# YORK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT







#### A Message from our Chair & Manager

"Where did the time go?" It seems only yesterday we were changing the calendar for 2017. Perhaps it comes with age or maybe the hectic pace we keep as technology drives us faster and faster, though I'm not sure to where. We were fortunate to maintain most of our staff compliment, with only one resignation, which was a welcome relief after so many changes in 2016. Training was the word, as six employees completed their first full year of work.

2017 was our first year in almost thirty that York County did not formally participate in the Chesapeake Bay Technician funding program. And, in December, we closed out the last of our original Chesapeake Bay Program Agreements for comprehensive nutrient and conservation planning projects. We continued to encourage Landowners to become cooperators and provide technical, financial and conservation planning assistance, though our Ag Staff compliment was one short for the year. The newer Ag Team members ( $3 \le 1$  year experience) have impressed with their quick study and are already beginning to produce. The baton was successfully passed in our Nutrient Management Program with the loss of our lead staff person in this area. Kudos go to Team Leader Mark Flaharty, as he was able to keep the ship moving forward. And, with funding uncertainty, we plan to hire a part-time conservation planner early in 2018, as we continue to struggle with a backlog of planning requests, numbering more than 150, covering more than 30,000 acres. Opportunity abounds and we hope that leadership in Harrisburg sees the value in supporting our Ag Conservation Team financially, once again, as we continue to work to address nutrient and sediment pollution across the County.

The Erosion & Sediment Control Team had another challenging year as the economy forged ahead recovering to pre 2008 applications for permits and plan reviews. We were challenged with the wrap-up of an extensive Pa Turnpike Project, the beginning of the Mariner East II natural gas pipeline, additional large warehouse projects, and the usual residential, commercial and industrial activities that come with our position in the region. Again new team members have settled in and have stepped up and accepted their roles in this challenging, ever-changing regulatory environment.

Our Watershed program was kept hustling as the Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program increased activity in both number and scope of projects, particularly in the Low Volume Road arena. Cross-training took a big step forward as Rob Fetter, long-time E&S Team member, was an active presence this year. Our Exelon Habitat Incentive Program was also very active with some great projects completed. And, with the help of a very energetic intern, Mackenzie Mills, Gary Peacock was able to move the ball forward on a years-long goal of the riparian buffers inventory in York County.

Envirothon had another great year with excellent participation, learning and lots of smiles from our future conservation leaders, as Kim Young coordinated the effort of our Committees and staff. Many cooperating agencies and volunteers help make this a signature program for the District in Conservation Education. Our social media efforts took a step forward as we utilized our Facebook page to help spread the conservation word and works in York County and beyond. Dozens of donors continue to support the program, demonstrating the value they see in this youth education effort.

Fundraisers were also successful as both our seedling sale and clay shoot, headed up by Jen Risser and supported by the entire district staff, put us in good standing for 2018 programs they fund.

We hope you will take time to review the accomplishments highlighted in the 2017 Annual Report and that in 2018, you will continue to support Natural Resources Conservation in York County and Beyond.

Mark Kimmel, District Manager 🦳 Jeffrey L Gossert, District Chairman

## <u>Staff</u>

District Manager - Mark Kimmel Assistant Manager - Jennifer Risser Office Manager - Christina Dehoff Administrative Assistant - Robin Sharp Receptionist/Program Assistant - Alexia Woodard

E&S Resource Conservationist/

Program Manager - Eric Jordan E&S Resource Conservationist/

Network Administrator - Robert Fetter Engineering Technician II - Tiffany Crum Engineering Technician I - Emily Neideigh Engineering Technician I - Megan Anderson

Senior Ag Resource Conservationist - Mark Flaharty Ag Resource Conservation Specialist II - Grant Deller Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I - Joe Rebert Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I - Brita Runkle Ag Resource Conservation Specialist I - Michele Grove

Watershed Specialist - Gary Peacock Education/Communication Coordinator - Kim J Young



York County Commissioners 2017 President, Susan Byrnes (C) Vice President, Doug Hoke (R) Christopher Reilly (L)



#### Board Members photographed at Annual Awards Picnic, August 2017

Standing L-R: Jack Dehoff, Jeff Gossert, Harry Bickel, Leroy Bupp, Bruce Holbrook, Travis Sherman, Gordon L. Brown, Michael Flinchbaugh

Sitting L-R: Commissioner Susan Byrnes, Pat Sueck, Jackie Kramer, John Riedel, Kenyon Miller, Rochelle Black

Absent: Jim Rexroth, Randy Craley,

#### Conservation District Directors 2017 Officers:

Chairman Jeff Gossert, Vice Chairman Harry Bickel Treasurer Michael Flinchbaugh, Assistant Treasurer Gordon L Brown Directors: Commissioner Susan Byrnes, Jack Dehoff, Pat Sueck, Travis Sherman, Jim Rexroth Associate Directors: Kenyon Miller, Randy Craley, Leroy Bupp, Bruce Holbrook, Jackie Kramer, Beth Lucabaugh, John Riedel, Rochelle Black, Dan Innerst, Dan Paulus Directors Emeritus: Ellis Crowl, Rolla Lehman, Keith Eisenhart



#### **Director's State & National Involvement**

We are fortunate to have tremendous leadership from our Board of Directors, with several of them active on the state and national level. **Director Pat Sueck**, left top, with Associate Director Leroy Bupp, Director Jack Dehoff and LCCD Manager Christopher Thompson, continued to serve as the PA Representative to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Board of Directors in addition to serving on the PA Association of Conservation District's (PACD) Executive Board. **Director Jack Dehoff**, above second from left, also serves on the PACD Conservation Committee.

**District Treasurer Michael Flinchbaugh**, top right with sister Julie Flinchbaugh Keene, continues to serve as a farmer member of the PA State Conservation Commission (SCC) and was elected Vice-Chair for 2016/2017.

Manager, Mark Kimmel, at right, serves on the PACD District Operations Committee and PACD Managers Advisory Committee.

#### Pennsylvania Envirothon News

The District's **Education & Communication Coordinator, Kim Young,** *far right,* continues to serve as an Associate Board member for the state Envirothon as well as serving on the







GOAL: To Build The York County Agriculture and Natural Resource Service Center The mission of the York County Conservation District is to protect and improve the natural resources of York County. **To fully realize this mission, the Conservation District is planning to build the York County Agriculture and Natural Resource Service Center** at an estimated cost of \$9,000,000. Constructed with numerous green technologies, this building will house offices and meeting space for the Conservation District as well as our key cooperating agencies, and thus serve as headquarters for agriculture and natural resource conservation in York County. Citizens from all walks of life—farmers, developers, conservationists, municipal officials, students, etc.—will visit the Center to get technical assistance, apply for programs, attend workshops, investigate green building options or partake in the nu-

#### Capital Resource Conservation and Development Area Council (RC&D)

The Capital RC&D Area Council builds partnerships of concerned citizens, businesses, agencies and organizations to work together improving the quality of life within the seven county area: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York. The District has three representatives serving on the RC&D board: Julie Flinchbaugh Keene represents the District Board of Directors, Nedette Otterbein and Patricia Devlin, Dillsburg, is a member-at-large. Patricia Devlin has served as Council President. Travis Sherman was appointed to replace Julie Flinchbaugh Keene, who met term limits, as the Conservation District representative. Capital RC&D Council consists of volunteer representatives from local government, conservation districts, business, development organizations, nonprofit groups and individuals.

This council of 21 volunteers initiates and directs program activities. Projects are selected by evaluating local needs that promote conservation of our natural and community resources. The council provides the selected projects with necessary tools, such as technical expertise and assistance in locating funds. Resource Conservation & Development projects can focus on land conservation, water management, community improvements, alternative energy applications, recreation and tourism, forestry resources, recovery/recycling, rural economic development, as well as public information and education. We contracted with Capital RC&D to assist with the tillage survey in York County.

For more information about the Council, contact: Susan Richards, RC&D Coordinator at (717) 241-4361 or e-

**District finances:** The audit of the Conservation District accounts for the calendar year of 2017 will be available at the Conservation District office.



York County Conservation District Manager, **Mark Kimmel** (above), with Assistant Manager, **Jennifer Risser** (to his left) and Office Manager, **Christina Dehoff** (center). Director **Jack Dehoff** (top right), Associate Directors, **Beth Lucabaugh and Jackie Kramer.** 





# Ag Resources

## 2017 Agricultural Conservation

### Program Accomplishments

- Wrote conservation and grazing plans on 82 tracts 3,812 acres.
- Implemented conservation plans and practices on 1,578 acres.
- Installed nine Best Management Practices (BMPs) controlling erosion on 2.7 acres and prevented 197 tons of sediment loss.
- Implemented incentive contracts using USDA-NRCS funding. Installed 14 Best Management Practices spending \$42,938.13 of incentive funds on 2 existing contracts.
- Implemented conservation practices with funding provided by the York County Community Foundation. One cooperator installed 2 diversions using \$1,981.23.
- Provided educational opportunities to farmers, cooperators, and the general public about the York County Conservation District ag program and manure management planning. Staff took displays and handouts to the following four events: the York County Crops Day, the Ag Recognition Banquet and Ag Night at the Revolution sponsored by the Ag Business Council, and the South Central PA Cattlemen's Banquet.
- District staff published a three part series of articles entitled "A Focus on Soil Health" in the District newsletter. Each article highlighted practices and systems farmers can use to improve soil health in their crop





Brita Runkle (left) reviews a Conservation Plan with a farmer. Well-maintained grassed waterway photo (above). A cover crop of oats and radishes increase water filtration and add organic matter to the soil over winter photo



- Participated with the Penn State Extension Equine Pasture Walk at Tenderfoot Stables. Gave presentation on ag regulations and manure management planning.
- Provided support for the REAP program administered by the PA Dept. of Agriculture. Performed four Ag E&S and Manure management plan verifications for program applicants.
- Continued to support the agreement with DEP and the York County Solid Waste and Refuse Authority to
  monitor the Land Application of Biosolids program. Assisted with the monitoring of farms for conservation
  compliance and reviewed conservation plans for permitted farms.
- Assisted the District Erosion and Sediment program staff with implementing the Agriculture Complaint Handling Guidelines. This includes Ag E&S and manure complaints, site visits, and plan reviews.

#### Ag Conservation Program Accomplishments, cont.

- Partnered with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on a Contributory Agreement to provide conservation planning assistance. We earned \$ 30,000 to complete the grant obligation.
- Signed a new NRCS funded Contributory agreement with PACD to support District ag staff. The three year agreement is for \$ 163,800 and the District will provide conservation planning and technical assistance.
- Hosted an Ag E&S planning workshop for 16 farmers and landowners to educate them on the options for developing their own Ag E&S plans.
- Ag staff changes Grant Deller left the District in May 2017. The position has not been refilled.



Manure storage facility to collect barnyard and silage runoff (above left). Grassed waterway and belt diversion system to control gully and access road erosion (above center). Mark Flaharty and Joe Rebert surveying for a streambank stabilization and buffer planting project (above right).

#### 2017 Nutrient Management Act Program

The York County Conservation District is delegated by the State Conservation Commission to oversee Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act (Act 38) in York County.

Active plans on file:

- Twenty-four current Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) are on file in York County.
- Ten are on file for Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) in York County.
- Thirteen of these operations are also regulated as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).
- One plan is for a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFOs) only (not a CAO)
- An additional, four plans are for Volunteer Animal Operations (VAOs). These operations are not required by Act

38 regulations to have an approved plan, but voluntarily choose to do so.

#### Annual Status Reviews:

Under Act 38 regulations all CAOs are required to have an annual review conducted to determine if they are in





-two Nutrient Management Plans re-

100 ft Setback if: • No BMPs	
50 ft Setback if: • Soil Test <200 ppm P • No-till practices used • Residue or cover crop	EdBrotrastan
35 ft Setback if: • Permanent vegetated buffer	the second

Joe Rebert guides workshop attendees through manure management principles related to pastures (above left and center). Workshop attendees learn to identify environmentally sensitive areas and understand manure management application setbacks (above

#### Plan Reviews and Approvals:

In 2017, six Nutrient Management Plans were received for review by the District

- Five plans were updates for existing CAO or CAFO plans.
- One plan was for a new VAO.
- Seven Nutrient Management Plans approved by the Board of Directors in 2017 (one under review from 2016)
- Three VAO plans were withdrawn.
- One CAO/CAFO NMP was transferred to a new owner.

#### Educational Activities:

- In 2017 educational activities concerning nutrient management and manure management included displays at the York County Crops Day, South Central PA Cattlemen's Association Banquet, York County Agricultural Recognition Banquet, and York Revolution Ag & Farm Night.
  - Approximately 75 attendees and 20 vendors had access to our display and handouts at York County Crops Day.
  - The Cattlemen's Banquet display reached 100 attendees and 6 vendors with Manure and Nutrient Management and Conservation Planning materials (brochures & manuals)
  - Handouts on Manure/Nutrient Management and Ag Erosion & Sediment Control were available to the 400 attendees at the York County Agricultural Recognition Banquet.
  - Display on Manure Management and Conservation Planning was browsed by 4000 attendees at the York Revolution Ag & Farm Night.
- Two break-out sessions were held at York County Crops Day to address questions related to manure management and conservation planning, and to provide review of plans. Five attendees participated in these sessions.
- As part of the Manure Management delegated responsibilities, the District partnered with John Rowehl, Penn State Extension, to present a full day Manure Management Plan writing workshop on March 3, 2017. Thirty-two people representing 28 farming operations. Staff presented manure management principles and assisted attendees with writing their Manure Management Plans in a step-by-step process.
- In order to maintain certification and keep informed on current nutrient management issues, Ag Staff members
  attended trainings throughout the year. Michele Grove completed the required certification trainings and passed
  the Nutrient Management Certification Exam to obtain provisional certification. Joe Rebert and Michele Grove
  each completed one NMP Review toward the requirements for final certification.
- Presented Chapter 102 & 91 Regulations to 20 attendees at the York County Agricultural Land Preservation public information meeting on December 12.
- Ag staff worked with two individually certified nutrient management specialists (certified by PA to write plans for their own animal operations) to assist them in acquiring certification update credits.



District Ag staff get hands-on experience with solid and liquid manure spreader calibrations required for Nutrient Management Planning.



Standing (l-r): Resource Conservation Specialist I, Joe Rebert; Senior Ag Resource Conservationist, Mark Flaharty Sitting (l-r): Resource Conservation Specialist I, Michele Grove; Resource Conservationist Specialist I, Brita Runkle

#### **2017 District Cooperators:**

James Nell, Washington/Warrington Twp.; Bange Farms Inc., Manheim/Heidelburg Twp.; Julia Chain, Fairview Twp.; George's Court, LLC. Shrewsbury Twp.; Dennis K. Ilyes, N. Codorus Twp.; Eric Jordan, L. Chanceford Twp.; Eric M. Berkheimer, Washington; Leon Crowl, L. Chanceford; Dennis Martin, Spring Grove Twp.; Wanda Linebaugh, Manchester Twp.; Diana Price, York Haven Boro.; Kathy M. Ranzinger, Hellam Twp.



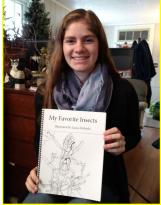


#### Scholarship Recipients:

<u>Madeline Berg</u> (top right) is an environmental science major and chemistry minor at the California University of Pennsylvania. Her goal is to work in the field of restoration ecology – following in her father's footsteps. She has also spent time working for Environmental Quality Resources (EQR) company and Stormwater Maintenance (SWM). The experience through both jobs have helped her decide to focus on stormwater, stream and wetland studies.

Laura Zielinski (bottom right) is a biology major at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre. A superb student and ten-year participant in the York County Envirothons, Laura's career goal is to get her PhD in entomology "to focus on new or otherwise unexamined traits of insects for the practical applications in solving many of the world's environmental problems." Laura is in the process of getting her original self-illustrated coloring book on insects prepared for publication. In addition, she has traveled and worked with the director of paleobiology (biology of fossil animals & plants) at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, collaborating on numerous research







#### THE 2017 ETHON-NEWS - Our Season in Review

*Thirty-Two Years!* That's how long the York County Conservation District has been sponsoring the Envirothon - part of the largest and longest-running environmental high school competition in North America. The Pennsylvania Envirothon is one year older and the North American Envirothon began three years later, but the overwhelming success of all the Envirothons has led to increased opportunity for students of all ages here in York County. Instead of just a high school program, we offer the Envirothon to 3rd & 4th graders, 5th & 6th graders, and Middle School students too. This year over 1,000 students participated on 181 teams from public schools, charter schools, home schools and private schools. Students from 3rd grade through their senior year spent the better part of the school year studying & competing extracurricularly in Aquatics, Environmental Current Issues, Forestry, Soils & Land Use and Wildlife. These kids study for fun! At a time when understanding science is a crucial life skill, the Envirothon will continue to provide students with the critical thinking skills necessary to make informed decisions in school, at home and - most important - as adults.



#### 10th Annual Clay Shoot—September 22, 2017

Held at Central Penn Sporting Clays, **this annual event helped kick off our 2018 Envirothon Sponsorship Drive** with a record profit of \$8,900.00. We wish to thank our generous sponsors of this event: **EVENT SPONSORS (\$2,000.00)**: Aquatic Resource Restoration Company (ARRC), Resource Environmental Solutions (RES); **EVENT PARTNER (\$1,000.00)**: HRG, Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Randy Barnes; **STATION SPONSOR (\$500.00)**: Exelon-Peach Bottom, Trumbull Corp., DH Funk & Sons LLC.; **STATION PARTNER (\$100-\$250.00)**: Conewago Enterprises, Inc. (\$250.00), ELA Group, Inc., Mark Flaharty, Keystruct Construction, Inc., River's Truck Center, Inc., Representative Kristin Hill, H. Edward Black and Associates, Ltd., Krall Contracting Inc., JMT, Commissioner Doug Hoke; General Donation—Ellis Crowl -\$50.00

Trophies were awarded to the three top-scoring individual shooters: Doug Heiges (1<sup>st</sup>), Scott Wertz (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Dale (Chip) Wertz (3<sup>rd</sup>). The North Mountain team took high score and its Traveling Trophy for the third year in a row. Second place was the Kramers/Riedel team and third was the Bent Barrel Boys. The top female shooter was Hayley Book and the top youth shooter was Nathan Thompson. Our gun raffle was won by Darrin Wertz and the Bob Sopchick limited edition elk print silent auction was won by Allen Wagner. Certificates were also awarded to the shoot-

#### **2017 Envirothon Sponsors**

**ELK SILVER LEVEL (\$1,000.00 & up) Sponsors:** Aquatic Resource Restoration Company; Covanta York; Glatfelter; Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc; Izaak Walton League Chapter #67; Jefferson Sportmen's Assoc.; JVH Excavating, Inc; York County Solid Waste Authority; York Excavating LLC.

**BROOK TROUT BRONZE LEVEL (\$500.00 & up) Sponsors:** Adams Electric Cooperative Inc.; C.S. Davidson, Inc.; Exelon Generation & Peach Bottom Atomic Power St.; LSC Design Inc.; Rotary Club of York-PPE Committee; Spring Grove Area School District; Stewart & Tate, Inc.; Susan Byrnes; Trumbull Corporation; York Water Company.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL PATRONS (\$250.00 & up): Bruce Holbrook; Bottom Line Contracting Inc.; Carol Park;

Craig & Laura Franciscus; Deanna Stambaugh; PTO Sinking Springs School; Albert Dehoff & Sons; Conewago Enterprises, Inc.; First Capital Engineering, Inc.; Glatfelter Insurance Group; Flying Excavating Inc.; Hively Landscapes; Miller Plant Farm; Southern PTO; Mr. Carroll L. & Linda Missimer III; Northeastern School District; PTO Shrewsbury Elementary; Spoutwood Farm Center; Tammy L. Grove; Wolf Farms, Inc.; York Ag Products, Inc.; York Township.

**RUFFED GROUSE PATRONS:** Lucy Kniseley; Southern Elementary PTO; Central Penn Sporting Clays; Craley Fish & Game Assoc.; Deller Excavating, Dorgan & Zuck Buildling Contractors Inc.; Environmental Concepts Landscaping; Gordon L Brown and Assoc. Inc.; Keith Eisenhart; Matt & Ann Gruner; Spring Grove Elementary PTO; Windsor Twp.; York Rifle Range Association; Grimm Trophy and Gifts; David Leese; Ellis Crowl; Friends of Chris Reilly; Keller-Brown Insurance Services; Kenneth Sheffer; North Hills Elementary PRTO; Northern Elementary PRTO; Shiloh Garden Club; Stewartstown Elementary PTA; Stony Brook Elementary School; Travis & Christine Sherman; Francis & Cynthia Owings; Waterbody Builders LLC; York-Adams Pomona Grange.

**Cooperating Agencies & Volunteers:** York County Parks & Recreation Dept., York County Planning Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection, York Rotary PPE Committee, York County Conservation District, York County Solid Waste & Refuse Authority, The Envirothon Committee and the many additional volunteers who help make our competitions such a success. Thank you to Rutter's Dairy; Brown's Orchard and Farm Market, Flinchbaugh's Orchard & Farm Market, Stauffer's, and Millicent Neill Decker for their In-Kind Donations. A special thank you to the **Penn State Master Watershed Stewards** and the **Pennsyl**-



Nicole Guise from Spring Grove High School was awarded the \$500.00 Paul Wilson Conservation Award for 2017.



Sponsors who donated \$250 & up received the Millicent Neill Decker limited edition print, *Pheasant*, as a thank-you. All sponsors donating \$500 & up had their logos placed on the back of our 2017 T-shirts.

YCCD Education & Communications Coordinator, Kim J Young (*below*)



#### **Annual Conservation Awards Picnic**

Our 2017 Conservation Awards Picnic was held at Rocky Ridge Park on Tuesday, August 1st. The following were recognized for their contributions to conservation during an evening of catered dinner and fellowship.

Outstanding Environmental Educator—Ryan Bridge Outstanding Watershed Steward—Ellen O'Connor Outstanding Municipal Conservation Partner—Lower Windsor Township Outstanding Conservation Farmer—Eddie Johnson, Hickorymea Farm









Ellen O'Connor (above) with Representative Kristin Phillips Hill

Ryan Bridge (above left); Sande Cunningham, Lower Windsor Township (above center) with Representative Stan Saylor and Associate Director, John Riedel; Sam & Kay Taylor (above right) with Associate Director, Kenyon Miller and Commissioner, Susan Byr-

Outstanding Excavation Contractor—York Excavating Company, LLC Award for Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance—Kent Heffner, Chanceford Township Clean Water Farm Award—The Sam Taylor Farm



The Sam Taylor Family (above left); Kent Heffner, Chanceford Township (above center) with Director, Gordon Brown; Glenn Smith and Jeff Walker of York Excavation Contractor (above right) with E&S Resource Conservationist, Eric Jordan

The year 2017 marked the 43<sup>nd</sup> year for our annual Seedling Sale. Sales this year totaled \$30,436 with a profit of \$9,079 from the 540 orders. The profit will be used for the District's educational programs as well as discretionary expenses. Again this year, over 20,000 seedlings were sold, including favorites such as the Fraser fir and white flowering dogwood varieties. We offered a coupon on our website redeemable for a free bareroot white pine seedling. An estimated 400 seedlings were donated to the York County Parks Department for planting on the hillside behind the boat rental area at Lake Redman, which had previously been overgrown with invasive species. In addition, Keep York Beautiful received several hundred seedlings which were planted in York County.





## Erosion & Sediment Control

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS for Pollution Control and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

2017 was a busy year in the E&S/NPDES program. The E&S Team comprised of Eric Jordan (19 years), Robert Fetter (29 years), Tiffany Crum (12 years), Emily Neideigh (2 years), Meghan Anderson (1.5 years), and two administrative staff, Robin Sharp (4 years) and Alexia Woodard (1 year), continued to review E&S plans, process NPDES permits, and provide an active field presence to ensure that Best Management Practices were fully implemented on the ground. The District continued to administer the E&S/NPDES program at Level III of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) delegation agreement. Level III includes reviewing E&S plans, processing NPDES permits, investigating complaints,



#### The following is a summary of the E&S team's activities for 2017:

- Conducted 926 site inspections, pre-construction meetings, site meetings, plan review site visits, and status checks.
- Investigated 162 new complaints—Due to lack of voluntary compliance, 2 sites resulted in an enforcement action.
- Reviewed 234 new and 110 revised plans affecting 7,056 project acres and 1,456 disturbed acres.
- Processed 104 General NPDES permits and Issued 82 New General NPDES permits.
- Renewed 12 General NPDES permits.
- Staff attended 65 pre-application meetings with developers and engineers to proactively identify and address any issues prior to submittal of the NPDES permit applications.
- Staff continued to foster a working relationship with the County's 72 municipalities. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the District were updated and signed with Carrol Township and Hanover Borough.
- Rob continued to assist Gary Peacock, Watershed Specialist, with education and administration of the Dirt & Gravel

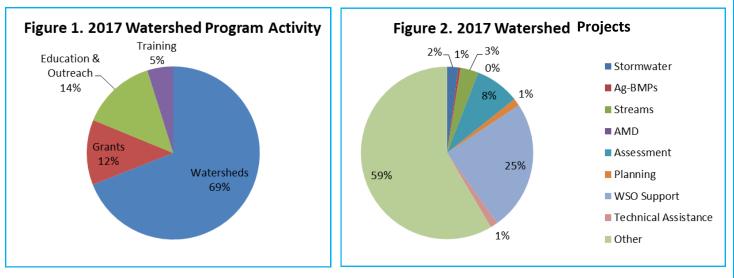
   Low Volume Road program.
- Eric attended 2 DEP Chapter 102 Listening Sessions.
- Eric, Tiffany and Meghan presented 1.5-hour training on completing DEP Visual Inspection reports and E&S BMP photos from the field to 16 attendees of R.L. Livingston Excavation, Inc.
- Eric and Tiffany presented 1.5-hour E&S BMP Power Point presentation to 10 employees of Site Design Concepts.
- Eric & Emily presented 2-hour long E&S Power Point presentation to 15 employees of J.A. Myers Homes in Hanover.
- Eric presented 1.25-hour long E&S PowerPoint presentation to 23 attendees from Penn Twp., Manheim Twp., West Manheim Twp., and Hanover Borough.
- Rob attended Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road Bank Full Stream Measurement training at CCCD.
- Emily and Meghan attended E&S Basic and Advanced training in State College.
- Emily and Meghan attended Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Diversion, Waterway, & Terrace training at the Lebanon Agricultural Center.
- E&S Staff hosted a day-long Chapter 102 BMP workshop, at Wyndridge Farms (photos above), for engineers and developers with 119 people attending.
- Rob put together and manned display at the Hellam Twp., Lower Windsor Twp., and Wrightsville Boro's Stormwater Fair held at Hellam Twp. Public Works building.



## Watershed Programs

York County's water resources and watershed program continues to be a high priority for the Conservation District.

The Conservation District's Watershed Specialist is a resource to both the public and private sectors, providing technical, informational and organizational assistance that will improve watershed organization development and the quality and quantity of the Commonwealth's surface and groundwater resources. The focus of this work relates to watershed assessment and monitoring, procurement of funding, technical assistance, education and outreach, and the creation, implementation and coordination of work plans and strategies to restore and protect groundwater and surface water resources. **The year 2017 was the busiest year since the program's inception in 2001.** Watershed Program Activity Projects are shown in figures 1 & 2.



#### 2017 Feature Accomplishment: Municipal MS4 Stormwater BMP Bus Tour

The York County Conservation District received a grant to educate the residents of York County about stormwater. We collaborated with the York County Planning Commission (YCPC) and came up with two stormwater tours. Stormwater management is a hot topic. When many think of stormwater management, the typical large retention pond comes to mind. But there are so many other options available! The first tour was for the elected and appointed officials and staff (32 attended) of our municipalities. This was a bus tour and included 7 different sites with speakers at each location. The second tour, intended for the general public, can either be a virtual tour or a self-guided tour of the many different types of **Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)**. This self-guided tour is an online story map that includes pictures, descriptions, and directions to various BMP sites in York County. Many of these projects have been completed by municipalities who are participating in a regional group effort to comply with MS4 requirements and to



#### Watershed Activities

- Four HELP-Streams assessments and recommendations made to private landowners
- Five Stormwater residential assessments and BMP recommendations made to private landowners
- One Large Woody Debris project contracted and completed; \$991 Total Project Value
- Three Large Woody Debris watersheds surveyed for potential projects
- 100% County streams assessed for Riparian Forest Buffers along streams; >20,000 acres quantified as Class 1-3
- 594,375 Effective public education and outreach through multi-media: Conservation Horizons newsletter; Conservation awards picnic; WAY E-News; educational programs; exhibits and displays at public events; public presentations; radio talk show; website; 18 Watershed Weekend venues; e-mail; Facebook; and other local media contributions.

#### Dirt and Gravel Road Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance

- Four Contracts awarded; 4 Projects completed; 4 Municipalities engaged
- 2.27 miles of dirt and gravel road environmentally sensitive maintenance;
- 4,172 tons Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) applied; 462 tons fill added
- Two Stream crossings replaced; 2 in-stream stabilization structures constructed
- Four Cross pipes installed; 2 cross pipes replaced
- 60 ft<sup>2</sup> French mattress constructed; 125 ft<sup>2</sup> stormwater detention constructed
- \$166,510 Funding requested )\$165,510 Grants awarded; \$82,894 Local match in-kind; \$249,404 Total Project Value)
- Watersheds 3 Codorus; 1 Muddy

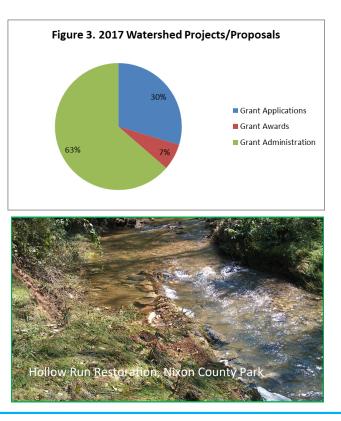
#### Low Volume Road (<500 vehicles/day) Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance

- Five Contracts awarded; 2 Projects completed; 5 Municipalities engaged
- 1.03 miles low volume road environmentally sensitive maintenance
- 6,430 ft.<sup>2</sup> Full Depth Reclamation of road base; 9,375 ft.<sup>2</sup> paved surface sealed; 515 tons fill added
- One stream crossing replaced; 2 stormwater runoff turnouts constructed; 3 cross pipes replaced; 50 ft.<sup>2</sup> road bank stabilized; 20 ft.<sup>2</sup> infiltration structure constructed; 54 ft.<sup>2</sup> stormwater dispersal structures constructed
- \$444,596 Funding requested (\$304,562 grants awarded; \$279,623 Local match in-kind; \$584,278 Total Project Value 0
- Watersheds 2 Codorus Creek; 1 Conewago Creek; 1 Fishing Creek; 1 Fishers Run

#### Watershed Projects/Proposal Activities

Figure 3 shows Watershed Projects/Proposal Activities were largely spent on existing grant administration, preparing and submitting new funding proposals, and grant awards.





#### 2017 Feature Accomplishment: Pinchot Lake Floating Island Demonstration

- *Resource Challenge* Provide a functional opportunity and tool for Gifford Pinchot State Park to educate the public on the lake's watershed, land use, and water quality issues.
- Project Summary and Results –Pinchot Lake is a 340 acre recreational lake in Gifford Pinchot State Park located in northern York County, southeaster PA. The lake was listed on the 303(d) list of Impaired Waters (1996 & 1998) due to low dissolved oxygen in the epilimnion in summer, and high nutrient levels. In early 2003, a TMDL was finalized for Pinchot Lake, identifying the need to reduce phosphorus loadings by 28%. The key reason why harvesting aquatic plants (and resultant P) is important because lake restoration can be severely hampered by ignoring the in lake contribution of P. An internal loading factor of 75% (Pinchot) demands that a reduction in internally loaded P is appropriate. A macrophyte (mainly the non-native invasive Eurasian watermilfoil) removal rate of 20 30 tons (from ~ 25 acres) per year is the current practice. This project proposes to install four (4) 250 square feet islands which are scientifically comparable to the nutrient uptake of four (4) acres of natural wetlands. This technology has been evaluated by the Chesapeake Bay Program and approved as a BMP to reduce nutrients that would otherwise end up entering the bay.
- Key Project Partners Funding for this project is provided through PADEP's Growing Greener program, floating
  island wetland construction and installation by the PADCNR, floating island planting by York County's Master Watershed Steward volunteers, grant administered by the York County Conservation District.



**Eurasian milfoil at Pinchot Lake** 



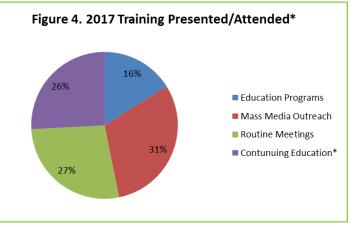
Floating Island at Boat Access Area

#### Grant Money Brought to the County from Conservation District Efforts

- \$142,050 Grants proposals were prepared, submitted
- \$146,750 Grants awarded (\$11,200 DEP-CBP-SPFP; \$66,000 CDWS; \$46,750 CDWS renewal; \$1,500 PACD; \$6,500 Women's Giving Circle; \$14,800 YCCF-CWE)
- \$1,018,172 Other revenue (\$373,474 DGRs; \$281,948 LVRs; \$225,000 Exelon Habitat Improvement; \$25,000 Large Woody Debris; \$112,750 CDWS position)

#### **Trainings Presented/Attended**

Lastly, Figure 4 shows Trainings Presented/ Attended\* including educational programs, effective media outreach, routine meetings, and continuing professional education. Effective media outreach by channel is shown in figure 5. Radio and local newspapers were the most effective in reaching the most citizens. Electronic and printed newsletters and social media were much





## York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

"It shall be the mission of the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board to protect York County's agricultural resources through the preservation of economically viable farms and the creation and maintenance of stable agricultural communities."

**Board Members:** Kristine Wilt, Chairwoman; Mack Smith, Vice Chairman; Daniel Innerst, Rep. Farmers; James "Gus" Parlett, Rep. Elected Officials; J. Kenetha Hansen, Rep. Citizens; John Eaton Jr, Rep. Farmers; Andrew Baumgardner, Rep. Farmers

- YCALPB welcomed James "Gus" Parlett of Lower Chanceford as Representing Elected Official, as Alan Taylor completed his term on the YCALPB.
- York County continues to rank 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pennsylvania in terms of acres of farmland preserved.
- Since program establishment in 1989, the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved 282 farms, covering 41,883 acres of productive farmland.
- Board and staff received a total 47 easement applications on 4,634 acres offered for farmland preservation with 33 qualifying applications ranked, covering 3,341 acres.
- Program inquiries totaled 87 inquiries on over 7,092 acres.
- The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board selected 4 farms for preservation, covering 748 acres.
- Staff conducted annual inspection visits on 217 farms, covering 30,560 acres of productive farmland.
- YCALPB staff co-inspected three Heritage Conservancy easements located in York County on 393 acres with Heritage Conservancy Monitoring staff.
- YCALPB staff conducted 6 Municipal Agricultural Security Area reviews in cooperation with the YCPC and Municipal Officials, involving 608 parcels on over 20,550 acres.
- YCALPB staff, in cooperation with York County Planning Commission, continued updates of the GIS layers involving conservation easements and agricultural security areas.
- The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Program conservation requirements contributed to York County's conservation planning efforts on 22 tracts, covering 2,120 acres.
- The York County Board of Commissioners certified easement funds totaling \$ 293,271 for farmland preservation,
- YCALPB and staff continued to work the York County Planning Commission and FNLT to develop a Land Preservation and Protection Strategy Workgroup. A recommendation was made to the County Commissioners to identify a dedicated source of funding for present and future land preservation efforts.
- YCALPB staff assisted with the coordination of York Farm Bureau's Public Meeting on High Energy Power Transmission Lines on August 24, 2017 with 191 landowners in attendance. Staff participated in multiple Transource High Energy Power Transmission Line

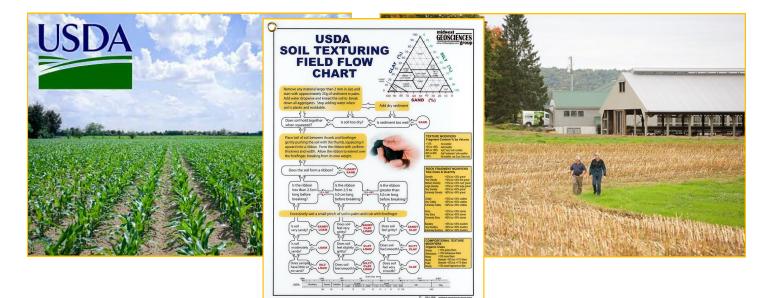


- YCALPB is a member of the PA Farmland Preservation Association with staff serving on the Policy Committee and attended 2 state association meetings.
- YCALPB is a member of the York County Agriculture Business Council and assist with annual Council events such as Ag Exchange, Revs Ag Night, and the Ag Recognition Banquet.
- The YCALPB provides citizens with agency and program information at <u>www.yorkcountypa.gov</u>

# U.S.D.A. York Field Team Report

- NRCS, District & Ag Preserve employees wrote or updated 118 plans on 4592 acres of land in York County for FY 2017.
- The York Field Team implemented conservation practices that benefited environmental quality on approximately 4992 acres.
- Obligated over \$672,000 in 9 new contracts through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) covering 1328 acres in 2017.
- Certified 127 contracted items accounting for 29 different practices in 2017. Total incentive money paid to the Farm Bill Program participants totaled over \$678,000.
- Wrote 31 CREP Conservation Plans totaling 447.6 acres.
- Enrolled 5 new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts totaling over 1030 acres.
- Enrolling one new Wetland Reserve Enhancement (WRE) Program easement totaling over 20.7 acres. Started WRE restoration enhancing Bog Turtle habitat on two current easements.







The United States Department of Agriculture's York Farm Service Agency (FSA) works to equitably serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. Agency efforts include facilitating income support, disaster assistance and conservation programs, providing operating loans for the procurement of farm equipment, seed and fertilizer, as well as offering ownership loans to help new and veteran producers purchase a

- York County FSA has nearly 3,400 producers associated with 5,080 farms. We accepted acreage reports on approximately 150,000 acres consisting of over 20,000 individual fields.
- Over 400 York County producers on approximately 2,800 farms are eligible for the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs. These help protect producers when there are either price or revenue losses. In October we issued 1,500+ payments totaling more than \$3,700,000 to York County farmers for crop year 2016 losses.
- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) continues to be important to protecting our environmentally sensitive land and we have roughly 200 contracts for CRP and CREP, consisting of over 2,100 acres generating annual rental payments totaling nearly \$500,000. Additionally, we provided thousands in costshare and incentive payments for the installation of long term resource conserving covers, much of which was matched by Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture.
- Our Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can be an important tool for producers of noninsurable crops to protect against natural disasters. Coverage levels range from 50 to 65 percent of production, in 5 percent increments, at 55 or 100 percent of the average market price. This year the program provided coverage to several fruit and vegetable growers who were affected by abnormal freezing or drought.
- Our Farm Loan staff provides Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership loans and Operating loans to producers in York County who may have difficulty receiving credit through traditional lenders. 2017 continued to be a busy year with York County producers receiving 25 loans totaling over \$2,750,000.
- York County producers who participated in our 2017 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) have received over 3.1 million dollars to allow for more flexibility on when to market their crops. Producers can also take advantage of our many other programs; Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the <u>Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)</u> to name a few.
- 2018 is the last year of the current Farm Bill and we look forward to continuing to administer our diverse portfolio of programs while we begin to prepare for the exciting challenges that a new Farm Bill will bring. Visit our website <u>www.fsa.usda.gov</u> or sign up for our newsletters at <u>https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new</u> for updates as they are available. Producers can also sign up for text messaging by texting "PAYork" to FSANOW (372669). We look forward to continuing to provide exceptional service to the farmers and ranchers of York County. For the York County Committee, Richard Csutoras, County

Executive



Farm Production and Conservation Farm Service Agency; York County FSA Service Center

3500 Concord Rd. York, PA 17402 Voice: 717-755-2966 Fax: 855-847-3608

L-r: Rick Csutoras, Wendy Kindig, Jan Dehoff, Anne Crist, Tina Gross

## **Cooperating Agencies**

PENN STATE EXTENSION—YORK COUNTY 112 Pleasant Acres Rd, York, PA 17402 PHONE: (717) 840-7408 / extension.psu.edu District Extension Director: Nina Redding

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT 401 E. Louther St. Suite 304, Carlisle, PA 17013 PHONE: (717) 218-3002 FAX: (717)218-3006 Supervisor: George Klaus

FARM SERVICE AGENCY PHONE: (717) 755-2966 ext. 190 Supervisor: Richard Csutoras

YORK CO. PLANNING COMMISSION 28 E MARKET ST 3rd FL, YORK, PA 17401 PHONE: (717) 771-9870 Director: Felicia A. Dell Watershed: John Seitz

US FISH & WILDLIFE David Densmore PHONE: (814) 234-4090 FISH & BOAT COMMISSION ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE For draw down permits, pond assessment, stream classification PHONE: (814) 359-5147 Mark Martel (717) 657-4521 York County WCO: Darrin Kephart

PA GAME COMMISSION— SOUTH EAST REGIONAL OFFICE 448 Snyder Rd Reading, PA 19605 PHONE: 1-610-926-1966 Land Management: Bruce Metz York County WCO: Justin Ritter—juritter@pa.gov

PENN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Penndot District 8 Manager—Stephen Grassetti 1920 Susquehanna Trail, York, PA 17404 PHONE: (717) 848-6230 District Engineer: Barry Hoffman (717) 772-0778 Right of Ways – Larry Sarver 717-783-1235

DEPT. OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES MGMT: (DCNR)-FORESTRY: Region 3 Jim Nagy (717) 772-4362 Service Forester: Matt Kern 1066 Blooming Grove Road; Codorus State Park, Hanover, PA 17331 PHONE: (717) 637-1770

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/BALTIMORE DISTRICT 401 E. Louther Street, Suite 205 Carlisle, PA 17013 Enforcement-Frank Plewa: PHONE: (717) 249-0425 (717) 249-2522 Permits: Pat Strong - PHONE: (410)962-1846 FAX: (410)962-6024 Mike Danko PHONE: (717)249-0425 (717) 249-8730 YORK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

400 Mundis Race Road York, PA 17402 (717) 840-7440 Director—Tammy Klunk 717-840-7227 PA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS- PACD 25 North Front Street , Harrisburg, PA 17101 PHONE: (717) 238-7223 FAX: (717) 238-7201 Executive Director: Brenda Shambaugh

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE of AMERICA (IWLA) – York Chapter Phone: 717-428-2000, Secretary – Cathy Wilson

THE HORN FARM CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, 4945 Horn Farm Road, York, PA 17406

## Cooperating Agencies cont.

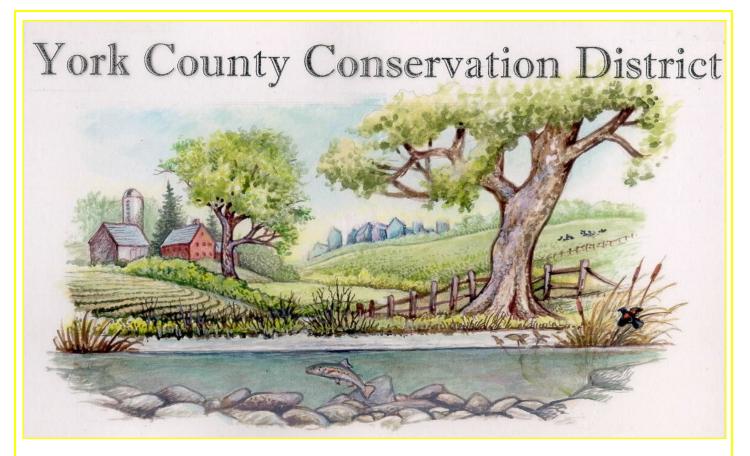
PA DEPT OF AG PHONE: (717) 787-8861 State Conservation Commission: Karl Brown 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408 Eastern Regional Director: Daniel Naylor (570) 836-6266 email: dnaylor@pa.gov RT 92 PO Box C, Tunkhannock, PA 18657 DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD PROGRAM Dave Creamer PHONE: (717) 787-2103 DGR (866)668-6683

## PA Department of Environmental Protection

Karen Books DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) Conservation District Support PO Box 8555 Harrisburg PA 17105-8555 kbooks@pa.gov

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL (DEP) OFFICE Assess & Planning Emergency Response – 888-975-9690 909 Elmerton Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200 PHONE: (717) 705-4700 FAX: (717) 705-4930 Regional Director: Joseph Adams, P. E. Service Rep: Valerie Marx, vmarx@pa.gov, 717-705-4709 Program Manager: Scott Williamson (717) 705-4802 Conservation, Restoration & Inspection Section: Andrea Blosser (717) 705-4802 Waste Management Program: Anthony Rathfon (717) 705-4706 York County Recycling Coordinator: Jeff Fox (717) 845-1066

Local DEP offices: WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT & AIR QUALITY (outside) 150 Roosevelt Ave . Suite 200 York, PA 17401 Water Testing (717) 771-4481 Supervisor: Susan Foster BWM : Dir. Office (717) 787-5267 / CD & NM (717) 783-7577 WS Prot. (717) 772-5707 / Planning (717) 772-4048 WW & SWM (717) 787-6827



## **York County Conservation District** 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402

*Our Vision*: De York County Conservation District is committed to the improvement and protection of our environment and the wise use of our County's diverse natural resources.

*Our Mission*: To achieve that vision, the York County Conservation District will be proactive providing conservation education, technical services and financial assistance.

to enable the citizens of York County be good stewards of our natural resources.

District main office Phone: 717-840-7430 / Fax: 717-755-0301 Envirothon Info: 717-840-7190

