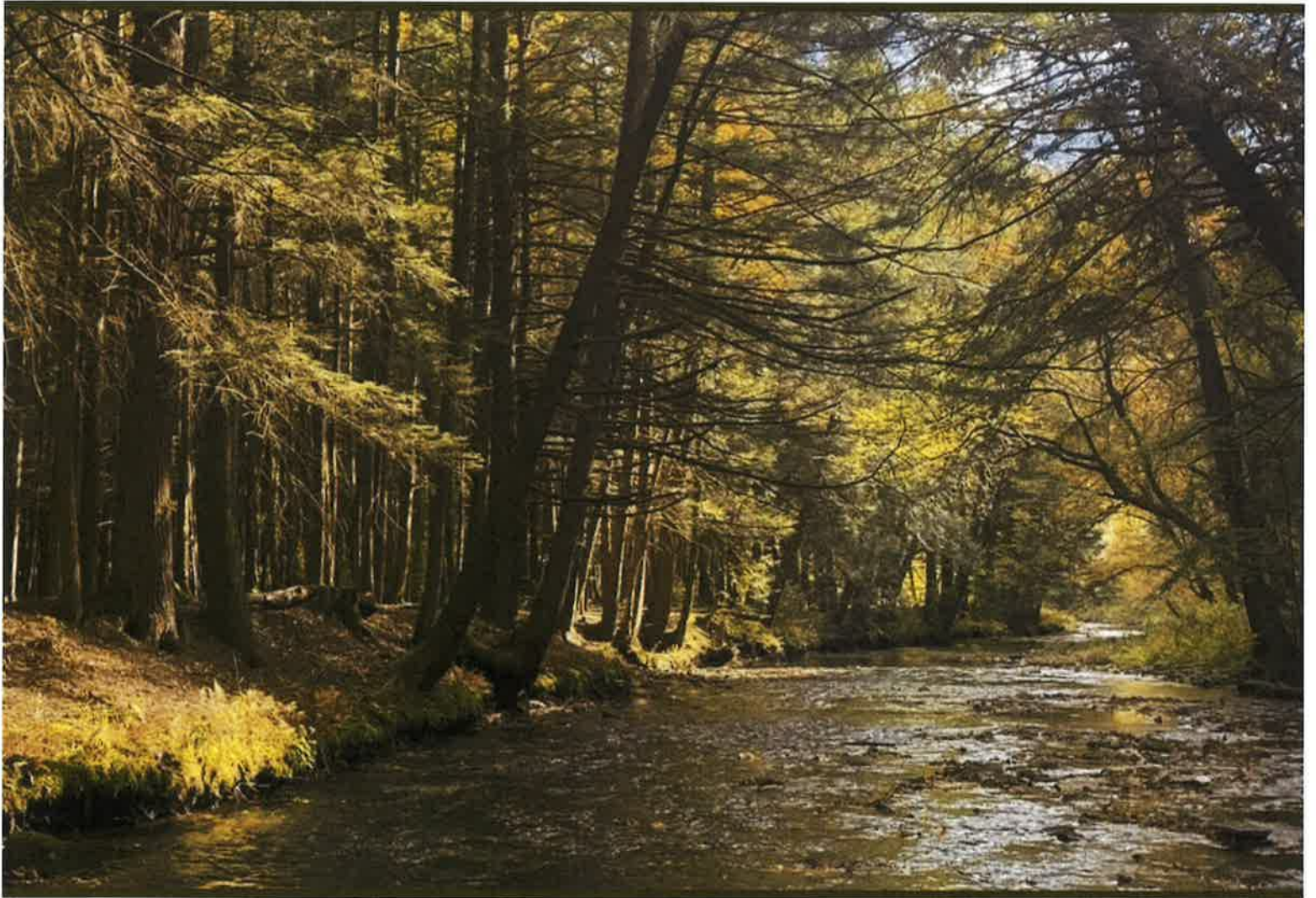


**POTTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



2022 Annual Report



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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.

2022 District Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Earl Brown (public) —Chairman
 Phil Lehman (farmer)—Vice Chairman
 Jon Blass (farmer) —Treasurer
 Barry Hayman (Commissioner)
 Stan Hess (public)
 Jeff Cady (farmer)
 Chris Robbins (farmer)

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Dr. Pete Ryan
 Bart Ianson
 C.C. Felker
 Don Heiner
 Betsy Long

District Staff

Jason Childs—DISTRICT MANAGER

j.childs@pottercd.com

Glenn Dunn II—RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST

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Andrew Mickey—DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROADS PROJECT SPECIALIST

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Jared Dickerson—WATERSHED / NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN

j.dickerson@pottercd.com

Emily Shosh—OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR

e.shosh@pottercd.com

A Note from the Manager

Greetings Conservation Partners,

As 2022 comes to a close and 2023 ramps up, there are many accomplishments to celebrate as well as many exciting future endeavors to look forward to. Starting with an increase in state funding for conservation districts across the state, for the first time in over a decade, coupled with a monumental allocation of funding dedicated for agricultural conservation projects, 2023 is primed to be the busiest and most successful one in my 11+ years at the District.

As we reflect on 2022 it's hard not to look ahead to 2023, but there are many achievements from 2022 to review. From securing grant dollars, working with our municipalities, implementing stream restoration projects, issuing permits for landowners and developers, to educating the public and school students, 2022 proved to be a fun and productive year. This year's annual report showcases all the hard work and passion that went into conserving the things we all love and cherish here in Potter County.

Lastly, on behalf of the Potter County Conservation District, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our local legislators, PACD, and others who helped increase funding opportunities for conservation throughout the Commonwealth. This will provide for numerous conservation projects and initiatives that will benefit everyone.

Sincerely, Jason Childs, Manager

Agriculture

No-Till Program Updates

The District's no-till equipment can be rented by any farmer in Potter County or neighboring counties. The Program operates on a first come, first served basis. The goal of the program is to provide an accessible option for no-till, which is a proven method for maintaining soil health and optimum productivity. The practice helps prevent soil erosion and sedimentation to neighboring streams as well. Our drills include a John Deere 1590, Great Plains 1006, and a John Deere 7200 corn planter (pictured below). During the 2022 planting seasons, total combined acreages were **592 acres**. The usage in each major Potter County watershed is broken down in the table below.

	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Genesee Watershed	Upper Allegheny Watershed
Combined no-Till Implementation	187	259.5	145.4



Visit pottercd.com and click on the no-till equipment rental section under the agriculture page for more info on the District's No-till Program including rates and how to schedule equipment to be delivered to your farm. <https://pottercd.com/agriculture/no-till-equipment-rental/>

2022 Crops and Planting Clinic—Back In-Person



On January 28, 2022 the District once again partnered with Penn State Extension to host our annual Crops and Planting pesticide recertification event at the Tri-Town Fire and Ambulance hall in Ulysses, PA. It was great to have an in-person event again, and 2022's program featured talks including: How to Avoid Mixing Disasters, an update on the Chemsweep program, Manure Injection, Insect Pests of Cucurbit, an update on the County-wide Action Plan (CAP) implementation for Potter County, Pest Management Current Issues, and a discussion on Summer Annual Weed Control in Corn and Soybeans. The event was approved by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for 2 CORE and 3 Private Category Pesticide Credits. In addition the State Conservation Commission approved 0.5 Nutrient Management CECs. 59 folks attended.

Nutrient Management

2022 Program Highlights

- ◆ Individuals Provided with Technical Assistance: **77**
- ◆ On Farm Technical / Planning Assistance: **7**
- ◆ Act 38 Plans Developed for volunteers: **0**
- ◆ Act 38 Plan Reviewed: **1**
- ◆ Chapter 91 Plans Developed: **3**
- ◆ Ag E&S Plans Developed/Assistance: **3**

The Potter County Conservation District signed the new 5 year delegation agreement with the State Conservation Commission to continue to administer the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program. As part of the requirements of the new required output measures the District will be required to help at least 10 farmers develop manure management plans for their operations. In addition, the District will continue to review Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans for the three Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) located within the county.

In addition the District provides technical assistance, workshops, and other opportunities to our farming community. In 2022 the District visited **7** farmers to provide technical assistance, provided workshops that reached over 80 people, and reviewed **1** plan.

These plans (Act 38 Nutrient Management, NRCS 590, Manure Management, Conservation, and Ag E&S are all required by the state of Pennsylvania and are also critical components of most funding opportunities provided by both the District and NRCS.

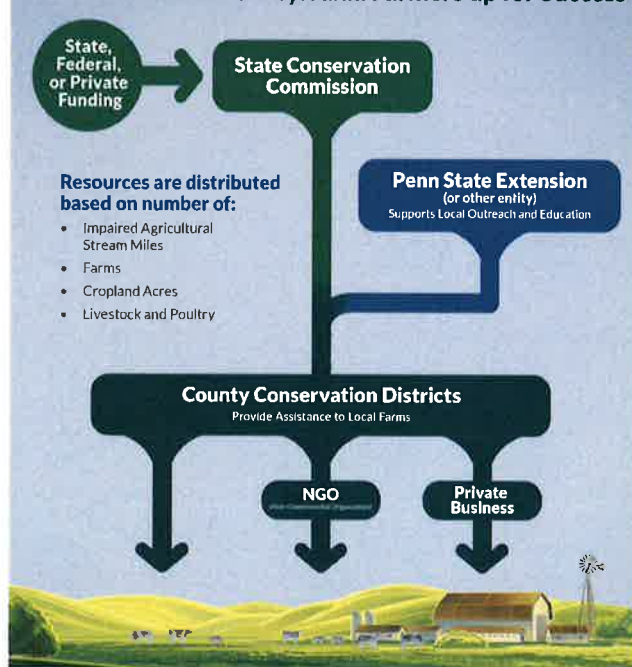
Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program—ACAP

Included in the 2022/23 Pennsylvania State Budget was the dedication of \$154 million to the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). This is a brand-new program, and the funding comes from federal stimulus money. The program is designed to help farmers implement environmental best management practices on their farms, and is expected to function very similarly to the highly successful Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Roads Program.

The State Conservation Commission is tasked with administering the funds at the state level. Each county conservation district within Pennsylvania will have the opportunity, if they choose, to administer their apportionment of the funds at the local level. Apportionments were determined based on number of agriculturally impaired stream miles, number of livestock or poultry, number of crop acres, and number of farms based on the 2017 Ag Census. Districts will be responsible to solicit applications, implement projects, and disperse funds to qualifying projects within their respective county. Potter County will receive up to a total apportionment of \$1,281,946.67 to implement projects throughout the entire county.

This funding must be committed to projects by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Some examples of possible projects include, cover crops, stream bank exclusion fencing, rotational grazing systems, farm access/field access road improvements, ag stream crossings, manure injection, manure storages, and other common BMPs that reduce nutrients and sediment to our waterways. This is an exciting opportunity and the District is already underway with accepting applications from local farmers for projects as of February 17, 2023.

How ACAP Sets Pennsylvania Farmers up for Success



Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program

Project Spotlight: Southwoods Road—Homer Township



Driving surface aggregate (DSA) is the only approved surface material for unpaved roads utilizing DGLVR Program funds. The specific gradation of the particle sizes in the mixture allows the material to achieve maximum density to resist erosion and traffic wear. DSA is paver-placed and compacted with a vibratory roller like asphalt. Placement of DSA occurs as the final step of a project once proper drainage and road base elevation have been achieved.

Homer Township was awarded funding for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Southwoods Road project. Combined, these phases included 10 new pipe installations over 3.4 miles of road. All pipes were outfitted with head walls and end walls and R5/R6 outlet erosion protection where needed. A 6" loose lift of limestone driving surface aggregate was then paver-placed across the project length totaling 7,467 tons. These last two phases of the project follow 30 cross pipe installations, 9,435 tons of road fill, and a stream crossing replacement completed through previous projects. The grand total in DGLVR Program funding was \$726,169.33 with \$65,306.61 in in-kind contributions to improve 4.7 miles of Southwoods Road.

Project Spotlight: Carpenter Road—Hebron Township



Undersized stream crossings increase the likelihood of flooding, are a source of continued maintenance problems, and often disconnect the stream above and below the culvert.

Properly sized and installed structures provide increased flood resiliency, little to no maintenance, aquatic organism passage, and natural stream function.



Carpenter Road existed as a paved road through the project section. Poor road base and pavement conditions resulted from the road's location across a wetland with insufficient drainage. A 96-foot-long French mattress was installed across the road to allow wetland flow to travel through the road while providing a sound road base. One new cross pipe was installed and one existing pipe was replaced and relocated. A failing 6-foot round steel stream crossing was replaced with a 19'x6'-1" aluminum box culvert with a full invert. Three constructed rock riffles were placed through the affected stream section to provide grade control and restore the stream's natural slope. A streambed with low-flow channel and bank margins was placed inside the new structure to restore stream connectivity and facilitate aquatic organism passage. Reclamation of the outlet scour hole was achieved through the addition of root wad and modified muddsill crib habitat structures. Blacktop was removed from 436' feet of the road. 2A road fill was then grader-placed at an average depth of 8" followed by paver-placement of DSA at a depth of 6". This \$283,269.43 project was funded by PennDOT, the DGLVR Program, and Hebron Township with technical assistance provided by Trout Unlimited.

DGR Projects Completed in 2022

The Program improved a total of 7.24 miles of unpaved roads in 2022. 8 new turn outs and 6 grade breaks were installed. 74 new cross pipes were installed and 15 cross pipes were replaced. 2,888 linear feet of under drain and 250 square yards of French mattress were installed. One stream crossing was replaced. 9,105 tons of road fill and 9,564 tons of DSA were placed.

Grant Recipient	Road Name	DGR Funding	In-Kind	Project Length	Scope of Work
Bingham Township	Grover Hollow Road	\$67,920.00	\$26,621.01	5,200 feet	Large upslope springs and seeps were negatively affecting the majority of the project section. Under drain was installed in 2,848 feet of the ditch to capture and transport subsurface flows. 14 new cross pipes were installed due to a lack of drainage outlets and 4 pipes were replaced. 1,223 tons of road fill were placed to raise the road elevation in several locations.
Hebron Township	Carpenter Road	\$67,842.00	\$215,427.43	552 feet	The paved surface of the road was in poor condition due to inadequate drainage and traffic wear. An undersized stream crossing in poor condition was at risk of failure. The existing asphalt was removed from the road. A 96-foot long French mattress was installed to repair the road base and facilitate drainage. The stream crossing was replaced with a 1.19x bankfull width box culvert. Road fill was placed across the affected road segment and surfaced with DSA.
Homer Township	Southwoods Road (Phase 2 and 3)	\$397,429.33	\$15,346.25	18,195 feet	Two projects were previously completed on Southwoods Road to address drainage, road elevation, and stream crossing issues. A need for an additional 10 cross pipe installations was identified after visual inspection of the ditch and existing ditch outlets. Because all other elements of the road were addressed, phase 2 and 3 were generally road resurfacing projects consisting of a 6" loose depth paver-placement of DSA.
Pike Township	Meeker Road	\$100,048.14	\$30,138.11	5,685 feet	An artificial earthen berm up to 2' high existed along ~2,000 feet of the downslope side of the road, entrenching the road. 600 feet of the berm was removed, and 8 turn outs were cut where berm removal was not feasible. Due to the steep grade of the road and few ditch outlets, 17 new cross pipes were installed and 8 were replaced. An average 12" depth of 2A was placed along the project length to raise and shape the road profile.
Sweden Township	S. Dry Run Road	\$96,698.99	\$25,162.57	3,405 feet	Significant ditch erosion was taking place on this steep road grade due to long distances between cross pipes. Large stormwater volumes caused cross pipe outlets to cut erosive scour channels delivering sediment to S. Dry Run. 8 new cross pipes were installed to break up stormwater volume. The road was resurfaced with 8" of DSA.
West Branch Township	Notch Road	\$95,104.44	\$34,835.87	5,055 feet	Notch Road was down to ungradable bedrock throughout much of the project segment. Steep grades and a severe lack of drainage outlets necessitated 24 new cross pipe installations and 4 replacements. 3,354 tons of 2A road fill were placed to provide an adequate and maintainable base that allows stormwater sheet flow from the road. DSA will be placed on 3,800 feet of the project segment through an additional DGR grant in 2023.
Total DGR Funding: \$825,042.90		Total In-Kind Contributions: \$347,531.24 (29.6%)		Total Road Length Improved: 38,092 feet (7.2 miles)	

LVR Projects Completed in 2022

Grant Recipient	Road Name	LVR Funding	In-Kind	Project Length	Scope of Work
Eulalia Township	Toles Hollow Road	\$72,000.00	\$114,862.41	6,033 feet	In 2021, one stream crossing and 1 cross pipe were replaced and 2 new cross pipes were installed. In 2022, an additional 2 new cross pipes were installed to address stormwater issues coming from Grom Hill and Vader Hill Roads. A layover of leveling course and wearing course asphalt was placed to resurface the entire project segment
Sharon Township	Canada Hollow Road	40,000.00	\$36,581.01	2,680	A large portion of the pavement was experiencing alligator cracking and significant deterioration due to subsurface drainage issues. Land use and topography limited drainage outlet opportunities. 1,624 feet of under drain and a 182-foot long mattress were installed to capture and transport subsurface flows. 4 new pipes were installed and 5 were replaced.
Total LVR Expenses: \$112,000.00		Total In-Kind Contributions: \$151,443.42 (57%)		Total Road Length Improved: 8,713 feet (1.7 miles)	

Education and Outreach

2022 saw a record number of education events including 13 Workshops, 28 youth, family, and school events, and 7 Stewardship project events. A variety of program topics were presented across a wide range of ages. The District's overall presence in the community throughout the year greatly expanded, as did our capacity to provide environmental education opportunities. Both stand as major goals of the education and outreach program.

New this year, in the educational equipment arsenal, was fly rod loaner kits distributed by the fish and boat commission to project partners. Also new to the community was the Potter County Community Garden, located at the Education Council office on Water Street in Coudersport. This garden was a fantastic venue for introducing conservation practices and serves as a huge asset to county residents. Along with these new additions, the District served as educators during various summer camp lessons during the Potter County Junior Conservation School, which saw its 42nd year, held at the Black Forest Conservation Association. Also, our annual school events such as the 5th grade Conservation Field Days, My Growing Tree, and Envirothon also made an in-person return after all the COVID-19 Pandemic uncertainty.



Left, Emily shares a stream macroinvertebrate program at the Coudersport Arboretum. Center, PCCD office educational turtle Myrtle made her debut during one of our library programs. Right, a view of the new community garden flourishing.

Stream Keepers: Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation Education Event



The entire 2022 Stream Keepers group of scouts at the Austin-Costello Club's deck.

The District partnered with members of the God's Country Chapter and the Seneca Chapter of Trout Unlimited, as well as Kim Lott of Sinnemahoning State Park, to host the first Stream Keepers event in Potter County. This included a day of fly casting and fishing, Stream health and vegetation assessments, stream velocity calculations, and fly tying. The event is designed to fulfill some or all of certain scout patch requirements in a well-rounded, experiential way. Participants not only completed patch project requirements, they received free Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited memberships and monthly magazines, plus some helpful fishing and outdoor gear to take home. Responsible hunting and fishing is something the District aims to promote, and that message was part of the Stream Keepers program, along with other watershed and stream conservation topics. Thanks goes out specifically to presenters Kim Lott, Dominic Petruzzi, Carl Sprouse, and several members of the God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited. We also thank the Austin Costello Sportsman's Club for hosting the event at their fantastic facility.

PCCD Education and Outreach Summary—done

Education Events—43, individuals reached = 1,548

Outreach Events—5, individuals reached = 450

Story Map and YouTube views = 5,800

TOTAL REACH ~7,800

Tree Planting Projects Updates

In 2022, the District took on multiple riparian plantings throughout the county, including one large upland planting on the Freeman Farm Property, formerly the Tice farm (pictured bottom right). In total, 5 acres were planted and sheltered in tree tubes. Species included Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Sycamore, Aspen, and Serviceberry. Funds and assistance was provided through CAP (Chesapeake Bay Countywide Action Plan Implementation Block Grant) Funds and the Keystone 10 million Trees Partnership. Along with three District employees, several diligent local volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 536 and the current landowners all worked together to get trees in the ground. We thank them for their help and dedication to the project!



The District began riparian planting projects in 2019, and has been organizing at least one large project every year since. Maintenance of these sites is a huge undertaking, especially after a few years and a collection of sites to keep track of. A number of environmental elements and animals can play a big role in the success of the planting. We are happy to report that all but one of our past riparian plantings are thriving, especially the Roulette Canoe/Kayak Launch planting where some trees are now up and out of their shelters (pictured left). This is a rewarding testament of the care put into these tree plantings.

Coming up in 2023 we are undertaking our first PACD Multi-functional Riparian Buffer grant funded site on the Oswayo Creek, the Fedalen Property. The total funding amount is \$7,878. This will be a five acre site and will include White Spruce, Oaks, Serviceberry, Elderberry, Hazelnut, and a pollinator wildflower seed mix along the planting's edge.



Invasive Species Work and APIPMA Updates

In October of 2022, the Susquehannock Trail Club, Susquehannock State Forest, and the District partnered to protect around 9 acres of Hemlock trees in Cross Fork from the invasive pest Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). HWA is an aphid-like invasive insect that kills hemlocks, the Pennsylvania state tree and a very important stream shade tree. Thermal conditions of streams are greatly influenced by vegetation and overhead cover, so the loss of these trees has a high potential to negatively effect temperature and overall stream health. The District thus organized a grant application through the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds to cover CoreTect tablets, which can protect hemlocks from HWA for up to 5 years with it's slow release to the tree. The project site was chosen with approval from the Susquehannock State Forest for its ecological vulnerability and high recreational value. In the summer of 2022, the District also organized approximately 2 acres of invasive Goat's Rue treatment, 2 acres of poison hemlock treatment, and 1 acre of Mile-a Minute treatment across the county utilizing the services of McKean Environmental LLC. Extensive invasive plant surveys were also conducted through June and July to plan for 2023 treatment sites in Potter County.



Heading into 2023, the Potter and Elk County Conservation Districts have jointly taken on coordinating treatments and education for the Allegheny Plateau Invasive Plant Management Area (APIPMA). This has come with grant application opportunities and growing relationships with the Forest Service to combat invasive plants and insects threatening valuable forests. Potter County has applied for a collective of \$125,351.89 across three grants, and is looking to treat nearly 20 acres of invasive plant sites in Potter County pending approval of the funding. More updates to come!

Above, Trail Club Volunteers treat Hemlock Trees for HWA. Left, Goatsrue, a high priority invasive species to be eradicated in Potter County.

Watershed Enhancements

Reitter Project—Genesee River



The Reitter Property Project, located on the Ellisburg Branch Genesee River, consisted of 5 Single Log Vanes and 1 Multi Log Vane, protecting this formerly eroding bank and providing additional fish habitat. Work was completed by Alfred State College students from the heavy equipment class, and materials were purchased utilizing Western PA Conservancy Mini Grant Funding from BHE GT&S.

National Fuel Project—First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek

The National Fuel Project, located on the First Fork of the Sinnemahoning, consisted of 2 Root Wads, 2 Channel Block Structures, and 3 Multi Log Vanes. This project corrected a newly formed side channel that was threatening to damage an exposed major gas line. Construction was completed by Bill Gibble Excavating and the project was funded by UGI at a total cost of \$29,998.65.



Childe Project—First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek



The Childe Property project, located on First Fork of the Sinnemahoning, involved 5 Sections of Mudsill and 6 Single Log Vanes. The project totaled \$15,241 and was completed by Country Boy Excavating and Demolition.

Funding was provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Sinnemahoning Restoration Grant Program. 20 willows were also planted at the project site. The willows were provided by the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership.

Brookland Club Project—Pine Creek

The Brookland Club Project, located on Pine Creek, involved 3 Multi Log Vanes and 2 Log Framed Stone Deflectors to help protect an eroded bank and narrow an over widened stream channel. This project was an investment in property protection and habitat creation by the Brookland Club who fully paid the \$6,708 construction price. Construction was completed by Bill Gibble Excavating. Jared Dickerson the Districts Watershed Specialist provide project oversight and technical assistance.



White Farm Lane Stabilization—CAP

The White property farm lane improvement project totaled \$26,355 and was funded through Chesapeake Bay Countywide Action Plan Implementation Block Grant funding. This project involved 500 feet of farm lane stabilization, this practice will allow easier farm maintenance for the landowner as well as prevent sediment during precipitation events from reaching the Cowanesque River. Construction was completed by Daren Thompson.



Freeman Farm—CAP



The Freeman farm lane improvement project totaled \$20,400 and was funded through Chesapeake Bay Countywide Action Plan Implementation Block Grant funding. This project involved 400 feet of farm lane stabilization, which helps prevent runoff and pollution to the headwaters of the Southwoods Branch of the Sinnemahoning. Construction was completed by Ianson Farms. In addition to the stabilized access road, roof runoff gutters were installed on the farm's main barn to stop additional water from running down the side of the newly stabilized road.

Potter County Anglers Project

The Potter County Anglers Club Project is finally completed and will reduce nutrient loading in Freeman Run. The first portion of this project was to concrete the existing raceways which was completed in the Summer of 2021. In the fall of 2022, the concrete settling pond and manure stacking facility were completed. Previously, hatchery effluent water was discharged directly from the raceways to Freeman Run. With the completion of this project the fish production effluent now enters a settling pond where solids will have time to settle out before re-entering the stream. Water will then enter a large shallow bottom pond where



aquatic vegetation will be allowed to treat the effluent for additional nutrient load, acting as a bio-filter. After fish production has been completed for the year, the settling pond will be de-watered to allow the solid waste particles to dry out and be scraped out using a skid loader. Scraped fish waste will be stacked in a roofed and curbed stacking facility until Anglers Club members can utilize it for gardening and other small agriculture uses. This project was funded through DEP CEP Funds, CAP Funds, and a donation from EOG Resources. Construction was completed by Bill Gible Excavating. This project could not possibly have been completed without the fantastic volunteer group that donated their time, especially the members of Anglers Club and the staff of the Hemlock Campground.

Watershed Volunteers

This year made it even more apparent that our projects greatly benefit from volunteer time. In total over 180 hours of volunteer time was contributed toward stream projects, tree plantings, and the Hatchery Project. Boy Scout Troup 536 assisted us with planting trees at the Freeman Farm. Alfred State College provided an entire class of Heavy Equipment Operation students, a skid loader, and an excavator for 2 days to complete the Reitter Project. All students traded off operating equipment and providing labor. Again this year Oswayo Valley students were able to get out and learn by job shadowing. OV provided 2 students for a full day of construction at the Childe Project. These partnerships have given the students valuable environmental knowledge as well as job site experience to make them more prepared to join the work force. The hatchery project was a volunteer heavy project with the Hemlock Campground, several local camp owners, and members of the Anglers Club donating their time. The National Volunteer rate of \$29.95 puts the value of our donated volunteer time over \$5,000 for 2022. **PCCD would like to extend many thanks to all of our volunteers!**

Land Development

Big Level Wind Project Tour

The Potter County Junior Conservation School is a week-long camp held each summer during the first week of August. Sponsored by the Black Forest Conservation Association, the school has been in operation for 42 years. The goal is to promote the understanding and importance of conservation efforts in today's world. Conservation can be defined as "the wise and careful use of our natural resources." The camp is open to middle school students, ages 13-15 from the North Central Pennsylvania region. These students must be sponsored by an outside organization.

Each year, tours of numerous diverse environmental related facilities are scheduled. This year the District assisting with a tour of the Big Level Wind Project Site. Site Representatives discussed the power generation information associated with the site. District staff discussed permitting processes and environmental impacts associated with the construction of the windfarm. The school and District are planning to incorporate the site as an annual part of the Conservation School's agenda.



2022 Multi-county Workgroup Education Events

On March 9, 2022 a Joint Contractors Workshop was hosted by the Cameron and Potter County Conservation Districts. In total, 30 attendees were present, and topics covered erosion prevention, Chapter 102 & 105 permitting, road construction and maintenance, pond maintenance and construction, and common Best Management Practices.

On Thursday, October 6th, 2022 the Potter County Conservation District teamed up with the multi-county workgroup (Cameron, Potter, McKean, Tioga, and Elk Conservation Districts) to host "Erosion Control in Our Forests" - a Sustainable Forestry Initiative workshop for foresters, loggers, logging contractors, and private forest landowners. The event provided SFI credits, and was held at the Cameron County Rec Center and in-field sites within Lyme Timber Tracts. The event was also facilitated with the



support and expertise of several speakers including Chuck Coup (SFI), as well as staff from Elk, Potter, McKean, Cameron, and Tioga County Conservation Districts. In total, 42 attendees were present, and topics covered included erosion prevention, Chapter 102 & 105 permitting, planning harvests, stream crossings, and post-timbering BMP's. Financial and other support was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.



Elk and Potter County Conservation Districts are teaming up to host two retractor workshops in the winter/spring of 2023.

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.

- In 2022 the District approved **8** NPDES permits and **1** ESCGP-3 permit through the 102 ePermit with DEP Regional Permit Coordination Office (RPCO) for compliance with Chapter 102 rules and regulations.

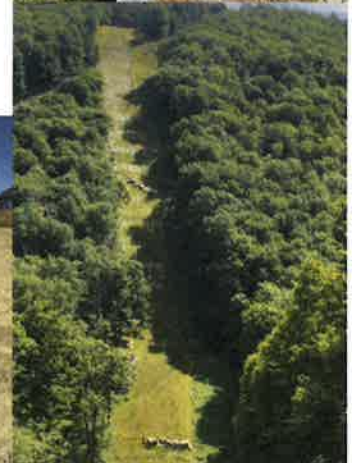
In addition:

- 346** technical assistance contacts were fielded related to the program.
- 30** sites were inspected.
(PennDOT, Oil & Gas, NPDES, & General)
- 72** inspections were completed.
- 30** complaints were investigated.
- 7** formal trainings were attended.
- 17** outreach events were held with approximately **751** participants.



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 **30** Paper GP's this year.
- PCCD has reviewed and approved **6** ePermits with an associated **1** Bank Stabilization Impact, **13** Utility Line Crossings, and **1** Temporary Crossing.
- 343** technical assistance contacts were made.
- 18** sites were inspected.
- 57** inspections were completed.
- 30** complaints were investigated



2022 Legislative Luncheon



Having the support of our local and state leaders and legislators is vital to sustain District operations, programs, and funding. Every year the District holds a legislative event to help illustrate the many ways the District carries out its duties to conserve the natural resources of the county. The event is typically held at the beautiful Susquehannock Lodge located along Route 6 between Galeton and Coudersport.

District staff present a summary of projects, programs, secured grant funding, and other important items that were successfully completed in the previous year. They also give an update on planned activities. Afterwards a discussion on pertinent House and Senate Bills is held along with a discussion

around the proposed PA State Budget and the line items that contribute to Conservation Districts across the state. An open discussion between legislators and District Board and staff concludes the event.

Districts all operate uniquely when it comes to the programs they participate in and the funding that is utilized for staff salaries. Potter County and many other Districts are masters at leveraging funding to stretch the dollar, especially in today's economic environment. The majority of funding (78.3% in 2022) the District receives goes directly on the ground to projects that benefit our natural resources and communities. Helping to paint this picture is what this event focuses on.

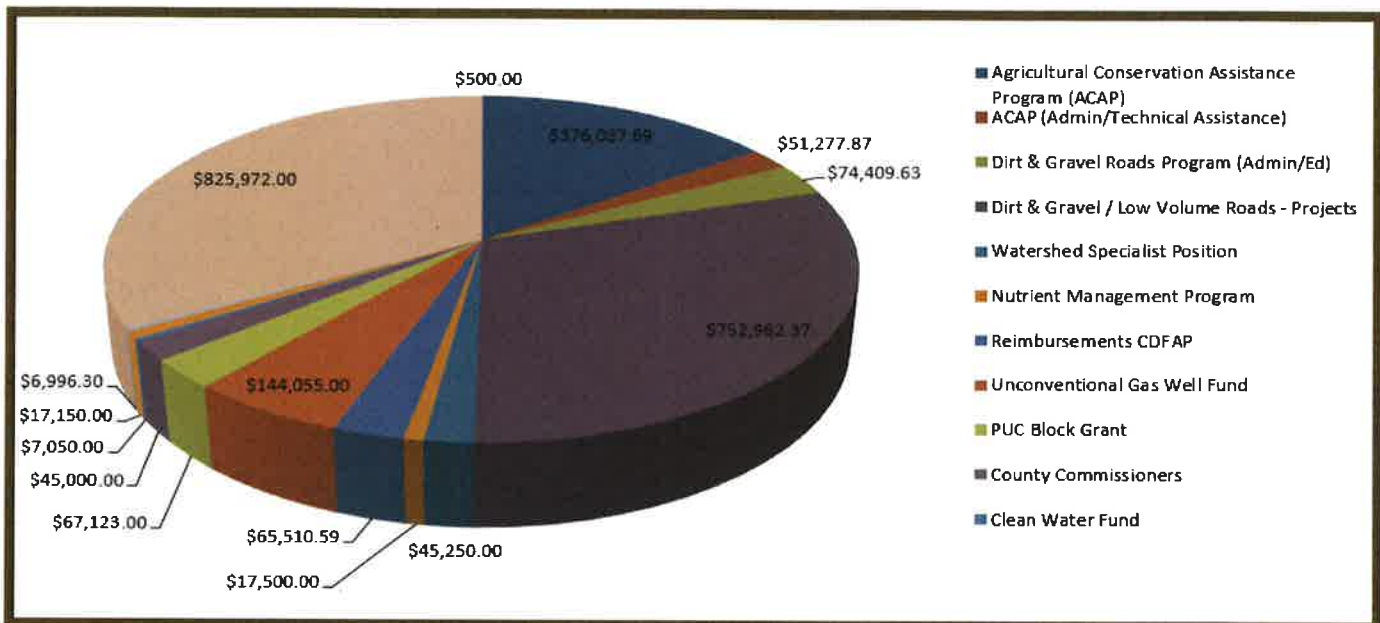


Pictured above from left to right: Representative Martin Causer, Chuck Dillion (aide to Senator Dush), Commissioner Barry Hayman, District Chairman Earl Brown, Jared Dickerson, Jason Childs, Andy Mickey, PACD Executive Director Brenda Shambaugh, Glenn Dunn II, Representative Clint Owlett, and Emily Shosh.

2022 Income and Grants Details-done

The Potter County Conservation District receives funding through a variety of different grant programs and opportunities that support conservation efforts. Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture/State Conservation Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 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 costs.

A special thank you to our local and state legislators who helped increase funding for Conservation Districts statewide in the 2022/23 State Budget.



2022 Program Income Breakdown (Yellow=Projects / Blue=Salaries)

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)	\$376,037.69	15.06%
ACAP (Admin/Technical Assistance)	\$51,277.87	2.05%
Dirt & Gravel Roads Program (Admin/Ed)	\$74,409.63	2.98%
Dirt & Gravel / Low Volume Roads - Projects	\$752,962.37	30.16%
Watershed Specialist Position	\$45,250.00	1.81%
Nutrient Management Program	\$17,500.00	0.70%
Reimbursements CDFAP	\$65,510.59	2.62%
Unconventional Gas Well Fund	\$144,055.00	5.77%
PUC Block Grant	\$67,123.00	2.69%
County Commissioners	\$45,000.00	1.80%
Clean Water Fund	\$7,050.00	0.28%
E&S Program Fees	\$17,150.00	0.69%
Equipment Rental	\$6,996.30	0.28%
Grants (GG, DCNR, PFBC, NFWF, etc)	\$825,972.00	33.08%
Birdseed/Tree Sale	\$500.00	0.02%
Total	\$2,496,794.45	



POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Visit our website at www.pottercd.com



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 Environmental 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 ext. 4 or email pccd@zitomedia.net. If you would rather a digital version, email us with the words "electronic newsletter" in the subject line and we will send our newsletter to you electronically.