

CAMBRIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

2023 Annual Report - Manager's Perspective

2023 was a year of continued transition for our district. We continue to, slowly but surely, transition our staff from County to District employment. This year county employment of District staff decreased by one and District employment increased by three, two of which are new to the District.

We continue to transition away from programs or agreements where the requirements on the district either don't completely align with our core mission or would move the district away from that mission.

Along those lines we have further transitioned away from Agriculture programs that place the District in a regulatory capacity. Due to the regulatory compliance required outputs, we discontinued our participation in the Chesapeake Bay Technician agreement.

Because of this transition away from Ag regulatory compliance activities, we have found that Ag producers in our county are now more willing to come to the District for advice and technical assistance in addressing resource concerns on their operations. Furthermore, we are able to provide planning services to them which we never had time in the past to do.

We acknowledge the importance of and need for agriculture regulatory compliance to protect and improve water quality. However, we feel that this should not be done by our District.

As always, we continue our mission to provide leadership, education, technical assistance, projects and form collaborative partnerships in the stewardship of our local natural resources. I hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments this past year and wish you all a safe and prosperous 2024.

Sincerely,

John



Interns and Americorps Members





Hope Long

2022 - 2023

Hope worked as a paid intern. She helped with Practice Keeper and BMP verifications, as well as assisted with educational events at the American Legion County Fair, and the tire & appliance collections.

Gabriel (Gabe) Anderson

2022 - 2023

Gabe was an Americorp member who assisted in caring for the animals at Disaster's Edge, as well as assisting with stream maintenance, invasive species removal, tree plantings, BMP verifications, and local educational events.





Director Duty Retired



The Cambria County Agricultural Farmland Preservation
Program is honored to announce that Patrick Dumm has decided
to step down as a director of the Farmland Preservation Board.
Mr. Dumm, who resides in New Germany, has served on the
board for 22 years, in the capacity of a Contractor. Pat has
assisted the board in making decisions that allow landowners to
preserve their farms in Cambria County and enjoyed his time
serving but feels it's now time for fresh thoughts and has decided
not to renew his position. Pat was awarded an embroidered
fleece vest to enjoy his retirement in comfort. We are pleased to
announce that the position of Contractor will be filled, beginning
in January, by Darrell Dumm, son of Patrick. Darrell comes to us
with many years of experience in the family Contracting business
and will be a great addition to the board.

CONGRATULATIONS PAT!

STAFF

NEW AND RETIRED

Sarah McMullen

Sarah is a 2009 and 2011 Graduate of Saint Francis University with a BS in Biology and a Masters in Education/Leadership. She comes to the Conservation District with 11.5 years of corporate business management and operations experience and 15 years of farm experience on the local family farm. Originally a resident of Pittsburgh and Lebanon, PA, she lives in Ebensburg with her husband, Dan, and four children. Her hobbies include playing violin, quilting, knitting, crocheting, baking, camping, gardening, learning about farming, and spending time outdoors. Sarah will be working as a Conservation Programs Specialist and assisting in all CCCD programs, as well as administering the ACAP program.



PROGRAMS SPECIALIST



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Courtney Franklin

Courtney is a 2013 Graduate of Mount Aloysius College earning a BS in Biology with a specialization in Environmental Science. She worked previously as an academic advisor and building substitute teacher for Central Cambria School District the prior two school years. She also has pharmaceutical sales experience and six years of working in the automotive field. Courtney is native to Cambria County and resides locally with her three children (ages 7, 10, 17). She enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and two cats. She also enjoys hiking, cooking, and watching science fiction and horror films. Courtney will be working as the Administrative Assistant. She will be in charge of front desk duties, our social media presence, and assisting in district programs.

Mark Stockley

Mark began his career with Cambria County Conservation District as a County employee in August of 1993! He was hired on to fill the Chesapeake Bay Technician position. His last position held before retiring was as the Resource Conservation Supervisor. Mark now works part-time for the District as our Project Manager. He is also our affiliate for Keep Cambria County Beautiful.

Mark has a BA in Geography from UPJ. He lives in Carrolltown with his wife Allison, and they have 3 kids together: Ty, Emma, and Cody. Mark loves American or local history. He also enjoys mountain biking, fishing and hunting.



RESOURCE CONSERVATION SUPERVISOR

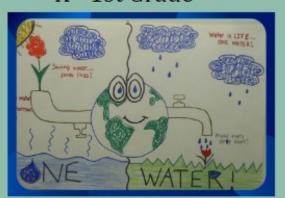
Poster Contest Winners 2023





ELEANOR LIEB

K - 1st Grade



TRENT TRYBUS

4th - 6th Grade





EMERSON FALATEK

2nd - 3rd Grade





7th - 9th Grade

EVELYN WARNER

10th - 12th Grade Evelyn also won 1st at State level &

2nd at National level!!

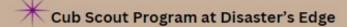




Educational Events



2023 programs



Nature Works at the Bottle Works

Johnstown Christian School at Disaster's Edge

Ferndale Second Grade at Disaster's Edge

Daisy Scouts at Disaster's Edge

Tree Planting on reclaimed refuse pile in Nanty Glo

Portage 3rd Grade Programs – Bears and Reptiles

Forest Hills 5th Grade at Disaster's Edge

Girl Scout Kayaking Program at Wilmore
Reservoir

4-H Kayak Program at Wilmore Reservoir

Johnstown Library Program

Lilly Library Program

Trail Rehabilitation at 1889 Park with Boy
Scouts

Riparian buffer tree planting at Williams
Run Reservoir with Nanty Glo Water
Authority, PA Rural Water, and
Penn Highland's Environmental Club (4/25)













Legislative Tour



An ongoing collaborative effort over the last 15 years between the Conservation District, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and Prince Gallitzin State Park was showcased to officials and community members Friday, August 25th. The projects were to address shoreline erosion, reduce sedimentation, to address the invasive species Hydrilla, improve aesthetics along the water's edge, improve water quality, provide numerous fish habitats and also allow more access to usable shoreline for fishermen. These projects included sites such as Killbuck Cove, Muskrat Beach, Deer Inlet, Turtle Cove, Hughes Trail, Troxel Point, Glendale Dam, Pickerel Pond areas, McKees Run Boat Launch, and Wyerough Shoreline. Guests were welcomed at 9:00am, followed by an overview of the projects and the resulting improvements. Guests were then treated to a pontoon boat tour of Glendale Lake to visually see the impacts achieved and highlight the importance of continued work. The tour was followed by a catered lunch by Island BBQ. Guests were then invited to participate in a hands-on activity involving the placement of porcupine cribs into the lake to provide fish habitat, thereby increasing healthy fish populations. Overall, this event highlighted the benefits of conservation and the importance of shoreline restoration.

"We believe that the stewardship of natural resources enhances people's quality of life."



Keep Cambria County Beautiful



Keep Cambria County Beautiful, in agreement with participating municipalities, held seven Tire and Appliance Collections in 2023. The spring collections were held in Cambria Township, Croyle Township, Stonycreek Township, and Patton Borough. The fall collections were held in Adams Township, Jackson Township, and Tunnelhill Borough.

Overall, the seven collections were successful this past year. People were able to bring in appliances such as refrigerators, microwaves, dehumidifiers, etc. Appliances containing Freon for \$10.00. Non-Freon containing appliances were free. Off-rim tires cost \$2.00 to recycle, whereas tires on-rim cost \$5.00. Off-rim Tractor Trailer tires cost \$10.00, while on-rim Tractor Trailer tires cost \$20.00. We were able to collect a total of 330 appliances and 4,104 tires.







Our third electronics recycling event was held on Tuesday, May 9th for small businesses, and Saturday, May 13th for the general public. The event was held at the American Legion County Fair grounds. Staff members and volunteers unloaded and sorted various items to be recycled. These items included computer towers, printers, laptops, tablets, monitors, hard drives, cell phones, gaming devices, battery backup devices and audio equipment.

Items were then prepared for shipping. A tractor trailer supplied by TechBuyerUSA transported everything to their New Jersey facility. Items were then resorted, tested, and hard drives wiped/shredded and certified.



2023 TREE & PLANT SALE









The 2023 Tree and Plant Sale took place on April 14th. The focus of the sale was on native stock, fruit trees, ground cover, beautiful flowers, and a few vegetables. We also had an assortment of wildlife boxes, tree stakes, and tubes.

We have established great relationships with our nurseries over several decades. These vendors include: Endless Mountain Berry Farm, Adams County Nursery, Boyers Nursery, Alpha Nurseries, Musser Forests, Pine Grove Nursery and Faught's Garden Center. Other vendors include Conservation Services Inc., AM Leonard and ATZ Wood Products. Also, special thanks to the American Legion County Fairgrounds. They allow us to utilize their Agricultural building all week for storage, preparation, packing, and distribution.

2023 was our best year yet! There were 11,570 items sold with a profit of over \$13,953! This will be used for educational programming and conservation projects.
We are predicting another great year in 2024!





ENVIROTHON 2023





Adapting to a Changing Climate

The Envirothon was held on Thursday, May 4th at Disaster's Edge Environmental Education Center this year.

At the Envirothon, teams of five high school students compete in field testing using their knowledge in five topic areas – Soils and Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Issues.

Schools Involved:

Bishop Carroll Blacklick Valley Glendale Northern Cambria Penn Cambria Portage

Sponsors:

Cambria County Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
PA Game Commission
PA Fish & Boat Commission
PA Bureau of Forestry
Robindale Energy Services Inc.
Vale Wood Farms
Darlisa Pizza



First Place
Northern Cambria
Team #1
Martina Miller
Kimberly Minemyer
Samantha Frantz
Brianna Falduto
Lillian Statler



Third Place
Glendale Hiking
Biking Vikings
Payton McCully
Charlie Wilsoncroft
Preston Hodge
Madison Zeak
Bree Kuhn



Second Place Northern Cambria Team #3

Danielle Hendrick Taylor Davis Jacob Frantz Laurel McCombie Caden McConnell

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION PROGRAM

PA-DEP CHAPTER 92, 102, AND 105 PROGRAMS

Market Control of the State of

Chapter 92, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program

- · 23 NPDES General Permits reviewed and approved.
- · 2 NPDES Individual Permits reviewed and approved.
- Collected \$23,000 (102), \$20,200 (105); Total: \$43,200 in permit fees for processing new NPDES applications.
- Collected \$84,245 in E & S Review fees for new NPDES applications.

Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Program

- 72 plans with initial review and comments completed.
- Collected \$80,350 in E&S review fees.
- 11 complaints were acknowledged and resolved during the year.

Chapter 105, Dam Safety and Waterway Management Program

- · 22 general permits were reviewed and acknowledged.
- Collected \$3,895 in permit fees were collected.
- 8 complaints were acknowledged and resolved during the year.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT/ NO-TILL DRILL PROGRAM

AG CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

- Assisted 5 farmers with Manure Management Plans and 4 AG E&S Plans.
- 1 Nutrient Management Plan written.
- Outreach Events/ Meetings: 4
- Nutrient Management Outreach: 160 people.
- ACAP Projects under Contract/Funded: 3
- ACAP Projects in Technical Assistance: 1

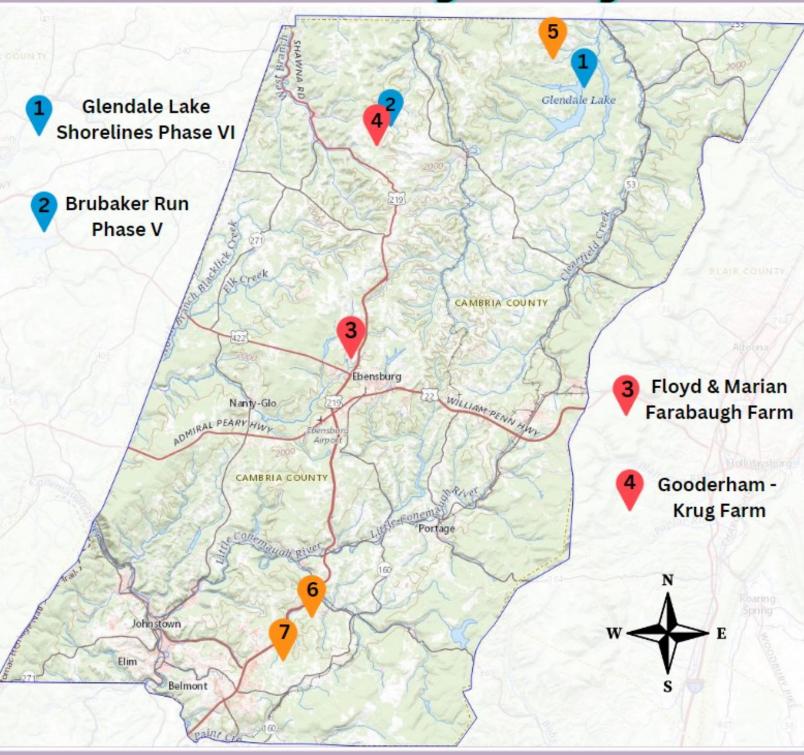
NO-TILL DRILL PROGRAM

- Total acres: 404.2
- Uses: Hay, Small Grains, Soybeans, Food Plots, Cover Crops and Pastures

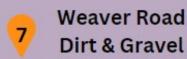




2023 County Projects



- 5 Swartz Road Low Volume
- Park Road
 Dirt & Gravel





Glendale Lake Shorelines Phase VI - \$343,360.00



























Stream/Shoreline Restoration Projects

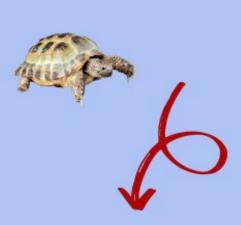
Glendale Lake Shorelines Phase VI - \$343,360.00 (Continued)







Brubaker Run - Phase V - \$5,086.50













Floyd & Marian Farabaugh Farm

Cambria Township 174.92 acres \$231,769



Photos By: Brian D Pedrick, ASA, IFAA, Agrarian Associates, Inc

Stephen Krug & Barbara Gooderham-Krug Farm

Allegheny Township 105 acres \$94,500



Photos By: Brian D Pedrick, ASA, IFAA, Agrarian Associates, Inc

SWARTZ ROAD WHITE TOWNSHIP LOW VOLUME COMPLETED PROJECT

Step 1: Dig 2' x 2' ditch, line ditch with nonwoven geofabric, place stone in bottom, lay pipe





Step 2: Put stone on top of pipe, fold over geofabric



Step 3: Cover with stone or dirt, seed, & mulch



• Project cost: \$82,316.00

In-kind: \$7,500.00

- 4 new turnouts installed
- 4 new cross pipes installed
- 760 feet of 8" underdrain installed
- Lay the bank back to have a better line of view
- Work completed by Feighner Trucking & Excavating
- Project was subject to prevailing wage
- Daylighting of road/tree removal completed by DCNR

PARK ROAD CROYLE TOWNSHIP DIRT & GRAVEL COMPLETED PROJECT







- Project total: \$13,193.50
- In-kind: \$571.49
- Drainage project completed 2 new cross pipes & replaced 8 cross pipes all with headwalls & endwalls
- Township completed the work
- Township applying for DSA to add a driving surface to this road

WEAVER ROAD **ADAMS TOWNSHIP DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD** DSA COMPLETED PROJECT

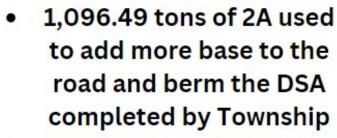




Project Cost: \$110,885.00

In-kind: \$2,098.91

1,763.43 tons of DSA **Placed by Grannas Brothers Stone & Asphalt** Company



10.88 tons of #4 Stone & 8.75 tons of R6 stone to enhance turnouts and underdrain completed by

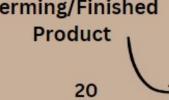




Township



Berming/Finished **Product**





GROZANICK ROAD CHEST TOWNSHIP DIRT & GRAVEL CONTRACT

- Contract Amount: \$202,708.00
- Grant Requested Work Plan:
 Contract a paving company to lay
 5420 tons of DSA 6" compacted to
 4.5"
- In-Kind Work: Township to contract Feighner Trucking & Excavating to prep road for DSA placement



DAKOTA RIDGE ROAD READE TOWNSHIP LOW VOLUME CONTRACT

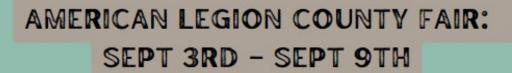
Work plan drawing that was submitted with application!



- Contract Amount:
 \$106,750.00
- Grant Requested Work Plan: To construct 8 - 15" cross pipes, 4 - 24" cross pipes, 3,200' of 6" perforated underdrain
- In-Kind Work: Township to use their own equipment & labor to complete construction



EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASE





This was our third year hosting the showcase! We offered various hands-on activities throughout the week in addition to our regular booth. This year exceeded our expectations and was a huge success! We plan to continue in 2024 with new topics and fun learning activities/experiences for everyone!

Shavers Creek Environmental Center





Critter Connection & Singer/Songwriter, Amber Marie







Young Ag Professionals Cambria County Farm Bureau



Cambria Co Master Gardeners & Yellow Bear Apiary









Emily Carillo - PA Game Commission Bear Biologist











Singer/Songwriter, Jeff Corle

Saint Francis R.O.C.K. Program









The Cover Crop Incentive Program's goal is to encourage farmers to use best management practices (BMPs) in their fields to conserve natural resources and reduce sediment loss over the winter season. "A cover crop is a plant that is used primarily to slow erosion, improve soil health, enhance water availability, smother weeds, help control pests and diseases, increase biodiversity and bring a host of other benefits to your farm." (Source: SARE: Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) The CCCD encourages farmers to use No-Till, Minimal-Till, or Broadcast planting practices to put in these winter-hardy crops. These plantings may then be killed off, tilled in, or harvested for forage only in the springtime, when the summer crop will be planted.

Applications Received in 2023

PROPERTIES

- Greiner Farms
- Whitetail Farms LLC
- Sherry Farms LLC
- Steve Farabaugh
- Tim Gresh Farm
- Yahner Bros. Farms
- Krumenacker Farms LLC

Total Acres Claimed (Map)	2190.28	\$87,611.20
Ohio River Basin	943.84	\$37,753.60
Chesapeake Bay	1246.44	\$49,857.60

DATA LOGGERS

10 data loggers located in North Fork Bens Creek, Riffle Run, Dalton Run, Allwine Run, Saltlick Run, Laurel Run, North Witmer Run, State Lick Run, Trout Run, and Bens Creek: 35,400 readings per year per data logger; 350,400 readings this year; 4,288031 readings to date.

GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY

Allwine Creek: Installed on 08/25/2011, 433,877 readings as of 12/31/2023. No significant changes in water quality in 2023. **North Fork of Bens Creek:** Installed on 08/25/2011, 433,877 readings as of 12/31/2023. No significant changes in water

Saltlick Run: Installed on 08/25/2011, 433,877 readings as of 12/31/2023. No significant changes in water quality in 2023. **Dalton Run:** Installed on 06/30/2014, 334,104 readings as of 12/31/2023. No significant changes in water quality in 2023.

Riffle Run: Installed on 09/16/2014, 326,712 readings as of 12/31/2023. No significant changes in water quality in 2023.



Bens Creek/Earnest Run: Installed on 03/20/2014. 343,896 readings as of 12/31/2023. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2023.

Trout Run: Installed on 03/20/2014. 343,896 readings as of 12/31/2023. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2023.

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

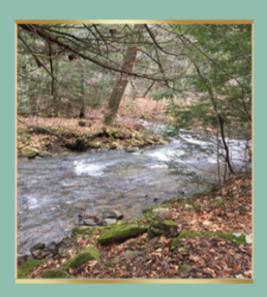
North Witmer Run: Installed on 01/06/2012. This data logger is located just above the Glendale Sportsman's Cooperative Trout Nursery. 421,080 readings as of 12/31/2023. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2023.

CCCD

quality in 2023.

Slate Lick Run: Installed on 04/26/2011. 446,100 readings as of 12/31/2023. This is the site for the Chevron Appalachia's Smithmyer well. This well has had both vertical and horizontal drilling done, but fracking has not begun. There has been no significant change in water quality at this site during 2023.





TROUT UNLIMITED

Laurel Run: Installed on 07/28/2011. 442,396 readings as of 12/31/2023. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2023.



WATERSHED NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

160 Big Bear Lane, Ashville, PA 16613

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2023

- Completed 3 trash cleanups on Rte. 53, Dean to Syberton (9 miles), our 21st year of this project.
- Initiated two stream cleanups of Clearfield Creek from Dean to Ashville (5 miles).
- · Continued to clean up our new section of highway, Route 36- 2 miles, Buckhorn towards Ashville.
- . Note: CCWA is one of the very few groups that cleans up 11 miles of roadway and 5 miles of stream.
- · Held our annual Fishing Derby for kids, 20th annual, 93 kids participated.
- · Maintained a membership of 105 members for 2023. Continued a junior membership category-\$1.00 fee.
- · Continued quarterly sampling and inspection of the Klondike, West Ferris, Gibson and Swank treatment systems.
- . Sampled Little Laurel Run quarterly; the seven treatment systems remove about 80% of the acid and metals.
- Collaborated with faculty and students of St. Francis University Environmental Engineering on sampling and studies on Little Laurel and Brubaker streams.
- Initiated a proposal for treatment of the Clay Mine in Brubaker watershed along with the Game Commission and DEP.
- · Obtained a grant from ARRIPPA covering lab and field expenses for monitoring treatment systems in Little Laurel Run.
- Under our contractor, Hedin Environmental, produced a design for treatment of the Sand Springs discharge.
- · Collaborated with Hedin Environmental Research on improvement of passive systems like our Gibson system.
- · Inspected, sampled and flushed the Ace Drilling site quarterly under contract with the DEP Office, Ebensburg.
- · Maintained data loggers testing water quality on Witmer Run and Slatelick Run for gas well contaminants.
- Purchased trout for the stocking of Dysart Dam for the Opening Day of Trout Season and also for the Kid's Fishing Derby.
- Maintained monthly contact with the DEP Cresson treatment system and in the process of reviewing the possibility
 of treating Amsbry there.
- Interacted with Larry Noel and others on Rails to Trails of the abandoned railroad near Clearfield Creek and kayaking development along Clearfield Creek.
- Exhibited a display and discussed CCWA activities at the annual Cider Festival at Prince Gallitzin Park.
- · Continue our efforts with the PFC, DEP and support of both the Cambria and Clearfield Co. Conservation Districts.
- Continued to sell chances for support of our Dam Cleanout Fund. Money is designated for future dam work.
- Continued our investment in an endowment fund, which will improve and protect the quality and beauty of the Clearfield Creek Watershed, with the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.
- In the process of updating our website (<u>www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org</u>) and continue to receive newspaper coverage on activities and projects.

2024 AGENDA

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association is, once again, planning an aggressive agenda in 2024:

- Continue to monitor, test and maintain our treatment systems at WFW, Gibson-Halstock, Klondike, and Swank.
- . Obtain a Federal BIL grant for design of treatment at the Clay Mine, Brubaker Run, near Dean.
- Develop plans for treating remaining discharges in the West Ferris Wheel area.
- Advance our projects to treat acid mine discharge to improve the water quality of Clearfield Creek in both Cambria and Clearfield Counties and raise funds for educational purposes.

OFFICERS FOR 2024

President-Dane Kalwanaski, President Elect-Dan McMullen, Treasurer-Shawn Simmers, Secretary-Jerry McMullen. Elections will be held for one at large Board position at the January 16, 2024 meeting. Art Rose continues to serve as the Tech Committee Chairman.

MEETINGS

CCWA meets at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at the Prince Gallitzin Park, Main Office. **Note:** Our annual meeting is on January 16, 2024. All members are cordially invited to attend. We ask for your continued support of Clearfield Creek Watershed Association. CCWA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

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CONSERVATION STAFF & DIRECTORS

DISTRICT STAFF

Anna Itle, Assistant Manager/Resource Specialist
Mark Stockley, Project Manager
Shannon Pierce, Agriculture Resource Specialist
Chris Kerr, Resource Specialist
Shannon Hall, Farmland Preservation
Specialist/Fiscal Coordinator
Sarah McMullen, Conservation Programs Specialist
Courtney Franklin, Administrative Assistant

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Gabriel (Gabe) Anderson

Interns

Hope Long

DIRECTORS

Dennis Beck, Chairman
Bob Davis, Vice-Chairman
Martin Westrick, Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Chernisky, Commissioner Director
Zach Itle, Farmer Director
James Benshoff, Farmer Director
David Hegemann, Public Director
David Stolz, Farmer Director
John Nibert, Public Director

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Ray Gorman Robb Piper James Greco Robert Schweitzer Patti Pileski Christina Hines

COUNTY STAFF

John S. Dryzal, District Manager Jackie Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist

Directors with Perfect Attendance 2023

Jim Benshoff Bob Davis Marty Westrick

Pictured from left to right: Bob Davis and Jim Benshoff Not Pictured: Marty Westrick





Cambria County Conservation District

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cambria County Conservation District believes that the stewardship of natural resources enhances everyone's quality of life. We provide leadership, education, technical assistance, projects and create collaborative partnerships.

CambriaConservationDistrict.org

Find Us On:



