

2019

Cambria County Conservation District

annual
report



Manager's Perspective

As I reflect back, I struggle for the words to sum up 2019. Overall our District is strong and we continue our mission and provide excellent programs and services to the citizens of our county and the Commonwealth. Support from the Board of Directors and County Commissioners is tremendous. The staff consistently performs at a high level, strives to improve programming and gets more done than ever before.

However, I have an underlying feeling of uneasiness. Whether this stems from changes in programs, agency staff changes, legislative initiatives or a combination of these, it seems that addressing local natural resource issues is becoming more challenging. For the first time ever, environmental stewardship funds were used to fund CDFAP line items. Programmatic changes are constant often without consistent guidance and training and there seems to be constant legislative proposals that would decrease the protection of our natural resources. It appears that our greatest challenge may not be addressing local resource issues but communicating and educating state agency staff and elected officials on who we are, what we do and how their actions affect these local resource issues.

With challenge comes opportunity. The opportunity to establish relationships with new legislators. The opportunity to work with new agency staff. The opportunity to be proactive instead of reactive to programmatic and legislative issues. The opportunity to continue the mission of local resource conservation for which I am still grateful.

As you will see in the rest of our annual report, we have stayed true to our mission of local resource conservation. I hope you enjoy reading about our 2019 accomplishments and have a safe and prosperous 2020.

Sincerely,
John

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Conservation Awards

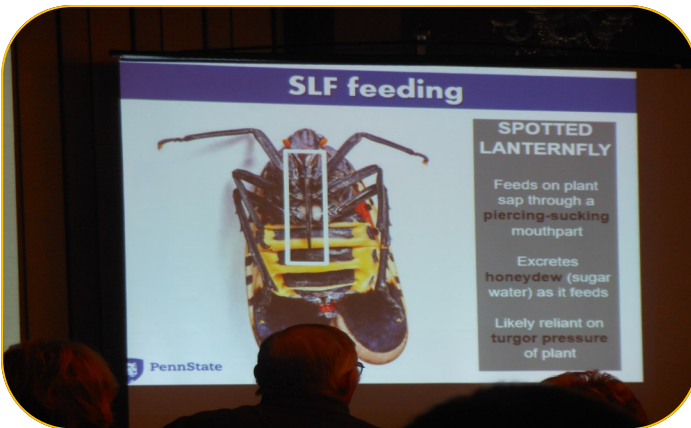
One hundred and eight people gathered together on June 13th, 2019 to honor those who received awards for their conservation efforts through proper practices, public awareness and collaborative work with the Conservation District. Some award winners received their recognition for winning a top five spot in our poster contest, and others were awarded for their winning of our County Envirothon. The event was held at the Crystal Hall in Ebensburg and a very interesting program was presented by Capri Stiles-Mikesell of Penn State Extension, on the harsh reality of the Spotted Lantern Fly. Our guests received gifts of waterproof bags, and several door prizes, donated from local businesses.



Poster winners from Central Cambria, Bishop Carroll Catholic School, Jackson Elementary, and Forest Hills



Envirothon Winners



SLF Presentation



Environmental Award Winners



John Dryzal, District Manager
Dennis Beck, Board Director



Community Outreach

2019 ANNUAL TREE SALE



The 2019 Tree and Plant Sale distribution took place on Friday, April 12th. Each year, this fundraising event yields profit that is used to further education efforts and conservation projects within the District.

District staff, Directors, Associate Directors, and friends of the District gathered at the Cambria County Fairgrounds the second week of April to sort and label the stock. They then spent the day packing customer orders. This year, we were grateful to have the help of some Penn State Extension Master Gardener's.



Unlike years past, the Tree and Plant Sale was held in the dark in 2019. Unfortunately power was not available for the building where the sale was being held. All was well until sale day and a thunder storm rolled in. Lacking lights, staff resorted to using the glare of cell phones and flashlights to see. While it was an unusual year, it was successful yet again selling 9,562 trees and plants, and raising \$8892.

Thank you to all of our supporters!

KEEP CAMBRIA COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

Keep Cambria County Beautiful, in agreement with participating municipalities, held eight Appliance and Tire Collections this year. These spring collections were held in Croyle Township, Cambria Township, Patton Borough, and newly participating Stonycreek Township. During the fall municipalities participating were Tunnellhill Borough, Summerhill Township, and newly participating Susquehanna Township. At these collections, people were able to bring appliances such as refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, etc. for a small cost. Appliances containing Freon cost \$6.00, while non-Freon containing appliances are free. Off rim tires cost \$1.00, on-rim tires cost \$2.00, and tires that are four feet tall and/or wider than 14 inches cost \$15.00.

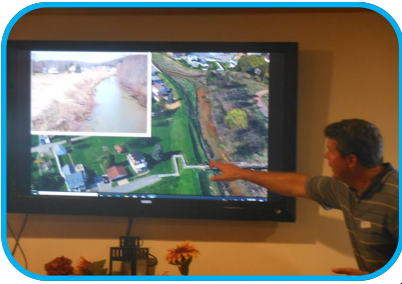


**5,818 TIRES
COLLECTED**

**334 APPLIANCES
COLLECTED**

Community Outreach

2019 Legislative Breakfast



Another annual Legislative Breakfast is in the books for the Cambria County Conservation District. Similar to last year, the breakfast was held at Kosta's Restaurant in Ebensburg starting at 8:30 am, and featured a buffet of breakfast foods. Legislators, partners, and various local organization representatives from around the area were invited to join together to share in some of the accomplishments the District has made over the last year.

As in years past, a presentation was given to guests showcasing an aspect of District happenings. This year's presentation titled, "Stream Restoration within Flood Control Levee Systems" presented by District employee Mark Stockley, gave guests the opportunity to view some of the projects the District has been involved in for nearly two decades. The presentation was done using a newly utilized format, a more interactive 3D aerial mapping type video. The presentation featured aerial imagery as well as traditional still photography to show stream restoration projects the District was involved in. Patton, Nanty Glo, Northern Cambria, and Cherry Tree all have flood control projects that have had stream restoration/ fish habitat structures placed in them in order to create a more natural stream setting, with the added benefit of bank stabilization. Stockley showed before structure placement and after structure placement photography of the flood control projects, accompanied with aerial imagery from 2017 and 2018. The aerial imagery was able to show the structures and give the audience the sense of an in person tour of the projects, without leaving their seats at the restaurant.

With nearly 50 people in attendance, many questions came from the audience. Along with questions came testimonials from participating municipal agencies to support the work being done within their respective flood control projects. Each audience member also received a program highlighting some of the year's past happenings. From education to Dirt and Gravel Road projects, erosion and sedimentation permits to agriculture plans, the audience was able to see a snapshot of the year to date District accomplishments. District staff looks forward to putting together a new presentation for next year's Legislative Breakfast!

AMERICAN LEGION COUNTY FAIR ACTIVITIES

The main theme of our booth this year was "Your Carbon Footprint and How You Can Reduce It". Our booth was shared with the local Farm Bureau and featured information about farming as well as carbon dioxide production. We featured an interactive display that challenged people to "Lighten" their lunch, by exposing the hidden costs of our average food items. The display featured figurine food, some weighted and others empty, to represent the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by each of those items. Participants were asked to pick out different figurine food items to make their lunch and weigh them, and then were educated on reducing CO₂ emissions of buying local. Once participants were made aware of the industrial food system process and the amount of CO₂ being produced by items bought in stores, compared to the amount produced when buying local produce, they were then asked to pick out figurine food items that weighed less. The more an item weighed, the greater CO₂ impact it had on the environment. The objective was to make participants aware of the processes their average everyday food goes through before reaching their table. This interactive activity was paired with a video featuring local producers in Cambria County.



The video was created using newly developed aerial imagery and Geography Information System (GIS) technology. Titled Cambria County Producers, the video shows traditional still imagery of produce/products available from local farms, as well as 3D aerial imagery of the farms. The imagery was accompanied by farm names, addresses, hours available, and contact information, for easy access to these products. While there are numerous local producers in the county, the video featured a small portion of only eight farms. The purpose of the video was to make citizens aware of the local producers in their area, so that they would be enticed to buy local, and in turn reduce their CO₂ emissions from their food choices.

Other sections of the fair booth featured winning posters from our annual poster contest, with information on the upcoming 2020 contest. Pictures featuring previous flowers and trees sold by the District's annual Plant and Tree Sale were hung on the wall, along with a sign up for the 2020 mailing list. Wildlife boxes, including a bat box and blue bird viewing box, were presented with chances for participants to sign up to win them. A great deal of information was displayed regarding the semi-annual Appliance and Tire Collection the District hosts in conjunction with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. The Farm Bureau exhibited a variety of information pertaining to their message.

Community Education

The Conservation District participated in a variety of community education and outreach activities throughout the year!

New Website—2019 brought the District into the digital age. A new website, *CambriaConservationDistrict.org*, was created that features program information, fillable forms, news stories, upcoming events, and so much more. The District also created an Instagram account and began a more involved Facebook presence in order to connect with a wider range of community members.

Kayak Events— Two kayaking events were held at Wilmore Dam in the summer of 2019. The District has 15 kayaks available for the community to use in these events, and participants are welcome to use their own kayaks or canoes.



Nature Works at Bottle Works—An entire day dedicated to environmental education for the public was held at the Bottle Works in Johnstown. Staff put on a display with many of the District's reptiles, and visitors were able to get hands-on education with the animals.



Drone Licensing— An AmeriCorps member with the District, along with 6 other Cambria County employees from various agencies, attended a vigorous training workshop and traveled to Pittsburgh for their remote pilots license test. The purpose was to license these employees through the FAA in order to fly drones for various purposes within Cambria County. Some of these purposes include emergence management, mapping, media coverage, and inspections, where drone usage would be most beneficial.



Tree Planting Workshop—

Tom Ford, an Penn State Extension **NAME**, put on a presentation for anyone interested in learning the most effective ways to plant and maintain various different fruit trees and other plants. The Districts hosts this annual workshop a month previous to our annual Tree and Plant Sale. The workshop aims to educate interested parties in the best ways to have a successful grow.



Flood Conference—The Atherton Hotel in State College was the host site for the biennial workshop dedicated to flood protection. Staff members traveled to the workshop and presented a new type of dynamic 3D presentation that focused on past District stream restoration projects. The projects were housed in various flood control projects around the county, and the District was able to showcase these projects to those in attendance of the workshop.

Apple Cider Festival—Two staff members traveled to Prince Gallitzin State Park on Sunday October 6 for the annual Apple Cider Festival. The District shared a tent with the Clearfield Creek Watershed Association, where work that had been done in the past year was displayed. The festival boasted approximately **###** visitors.

Education– County Envirothon



1st

Northern Cambria High School Team 1

Coach, Marybeth Kerr, Paige Dumm, Taylor Sherry, Danielle Nealen, Abby Strong, Absent from photo: Zach Malicky



2nd

Portage Area High School Team 1

Hunter Kalinoski, Dominic Davis, Olivia Kissell, Alyssa Baxter, Connor Price, Coach, Mary Kinney

3rd



Forest Hills High School Team II

Taryn Varner, Connor Wysocki
Absent from photo: Coach, Joel Kosmac

4th



Forest Hills High School Team 1

Thomas Hockensmith, Donovan Faith, Lowe Ayers, Garett Connor, Autumn Holdsworth, Absent from photo: Coach, Joel Kosmac

5th



Portage Area High School Team III

Ben Sanner, Tanner Trusik, Lakin Phillips, Summer Viscusi, Emma Kissell, Coach, Mary Kinney

On May 20, 88 students, making up 18 teams from county school districts gathered at the 1889 Park in St. Michael to compete in the county Envirothon. Teams competed at five different stations, which included wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and a current issue—“Benefits of grassland and pasture management.” The event was hosted by the District and cooperating agencies assisting with testing were the PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, Bureau of Forestry, USDA/NRCS and Penn State Extension. Sponsors for the event included AC/Power, Northern Star Generation Services, Coca-Cola and the Adams/Croyle Recreation Authority.

Education– Family Days

Two Days of Family Fun

The Cambria County Conservation District decided to change up our annual Family Day event this year to include not one, but two days of family fun! The first day of events was held on Wednesday July 24 at Duman Lake County Park near Nicktown, PA. Participants were broken into two smaller groups in order to allow for easy transitioning from education station to station.

The day featured a boating safety oral presentation provided by the PA Fish and Boat Commission, followed by kayaking and canoeing on the lake. Some of the participants had prior knowledge, while others experienced their first encounter with kayaking and canoeing that morning. As always the session was a one of great interest and an annual favorite. A wildlife crime was committed and solved with the help of Family Day participants, during the PA Game Commission's 'Crime Scene Investigation' session. The Game Commission walked everyone through a hypothetical crime scene analyzing various clues that real life wildlife investigators encounter. Through clues and intuition the 'crimes' were solved! An exciting presentation by the United States Department of Agriculture showcased many native mammal species, and the dangers of an every changing role in which wildlife sometimes interacts with humans. They shared information about wildlife in parks and how to keep yourself safe from rabies. Participants were able to see and touch real animal pelts, and finish up the session with a fun game of wildlife tag. The day ended with a very well explained presentation by the Cambria County Dairy Princess on the dairy industry, while handing out ice cream treats!



Disaster's Edge Environmental Center in St. Michael was the location of the second day of events held on Friday August 9. Participants were rotated through three education stations, all focusing on our theme of BUGS! Capri Stiles-Mikesell of Penn State Extension gave a presentation on the invasive species, the Spotted Lantern Fly that has been sweeping through the state. She provided information on the bug's life cycle and the detrimental effects they can have on an ecosystem. She showed specimens of the bug and passed around virtual reality glasses that put you right in the epicenter of the infestation. Next, participants moved to a station all about everyone's favorite pollinator, the bee. The owners of Yellow Bear Apiary, a local honey producer, showed participants the steps they need to take in order to harvest the honey we have come to love. They showed replicates of their equipment and displayed high quality close up photographs of some of the important jobs the bees have within their hive. To wrap up a day all about bugs, the District had Ryan 'the Bug-man' host a program. As the name suggests, Ryan had lots and lots of bugs. Bugs from around the world, and bugs from our backyard. He wowed the crowd with a variety of beautiful specimens and taught the importance these insects play in our environment. He brought a few friends along with him, like a scorpion and a tarantula, which he left anyone brave enough hold. The up close contact with these bugs left quite a memorable impression. The day wrapped up again with ice cream treats handed out by the Dairy Ambassador.



Both Family Day events were a success with spreading education and fun to local families. The days were made possible by the generous donations of snacks from Snyder of Berlin, drinks from Coca-Cola, and ice cream from Dairy Queen of Blair County. Thank you to all donators, and those who put on presentations!



Education Programs

RAPTROS ARE REALLY COOL!

While you may have heard the term 'raptor', do you know what kind of animal it is? Simply, a bird of prey. Some types of raptors include vultures, eagles, hawks, and falcons. The District recently began an education program to teach elementary students about the raptors of Pennsylvania. The District first debuted the program for a group of 5th graders. The program consisted of a 'Guess Who' type of game where descriptions of different raptors was read, and the students put together various bird parts (tail, talons, wings, etc.) to build the bird being described. Once they built the bird, they had to figure out which bird those particular parts belonged to. Following that activity, the students were able to put some of their creativity to the test, and were given the opportunity to 'build their own bird'. This activity allowed them to pick different types of wings, tails, and other bird adaptations to build their bird, and then they were asked to describe what the bird was able to do with such parts. Students were asked and they overwhelmingly agreed they loved the activity.



After the initial part of the program, students were taught a bit about the now US-banned pesticide DDT and the effects raptors experienced due to the pesticide usage. They then played a game similar to tag, where some students were 'hawks', some were 'shrews', and others were 'grasshoppers'. All players were on the hunt for food, some of which was tainted with DDT without them knowing which foods were polluted. Players tagged each other and gained the 'food' from the tagged person. At the end of the game food was counted and based on the number of DDT tainted foods, determined if the player felt the effects of DDT or not. The game was designed to demonstrate the food chain and bioaccumulation in a fun hands on way.

THREE DAYS WITH THIRD GRADE!

We learned about bears! We learned about reptiles! We dissected owl pellets! District staff spent three days with Portage Area Elementary School 3rd graders, educating them about various wildlife species as well as assisting them in their investigation of owl pellets! Day one was spent learning about Pennsylvania black bears. The program kicked off by playing a quick true or false game to get students thinking about black bear facts, and they were taught about some interesting techniques used to age a black bear. Students listened as District staff explained what to do if a bear is in your backyard, what bears eat, and how they survive in the wild. To keep things interactive, the students played a game where they got to put their new found knowledge to the test! The games taught students the importance of a bear's nose in finding food and keeping track of their offspring.

Day two held a variety of learning opportunities for the 3rd grade, as they traveled outside the classroom and into the District education center (Disaster's Edge in St. Michael). Students were broken into smaller groups and rotated through different stations that focused on different environmental subjects. Bird watching in the morning, trail hikes in the afternoon, and hands-on learning about some of the reptiles and amphibians who call the Edge their home.

The last day was one of investigation. Always a student favorite, owl pellets were given to each 3rd grader to rip apart and identify the findings inside. Owl information was given and a real frozen screech owl was displayed to the students. After dissecting the owl pellets and discovering various bones, students were able to identify some of the bones. Many students found mice, rats, moles, and some feathers in their owl pellets. The investigation and identification of what is found inside the pellet was the end to a fun and informative week spent at Portage Area Elementary School



**929 STUDENTS ATTENDED
PROGRAMS AT DISASTER'S EDGE**

**127 STUENTS PARTICIPATED IN
SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

**36 EDUCATION PROGRAMS
CONDUCTED**

**344 STUDENTS ATTENDED
PROGRAMS AT THEIR SCHOOLS**

Erosion and Sedimentation Program

PA-DEP CHAPTER 92, 102, AND 105 PROGRAMS

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

19 NPDES General Permits reviewed and approved.

0 NPDES Individual Permits reviewed and approved.

Collected \$7,000 in permit fees for the processing of new NPDES applications.

CHAPTER 102 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM

66 plans with initial review and comments completed.

The plan review fee schedule brought **\$42,375** into the County.

32 complaints were acknowledged and resolved during the year.

CHAPTER 105, DAM SAFETY AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

20 general permits were reviewed and acknowledged.

\$3,200 in permit fees was collected.

24 complaints received and resolved concerning various aspects of the program.



Nutrient Management/No Till Drill Program



AG CONSERVATION ENGINEER TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Assisted **8** farmers with Manure Management Plans

2 Agriculture E&S Plans

50 Chesapeake Bay Farm Inspections

Nutrient & Manure Management

Complaints handled– **7**

Outreach: **24** people

NO TILL DRILL PROGRAM

Total Acres: **603**

Uses: Hay, Small Grains, Soybeans, Food Plots, Cover Crops, and Pasture.

Staff/Intern Changes

New Staff– Kevin Brydon

We are happy to welcome Kevin to the team!

Kevin J. Brydon, our new Agriculture Resource Technician, is a life-long resident of Cambria County, Adams Township. Kevin graduated with an Associate's Degree in Agricultural Technology from West Virginia University and a Bachelor of Science from Penn State University. His interest in agriculture is evident, as well as his a love of the outdoors, which he developed from a young age. Kevin likes to spend most of his free time in the woods hunting or fishing. He also really enjoys getting to spend time with his grandchildren. He comes from a strong background in farming, and has previously worked for Agway and UAP Northeast. Through past professions, he was able to help farmers with their farming practices, giving him in depth experience with the agriculture community. He looks forward to being an important team member of the Cambria County Conservation District, and making Cambria County attractive for future agriculture, local youth, and growth.



Summer Interns– Jenna and Abbie

The Summer of 2019 brought us two new interns who participated in a wide variety of activities. Both interns were from UPJ majoring in Environmental Studies. Jenna helped staff mainly with stream restoration projects, where she was a huge help in getting things done! Abbie mostly helped with education programs including our annual Family Day Events. Thank you to both interns for your help this summer!



Jenna in one of the streams she helped restore



Abbie with one of our snakes at an education program

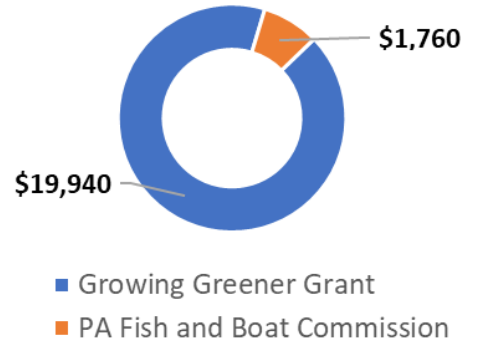
Stream Restoration Projects

Nanty-Glo Flood Control Restoration Project – Phase II

The goals of the Project were to improve sediment transport through the flood control area while improving fish habitat and reducing sediment loading from eroded streambanks into South Branch Blacklick Creek and an un-named tributary. The project resulted in a low flow meandering channel, improved fish habitat, stabilized streambanks and improvement in sediment transport obtained.



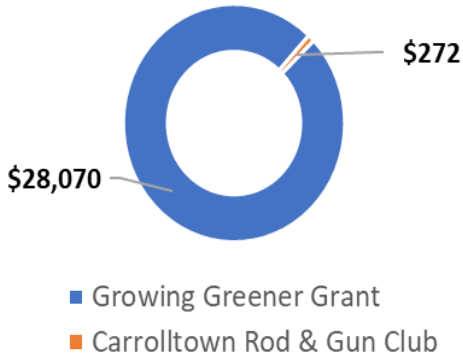
Project Grants/Contributions



Laurel Lick Run Stream Improvement Project

The goals were to improve fish habitat and other aquatic resources while reducing sediment pollution from eroding streambanks into Laurel Lick Run. The streambanks were sloped and stabilized with 20 fish habitat structures which reduced sediment loading into the stream.

Project Grants/Contributions

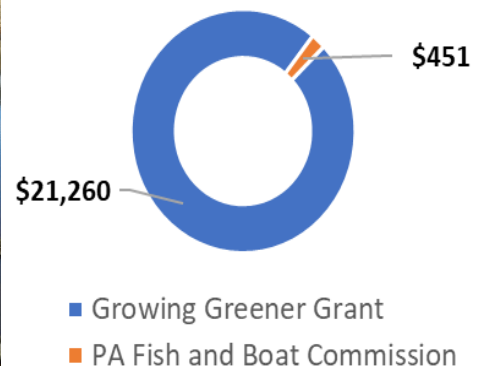


Chest Creek Flood Control Restoration Project Phase V

The goals were to improve fish habitat and other aquatic resources while reducing sediment pollution from eroding streambanks into Chest Creek.. Streambanks were sloped and stabilized utilizing 3 fish habitat structures which reduced sediment loading into the stream while recreating a low flow meandering channel for approximately 300 linear feet.



Project Grants/Contributions

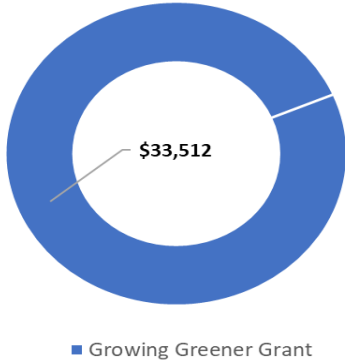


Stream Restoration Projects

West Branch Susquehanna River Project – Site #1

The goals were to improve fish habitat and other aquatic resources while reducing sediment pollution from eroding streambanks into the West Branch Susquehanna River. The streambanks were sloped and stabilized with 44 fish habitat structures which stabilized eroding streambanks and reduced sediment loading into the stream for approximately 705 linear feet.

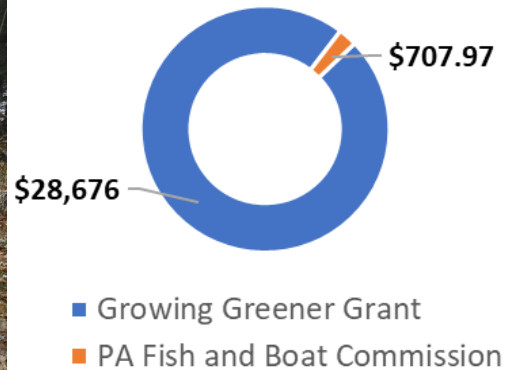
Project Grants/Contributions



West Branch Susquehanna River Project – Site #2

The goals were to improve fish habitat and other aquatic resources while reducing sediment pollution from eroding streambanks into the West Branch Susquehanna River. The streambanks were sloped and stabilized with 7 fish habitat structures which stabilized eroding streambanks and reduced sediment loading into the stream for approximately 300 linear feet of stream.

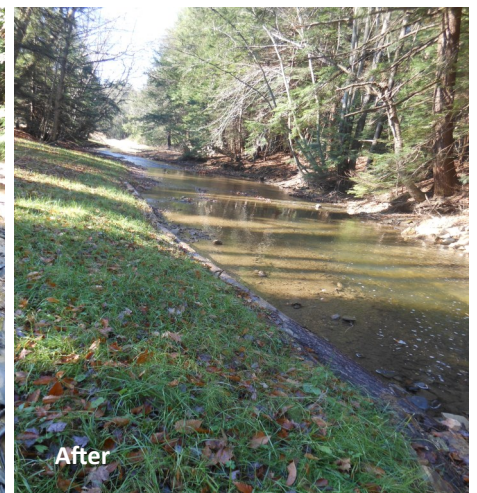
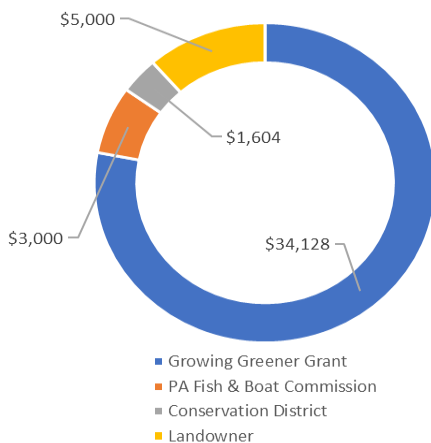
Project Grants/Contributions



North Branch Blacklick Creek Stream Improvement Project

The goals were to improve fish habitat and other aquatic resources while reducing sediment pollution from eroding streambanks into the North Branch Blacklick Creek. The streambanks were sloped and stabilized with fish habitat structures which reduced sediment loading into the stream for approximately 1,250 linear feet.

Project Grants/Contributions



Lake Restoration Projects

Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project - Phase V- Killbuck Cove – Site #1

The Project will eliminate 210 feet of severely eroded shoreline, reduce sedimentation, decrease the hydrilla problem in the lake, improve aesthetics, provide fish habitat, maintain and improve fisherman access, and other water quality improvements. A total of 67 structures were installed which included: Stone Framed Rock Deflectors, Rock Rubble Piles, and Felled Shoreline Trees.

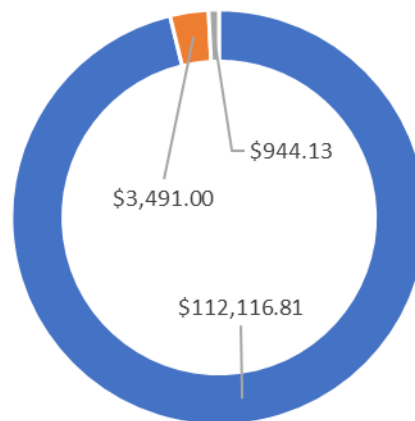


Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project - Phase V- Killbuck Cove – Site #2

The Project will eliminate 660 feet of severely eroded shoreline, reduce sedimentation, the hydrilla problem in the lake, improve aesthetics, provide fish habitat, maintain and improve fisherman access, and other water quality improvements. A total of 244 structures were installed which included: Stone Framed Rock Deflectors, Rock Rubble Piles, Felled Shoreline Trees, and Rootwad deflectors.



Project Grants/Contributions- Killbuck Cove Site #1 & #2



■ Growing Greener Grant ■ PA DCNR- State Parks ■ PA Fish & Boat Commission

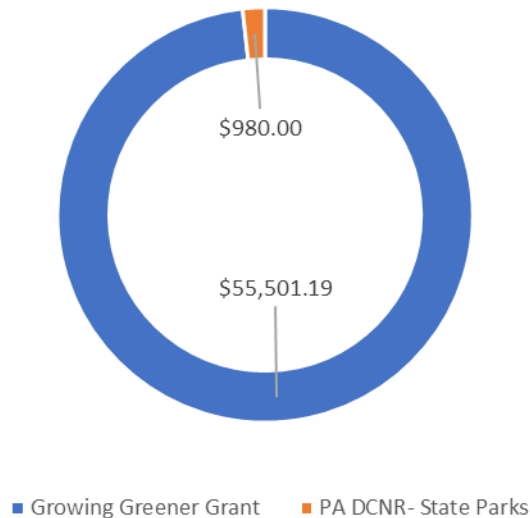
Lake Restoration Projects

Glendale Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project - Phase V- Muskrat Beach – Site #1

The Project will eliminate 420 feet of severely eroded shoreline, reduce sedimentation, decrease the hydrilla problem in the lake, improve aesthetics, provide fish habitat, maintain and improve fisherman access, and other water quality improvements. A total of 102 structures were installed which included: Stone Framed Rock Deflectors, Sawtooth Deflectors, Rock Rubble Piles, Felled Shoreline Trees, and Rootwad deflectors.



Project Grants/Contributions:



Data Loggers

10 dataloggers located in North Fork Bens Creek, Riffle Run, Dalton Run, Allwine Run, Saltlick Run, Laurel Run, North Witmer Run, Slatelick Run, Trout Run, and Bens Creek; 385,440 readings per year; 35,040 reading per year per datalogger

Greater Johnstown Water Authority (purchased three dataloggers):

Allwine Creek: Installed on 8/25/2011. 292,637 readings as of 12/31/2019. No significant changes in water quality during 2018.

North Fork Bens Creek: Installed 8/25/2011. 292,614 readings as of 12/31/2019. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2019.

Saltlick Run: Installed 8/25/2011. 292,614 readings as of 12/31/2019. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2019.

Dalton Run: Installed 6/30/2014. 192,864 readings as of 12/31/2019. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2019.

Riffle Run: Installed 9/16/2014. 185,472 readings as of 12/31/2019. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2019.

Portage Municipal Authority (purchased two dataloggers):

Bens Creek/Earnest Run: Installed on March 20, 2014. 202,656 readings as of 12/31/19. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2019.

Trout Run: Installed on March 20, 2014. 202,656 readings as of 12/31/19. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2019.

Trout Unlimited (donated two dataloggers):

Laurel Run: Installed 7/28/2011. 301,156 readings as of 12/31/19. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2019.

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association (purchased one datalogger):

North Witmer Run: Installed on 1/6/12. This datalogger is located just above the Glendale Sportsman's Cooperative Trout Nursery. 279,840 readings as of 12/31/19. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2019.

CCCD—Dataloggers purchased by the County:

Slatelick Run: Installed 4/26/2011. 304,860 readings as of 12/31/19. This is the site for Chevron Appalachia's Smithmyer well. This well has had the vertical and horizontal drilling done, but the fracking hasn't begun. There has been no significant change in water quality at this site during 2019.





WATERSHED NEWS

216 Beldin Hollow Road, Ashville, PA 16613

DECEMBER 2019

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2019

- Completed 3 trash cleanups on Rte. 53, Dean to Syberton (9 miles), our 17th 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.
- Organized the Seventeenth Annual Fishing Derby for kids at Dysart – 80 participants.
- Maintained a membership of 125 members for 2019. Continued a junior membership category-\$1.00 fee.
- Continued quarterly sampling of the Klondike and Swank treatment systems. Treatment is good.
- Initiated experiments on a new iron removal system developed by Ecoislands Inc. of Altoona at the Klondike site.
- Inspected and sampled the new W Ferris and Gibson treatment systems monthly. Outflows are well treated.
- Sampled Little Laurel Run 4 times. The acidity at the mouth is greatly decreased, to about 20% of the original.
- Submitted a \$50,000 proposal to EPA319 for design and permitting of a new Sand Springs treatment system near Rte. 36.
- Received a grant of \$291,000 from EPA 319 for construction of the final treatment system at W Ferris
- Received grants of \$5,000 from Foundation for PA Watersheds for sampling and \$1,800 from ARIPPA for Swank.
- Support trout stocking of the Dysart Dam for the Opening Day of Trout Season, Kids Fishing Derby and the Veteran's event.
- Volunteered at the annual Veteran's fishing event by CCWA members.
- Inspected 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.
- 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.
- Exhibited a display and discussed CCWA activities at the annual Cider Festival at Prince Gallitzin State Park.
- Continue to assist the PA Fish Commission with stocking of fish in Clearfield Creek from Ashville to Condrin Bridge.
- Sponsored an audit and a management evaluation of the CCWA financial statements by a professional CPA firm.
- Revised and updated our website (www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org) and continue to receive newspaper coverage on activities and projects.

2020 AGENDA

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association is, once again, planning an aggressive agenda in 2020:

- Continue to monitor, test and maintain our recently completed treatment systems at WFW, Gibson-Halstock, Klondike, and Swank.
- Inspect and flush the Ace Drilling site quarterly.
- Continue our efforts with the PFC, DEP and support of both the Cambria & Clearfield Co. Conservation Districts.
- Advance our projects to treat acid mine discharge, especially on Brubaker Run, improve the water quality of Clearfield Creek in both Cambria and Clearfield Counties and raise funds for educational purposes.
- Initiate construction of the final treatment system at W Ferris Wheel.
- Design and permit the Sand Springs project.

OFFICERS FOR 2020

President- Dane Kalwanaski, President Elect-Dan McMullen, Treasurer-Shawn Simmers, Secretary- Jerry McMullen. Elections will be held for the one at large Board position at the January, 2020 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 21, 2020. 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.

Dirt & Gravel Roads– Completed 2019

Rhoa Road– Chest Township

The first drainage project on Rhoa Road in Chest Township was holding up nicely with our heavy rainstorms. It was not creating anymore erosion problems where additional drainage needed to be added. So Chest Township applied for grant money to lay 2,026.37 tons on this ~1 mile section of road and for New Enterprise to lay it. They had a contractor prep the road as per DSA specifications. The project total that the grant paid for was \$61,103.00.



Final DSA Product

Beldin Hollow Road– Dean Township

Hollow Road was Dean Township's first dirt & gravel application and their first application within the program ever. The dirt & gravel section of this road was almost a mile long and had a steeper grade to it. With minimal cross pipes, the first phase of this project was to add additional cross pipes, replace several existing cross pipes and build up certain sections of the road with 2A base material. Every cross pipe received a concrete bag headwall and endwall. If the outlet was on a steep hillside, a RipRap apron was built to slow the water down, disperse it out and to not create additional erosion. The project total for a contractor to complete the work was \$20,211.00 paid by the grant. Addition drainage needs to be completed and a surface needs to be laid but this was a good start to fixing this road!



Concrete bag headwall

Plummer Road– Croyle Township

Plummer Road in Croyle Township had a tricky problem with drainage due to the road having a sharp turn. Putting simple cross pipes in the upper section would only push the problem towards the bottom section of the road. This road utilized underdrain to get the stormwater off in a safe location into the woods. We also laid the banks back for daylighting and to get them to a grade that could be stabilized. Several cross pipes were put in on the lower section. The township completed the work with help from a single man excavator and the grant paid \$34,761.03 towards the project.



Banks laid back and cross pipes added



*Top Section: DSA placed and rolled
Bottom Section: DSA tailgated*

Mine Road– Susquehanna Township

Susquehanna Township had Feighner Trucking & Excavating tailgate 398 tons of DSA onto our previous drainage project on Mine Road. This is the first time within our county that DSA was laid by the tailgating method. The end results turned out pretty good for this back rural road with little traffic. Under the program, you are allowed to tailgate DSA as long as it is under 1,000 tons. If it is over that amount, it must be laid with a paver in a single pass. The total cost of this project was \$13,339.26 with the grant paying \$12,400.00 of it.

Low Volume Roads– Completed 2019

Betz Road– Croyle Township

Betz Road in Croyle Township had many drainage problems. It had steeper grades with houses on both sides of the road hindering where runoff could be outletted into a safe place. Although this road is not completely fixed, adding underdrain, Riprap channels, cross pipes and inlet boxes made a huge improvement. The project total that was paid out was \$35,926.08 for the township with help from a local contractor to complete the work.



R4 RipRap Channel



Drainage work complete and base prepared

Willow Beach Road– Summerhill Township

Summerhill Township completed a short section on Willow Beach Road where a lot of farm field runoff had impact to the road. This was a pretty simple project with underdrain, two new cross pipes and inlet boxes, building the road base up with 2A and paving. Although it was a simple project that cost \$24,916.10 through the program, what was completed had big impacts on this paved section of the road. Potholes and cracking in the pavement shouldn't be as big of a problem anymore and will keep the landowners who travel that road happy.



Streambank stabilized and road built back up and paved

River Street– Northern Cambria Borough

Northern Cambria Borough applied for their first Low Volume road project on River Street. The problem with this road was that the stream bank was holding the edge of the road up. Once the streambank started eroding away, the Borough started losing the edge of their road. This was not good because it was single lane/one-way street. The hazards were high and it needed to be fixed. After some engineering and utilizing a GP-3 Bank Stabilization permit, the road was fixed back to new by a contractor and was funded in the amount of \$85,660.36 through the program.



R7 RipRap apron

Mountain Drive– Barr Township

Mountain Drive in Barr Township was completed by a contractor and totaled \$55,240.00 in grant money. The gully that was eroding between the two roads in now filled in, stabilized and functioning just like it should. Now the Township employees can focus on other issues when a big rain storm comes and not have to worry about this road. Additional work was completed down hill such as the RipRap apron at the end of the cross pipe so we don't push the problem downhill. Uphill we tried to cut the drainage off as soon as we could!

Funded Low Volume Roads

Itle Road– Munster Township

Munster Township became certified in April 2019 to be eligible to put their first application in for a low volume road—Itle Road. Right now on a steep grade the township only has 1 cross pipe to carry all of the runoff from the road, surrounding farm material storage yard and farm field. The outlet of this cross pipe is causing a big erosion problem on the farmers property and hindering them from expanding their operation because of how wet the ground is. The local farmer went to a township meeting requesting something to be done to help out this problem. A work plan was put together to add underdrain and Riprap channels, 2 new cross pipes and an inlet box to get the water to the end of the road where a better location to discharge the water would be. Awaiting signature on the contract for \$63,961.80 will put this plan into place.



Ditch Eroding



Stream crossing/ culvert replacement

Oaks Road– Croyle Township

Oaks Road in Croyle Township is a simple drainage project of replacing 8 existing cross pipes and adding 1 additional cross pipe and an inlet box. One cross pipe is on a stream but will not require any permit and will be sized accordingly to program policy! The township asked for \$13,086.40 to complete the project and they were granted the full amount. The township plans to complete the work themselves this spring.

Funded Dirt & Gravel Roads

Grozanick Road– Chest Township

Once again Chest Township came to us with a road almost 2 miles long that had many issues. Grozanick Road has multiple wet spots, cross pipes that are failing, loosing the edge of the road, and a stream crossing. For this grant application we are addressing most of the problems; fixing up existing and adding new cross pipes and laying French mattresses where it is wet in the middle of the road. This project is being contracted out and the grant total is \$71,148.76.



Culvert failing, leaving hole in road



Road prepped for DSA

Harvey Dickie Road– Summerhill Township

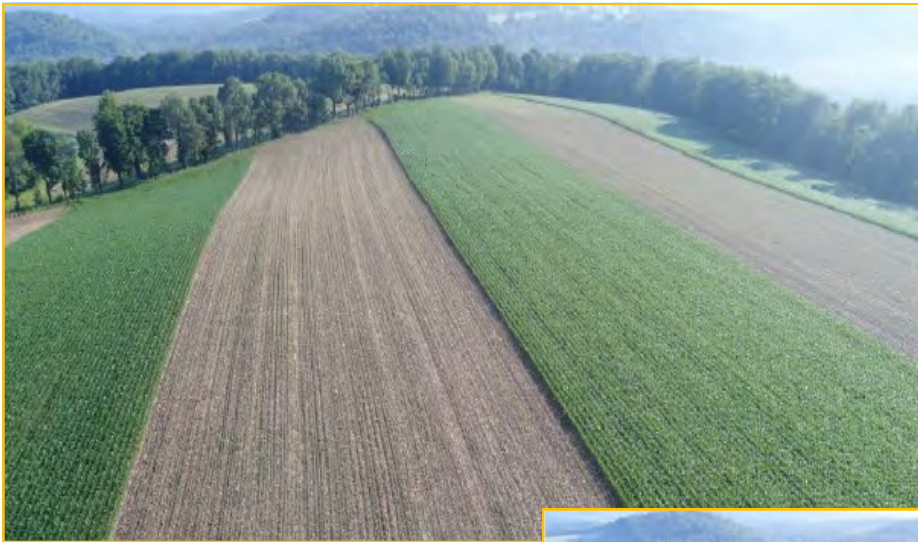
Summerhill Township completed the drainage work through our program on Harvey Dickie Road back in 2018. Since the road was completed it has been put to test through heavy rain storms, freeze/thaw periods and is holding up just like it should. To finish the road off, the township applied for grant money to surface the road with DSA. The requested \$30,048.50 will be used for DSA material, #3 Stone to berm the edge once DSA is laid and for New Enterprise to lay it. They were granted the full amount and hope to complete the project in late spring/early summer.

Agricultural Land Preservation



Justin Beyer Farm

Croyle Township
68.25 acres
Preserved June 27, 2019



As of December 2019 in
Cambria County:
18 Farms Preserved
2,933 acres

Sandra Brzezinski Farm

Clearfield Township
146.9 acres
Preserved November 19, 2019

Land sold for \$1 as per Sandra's brother's wishes to ensure the farm stays in agriculture and to advocated for preservation within our community.



Conservation Staff & Directors

County Staff

John S. Dryzal, *District Manager*

Mary Ellen Bard, *Administrative Assistant*

Mark A. Stockley, *Resource Conservation Supervisor*

Jacqueline Ritko, *Resource Conservation Supervisor*

Bryan Rabish, *Watershed Specialist*

Ethan Itle-Szpala, *Per Diem Drill Operator*

District Staff

Bobbie Blososky, *Per Diem Resource Specialist*

Anna Itle, *Resource Specialist*

T. Christopher Kerr, *Resource Specialist*

Brian Bahorik, *Agriculture Resource Specialist*,
resigned July 2019

Kevin Brydon, *Agriculture Resource Specialist*,
hired September 2019

AmeriCorps Member

Shannon Johns

Directors

Dennis Beck, Chairman

Robert Davis, Vice Chairman

Martin Westrick, Secretary/Treasurer

Tom Chernisky, Commissioner

James Benshoff

Dave Hegemann

John Nibert

David Stolz

Larry Neff



District Manager John Dryzal receiving the Senate Proclamation for Conservation District Week

Pictured Left to Right: PACD Executive Director Brenda Shambaugh, State Senator Wayne Langerhole, District Manager John Dryzal, State Senator Gene Yaw, and State Senator Elder Vogel

2019 Board Meeting Perfect Attendance

Jim Benshoff

Commissioner
Chernisky



Cambria County Conservation District
MISSION STATEMENT

The Cambria County Conservation District educates and assists the public through programs, projects, and leadership in the stewardship of natural resources to sustain and enhance the quality of life.

CambriaConservationDistrict.org

Find us on:

