



POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The first district organized in Pennsylvania—November 1945



2019 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.



2019 Board Of Directors

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
 Charlie Tuttle
 Bart Ianson
 Jeff Cady
 C.C. Felker*
 Kathy Mitchell*
 *recent 2019 additions

District Staff

Jason Childs—DISTRICT MANAGER

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Glenn Dunn II—RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST

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Andrew Mickey—DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD / LOW VOLUME ROAD SPECIALIST

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Jared Dickerson—WATERSHED / NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN

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Emily Shosh—OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR

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New Faces of 2018-2019



Emily Shosh joined us in May 2018 as the new Communications and Outreach Advisor. Her interests in conservation and the outdoors stem from childhood fishing trips and camping. At Mansfield University she earned a B.S. in Environmental Science and B.A. in Vocal Music. In 2015 her path diverged to the realm of environmental education and she has been in love ever since. She has experience as an educator through our local PA DCNR State Parks, and through her time as a Minnesota Naturalist at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. Emily is honored to serve as an educator to the community she calls home.



Andrew Mickey officially joined us in January 2019 as the new Dirt and Gravel / Low Volume Road Specialist. Andrew is from Minersville, PA in Schuylkill County. He graduated from Lycoming College in 2016 with a BS in Ecology and a minor in Environmental Science. Andrew's past work experience includes interning with DEP in Williamsport and performing and studying macroinvertebrate samples from streams. He has also worked as a dairy lab technician, testing the quality and safety of milk. Andrew is an active member of Trout Unlimited and enjoys fishing and hunting. As the DGLVR Specialist, he is excited to take action on reducing sediment pollution, and benefiting anglers and our fish populations, especially native trout.

Agriculture

No-Till Program Update

No-Till Corn Planter & Drill Usage in 2018	
Watershed	Acreage
Chesapeake Bay Acres	211
Genesee Acres	28
Allegheny Acres	85
Total Usage	324 Acres

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. We've found that a few farmers in Potter County and surrounding areas are electing to purchase no-till equipment of their own. This is a huge success and is the ultimate goal of the program. In 2018, no-till drill were used on 230 total acres. 101 acres were worked with the John Deere 1590 and 129 acres were worked using the Great Plains 1006. The John Deere 7000 no-till Corn planter was used on 94 acres. A further breakdown of usage by watershed can be seen in the chart to the left, and our rental and delivery rates are listed below.

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

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

Nutrient Management

Program Highlights

Nutrient Management

- ◆ **225** Individuals Provided with Technical Assistance
- ◆ **29** On Farm Technical/Planning Assistance
- ◆ **2** Act 38 Plans Being Developed
- ◆ **3** Act 38 Plan Reviewed
- ◆ **11** Chapter 91 Plans Developed
- ◆ **9** Ag E&S Plans Developed/Assistance

In 2018 the Potter County Conservation District continued to partner with the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to help administer the Commonwealth's ACT 38 Nutrient Management Program. As part of this effort the District conducted status reviews at four farms. These four farms included two Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) and two Volunteer Animal Operations (VAO). They include: Four Winds Dairy, LLC in Ulysses, PA and Hoffman Family Farm in Shinglehouse, PA as well as the Doug Frederick Farm in Coudersport, PA and Mark Bachman Farm in Ulysses, PA respectively.

In addition to the on-farm status reviews the District assisted with the development of 11 manure management plans and is in the process of writing two ACT 38 Nutrient Management Plans for local farmers. These plans will help farmers better utilize manure to reach crop yield goals and prevent excess nutrients and sediment from ending up in our valuable streams and rivers.

Technical assistance continues, including a partner project with NRCS in cooperation with a farmer near Northfork Dam in northeastern Potter County. This project will likely include stream bank fencing, a roofed animal heavy use area, gutters, livestock stream crossing, and grazing plan.

PCCD Chesapeake Bay Program Withdrawal

Effective July of 2018, Potter County's continuation in the Chesapeake Bay Reboot Strategy came to an end. The decision was made unanimously during June's board meeting against implementing "Phase 2" of the program, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. Also during the meeting, a representative from the DEP Bureau of Clean Water presented Phase 2 expectations and outcomes to the board, and ample time for questions and discussion followed.

The Reboot Strategy was originally introduced in 2016 to help meet EPA goals for Pennsylvania's reduction of nutrient and sediment to the Chesapeake Bay. Over the past two years, the District has applied the Strategy by assisting in development of Manure Management and Agricultural Erosion and Sediment (Ag E&S) Plans for 60 operations, and by gathering baseline information through visiting 100 Potter County farms within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Phase 2 of the Strategy would include scheduling compliance inspections by the District with farms previously involved in developing Manure Management and/or Ag E&S Plans in order to ensure active farmer application of practices outlined in plans, and overall success in meeting state regulations.

The Conservation District does not aim to be a regulatory entity. The District's mission is to "provide and administer programs, plans, educational information, and technical assistance for conservation practices that protect the natural resources of Potter County" – not to enforce regulations or be perceived as an enforcement agency. For this reason, the District did not continue participation in the Chesapeake Bay Reboot Strategy and stringent farm inspections. From this point on, farmers must be aware that DEP may still conduct inspections, and the District will continue to provide assistance to farmers who request our services.

The District stands by its role as an educator and technical assistance provider, not as a regulator. Withdrawal from the program was a challenging decision, but one that was seen as most beneficial for local farmers and landowners of Potter County. We look forward to your continued support in working to make Potter County better as a whole.



Although the District officially ended participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program, we continue to assist in agricultural activities and promote farmland BMP's

Chesapeake Bay Special Projects Grant Activities

A portion of the \$111,263.00 Chesapeake Bay Special Projects grant awarded in 2017 continues to be used to incentivize local producers to plant cover crops as a means to reduce soil erosion after harvesting row crops. In 2018 the program was able to help farmers plant 530.1 acres of cover crops in the Chesapeake Bay watershed alone. This resulted in a total of \$28,836.00 being distributed to seven different farmers who participated in the program.

Among projects completed using this funding was the Stepping Stone Farm of Sheila and Blase Gabreski. This project included installation of 290 feet of roof gutter, 600 feet of underground outlet/drainage, and .10 acres of heavy use area stabilization. Improvements that will allow for better management of manure and funneling of clean rain water away from areas where it can pick up excess nutrients and sediment. The expenses totaled \$24,840.00.

An additional project with an equine operation has been selected and construction will be completed in 2019.



Annual Penn-York Ag-stravaganza

On Saturday, December 1st, 2018, the annual Penn York Ag-stravaganza was held at the Brookside Wesleyan Church in Wells-ville, NY. The event served 26 individuals within our local farming community by offering information, services, networking opportunities, and constructive discussion. Topics included Storm Water, Land Leasing, Pond Site Development, Soil Health, Managing woodlots and Invasive Plants, and a farmer panel discussion. An excellent hot lunch from Friendship Barbeque was also provided.

Partners and presenters included the Great Lakes Conservation Connect, Cornell University, Allegany Extension, Penn State Extension, American Farmland Trust, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Funding was provided by a grant from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. EPA.



Above, Emily and Jared share safety information with attendees Kurt and Laura Kosa, using Penn State-developed models and demonstrations.



Our Ag-stravaganza partners, many of which lended a hand for our Clinic as well!

Annual Crops and Planting Clinic

On January 25th, 2019 the Annual Crops and Planting Clinic was held at the Tri-Town Fire Hall. The event drew nearly 80 attendees and was hosted in tandem with Penn State Extension. Presenters and their respective topics included: Spill Response/Transporting Pesticides and Herbicides, Glenn Dunn—Potter County DES, Emergency Management Coordinator, Worker Protections Standard. What is it? And who must comply?, Jay Bagley - Bureau of Plant Industry, PA Dept. of Ag., Industrial Hemp, Sydney Fink - Region 2 Plant Inspector, PA Dept. of Ag., Soil Health Basics. How to avoid compaction and gullies, Wendy Coons - District Conservationist, NRCS, and Review of Pests in 2018, Nicole Santangelo and Jack Thomas- PSU Extension Educator, Agronomy. Lunch was provided by the Tri-Town Fire Company, and credits offered to attendees included 2 Core, 2 Pesticide, and 0.5 Nutrient Management.



Left, District Manager Jason moderates the event



Right, Glenn Dunn (Sr) discusses transporting pesticides and safety protocols

Agricultural Conservation



Jason Childs, District Manager has taken on the role of Agricultural Conservation District Technician (ACT) in addition to the manager duties. Over the past year assistance was provided to local producers who were interested in applying for REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) program tax credits. The Conservation District plays a role in verifying Best Management Practices have been installed and meet certain standards. District's also verify that the operation meets the requirements of the program by reviewing the proper Nutrient/Manure Management and Erosion and Sedimentation plans are in place. The ACT position assisted in organizing several workshops and coordinating the use and

rental of the no-till equipment. In addition, the District participated in Penn State's Water for Agriculture project. The Water for Agriculture project in Potter and Tioga counties is part of a national project designed to bring together, researchers, technical experts, Extension professionals and communities to foster community-led solutions to water and agriculture issues most important to them. Interviews were facilitated by Penn State and involved District Staff to discuss these various viewpoints and issues. A local leadership team has since been formed and the Potter County Conservation District intends to be actively involved.



Farmland Preservation Program



Preserving our viable farmland is very important. Our country's once large, continuous tracts of thousand-acre farmlands are today 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 8 farms totaling 1,305 acres in the Farmland Preservation Program, and soon will have its ninth. Since the program's inception, nearly \$250,000 in funding has been utilized.

In December of 2018 the eighth easement of the Potter County Program was completed. Applications thereafter were received and ranked during the last 4 months of 2018 to determine our next farmland to pursue. 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. The 105 acre parcel in Genesee Township will be surveyed appraised in the coming months. This easement could potentially close by the end of 2019.

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 Roads Program

In 2018, the DGR Program saw it's fair share of action between an intense rain season, nine completed projects, a new specialist on the job, and updates to QAB policies and procedures. 10 dirt and gravel road projects are contracted for the 2019-20 construction seasons with 1 project already completed. 1 low volume road project is contracted. Currently, 27 applications have been taken for the 2020-21 construction season.

Projects Finalized in 2018

Recipient	Project / Road Name	DG/LVR Allocation	Length of Road	Types of Remediation
Keating Township	Bark Shanty Road	\$75,000	2,994 feet	New cross pipe, underdrain, DSA placement
Sylvania Township	Southwoods Road	\$175,000	605 feet	Large aggregate limestone base build, soil pinning, guide rail, stream structures
Portage Township	Portage Road	\$75,000	4,327 feet	Single and multi log vanes, stream structures, 2A base build, pipe replacement, underdrain
West Branch Township	Lyman Run Road	\$75,000	1,375 feet	2 A base build, DSA placement
Eulalia Township	Old Shovel Road	\$75,000	3,130 feet	DSA replacement, new pipe installation/replacement
Ulysses Township	Horseshoe Road	\$74,306	4,363 feet	2A base build, new pipe installation/replacement, under drain
Homer Township	Heth Road	\$10,886	230 feet	French Mattress, drain tile, raised road (2ft), armored drain tile outlets
Coudersport Boro* (*Low Volume)	West 2nd Street	\$29,630	338 feet	Installed drop inlets and drain tile
Hebron Township	Tennessee Road	\$53,440	3,800 feet	Large aggregate limestone base build, 2A base build, pipe installation
Total Allocated Expenses = \$643,262		Total Road Length Mitigated = 21,162 feet (~4 miles)		

2018 Highlight—Southwoods Road Project

On August 22nd, 2018, the Potter County Conservation District completed work on an intensive slope stabilization project on a section of Southwoods Road in Sylvania Township. The site had developed into not only an unfavorable driving surface and a safety hazard, but the source of sediment loading down a steep valley to the Southwoods Branch Creek. In 2017, a 100 foot mudsill crib and 3 multi-log vanes were placed to stabilize the toe of slope. In 2018, work sought to stabilize a 50 foot tall and 100 foot long erosion scarp. The site was in need of work to save the road itself, and called for the professional work of GeoStabilization International (GSI), a contractor specializing in emergency landslide repairs, rockfall mitigation, and landscape grouting. GSI's team employed the use soil nails and cementation. To improve drainage, fresh limestone DSA was placed by Ianson Farms, and a final guide rail was placed by Green Acres, LLC.



With slope stabilization, streambank stabilization, new guide rail, and a fresh application of DSA, this section of road was much improved. Above, the stream side view of the large slough is pictured before and after the project's completion



The 2018 Tennessee Road site, located in Hebron Township, before any drainage work was complete.



The same road after construction was finished. Base build and cross pipes greatly improved drainage

Upcoming Projects

Site assessments performed by the Potter County Conservation District allowed projects to be ranked from highest to lowest priority in regards to their impact on water quality. Projects were then contracted down the list based on available funding. Restoring these impaired roadways through the use of cross pipes, road surface elevation, and bank stabilization, among a wide range of other techniques, allow drivers to have better roads, lengthen time between maintenance intervals, and improve stream quality.

The Potter County Conservation District works hand in hand with municipalities to assess the issues the road faces and come up with innovative and unique work plans to remedy the situation. The DGLVR program not only fixes road and environmental issues, but also teaches road-owning entities more conservation minded approaches to road maintenance moving forward on their own. There are 10 dirt and gravel road projects contracted for the 2019-20 construction seasons with 1 project already completed. 1 low volume road project is contracted. A total of 9 DGR projects and 4 LVR projects remain to be completed from last year due to unfavorable weather throughout most of the construction season.

A few of our 2019 project sites are pictured below.



Clara Township-Clara Road LVR: Water in ditches leading to saturated road base, potholes, and road cracking



Eulalia Township-Sheldon Hollow Road: Poor road material, in need of base build and drainage.

Old Shovel Road in Eulalia Township. Like the site above^ water in ditches leading to saturated road base and potholes



Zoerb Hollow Road in Abbott Township. Note that the underdrain Pipe outlets directly to stream



Education and Outreach

Public Library Story Hour Programs

Throughout the summer of 2018, Outreach Advisor Emily Shosh visited the Coudersport Public Library and Oswayo Valley Memorial Library to present story hour programs covering a variety of topics, ranging from pre-school astronomy/STEM to 6th grade Macroinvertebrate Lessons. Each one-hour program addressed issues pertaining to pollution, natural resources, and environmental stewardship. District information and supplemental take-home materials and/or crafts were also included. In total, her collection of story hour programs reached 120 participants in 2018.

An enthusiastic bunch at the Coudersport Library!



5th Grade Conservation Field Days

On May 15 and 16, the Potter County Conservation District held the annual 5th Grade Conservation Field Days event at the Millport Fairgrounds. The event brought over one hundred fifth grade students from each of the five public schools within the county together and stands as one of the most well attended Conservation District event. During this year's program, students participated in a Watershed lesson that included macroinvertebrate identification of live specimens with Conservation District staff member Jared Dickerson, a wildfire demonstration put on by District Director and volunteer at large Stan Hess, and a maple syrup making demonstration put on by Conservation District staff member Glenn Dunn II.



Board member Stan Hess shares his experience and gear used during his career in Forestry

Other events included a tree identification activity put on by Forester Eric Monger, a lively Wildlife Habitat lesson with Brian Budjanec, Environmental Interpretive Technician from Sizerville State Park, and a Penn State Extension activity about invasive species executed by Samantha Sessamen and Stephanie Hinz of the McKean County Penn State Extension office. Despite challenging weather, 72 very enthusiastic students from Coudersport and Austin combined

attended day one of the event and 48 attended day two from Galeton, Northern Potter. A special thanks goes out to all guest speakers, teachers, chaperones, and Fairgrounds volunteer staff for their invaluable help with this great event.

2018 Potter County Envirothon

On May 3rd, fifteen teams, comprised of seventy 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. The day was coordinated by the Potter County Conservation District. The winning team earned the opportunity to represent Potter County at the State Competition. This year, the "Slimy Sculpins", a team from Coudersport Area High School, won first place in the Potter County Envirothon Competition. The "STONEflies," another team from Coudersport, placed second overall. Third prize went to "Granny's Flying Squirrels" also from Coudersport. 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 sponsors included: the American Legion Post 530, The Upper Allegheny Watershed Association, The Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association, God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited, The Black Forest Conservation Association. Sheetz, Inc., JKLM Energy, LLC, Wending Creek Farms, the Pennsylvania Envirothon Association, and the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum. We're proud to report that the "Slimy Sculpins" went on to place 20th in the state competition on May 22 and 23, 2018.



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

Farm and Fishes Tour



Visiting the calves at Hoffman's



The group after exploring the Oswayo Fish Hatchery

After a revival in 2017, the Farm and Fishes Tour was another success last year. 27 agriculture students from Coudersport High School were invited to tour both the Oswayo State 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 possible career paths. Fish and Boat Commission officer Justin Boatwright was also present to share his experience. 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 challenges.

Potter County Junior Conservation School

Students from across Pennsylvania attended the Potter County Junior Conservation School during the second week of August, 2018. 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, songbirds, macroinvertebrate identification, soils, trap shooting, archery, trapping, fly-fishing, kayaking, and much more. Students were able to enjoy and learn about the importance of utilizing our natural resources responsibly, while enjoying the many recreational opportunities Potter County and the surrounding area has to offer. These students were housed at the Black Forest Conservation Camp on Back Road, south of Coudersport, PA. The Potter County Conservation District participated this year by assisting with the Wetland/Stream Ecology, Invasive Plants, Soils, Astronomy, and Archery sections of the week long camp, as well as providing tuition support for two Potter County attendees. Thanks to Paul Lilja for his efforts in continuing this excellent summer camp program!



Conservation Camp students explored wetlands and learn about water conservation at Sinnemahoning State Park.

Monarch Butterfly Tag and Release Demonstration



On September 19th at the Coudersport Public Library, PCCD Outreach Advisor Emily Shosh held a Monarch Butterfly tag and release demonstration for 86 attendees of all ages. The program consisted of a presentation, tagging demonstration with help from audience volunteers and use of a digital microscope, and a release behind the Library at Mill Creek. During the program Emily shared her experiences through the years with tagging, and the undeniable significance of the Monarch's role in conservation and citizen science. To further research and data collection on Monarchs, rearing, tagging, and/or simply observing the butterflies is an excellent Citizen Science project that many people can do. Handouts, free Milkweed Seeds, and guidelines for planting were distributed following the demonstration.

PCCD Education and Outreach Summary

Outreach Events [11 events] = 464 contacts [371 adult, 93 youth]

Educational Programming / Workshops [16 events] = 656 contacts [219 adult, 437 youth]

Total = 1,120 educational contacts

PCCD Newsletter, brochure, and other print media distribution = 600+

Watershed Activities

Watershed Associations Support

The District works closely with Watershed Associations of the county to best monitor and restore streams. In July of 2018, District staff and Upper Allegheny Watershed members worked to eradicate a knotweed infestation on Watson Road in Coudersport. Jared and Emily also assisted with newsletters, outreach events, and more. The Upper Allegheny, Genesee Headwaters, Kettle Creek, Pine Creek, and First Fork Watershed Associations serve our community well, along with the Seneca and God's Country Trout Unlimited Chapters. The District looks forward to the continuation of these partnerships.



Above, Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association President Stephen Richards speaks during the dedication of a District-constructed canoe / kayak launch at Genesee Park, in June 2018. The launch was completed in 2017 through the Western PA Conservancy's Canoe Access Fund.



Pictured above are volunteers who have just cut down knotweed at a Mill Creek property. Shown L to R: Janie Weeks, Chad Rugh, PCCD Outreach Advisor Emily Shosh, Elaine Yanik, Mike Yanik, Bob Volkmar, Heather McKean and daughter Madelyn, and Kathy Mitchell.

DEP Environmental Education Grants and the MWEE

In 2018 PCCD applied for two Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Mini-Grants to help promote Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (or MWEE's) in the county. The MWEE learning model was developed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and was also supported by Stroud Water Research Center, DCNR, NOAA, and many more. The District seeks to procure the proper equipment to facilitate this exciting new learning experience throughout the county.

The first of these applications requested funds for a stream simulation table, the Little River Em2 model. These models are used by educators and researchers to demonstrate the dynamics of rivers and streams on a small scale and accelerated basis. PCCD plans to use this equipment to teach school aged and adult groups the importance of things such as riparian buffers, this model will also be useful for demonstrating the importance of properly sized pipes and why we can't straighten streams with a bulldozer to contractors and municipalities.

The second application requested funding for a Water Education Day. This fall field day event for 7th-9th grade students takes a multi-faceted approach to water education, providing experiences in the arts, engineering, and sciences to provide a holistic, meaningful education experience. Funds would cover an overhaul of PCCD water chemistry and macroinvertebrate testing equipment, supplies for a water filtration experiment station, and funds to supplement event-day transportation costs. This equipment would benefit the field day event as well as PCCD-facilitated water education lessons throughout the year.

The MWEE learning model includes a break down of essential elements necessary to educate as well as incite action

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY MODEL ELM

		Curriculum Anchor	Issue Investigation	Stewardship and Civic Action
MWEE Essential Elements	Issue Definition	✓		
	Outdoor Field Experiences		✓	
	Synthesis and Conclusions		✓	✓
	Action Projects			✓
MWEE Supporting Practices	Active Teacher Support	✓	✓	✓
	Classroom Integration	✓		
	Local Context	✓		
	Sustained Activity	✓	✓	✓

Stream Rehabilitation Projects

In 2019 the Potter County Conservation District constructed 3 separate streambank restoration projects that helped to restore and protect over 400 feet of Potter County trout streams while creating high quality habitat for both wild and stocked trout. PCCD also assisted DCNR with a habitat creation project in the form of Large Woody Debris Placement. Highlights from these projects are featured below.

Phoenix Run Project, State Game Lands #64

In September, 2018 the Phoenix Run Project was completed in partnership with the PA Game Commission on State Game Lands #64, located in Pike Township. PCCD worked with a construction crew from PA Game Commission to implement 4 Log Vane Structures as well as 50 Feet of Modified Mudsill. PGC also returned to the area and planted trees behind the project. Heavy Rains in the summer of 2018 made this project even more valuable by defending a newly placed Game Commission access bridge.



Mudsill cribbing



Upstream multi-log vanes

Gehman Project, Sartwell Creek

This project was completed with PA Fish and Boat Sinnemahoning Creek Restoration Grant Funding along with contributions from the land owner. The project consists of 4 Log Vane Structures and 75 feet of Modified Mudsill. Future planting work will be completed by the Seneca Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Upper Allegheny Watershed Association to establish a healthy riparian buffer. A planting event will also include youth volunteers from members of the Beyond the Horizon 4H Club and leader Bonnie Wright. The riparian planting will include both Black and White Spruce and Highbush cranberry.



Multi-log vanes

In 2019 the Potter County Conservation District will be working on stream restoration projects utilizing remaining funding from current Growing Greener and Sinnemahoning Restoration grants as well as a newly awarded PFBC Sinnemahoning Restoration Grant. We will also be assisting PA Trout Unlimited with a fish passage project on Gravel Lick Run that will replace existing failed pipes with a passable bottomless culvert. PCCD has finalized a PFBC Grant to help fund a portion of this project that will allow wild trout to access high quality cold water refuge.

Land Development

Big Level Wind LLC.



The Big Level Wind Energy Project began construction for approximately two dozen wind turbines in early 2018. The project boundary is approximately 5,663 acres with roughly 242 acres of earth disturbance. Extensive hours were put into the project throughout the year and will continue until project completion. Approximately 400 hours were put into plan modification reviews with a combination of onsite and office reviews to include DEP staff. Approximately 300 hours in site inspections separately and jointly with DEP and WCO personnel. Numerous compliance meetings were held onsite and at DEP North Central Regional Office.

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, Tiooga, 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.



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

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 53 erosion and sediment pollution control plans and 2 NPDES permits, 1 ESCGP-2 permits for compliance with Chapter 102 rules and regulations.
- 256 technical assistance contacts were fielded related to the program.
- 27 sites were inspected.

(PennDOT, Oil & Gas, NPDES, & General)

- 70 inspections were completed.
- 37 complaints were investigated.
- 5 formal trainings were attended.
- 9 outreach events were held with approximately 450 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 25 GP's this year.
- 6 emergency permits were coordinated and 3 GP-11's were assisted by PCCD.
- 249 technical assistance contacts were made.
- 24 sites were inspected.
- 58 inspections were completed.
- 25 complaints were investigated



DEP's ePermitting Portal

Effective October 10, 2018, DEP initiated the ePermitting Portal. This is a movement towards electronically-submitted permit applications. Changes and updates may occur as necessary, and the Conservation District has been committed to assist applicants through the process. More information direct from the DEP website is provided as follows:



"When it debuts, the e-permit application will be fully functional and available for use to submit permit applications, but it is in a "beta" test phase. We are creating an opportunity for users to provide feedback. Applicants are encouraged to send comments and suggestions on the e-permit to a dedicated email account: ra-epbwewepdwt105@pa.gov. All messages will be reviewed and considered for future improvements. Applicants will also be invited to participate in a web-based conference call to learn more about the functionality of the new tool and provide recommendations for potential enhancements. We intend to use it to perfect a tool that creates transparency, consistency, efficiency and speeds up the process. Unless one has already been created, a prospective user will need to create a GreenPort account to access e-permitting. Regardless of how many Bureaus a user would like to submit permit applications to, only one Greenport account is necessary. However, a user will need separate permissions for some Department e-permits. The Chapter 105 General Permit e-permit is one such application which requires separate permissions. Once an account is created, the user will need to fill out and submit an EFA Registration and Security Agreement for e-permitting."

2018 Legislative Luncheon

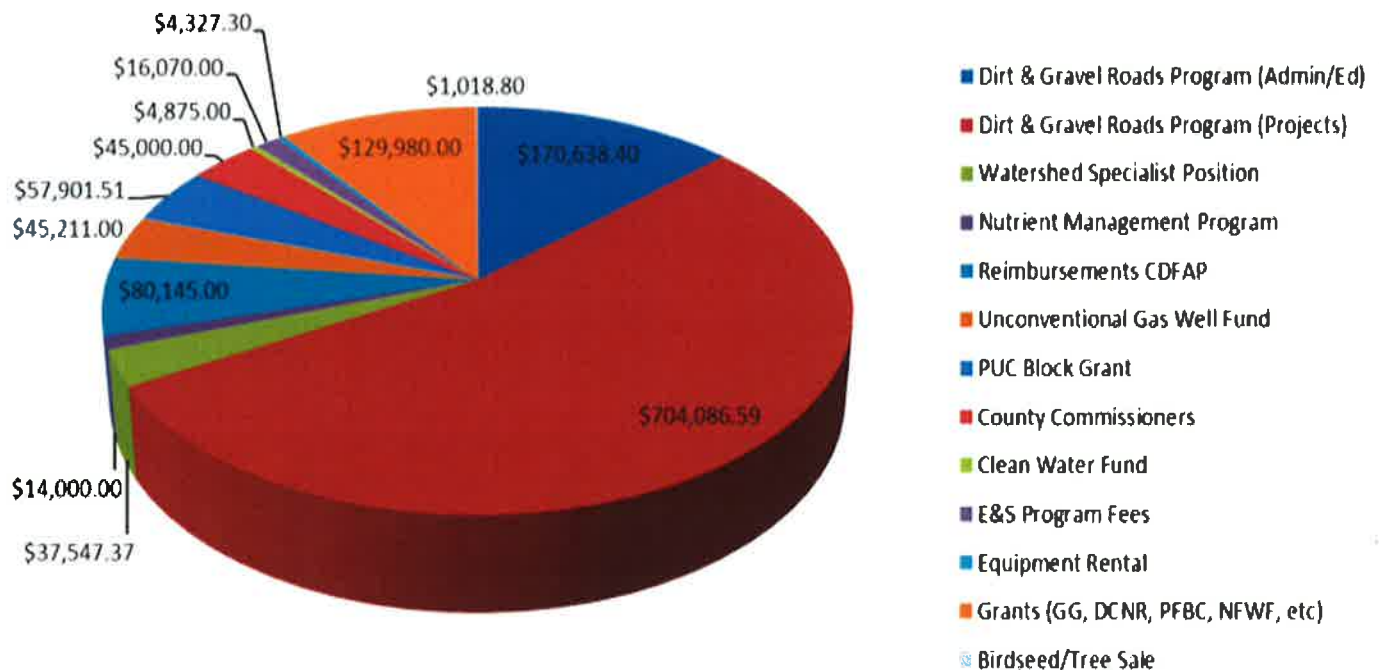
The Legislative Luncheon serves as a great opportunity for the District to demonstrate what Conservation Districts do to local legislators. This event is highly important especially when there are newly elected officials. In 2018 the Potter County Conservation District directors, associate directors, and staff hosted the meeting at the Susquehannock Lodge, east of Denton Hill on Route 6. Those invited included officials for Representative Causers office, Senator Scarnati's office, as well as Congressman Glenn Thompson's office. County Commissioners, the County Planning Director, and Brenda Shambaugh, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District's (PACD) were also in attendance.

A productive conversation was held by all who attended on topics such as the state budget, Nutrient Management Plan reviews, and the challenges in the dairy industry among other things. The District staff presented a short presentation on all of their accomplishments as well as look at future programs and projects that will soon be tackled.

The District greatly thanks the local elected officials for all of their time and support.



2018 Income Distribution



2018 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 costs.

Programs	Income	Funding Source
Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Roads Program —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 shown right)	\$ 170,638.40	State
Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Roads Program —Funding utilized on Projects In 2018.	\$ 704,086.59	State
Watershed Specialist Position —	\$ 37,547.37	DEP
Nutrient Management Program —	\$ 14,000.00	SCC
Reimbursements CDFAP— Unconditional Gas Well Fund —This fund helps to cover the cost of the Manager, Resource Conservation Technician and ACT Technician salaries.	\$ 80,145.00	State
Unconventional Gas Well Fund—CDFAP (Administrative) - Supplements salaries for Resource Conservation Tech and Admin.	\$ 45,211.00	State
PUC Block Grant —	\$ 57,901.51	State
County Commissioners —Salaries, travel, lodging, equipment, etc.	\$ 45,000.00	County
Clean Water Fund —General Permit Reviews	\$ 4,875.00	Permit Fees
E&S Program Fees —Erosion & Sedimentation plan reviews & NPDES	\$ 16,070.00	E&S Reviews
Equipment Rental —Stream restoration rental package, no-till corn planter and drills.	\$ 4,327.30	No-till rental
Birdseed/Corn Sales —Proceeds support environmental education events. (Envirothon, Field Days, etc.)	\$ 1,018.80	Fundraiser
Grants Awarded (GG, DCNR, PFBC, NFWF, etc.) — Stream Restoration projects, cover crop incentives, bridge replacements, workshops, other on the ground projects, etc.	\$ 129,980.00	Various
Total Income:	\$ 1,310,800.97	



POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Come in and see us! We will gladly assist you with any questions you may have. We have bird seed for sale as well as ear corn (in the winter), information on permitting, native and invasive plant guidance, and much more!

107 Market Street
Coudersport, PA 16915
(814) 274-8411 ext. 4
(814) 274-0396 (fax)

Email: pccd@zitomedia.net

"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

Find us on the web 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 or email 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.