



POTTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2023 Annual Report



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2023 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.

2023-2024 District Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Dr. Pete Ryan
 Bart Ianson
 Tadd Ostroski
 Don Heiner
 Betsy Long
 Barry Hayman

2023 District Staff

Jason Childs—DISTRICT MANAGER

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Glenn Dunn II—RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST

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Emily Shosh—OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR

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A Note from the Manager

Partners In Conservation,

As anticipated, 2023 was an extremely busy year for everyone here at the Potter County Conservation District. As a challenging, but productive year comes to a close, it's important to reflect on the successes and obstacles of the prior year in order to further build upon each of the programs the District offers.

In conversations, with those who have been involved with conservation longer than I, it is obvious that the Potter County Conservation District, as well as other County Conservation Districts across the Commonwealth, have continued to grow and diversify. This is especially true over the past 5 or 10 years as we absorb more and more responsibility with state programs, take on additional programs such as ACAP and invasive species work, and pursue outside grant opportunities.

This all provides exciting new opportunities, but also challenges Districts, especially with time and staff resources. However, together we are proud of all the work we have accomplished, and look to evolve as a District to meet the ever changing environmental needs of our county and the people who live here. We look forward to 2024 and taking on all the opportunities and challenges head-on.

Thank you to all the landowners, farmers, and cooperating agencies for your continued support.

Sincerely, Jason Childs, Manager

Agriculture

No-Till Program Updates

The District's no-till equipment can be rented by any farmer in Potter County. In 2023 the District's no-till equipment was only offered to farmers within the county due to wear and tear of the equipment and staff resources to transport the equipment. The Program continues to operate 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. Seed drills are both 10 foot plant width. During the 2023 planting seasons, total combined acreages were **551 acres**. Contact the District today to reserve one of our no-till drills/planter. **Usage by Watershed shown in the table below:**

	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Genesee Watershed	Upper Allegheny Watershed
Combined no-Till Implementation	396.5	35.4	119



John Deere 7200 – Corn Planter



John Deere 1590 – Drill



Great Plains 1006—Drill

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/>

2023 Crops and Planting Clinic

On February 3, 2023 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. This year topics included an update on diseases in corn, managing slugs through no-till and cover crops, controlling stubborn weeds, talking with neighbors about pesticides, and an overview of the new Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP).

76 people were in attendance including vendors, speakers, District staff, and farmers. Thank you to all who attended, the Tri-Town Fire Auxiliary for preparing the food, and Penn State Extension for assisting with organizing the event. It was another successful clinic.



Nutrient Management

2023 Program Highlights

- ◆ **195** Individuals Provided with Technical Assistance:
- ◆ **60** On Farm Technical / Planning Assistance:
- ◆ **2** Act 38 Plan Reviewed:
- ◆ **6** Chapter 91 Plans Developed:
- ◆ **5** Chapter 91 Plans Reviewed and Verified
- ◆ **8** Ag E&S Plans Developed/Assistance:

2023 saw a dramatic uptick in the amount of agriculture related technical and planning assistance the District provided to our local producers. Due in large part to the funding made available through the ACAP program the District was invited to several farms that resulted in 60 on-farm visits as well as the development of 6 manure management plans and 8 Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Plans. In addition the District assisted producers with completing REAP applications for any out of pocket expenses they incurred as part of implementing an environmental best practice on their operation.

Jared Dickerson assisted students from the local 4H Chapter in developing Manure Management Plans and discussing Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management requirements. The District also helped coordinate no-till manure injection on 6 farms covering approximately 325 acres of cropland. This was paid for using ACAP (Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program) funds.



National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) Small Watershed Grant

During the fall of 2022 the Potter and Tioga County Conservation Districts partnered to apply for a Small Watershed Grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). This stemmed from the goals identified in both counties Countywide Action Plan (CAP) for the Chesapeake Bay. Larson Design Group, as the CAP Coordinator for both counties assisted in the grant application. In early 2023 the announcement was made that the grant had been selected for funding in the amount of \$500,000.00. Titled "Cowanesque Watershed Resiliency Collaborative, Potter and Tioga County" the project prioritizes efforts to improve soil health, restore natural habitat, manage nutrient and sediment loads, promote sustainable practices, and enhance aquatic function.



This collaborative project is in the process of providing and implementing over 11,050 acres of soil health practices between the two counties. Practices include cover crops, prescribed grazing, nitrogen stabilizers, lime application, and no-till management. In addition, eastern brook trout populations will be enhanced in a high priority patch by restoring connectivity to upstream cold-water habitat through a replacement of an existing stream culvert on Teed Hollow (Hector Township).

Potter and Tioga County Conservation Districts have always been a dedicated resource for their respective counties, and will continue to provide increased assistance to their communities through outreach, education, technical assistance, and implementation. An outreach event discussing the project and aimed at building interest in soil health practices was held on August 30, 2023 at the Community Center in Knoxville, PA (Tioga County).

Lime application and planting of cover crops using no-till practices occurred during the fall of 2023. Prescribed grazing on at least one farm, nitrogen stabilizer application, and the installation of a new culvert on Teed Hollow will be completed in 2024.

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program

Project Spotlight: Card Creek Road, Roulette Township



Before at
outlet



After at
outlet

Roulette Township was awarded funding through Dirt and Gravel/Low Volume Roads for a stream crossing replacement on Card Creek Road. This project also included funding from a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to improve Eastern Brook Trout habitat. The original structure on Card Creek Road was undersized, resulting in reduced flood resiliency and an aquatic organism passage barrier. To rectify these issues, the 4.5' squash pipe was replaced with a 14' 8" bottomless aluminum arch culvert. Root wad structures were installed both upstream and downstream of the crossing to help fill in scour at both the inlet and the outlet of the structure. Constructed riffle crests were built upstream and downstream of the structure, as well as throughout the structure, to allow stream continuity. A low flow channel was then built through the new structure to allow stream resiliency and aquatic organism passage. DSA was then placed on the road at the stream crossing to reduce sediment erosion to the stream at the road-stream interface. The total DGLVR funding was \$108,999.82, along with \$49,162.97 in National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding.

Project Spotlight: Orebed Road, Genesee Township



Before



During



After

Genesee Township was funded to complete a project on Orebed Road during the 2022-2023 construction seasons. The total project length was 3,550' and included the installation of 12 new cross pipes, replacement of 3 cross pipes, 440' of underdrain, and 3,207 tons of fill. All cross pipes included head and end walls, and R4 was placed at the outlets to protect from erosion. A 6" lift of bank run gravel was placed to build the road profile up, and then a 6" lift of 2A limestone was placed as a cap. The final project totaled \$94,651.08 of DGLVR Program funding, along with \$19,746.17 of in-kind contributions.

DGR Projects Completed in 2023

The Program improved a total of 4.15 miles of unpaved roads in 2023. 57 new cross pipes were installed and 16 cross pipes were replaced. 830 linear feet of under drain and 89 square yards of French mattress were installed. One stream crossing was replaced. 14,380 tons of road fill and 1,592 tons of DSA were placed.

Grant Recipient	Road Name	DGR Funding	In-Kind	Project Length	Scope of Work
Abbott Township	Rausch Road— Phase I	\$93,138.91	\$52,982.90	5,175 feet	Large section of road with little to no outlets and poor surface material. 14 new cross pipes installed, 4 cross pipes replaced, and 780 feet of underdrain installed. 1,985 tons of road fill was placed, and DCNR funded for EnviroKleen dust suppressant to be placed as an experiment for the ATV Pilot Program. This was Phase 1 of a 3-phase project, with Phase 2 and 3 including installation of more drainage and DSA placement.
Genesee Township	Orebed Road	\$94,651.09	\$19,746.17	3,420 feet	Largely entrenched stretch of road from Kinney Road to the New York state line that had almost no outlets and high overhead coverage. 12 new cross pipes installed, 3 cross pipes replaced, 440 feet of underdrain installed, and 3,207 tons of fill placed. Bank run gravel was placed to create a stable road base, and then Limestone 2A was placed as a surface.
Roulette Township	Card Creek Road	\$108,999.82	\$49,162.97	113 feet	A 4.5' squash pipe was replaced with 14.7' bottomless arch pipe, and 44 tons of DSA was placed over the new crossing. This project was in conjunction with a private stream crossing replacement that was funded through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. The private crossing was a 4.5' squash pipe that was replaced with a 50' long and 14' wide steel I-beam bridge. Both crossings included the installation of riffle crests, and the bottomless pipe included the installation of root wad deflectors to help mimic the natural channel and remediate the effects of the undersized structure.
Sharon Township	Wapsena Road	\$83,985.00	\$47,762.72	3,955 feet	Highly shaded stretch of saturated road with little outlets. 15 new cross pipes installed, 6 cross pipes replaced, and 5 turnouts created. A large French Mattress was installed and 5,159 tons of road fill was placed.
Summit Township	Deering Run Road	\$97,622.04/ \$35,187.57	\$42,956.27 / \$16,602.67	5,245 feet	2 projects both completed in 2023. Road includes steep hills that had little to no outlets. 16 new cross pipes installed, 3 cross pipes replaced, and 4,029 tons of road fill placed. Almost all cross pipes included a grade break to further break up flow on steep sections.
West Branch Township	Notch Road	\$86,729.68	\$1,869.76	4,750 feet	1,592 tons of DSA placed as a subsequent project to previously funded drainage projects.

Total DGR Funding: \$600,354.11 Total In-Kind Contributions: \$231,083.43 (38.5%) Total Road Length Improved: 22,678 feet (4.15 miles)

LVR Projects Completed in 2023

Grant Recipient	Road Name	LVR Funding	In-Kind	Project Length	Scope of Work
Genesee Township	O'Donnell Road	\$55,890.99	\$43,724.26	7,635 feet	18 new cross pipes installed, 12 cross pipes replaced, 1,000 feet of underdrain installed. Large sections of berm were removed along the road. A stilling basin was installed at the end of a long slope with no available outlets to reduce channelized flow at the outlet.

Total LVR Expenses: \$55,890.99 Total In-Kind Contributions: \$43,724.26 (78%) Total Road Length Improved: 7,635 feet (1.45 miles)

Education and Outreach

Tree Planting Projects Updates



The District's first Multifunctional Riparian Buffer grant project, pictured left, was undertaken on Oswayo Creek at the property of Courtney and Paul Fedalen. Awarded funding from PACD totaled \$7,878, with work completed by contractor Mike Hale, Oswayo Valley high school student volunteers, and District staff. This project helped widen the existing buffer by 100 feet with a mixture of trees and wildflower seed. Wildflower/pollinator plot was seeded by the landowners.

Additionally, The district partnered with Susquehannock State Forest and the Native Fish Coalition (NFC) to replant 150 trees along Little Kettle Creek in October. NFC provided volunteers and trees were sourced through the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership.

Annual Spring School Events

Annual school events typically take place in April and May, including the My Growing Tree Arbor Day programs, Envirothon Competition, and 5th Grade Conservation Field Days. Additionally, we were invited to the Oswayo Valley Career Fair in March (pictured top right). In the last year, we have also been requested to host fish fileting, macroinvertebrate counts, stream field study, and outdoor cooking classes for Northern Potter High School. Any schools interested in having us visit should feel free to contact us. An array of topics can be covered, all of which can be tailored to existing curriculum or state/NGSS standards.



Left: the 1st place winning team of the 2023 Envirothon, Coudersport's "Skrimply and the Little Soil People" with Advisor Chris Fink, Envirothon organizer Jared Dickerson, and Lumber Museum Director Josh Roth. Right: Local Game Warden presented on nuisance bear trapping at the 5th Grade Conservation Field Days.

2023 PCCD Education and Outreach Summary

Education Events—45, individuals reached = 1,564

Outreach Events—6, individuals reached = 260

Story Map and YouTube views = 5,000

TOTAL REACH ~6,800

Annual Summer/Fall Events

Like our school events, many annual events took place through the remainder of the year, with many packed into summer and fall. New this year was the 1st annual Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association Fishing Derby which had 100 people in attendance (pictured bottom right). Some other events include the following:

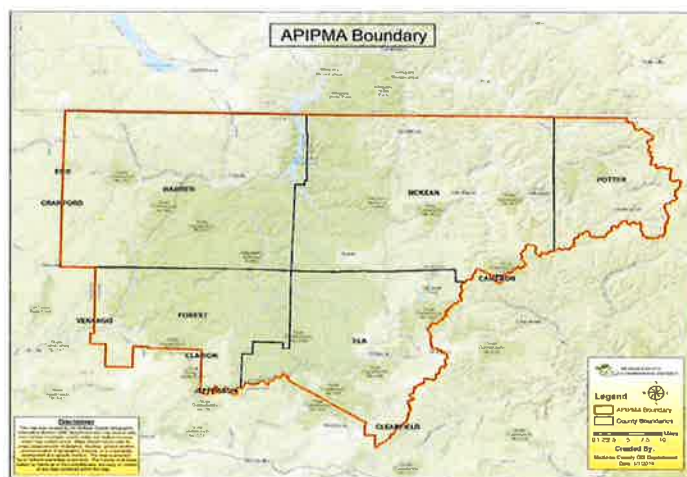
- ⇒ Coudersport Summer Reading Program (pictured left) - 50 participants
- ⇒ Potter County Junior Conservation School Watershed and Wetlands Class, Archery Class, Big Level Wind Tour, and Invasive Species Class (pictured top right) - 25 participants (x4 classes)
- ⇒ Rain Barrel Workshop—17 participants
- ⇒ Seed Saving Workshop in conjunction with County Community Garden—12 participants
- ⇒ First Fork Festival (Sinnemahoning State Park)—120 participants
- ⇒ Hometown Science Festival (Wellsboro) - 150 participants
- ⇒ Governor's Invasive Species Council Meeting Presentation—70 Participants
- ⇒ Maintaining Buffers for Wildlife Workshop (Dallastown Sportsman's Club) - 10 participants



Invasive Species Work and APIPMA Updates

The Conservation District's involvement in the Allegheny Plateau Invasive Plant Management Area (APIPMA) flourished in 2023. Grant funding was secured in the form of a 3-year Cost Share agreement with the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) in the amount of \$16,787. Another Forest Service grant for Potter County treatment sites was secured, totaling \$8,850 with a potential for future modification and increases. This funding in particular was used to treat 17 Poison Hemlock Sites, 3 Goatsrue sites, 6 Wild Chervil sites, and 2 Mile a Minute Sites.

Leading into 2024, the ANF also helped secure \$28,700 in a 5-year Partnering Agreement for education and outreach and additional treatment site funding within the APIPMA region. Two other large joint applications with the Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area (SIPMA) were submitted and those award announcements are to be shared soon. If awarded, up to \$105,000 will potentially be offered to public and private lands across the two regions.



In 2023 Emily Shosh represented APIPMA and Conservation District work at five education events, reaching nearly 150 people on the specific work and related topics. Several other events have been undertaken for 2024 including a half day workshop held in Kane on February 23rd, with speakers from Penn State Extension and Pheasants Forever. 36 people attended. Pilot PRISM funding through PACD helped support the event which was free to the public. Pesticide Applicator credits were also provided through the event for those interested. More events are slated for 2024 including a Native Plant Giveaway in the Fall.

Left: Ryan Brown, Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever during the February 23rd workshop.

Watershed Enhancements

Martz Project—CAP Implementation Funds

The District secured \$63,534 in funding in 2023 through DEP's CAP Implementation Block Grant to implement in-stream habitat and erosion control structures, and repair a few old existing structures in the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed. Additional projects will be completed in 2024.



The Martz project was a repair project on Nelson Run to rehabilitate a failed project that was implemented over a decade ago. PCCD removed roughly 60 feet of traditional mudsill cribbing and 2 multi log vanes and replaced them with 70 feet of modified mudsill and 2 log framed stone deflectors. The original structures had caused the stream bed to drop multiple feet and were left sitting high and dry rendering the existing project ineffective. New structures were placed to correct this issue. Project completion cost \$6,125 and was completed by D.M. Gibble Excavation.

Bodenshatz Project—CAP Implementation Funds

The Bodenshatz project was a new construction project implemented on Bailey Run. The project included the installation of 2 sections of modified Mud sill, 3 sections of toe log, and 2 log framed stone deflectors. A mid stream gravel bar was remediated to relieve pressure into the newly built structures. Project completion cost \$6,760 and was completed by D.M. Gibble Excavation.



Nelson Repair—CAP Implementation Funds



The Nelson project was a repair project on the First Fork of the Sinnemahoning to rehabilitate a failing project that was implemented over a decade ago. PCCD replaced 5 multi-log vane structures that had not been sufficiently armored with large single log vanes. The original structures had washed downstream, damming the creek. Project completion cost \$5,325 and was completed by D.M. Gibble Excavation.

Bamburger Project—CAP Implementation Funds

The Bamburger project was a new construction project installed on Bailey Run. PCCD Implemented 2 sections of modified mudsill, 1 section of toe log, and a channel block structure. Once again the District was able to continue our partnership with Owayo Valley School District by having 4 students assist with construction of this project. This provided them valuable real world work experience in an environmental profession. Project completion cost \$6,295 and was completed by D.M. Gibble Excavation.



Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)

Comstock

The Comstock project is located on Sartwell Creek, Pleasant Valley Township on a working beef farm. The project involved the stabilization of roughly 350 feet of creek bank, establishing 5,000 feet of exclusion fencing, and 3 stabilized crossings. This project was funded solely with ACAP funds and Landowner in-kind contributions with a total cost of \$36,767.46. Construction was completed by Ianson Farms.



Sasala



The Sasala project is located on the headwaters of the West Branch of Cowley Run, Keating Township on a beef farm that had wintertime erosion and manure saturation issues. This project implemented a 1,149 sq ft heavy use area (HUA) with an attached 1,304 sq ft manure stacking facility, a roof structure covers both the HUA and the Manure Stack. This project was funded through ACAP, EQIP, and Landowner Contribution. Total of \$37,1611.60 of ACAP Funds were dedicated to this project with an additional \$80,559.30 in funding contributed through the NRCS EQUIP Program.

Easton

This Easton project is located on the headwaters of the of Ludington Run, Ulysses Township on a working beef farm that had denuded areas during grazing season. This project implemented a 3,150 sq ft heavy use area (HUA) with an attached 3,607 sq ft Manure Stacking Facility, a roof structure covers both the HUA and the Manure Stack. This project was funded through ACAP, EQIP, and Landowner Contribution. Total of \$210,686.04 of ACAP Funds were dedicated to this project with a total cost of \$383,119.35



Grimes



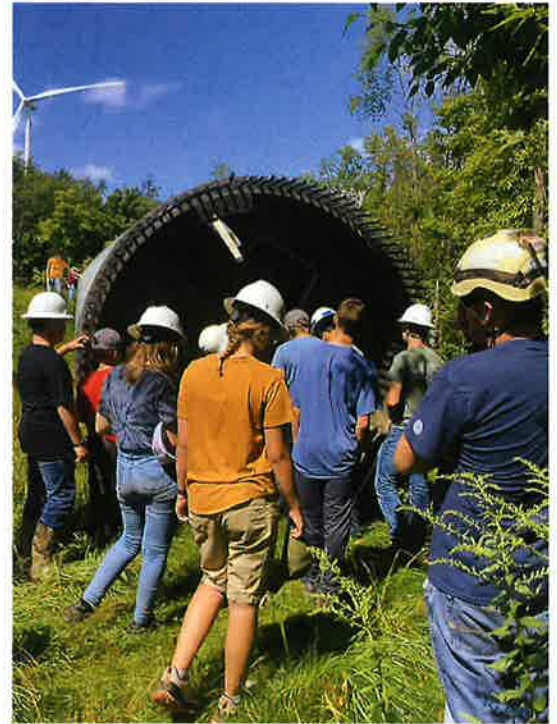
The Grimes project is located on the main stem of the Genesee River, Bingham Township on a working beef farm that had multiple acres of denuded animal concentration area that were a continual maintenance issue for the operator. This project implemented a 5,732 sq ft heavy use area (HUA) with an attached 4,631 sq ft manure stacking facility, a roof structure covers both the HUA and the manure stack. This project was funded through ACAP, EQIP, and landowner contributions. A total of \$214,454.57 of ACAP Funds were dedicated to this project with a total project cost of \$405,150

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, several tours that include a wide variety of environmental related facilities are scheduled. Again this year the District assisted with a tour of the Big Level Wind Project Site. Site Representatives discussed power generation information associated with the site. District staff discussed permitting processes and environmental impacts associated with the construction of the wind turbines and access roads within the project site. The school and District are planning to incorporate the site as an annual part of the Conservation School's agenda.



2023 Multi-county Workgroup Education Events

The Elk and Potter County Conservation Districts co-hosted two workshops geared towards realtors. They were held on January 31, 2023 (in Elk County) and February 8, 2023 (in Potter County). Realtors are often faced with property sales that may have an unknown impacts on a water resource, or often are unsuitable for development due to site limitations. In total, 30 attendees were present, and topics covered erosion prevention, Chapter 102 & 105 permitting, road construction and maintenance, and common Best Management Practices.



On Thursday, October 12th, 2023 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 land-owners. The event provided SFI credits, and was held at the Tokishi Training Center in Wellsboro and in-field sites within DCNR Timber Tracts in Tioga County. The event was also facilitated with the support and expertise of several speakers including Chuck Coup (SFI), Ron Rohall (Consulting Forester/SFI Implementation Committee), as well as staff from Elk, Potter, McKean, Cameron, and Tioga County Conservation Districts. In total, 27 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 PACD.

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

The Potter County Conservation District continues to administer the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 programs through a delegation agreement with DEP. There is much overlap between the two programs as outlined below. Permit fees do not cover the costs associated with administering these programs, however, the District views its role as a great service to the local residents and developers in the county. The District is able to authorize General Permits in a timely fashion and is able to respond to complaints and technical assistance requests efficiently.

Chapter 102—Erosion and Sedimentation Plans (E&S) are required for all earth disturbance activities over 5000 square feet. NPDES Permits are required for any earth disturbance activities over 1 acre except for timber harvests, agriculture, and oil and gas activities. 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.

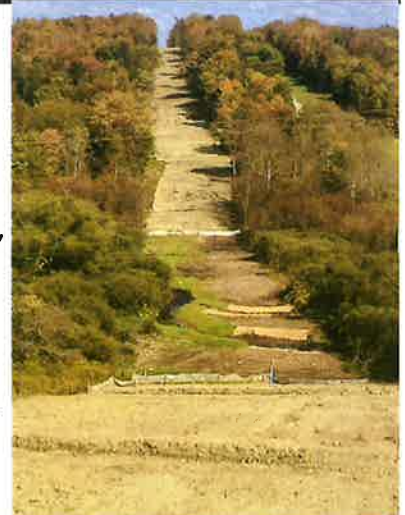
- In 2023 the District approved **3** NPDES permits and **2** ESCGP-3 permits

In addition:

- **299** technical assistance contacts were fielded by the District related to the program.
- **22** sites were inspected.
(PennDOT, Oil & Gas, NPDES, & General)
- **48** inspections were completed.
- **24** complaints were investigated.
- **6** formal trainings were attended.
- **14** outreach events were held with approximately **498** 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 different General Permits (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 **37** Paper GP's this year.
- PCCD has reviewed and approved **3** ePermits with an associated Bank Stabilization Impact, Utility Line Crossings, and Temporary Crossing.
- **299** technical assistance contacts were made.
- **21** sites were inspected.
- **35** inspections were completed.
- **24** complaints were investigated



National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation Z-20 Project

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (Supply) completed the Line Z20 Modernization Project in Potter County in 2023. The Project took place in the Northeast corridor of the county. The project replaced approximately 11.55 miles of 12 inch diameter 1930's vintage steel with new 12 inch coated steel in the existing right-of-way. ESCGP Permits were submitted to the DEP Regional Permit Coordination (RPCO) office. Potter CD reviewed the E&S Plan for technical adequacy as well as provided on site inspections and compliance during permit construction. The project is currently waiting for permanent vegetative establishment which should take place in the upcoming growing season.

Line Z20 Modernization Project



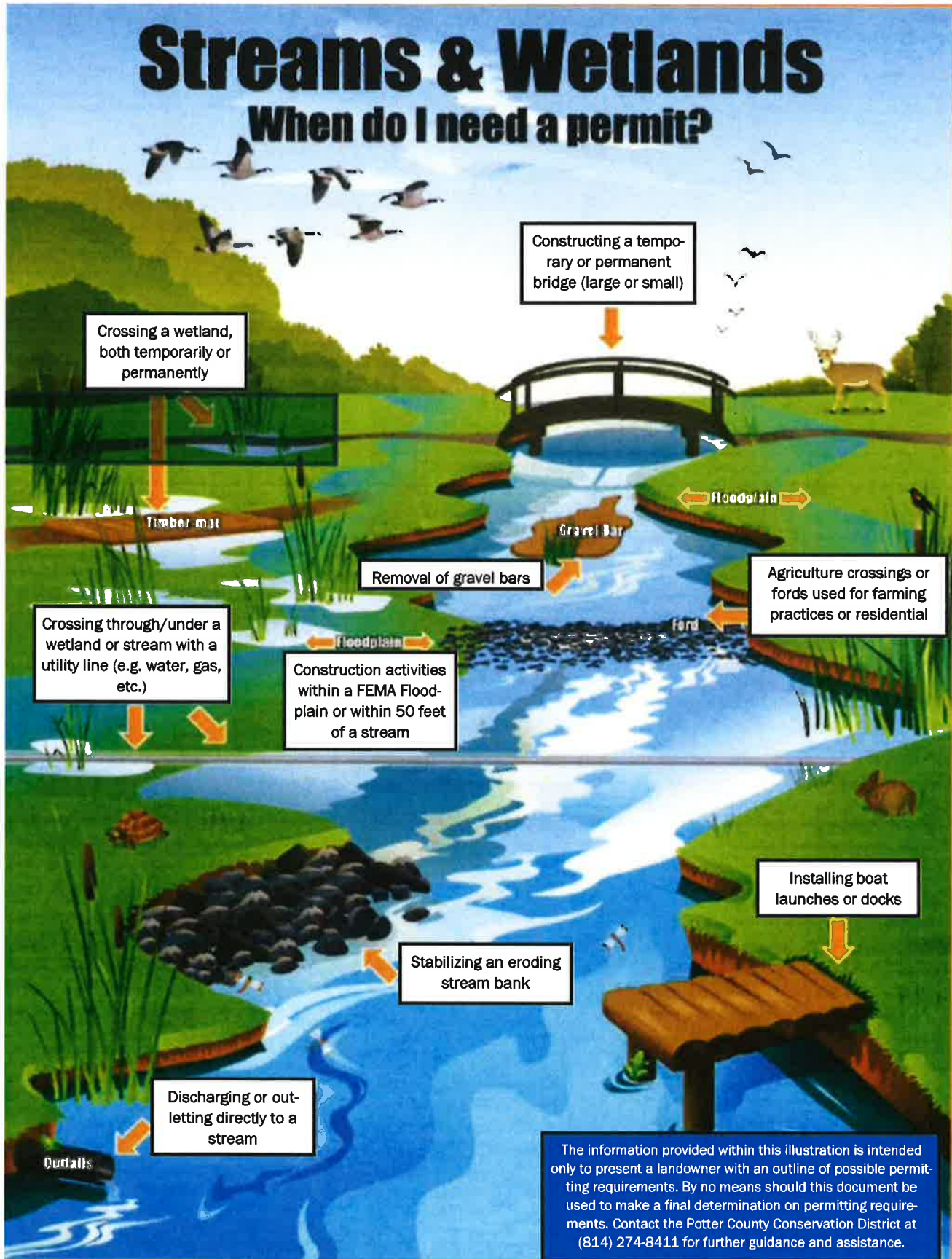
Around the County Meetings Slated for 2024

In 2024, the Potter County Conservation District is scheduled to team up with the County Planning/GIS office to complete 30 individual municipal meetings. Elected officials from each of the municipalities as well as representatives from Erb Inspections, Inc and local sewage enforcement officers will be invited to these one-on-one meetings. These will be the third round of meetings held since the effort was launched in 2017.

During these sessions the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances (SALDO), Storm Water Management, District programs/assistance, and County Planning/GIS programs/assistance will be topics of discussion as well as any other relevant items the municipal items would like to discuss.

In addition, the Conservation District and Planning offices plan to update the "Municipal Resource Booklet" that was developed in 2017 and amended in 2020 for municipal officials and residents to use. Both offices feel that these interactions are a great opportunity to open up lines of communication and strengthen partnerships. Stay tuned for more information.





2023 Legislative Luncheon



The Potter County Conservation District hosted its annual Legislative Luncheon on March 10th, 2023 at the Susquehannock Lodge. Representative Martin Causer, Senator Dush, Brad Moore (Glenn Thompson's office), County Commissioners, District Directors and Associate Directors, and District Staff all attended.

The luncheon serves as a way to educate elected officials about the great work that conservation districts do and what funding streams allow for that to happen. We are fortunate to have great support from our local and state representatives that understand just how good districts are at getting projects on the ground and their overall importance.

The District expressed its sincere gratitude for the increased funding in the state budget for conservation districts across

the Commonwealth, and the continual funding for those line items in the future. With the abundance of project dollars currently available it is essential to have proficient staff to perform the work. A presentation of the previous year's work was given by District staff followed up by an open discussion. Earl Brown, District chairman, explained how the District has changed and grown over the 52 years he has been on the board. It was a productive conversation, and one that is important to have in order to keep the overall mission of the District in focus.

2023 Income and Grants Details

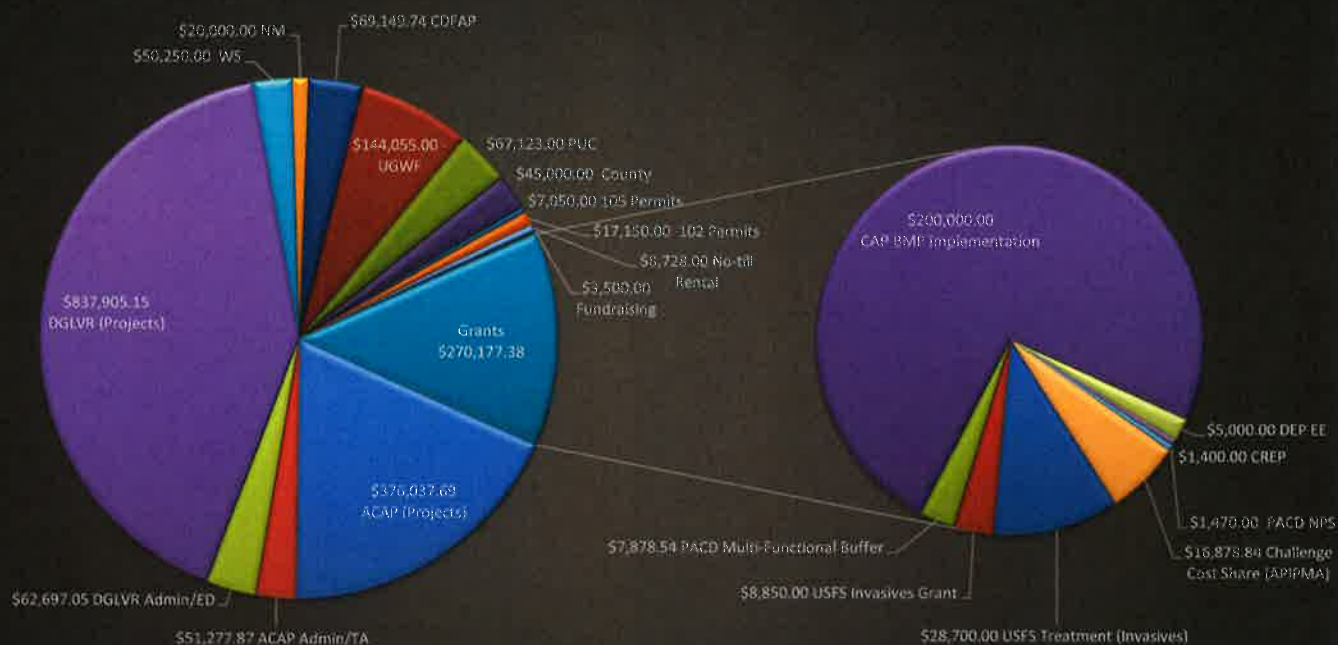
Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)	\$376,037.69	18.52%
ACAP (Admin/Technical Assistance)	\$51,277.87	2.53%
Dirt & Gravel Roads Program (Admin/Ed)	\$62,697.05	3.09%
Dirt & Gravel / Low Volume Roads - Projects	\$837,905.15	41.27%
Watershed Specialist Position	\$50,250.00	2.48%
Nutrient Management Program	\$20,000.00	0.99%
Reimbursements CDFAP	\$69,149.74	3.41%
Unconventional Gas Well Fund	\$144,055.00	7.10%
PUC Block Grant	\$67,123.00	3.31%
County Commissioners	\$45,000.00	2.22%
Clean Water Fund	\$7,050.00	0.35%
E&S Program Fees	\$17,150.00	0.84%
Equipment Rental	\$8,728.00	0.43%
Birdseed/Tree Sale	\$3,500.00	0.17%
DEP Environmental Education Grant	\$5,000.00	0.25%
CREP Mini Grant	\$1,400.00	0.07%
PACD NPS Mini Grant	\$1,470.00	0.07%
USFS ANF Cost Share Agreement (APIPMA)	\$16,878.84	0.83%
USFS ANF Treatment Funds (Invasives)	\$28,700.00	1.41%
USFS High Priority Cooperative Lands Grant	\$8,850.00	0.44%
PACD Multi Functional Buffer Grant	\$7,878.54	
CAP Implementation Block Grant 2024	\$200,000.00	9.85%

Total

\$2,030,100.88

2023 Program & Grant Income Breakdown

2023 Program Funding & Grants



The pie chart above illustrates a breakdown of funding received by the District in 2023. The chart on the left shows all funding including state delegated program funding, including grants. The chart on the right shows a detailed breakdown of the \$270,177.38 in grants received by the District in 2023. This accounts for 13.31% of the total funds received by the District.

Dirt and Gravel/Low Volume Roads (41.27%) and ACAP (18.52%) Project funds account for the majority of the funds administered by the District. The remaining funds are utilized for staff salaries and administration associated with each delegated or contracted program (26.90%).

The District continues to be very efficient in putting program dollars on the ground.

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.



**POTTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



"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

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Our Programs:

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