

An aerial photograph of a lake with a dam in the foreground. The water is dark and rippled. The dam is a low stone wall with a small waterfall. The surrounding land is a mix of green grass, brown dirt, and trees with autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. A dirt road curves through the landscape. A white van is parked on the road. The text "Cambria County Conservation District" is overlaid in large white letters, framed by a white border.

# **Cambria County Conservation District**

# **2022 Annual Report**

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# MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

2022 was an interesting year in the Conservation District world. We had some significant changes in either policy or required outputs for various programs. We received a historic funding increase in our line items in the state budget. And to top it off, an entirely new program that provides significant funding for Ag conservation was created.

All of this added to the importance for us to continue our evaluation of various programs. These program evaluations looked at workload, the funding resources, the required outputs and how these required outputs align with our core mission.

Throughout the years, just like most districts, we accepted delegation agreements or contracts with state agencies to provide programs and services for these agencies locally. We accepted these agreements for various reasons. Sometimes it was because what we were being asked to provide aligned with our objectives and provided additional resources toward addressing our local conservation mission. Other times we accepted the duties because providing these services locally was beneficial to our local constituents. And still other times it was a means for additional revenue needed to fund staff.

Over time program requirements gradually changed. Each change, at the time, was minor and appeared as just a normal progression. However, over a long period, these changes collectively are so significant that what we are being asked to provide now does not resemble what we were asked to do when we first started participating in a program. Think of the analogy of the frog and the boiling pot of water. If you throw the frog in a boiling pot of water it will immediately jump out. However, if you place it in pot of cool water and slowly increase the temperature it doesn't realize that it is being boiled and won't jump out.

When evaluating certain programs, especially the Ag programs, we realized that this is exactly what has happened. The cumulative changes have culminated to a point where the programs are significantly different and are actually draining on our local resources. To that end, the Directors decided to end our participation in the Nutrient Management/Manure Management Program and reduce our Chesapeake Bay Technician contract.

We acknowledge the importance of these programs in our conservation efforts and the overall conservation of the Commonwealth's natural resources. However, what is being asked of us is no longer acceptable.

We know that there can be a role for us to assist in meeting the objectives of these programs. We are willing to engage in discussions with the appropriate agencies as to what that role could and should be. I am hopeful that with the change in administration there will be an opportunity to reinvigorate a collaborative dialogue between the districts and state agency staff. That there will be conversations and negotiations to redetermine and define the role that districts should play in the programs that is mutually beneficial to all parties.

In spite of these trials and tribulations, we continue 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 projects and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

*John*

# STAFF



## Mary Ellen Bard, "Ellie"

In January, Ellie retired from her full-time position as Administrative Assistant, but remained a staff member, part-time, as our Event Coordinator/Office Assistant. After 42 years, Ellie has taken a step back in her duties so that she can enjoy life outside the office, which now includes her two grandchildren. She still remains very active in the activities of the Cambria County Conservation District, including the coordination of our annual Tree & Plant sale, the coordination of events for our County Fair Showcase, the coordination of our Electronics Recycling events, as well as other activities as they arise.



## Shannon Hall

In February, Shannon Hall took the position of Administrative Assistant. Shannon is 2002 graduate of Saint Francis University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. She had spent many years working in accounting and project management prior to her employment at the Cambria County Conservation District. Shannon handles the daily office tasks, as well as assisting with other activities such as the annual Tree & Plant sale, the Electronics Recycling, the Appliance & Tire Collections, and our County Fair Showcase.

# AMERICORPS MEMBERS & INTERNS

## **Bailey Hildebrand.**

AmeriCorps member for 2021-2022. Bailey is a graduate of Saint Francis University with a degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Biology.

Bailey was able to assist with various projects including the annual tree & plant sale, the Envirothon, and several education programs.



## **Autumn Holdsworth.**

2022 Summer Intern.

Autumn attends Juniata College for Fisheries & Aquatics, with a minor in Geology. She intends on becoming a fisheries biologist. While interning with the Cambria County Conservation District, she assisted with several education programs, the setup of Spotted Lanternfly traps, and the rain barrel workshop.



## **Gabriel (Gabe) Anderson.**

AmeriCorps member for 2022-2023.

Gabe is a recent graduate of High School, who has taken some time off before pursuing his college goal of studying Biology. Gabe takes great pride 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 education events.



## **Hope Long.**

2022 Fall/2023 Spring Intern. Hope is currently attending the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown, as a double major, studying Environmental Studies and Biology with a minor to receive her GIS certificate. While interning at the Cambria County Conservation District, she has worked with Practice Keeper and BMP verifications, as well as assisted with educational events at the County Fair, and the tire & appliance collections.



# 2022 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



**"HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY LIFE"**

# EDUCATION EVENTS

784 children participated in different educational programs.

300 live stakes were planted at Williams Run.

250 trees were planted by the Girl scouts at Disaster's edge for a riparian buffer.

15 participants in the Rain Barrel Workshop.

15 participants in the 4-H kayaking/ stream exploration program.

20 participants in the GIS program for boy scouts.

10 participants in the renewable energy program for girl scouts.

Cambria County fair program, "What's in your water?"



Rain Barrel Workshop



Johnstown Christian School



Fish Prints



Forest Hills 5th Grade Stream Survey



Girl Scouts Tree Planting



4-H Kayak Adventure

# ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT

Our second successful electronics recycling event was held on Tuesday, May 10th for small businesses and Saturday, May 14th for the general public. The event was held at the American Legion County Fairgrounds in a spacious building that allowed staff members and 4H volunteers to unload and sort the items to be recycled into various categories. Items included: computer towers, laptops, printers, monitors, iPad/tablets, hard drives, cell phones, gaming devices and surveillance equipment.

Between collection days, staff worked to prepare the equipment for shipping. This required layering items with cardboard, boxing laptops, bubble wrapping monitors, boxing cords and accessories, sorting cell phones, and making a list of all items. Items were then sorted on pallets and stretch wrapped for shipping. The pallets were loaded onto a tractor trailer, supplied by TechBuyerUSA, and shipped to their New Jersey facility. There, they are sorted, tested, and hard drives wiped/shredded and certified.

Once items are reviewed by TechBuyers a statement is generated informing us of the number of items that were recycled, and the number of items that they wished to purchase for the purpose of being refurbished.

During this event, we collected 168 computer towers, 256 laptops, 73 printers, 266 flat screen monitors, 47 iPads/tablets, several boxes of hard drives out of machines, over 250 cell phones, a box of gaming devices, as well as boxes of cables/keyboards/mice. These items were saved from the local landfill and the district received \$4,440.25 to put toward our educational events held in September, at the County Fair.





# KEEP CAMBRIA COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

Keep Cambria County Beautiful, in agreement with participating municipalities, held seven Appliance and Tire Collections in 2022. The spring collections were held in Cambria Township, Croyle Township, Patton Borough, and Stonycreek Township. The fall collections were held in Jackson Township, Summerhill Township, and Tunnelhill Borough.

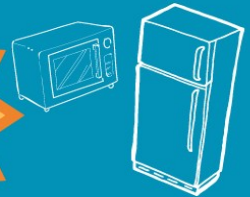
Overall, the seven collections were very successful this past year. At these collections, people were able to bring appliances such as refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, etc. for a small cost. Appliances containing Freon cost \$6.00, while non-Freon containing appliances are free. Off rim tires cost \$1.00, on-rim tires cost \$2.00, and tires that are four feet tall and/or wider than 14 inches cost \$20.00. We were able to collect 272 appliances and 8,188 tires!



**8,188**  
Tires  
Collected



**272**  
Appliances  
Collected



## LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The District held its Legislative Breakfast on Friday, October 28th at Kosta's Restaurant in Ebensburg. After guests were treated to a buffet of breakfast foods, District Manager, John Dryzal, provided a presentation of District Project Highlights in 2022. Guests were also informed on several pieces of legislation. Some of which the district supports, and others of concern. The breakfast then concluded with John thanking legislators for the increased funding to conservation districts in the state budget.



# Annual Tree & Plant Sale

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



2022 was the celebration of our 50th Anniversary Sale! Sorting, dipping, counting, bagging and tagging - are all a part of the weekly tasks leading up to our Annual Tree & Plant Sale pick up day. However, it all begins months ahead of that week in April.

Beginning in September of 2021, nursery stock was reserved throughout the fall months, with the catalog produced in January and out to customers by February. Using social media - viewers who "Shared" our post announcing the sale received a free perennial plant with their order.

We have established great relationships with our nurseries over the past 50 years who include: Endless Mountain Berry Farm, Adams County Nursery, Boyers Nursery, Pikes Peak Nursery, Alpha Nurseries, Musser Forests, Pine Grove Nursery, Faught's Garden Center, Flickingers Nursery, and other vendors such as: Conservation Services, Inc., AM Leonard and ATZ Wood Products. We couldn't hold such a large event without the support of the American Legion County Fair, who allow us use of the Agriculture building.

"Sold Out" was a constant message as we approached the deadline date for orders. Selling stock that ranged from seedlings to bare-root plants, plugs, crowns and potted plants, along with tree protectors, wildlife boxes and fertilizer tablets, we managed to raise \$9,488 for education programming and conservation projects.



## SUCCESS!

# EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION PROGRAM

## PA-DEP CHAPTER 92, 102, AND 105 PROGRAMS

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

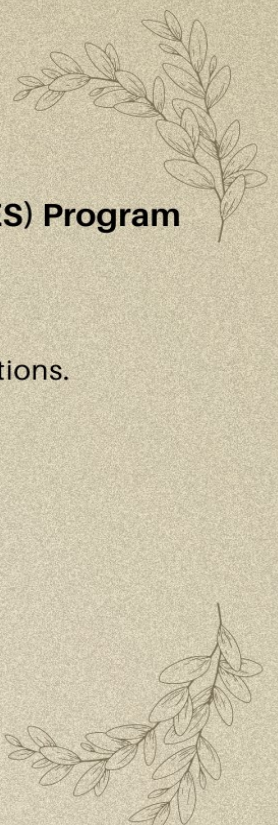
- 19 NPDES General Permits reviewed and approved.
- 2 NPDES Individual Permits reviewed and approved.
- 1 ESCGP Permit reviewed and approved.
- **Collected \$14,950** in permit fees for the processing of new NPDES applications.
- 17 complaints were acknowledged and resolved during the year.

### Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Program

- 60 plans with initial review and comments completed.
- **Collected \$113,800** in E&S review fees.
- 12 complaints were acknowledged and resolved during the year.

### Chapter 105, Dam Safety and Waterway Management Program

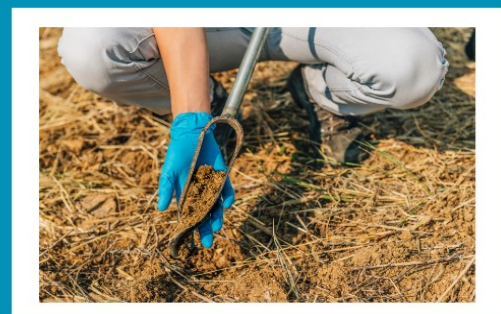
- 27 general permits were reviewed and acknowledged.
- **\$14, 100** in permit fees were collected.
- 5 complaints were acknowledged and resolved during the year.



# NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT/ NO TILL DRILL PROGRAM

## AG CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

- Assisted 5 farmers with Manure Management Plans and Ag E&S Plans
- 50 Chesapeake Bay Farm Inspections
- 1 Nutrient Management Plan Written
- 1 Complaints addressed
- Nutrient Management Outreach: 150 people

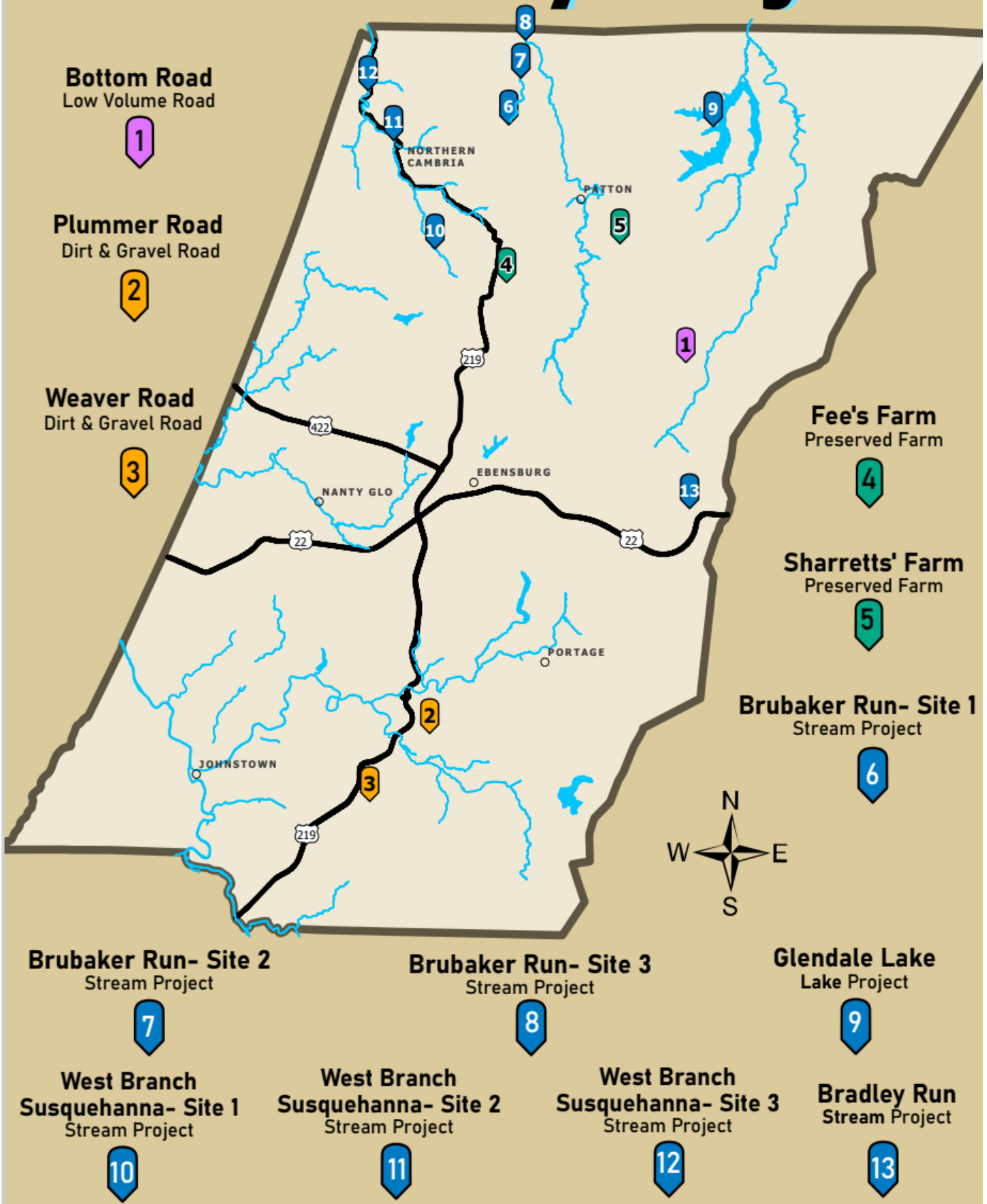


## NO TILL DRILL PROGRAM

- Total acres: **341**
- Uses: Hay, Small Grains, Soybeans, Food Plots, Cover Crops, and Pastures
- Fees collected in 2022: **\$5,577.40**



# 2022 County Projects



# STREAM/ShORELINE RESTORATION PROJECTS

Brubaker Run (3 Sites) \$44,884.60  
Bradley Run - \$63,850.92  
Walnut Run Phase IV - \$10,481.40  
North Branch Blacklick Creek Phase II - \$4,205.00  
West Branch Susquehanna River (3 Sites) \$111,338.46  
Glendale Lake Shoreline Projects - In Progress

## Brubaker Run (Site #3)



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## Brubaker Run (Site #1)

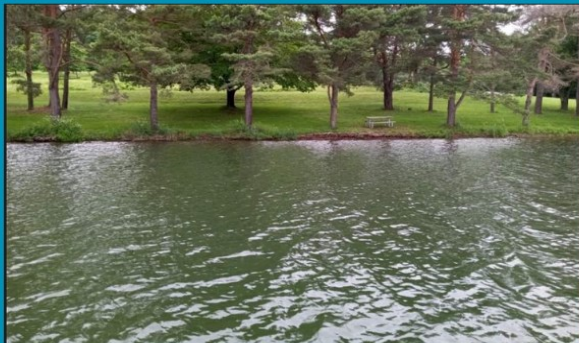


**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## Glendale Lake Shoreline (Turtle Cove)



**BEFORE**



*Photo Credit: PA Fish & Boat Commission*

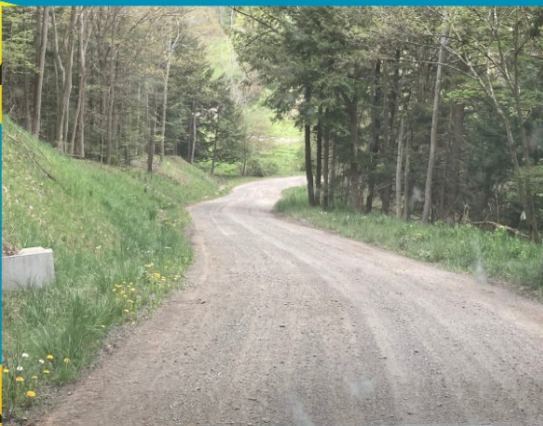
**AFTER**

# PLUMMER ROAD CROYLE TOWNSHIP D&G COMPLETE PROJECT

Graded Road



Finished DSA



- 2,415.41 tons of DSA placed by Grannas Brothers
- 86.97 tons of R-3 RipRap & 133.23 tons of 2RC for berming
- 2 new 15" crosspipes installed
- Total project cost: \$86,928.21

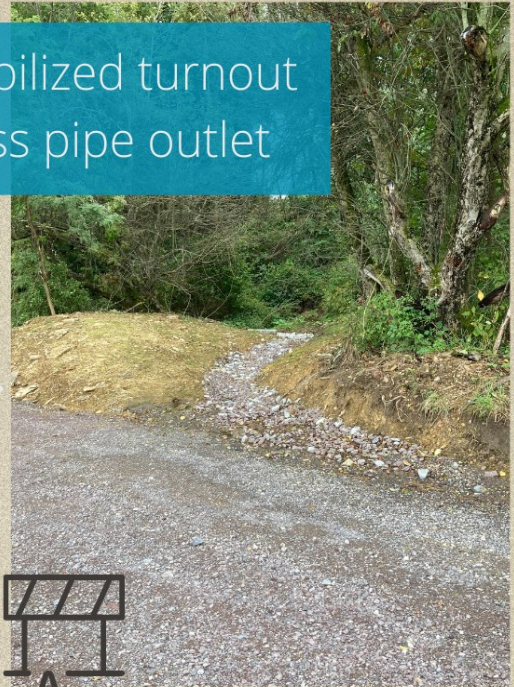


# WEAVER ROAD ADAMS TOWNSHIP D&G COMPLETE PROJECT



Water flowing into inlet

R-3 stabilized turnout  
& cross pipe outlet



Concrete headwall of  
cross pipe

- 2 turnouts installed
  - Stabilized with R-3 riprap
- 2 new cross pipes
- 1 cross pipe replaced
- 1 driveway pipe
- Concrete headwalls & endwalls
- 1 inlet box & grate
- Project cost: \$6,206.76
- In-kind: \$6,480.87



# BOTTOM ROAD ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP LV IN-PROGRESS PROJECT

What was completed in 2022:

## Stream Crossing #9



INLET



OUTLET



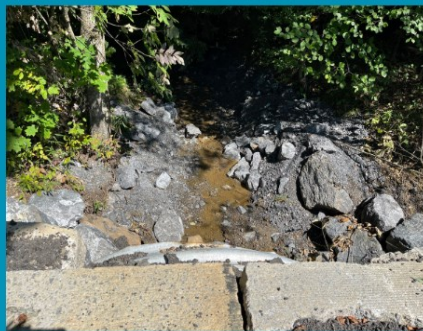
THROUGH THE PIPE

TOTAL CROSSING COST: \$32,799.54

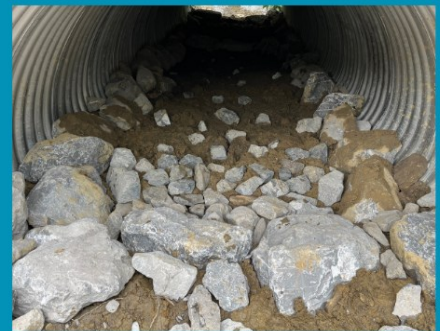
## Stream Crossing #8



INLET



OUTLET



THROUGH THE PIPE

TOTAL CROSSING COST: \$48,955.20

## Stream Crossings #7 & #10



INLET



OUTLET

CROSSINGS QUALIFY FOR WAIVERS



INLET



OUTLET

TOTAL CROSSINGS COST: REMAINING OF CONTRACT IS BEING HELD TO CLOSE OUT PROJECT





# WEAVER ROAD ADAMS TOWNSHIP D&G CONTRACT



- Contract Amount: \$110,885.00
- Work Plan: Township to prep road more with 2A base material, Contractor to place DSA



Drainage all fixed and road prepped for DSA placement

# PARK ROAD CROYLE TOWNSHIP D&G CONTRACT



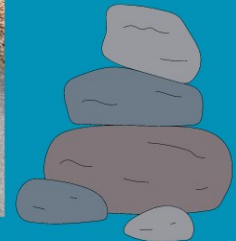
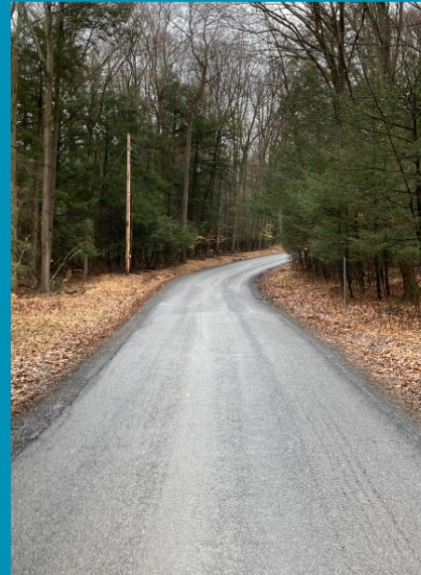
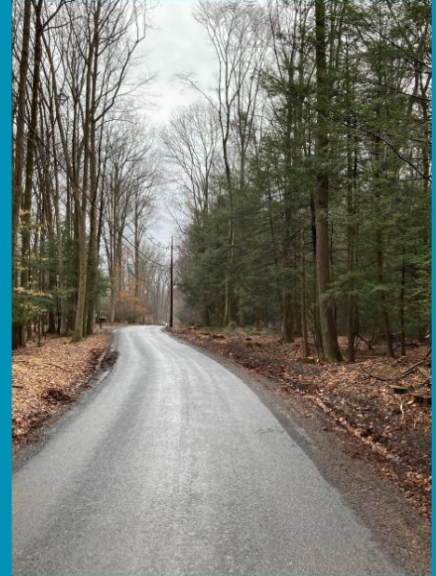
Wetlands/springs impacting road

- Contract Amount: \$13,193.50
- Work plan: Replaced/added new 8 cross pipes with headwalls & endwalls
- Township to complete all work



Flow in ditches

# SWARTZ ROAD WHITE TOWNSHIP LV CONTRACT



- Contract Amount: \$82,316.00
- Work plan: Add 4 new cross pipes & 1 driveway pipe with headwalls & endwalls, 500 feet of 8" underdrain, Grade banks back for more visibility & stabilize, Stabilize ditchline with #3 & #4 stone
- DCNR to complete tree clearing within right-of-way

# EDUCATION SHOWCASE



## AMERICAN LEGION COUNTY FAIR WEEK

During the summer of 2021, the district ventured into a new public event. Even though we host a booth at the fair each year to share our information with the crowd, we felt that more was needed to get people involved in some hands-on learning experiences.



We began by preparing a location with an inviting atmosphere, and presenters that would draw attention. In 2021 we were able to secure "Critter Connection", "The BugMan", the Cambria Co Rescue Team, Cambria Co. Farm Bureau, County Drone Masters, USDA Wildlife Services and the St. Francis College R.O.C.K. club and Energy Department.

During the week we surveyed the visitors and found they loved the new addition to the building and the fair.

This past September was our second year hosting the showcase and we brought back by popular demand; Critter Connection, The BugMan, and ROCK. New additions included the Cambria Co. PSU Master Gardeners, REA Energy Services, our Conservation Education staff, and Artist Helen Barlick.

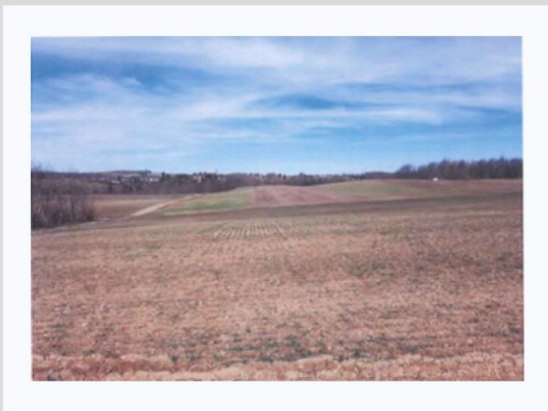
We plan to continue the Showcase in 2023 with new topics and more fun for the families visiting the fair.





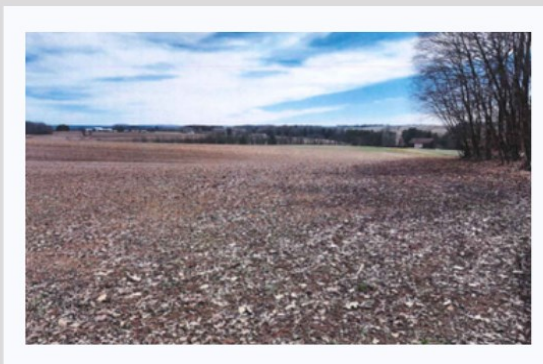
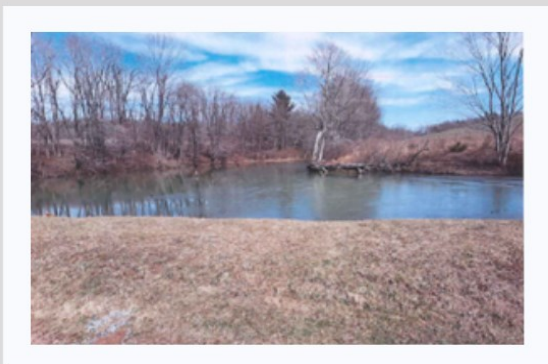
## David Fees Farm

East Carroll Township  
63 Acres \$63,000



## Deborah & Daniel Sharretts Farm

Clearfield Township  
142.42 Acres \$150,965



# DATALOGGERS



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; 35,400 readings per year per datalogger; 350,400 readings this year; 3,937,631 readings to date.



## GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY

**Allwine Creek:** Installed on 8/25/2011. 398,477 readings as of 12/31/2022. No significant changes in water quality during 2022.

**North Fork Bens Creek:** Installed on 8/25/2011. 398,454 readings as of 12/31/2022. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2022.

**Saltlick Run:** Installed on 8/25/2011. 398,454 readings as of 12/31/2022. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2022.

**Dalton Run:** Installed on 6/30/2014. 298,704 readings as of 12/31/2022. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2022.

**Riffle Run:** Installed on 9/16/2014. 291,312 readings as of 12/31/2022. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2022.

## PORTAGE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

**Bens Creek/Earnest Run:** Installed on March 20, 2014. 308,496 readings as of 12/31/2022. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2022.

**Trout Run:** Installed on March 20, 2014. 308,496 readings as of 12/31/2022. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2022.

## CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

**North Witmer Run:** Installed on 1/6/12. This datalogger is located just above the Glendale Sportsman's Cooperative Trout Nursery. 385,680 readings as of 12/31/2022. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2022.

## CCCD

**Slatelick Run:** Installed 4/26/2011. 410,700 readings as of 12/31/2022. 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 2022.

## TROUT UNLIMITED

**Laurel Run:** Installed 7/28/2011. 406,996 readings as of 12/31/2022. All readings have been relatively consistent during 2022.





# WATERSHED NEWS

160 Big Bear Lane, Ashville, PA 16613

DECEMBER 2022

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2022

- Completed 3 trash cleanups on Rte. 53, Dean to Syberton (9 miles), our 20th 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, 19<sup>th</sup> annual, 85 kids participated.
- Maintained a membership of 110 members for 2022. Continued a junior membership category-\$1.00 fee.
- Continued quarterly sampling and inspection of the Klondike, West Ferris, Gibson and Swank treatment systems.
- Rebuilt the Klondike treatment systems and modified Gibson to better remove contaminants.
- Installed a new permanent weir on Little Laurel Run.
- Sampled Little Laurel Run quarterly; the seven treatment systems remove about 80% of the acid and metals.
- Continued studies of the Brubaker watershed leading to plans for treatment of this severe problem.
- With our contractor, Hedin Environmental, investigated the optimum design for the Sand Springs discharge.
- 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.
- Collaborated with DEP on improvements at the Glasgow treatment system.
- 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.
- Collaborated with Clearfield Co. Conservation on treatment of Morgan Run discharges.
- 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 ([www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org](http://www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org)) and continue to receive newspaper coverage on activities and projects.

## 2023 AGENDA

Clearfield Creek Watershed Association is, once again, planning an aggressive agenda in 2023:

- Continue to monitor, test and maintain our treatment systems at WFW, Gibson-Halstock, Klondike, and Swank.
- Inspect and flush the Ace Drilling site quarterly for DEP.
- Design the Sand Springs System using the recent grant money received.
- 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.

## OFFICERS FOR 2023

President-Dane Kalwanaski. Elections will be held for the President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and one at large Board position at the January, 2023 meeting. Art Rose continues to serve as the Tech Committee Chairman.

## MEETINGS

CCWA meets at 6:30 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, at the Prince Gallitzin Park, Main Office. **Note:** Our annual meeting is on January 17, 2023. 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.

# CONSERVATION STAFF & DIRECTORS

## County Staff

John S. Dryzal, District Manager  
Mark A. Stockley, Resource Conservation Supervisor  
Jacqueline Ritko, Resource Conservation Supervisor  
Bryan Rabish, Watershed Specialist

## District Staff

Mary Ellen Bard, Event Coordinator/Office Assistant  
Anna Itle, Assistant Manager/Resource Specialist  
T. Christopher Kerr, Resource Specialist  
Shannon Pierce, Ag Conservation Tech  
Shannon Hall, Administrative Assistant

## Americorps Members

Bailey Hildebrand, 2021-2022  
Gabriel Anderson, 2022-23

## Interns

Autumn Holdsworth, 2022 Summer  
Hope Long, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

## 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  
John Nibert, Public Director

## Associate Directors

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



Chairman, Dennis Beck and  
Vice-Chairman, Bob Davis





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**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.

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[CambriaConservationDistrict.org](http://CambriaConservationDistrict.org)

Find us on:

