseline reading of water temperatures in areas shaded by Hemlock canopies. This baseline temperature data will help to better understand the importance of Hemlocks and water quality, especially where it concerns brook trout who rely on cold water as well as the habitat that fallen hemlocks can help to create within the stream itself. Current Monitoring sites include: Phoenix Run on SGL 64, Johnson Brook on private land (landowner permission was granted first), Lyman Run Upstream of Lyman Run Dam, and Lyman Run Downstream of the Lyman Run Dam. The Pine Creek Watershed Council has provided additional data loggers to continue this monitoring effort.



Pictured above: Hemlock woolly adelgid, or HWA, is member of the Sternorrhyncha suborder of the order Hemiptera and native to East Asia. It feeds by sucking sap from hemlock and spruce trees.



## Illegal Dumpsite Cleanups

### NEWS FROM: The Pennsylvania Environmental Council Community Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program

Since 2007, The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), a 501(c)3 non-profit Environmental Organization, has been assisting local municipalities and other non-profits in cleaning up illegal dumpsites.

In 2015, PEC obtained funding as the result of the settlement of a Department of Environmental Protection enforcement action to continue cleaning up illegal dumpsites in Pike County, Potter County, Susquehanna County and Wayne County.

With this funding, PEC financed and coordinated a total of 126 illegal dumpsite cleanups, sent hundreds of letters, emails, made phone calls, hired contractors, contacted land owner's, acquired insurance, provided dumpsters, gloves, bags, vests, food, drinks, educated and recruited volunteers and formed many partnerships.

The 126 illegal dumpsite cleanups resulted in the removal of 185 tons of trash, 37 tons of scrap metal and 105 tons of tires. That is over 8,500 tires.

PEC, municipalities, conservation districts, foresters and others cleaned up 29 of the sites; in addition, PEC with the help of 1,238 volunteers worked 6,773 hours cleaning up 72 of the sites. PEC also hired contractors to eradicate 25 of the sites. Of the 126 sites, 66 of them were within our waterways.

In Potter County, 36 sites were eradicated, 69 volunteers worked 205 hours. 15.94 tons of trash, 6.1 tons of scrap metal and 15.23 tons or 1,261 tires were removed and disposed of properly. Twenty-one of these sites were within a waterway.



Pictured above: The Potter County Conservation District, the Upper Allegheny Watershed Association, and a handful of volunteers, assisted in cleaning up a fairly large site along the Allegheny River in Route Township during the month of October.

## Earth Disturbance Requirements

Disturbed Area	Written E&S Plan On-Site	E&S Plan Approval	NPDES Storm Water Construction Permit	PCSM Plan	PCSM Plan Approval	Riparian Buffer Requirement
0 to 5,000 Sq. Ft.	No	No  May be required upon complaint referral to Conservation District/ DEP	No	No	No	No
5,000 Sq. Ft. to less than 1 acre	Yes	No  May be required upon complaint referral to Conservation District/ DEP	No	No  ACT 167 applicable through Municipality	No  ACT 167 applicable through Municipality	No
1 or more acres	Yes	Required  Conservation District/ DEP	Yes	Yes  Conservation District/ DEP	Yes  Conservation District/ DEP	Yes

## Potter County Conservation District Completes Around the County Municipality Meetings



Beginning in mid-July of this year the Potter County Conservation District teamed up with the Potter County Planning/GIS department to host a series of one-on-one meetings with each of the municipalities within Potter County. Planning/GIS Director Will Hunt, Conservation District Manager Jason Childs, and Resource Conservationist Glenn Dunn II set up a total of 5 sessions throughout the county, starting in the northwest in Hebron Township, followed by sessions in Ulysses Township, Germania, and Austin, finally ending at Eulalia Township in the center of the county. Township supervisors and secretaries were invited to the meetings.

Topics of discussion included Erosion and Sedimentation Plans, NPDES, Wetland and Stream Permitting, Building Permit Processes, Stormwater and Floodplains, Subdivision and Land Development, and various other topics. The meetings were successful in opening lines of communication between municipalities and the Potter County Conservation District. A total of 20 Townships/Boroughs were met with for approximately 1 hour over the course of the five meeting dates.

The County Planning/GIS Department and Conservation District's goal is to provide further guidance documents at the Township Convention in October. Goals are to strengthen partnerships with county agencies and apprise them of services and opportunities that are available through the Planning Department, Conservation District, and other offices. It was a

## 6 Districts in North Central & Northwest Region Partner in Educational Events Pertaining to the 102/105 Programs



The neighboring Conservation Districts of Cameron, Elk, McKean, Potter, Tioga, and Warren have partnered on a series of workshops about erosion & sedimentation control. This proved to be an extremely successful venture, with staff from six Districts sharing the workload and streamlining planning and coordination of workshop agendas and speakers with DEP and other partner agencies. The team of county Conservation District staff was able to accomplish a great deal of networking in planning a large number of workshops, reaching a larger audience than each District working alone. Many contractors, foresters, loggers, and consultants that districts seek to reach, work in multiple counties. The audiences received consistent information from all District staff regarding erosion & sedimentation, permitting, and best management practices. All counties are planning further cooperative efforts for future workshops.



## E&S Pollution Control and NPDES (Chapter 102) and General Permitting for Stream and Wetland Impacts (Chapter 105)

**Chapter 102**—Erosion and Sedimentation Plans (E&S) are required for all earth disturbance activities over 5000 square feet. The goal for this program is to help decrease accelerated erosion caused by earth disturbance activities. Any earth disturbance activity which disturbs the soil has the potential to discharge sediment pollution to waters of the Commonwealth.

- The District reviewed 32 erosion and sediment pollution control plans and 5 NPDES permits, 4 ESCGP-2 permits for compliance with Chapter 102 rules and regulations.
  - 285 technical assistance contacts were fielded related to the program.
  - 27 sites were inspected.
- (PennDOT, Oil & Gas, NPDES, & General)
- 55 inspections were completed.
  - 28 complaints were investigated.



**Chapter 105**—These regulations require General Permits (GP's) for constructing, operating, maintaining, modifying, enlarging or abandoning any dam or encroachment. Encroachment is defined as any structure or activity that changes, expands or diminished the course, current or cross section of any body of water including wetlands.

- There are 11 types of GP's and the Potter County Conservation District has been delegated by DEP to register and acknowledge the use of general permits.
- PCCD has reviewed and approved 22 GP's this year.
- 3 emergency permits were coordinated and 5 GP-11's were assisted by PCCD.
- 279 technical assistance contacts were made.
- 20 sites were inspected.





## 2017 Legislative Luncheon



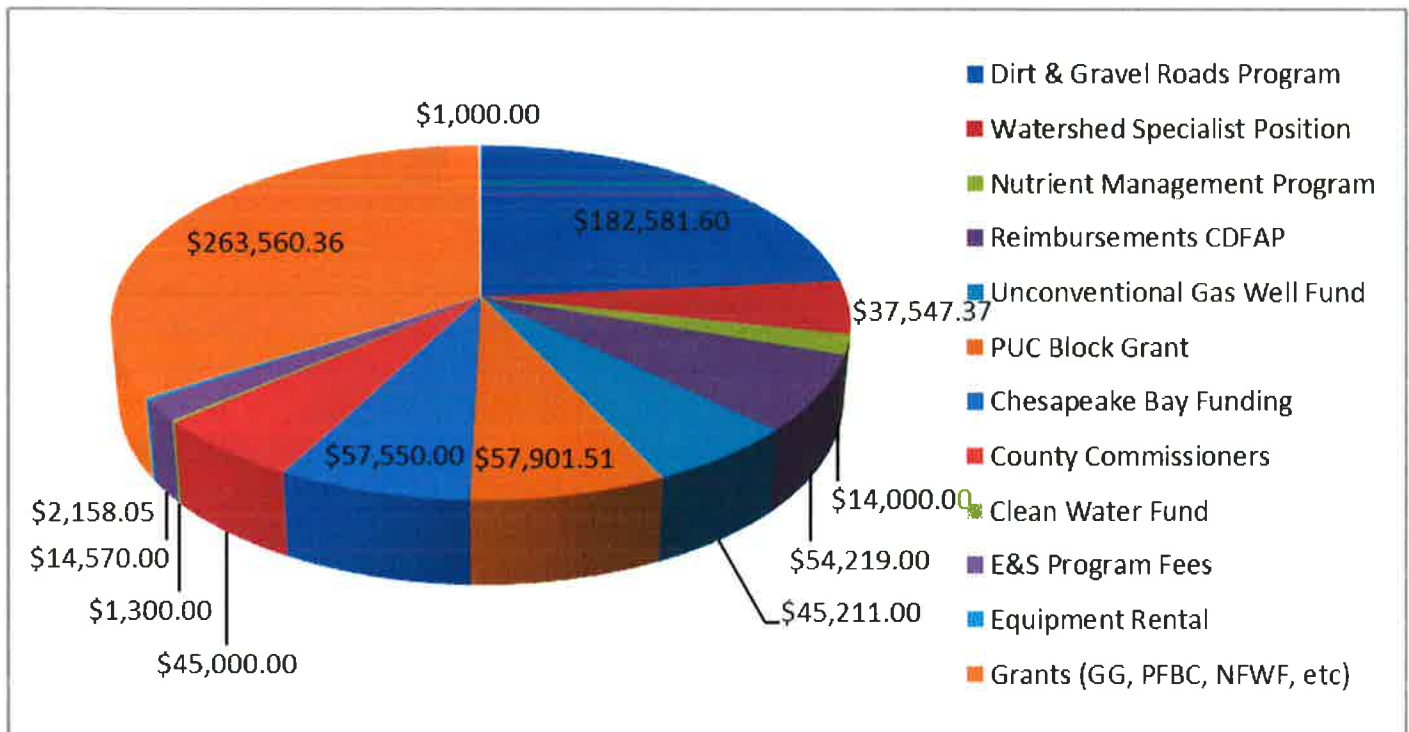
Pictured Above: Brenda Shambaugh, Earl Brown, Alex Veto, Rep. Matt Baker, Berty Kurtz, Chuck Dillon, Rep. Marty Causer, Jason Childs, Commissioner Susan Kefover, Jared Dickerson, Glenn Dunn II, and Rob Thompson.

On March 3rd, 2017 the Potter County Conservation District hosted its annual Legislative Luncheon at the Susquehannock Lodge on Route 6 between Galetton and Coudersport. Local House Representatives, Senators, and Congressman were all invited to a short meeting to discuss the importance and benefits that Conservation Districts have throughout the local communities of the Commonwealth. A productive conversation was held discussing current issues in the world of conservation as well as the state budget.

District staff presented a synopsis of their respective programs showing how much funding was brought into the county as well as how much work was actually put on the ground through their efforts.

Brenda Shambaugh, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD), was also in attendance along with several directors and associate directors from the Potter County Conservation District Board.

## 2017 Income



## 2017 Income and Grants Details

The Potter County Conservation District receives funding through a variety of different grant programs and opportunities that support conservation efforts. Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the State Conservation Commission are the primary sources of funding for staff salaries. State programs are carried out by Districts through contracts and delegation agreements. All sources of income are received on a reimbursement basis which means funds must be spent before they are applied for and reimbursed by the state or federal agency. The Potter County Commissioners also provide funding that supplements staff, office, and administrative

Programs	Income	Funding Source
<b>Dirt &amp; Gravel/Low Volume Roads Program</b> —Utilized to assist municipalities with maintenance of unpaved roads that negatively impact watersheds from sediment loading. (10% max for Administration and 10% max for Education)	\$ 182,581.60	State
<b>Watershed Specialist Position</b> —	\$ 37,547.37	DEP
<b>Nutrient Management Program</b> —	\$ 14,000.00	SCC
<b>Reimbursements CDFAP— Unconditional Gas Well Fund</b> —This fund helps to cover the cost of the Manager, Resource Conservation Technician and ACT Technician salaries.	\$ 54,219.00	State
<b>Unconventional Gas Well Fund—CDFAP (Administrative)</b> - Supplements salaries for Resource Conservation Tech and Admin.	\$ 45,211.00	State
<b>PUC Block Grant</b> —	\$ 57,901.51	State
<b>Chesapeake Bay Funding</b> —Salaries	\$ 57,550.00	DEP
<b>County Commissioners</b> —Salaries, travel, lodging, equipment, etc.	\$ 45,000.00	County
<b>Clean Water Fund</b> —General Permit Reviews	\$ 1,300.00	Permit Fees
<b>E&amp;S Program Fees</b> —Erosion & Sedimentation plan reviews & NPDES	\$ 14,570.00	E&S Reviews
<b>Equipment Rental</b> —Stream restoration rental package, no-till corn planter and drills.	\$ 2,158.05	No-till rental
<b>Birdseed/Corn Sales</b> —Proceeds support environmental education events. (Envirothon, Field Days, etc.)	\$ 1,000.00	Sales
<b>Grants Awarded (GG, PFBC, NFWF, etc.)</b> — Stream Restoration projects, cover crop incentives, workshops, other on the ground projects, etc.	\$ 263,560.36	State/Federal
<b>Total Proposed Income:</b>	<b>\$ 704,478.89</b>	





## Potter County Conservation District

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Find us on:  
**facebook®**

Find us on the web [www.pottercd.com](http://www.pottercd.com)

**Come see us! We will gladly assist you with any questions you may have, or just stop in to visit. We have bird seed for sale as well as ear corn (in the winter) to help support fundraising for our environmental education programs.**

### **Our Programs:**

Erosion and Sedimentation Control, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Chapter 105—Water Obstructions and Encroachments, Environmental Education, Nutrient Management, Chesapeake Bay Program, Dirt & Gravel / Low Volume Roads, Agricultural Land Preservation, Watershed Restoration, Conservation, and Education.

***You may contact us at any time by email or phone to be added to, or removed from, our mailing list. Simply call 814-274-8411 or email [pccd@zitomedia.net](mailto:pccd@zitomedia.net). If you would rather "Go Green," email us with the words "electronic newsletter" in the subject line and we will send our newsletter to you electronically.***