

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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## GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

Greene County Conservation District Nominating Organizations are the backbone to a diverse conservation district board. These organizations provide our local leaders with candidates to be appointed as district directors. All nominating organizations are approved by the State Conservation Commission at the district's request. A diverse nominating organization provide directors with different points of view and help define membership on a Board that makes critical decisions about how we manage our growing community's natural resources in Greene County.

Contact the District for information about how County organizations can be considered for approval as Nominating Organizations. Our current Nominating Organizations are Penn State Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, Association of Township Officials, Bar Association, Greene County Fair Board, Pomona Grange #63, Farm Bureau, Farmland Preservation, Fireman's Association, Tourist Promotion Agency, Historical Society, Planning Commission, Izaak Walton League, Richhill Agricultural Society, Southwestern PA Woodland Owners.



# BOARD MEMBERS

## 2021 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Mike Belding, Chairman
- Betsy McClure, Vice Chairman
- Blair Zimmerman, Secretary

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Cowell, Jr., Chairman
- Commissioner Mike Belding, Vice Chairman
- Greg Hopkins, Treasurer
- William Wentzel, Secretary
- Glodenna Halstead, Director
- Dave Shipman, Director
- Melissa Adamson, Director

## 2021 ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- William Cree, Jr.
- Jerry Day
- Jim Willis
- Dominick Barbetta
- Rebecca Salosky
- Carol Adamson
- Spencer Johnson
- Raymond Stockdale
- George Scull
- Keith Golden
- Tim Neil
- Sean Hilverding

## DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Director
- Lindsay Kozlowski, District Office Manager
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Permitting Manager
- Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist
- April Morris, Fiscal Manger
- Sara Hlatky, Nutrient Management Specialist
- Benjamin Schweiger, Agriculture Conservation Specialist

## COOPERATING AGENICES

- Greene County Department of Economic Development  
Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager
- Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Phil Evans, District Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA Fish and Boat Commission  
Eric Davis, SW Region Waterways Conservation Officer
- Penn State Cooperative Extension  
Tom Beresnyak, Area 6 Client Relations Manager
- Washington/Greene County Farm Service Agency  
Michal Roup, CED

## DISTRICT LOCATION

Our office is located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building at 22 West High Street, Suite 204 Waynesburg, PA 15370  
Phone: 724-852-5278  
gccd@co.greene.pa.us  
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

The GCCD Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Conservation District Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## January through December 2020

Interest Income .....	\$14,497.32
Donation Income.....	\$4,603.91
E&S Fees .....	\$32,420.00
Grant Income .....	\$229,693.49
Misc. Income .....	\$831.20
Permit Fees .....	\$32,023.00
Program Income.....	\$653,584.58
Rental Income .....	\$1,147.73

**Total Income .....\$968,801.23**

**Gross Profit ..... \$968,801.23**

Audit .....	\$6,750.00
Scholarship .....	\$1,500.00
Equipment & Supplies.....	\$10,871.88
Donations .....	\$5,136.32
Bank Service Charge .....	\$30.50
Misc. ....	\$0.00
Total Advertising/Marketing .....	\$18,254.01
Total Contracted Work .....	\$548,878.08
Dues .....	\$3,685.00
Total Equipment/Automobile.....	\$6,302.36
Total Events/Workshops.....	\$827.74
Mini Grant .....	\$5,000.00
Total Employment Expenses .....	\$285,939.37
PNDI Search .....	\$360.00
Total Postage Machine.....	\$6,304.01
Surety Bonds .....	\$875.00
Total Telephone.....	\$1,638.67
Total Travel .....	\$5,982.99

**Total Expense .....\$908,335.93**

**Net Income .....\$60,465.30**



# 2020 OUTSTANDING ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

The 2020 Outstanding Engineer of the Year Award was presented to Mr. Richard Rush, P.E. Mr. Rush is a life long resident of Greene County and a graduate of Waynesburg Central High School. Rich is married to Chris and they have two adult children, Alex and Reagan. He is also involved in the local community serving as the Rifle Team Coach for Waynesburg Central High School and the Girls Softball Coach for Jefferson-Morgan High School.

Rich has spent the last 20 plus years working for Widmer Engineering and has recently started working for Harshman, LLC. Throughout his career, Rich has spent the vast majority of his time and expertise working with local municipalities designing land development plans, assisting with

development permitting and design, and assisting as the local municipal engineer for Springhill, Franklin, Gilmore, Jackson, Jefferson, Greene, Aleppo, Wayne, Monongahela Townships and Waynesburg Borough.



Over the past 10 years it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Rush through permitting projects and with municipal dirt, gravel, and low volume road projects. His knowledge, fairness and flexibility are just some of the many contributions to his strong work ethic that we witness through the projects he is involved in.

So, it is with great honor we present Mr. Rush this award to recognize his commitment to the protection of the environment and Greene County's natural resources from erosion and sedimentation.

# COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR

The District was proud to congratulate Carl Graham as the 2020 Cooperator of the Year. The award is presented to those committed to soil and water conservation in the daily management of their operation. The District was introduced to Mr. Graham through his participation in the GRACE Program. He manages a Hereford cattle operation in Whiteley Township. The operation consists of 246 acres of pasture and hay land. It was through his father, who operated the farm beginning in 1945, that Mr. Graham found a passion for farming. Over the years, he learned different types of practices that can help for more efficient management—such as the reintroduction of pasture dividing fences and developing springs in each of his paddocks.

In 2018, Mr. Graham became a District Cooperator through the GRACE Program. He has been an active participant every year following. Through the GRACE program Mr. Graham completed a variety of best management practices (BMPs) including the application of lime and fertilizer, installation of 4,300 feet of pasture division fencing and seven livestock water systems. For 2020-2021, he was approved for fertilizer, 2,500 feet of stream bank fencing and three additional livestock water systems. Mr. Graham is a prime example of successful “on the ground” conservation.



# WAYNE TOWNSHIP–DGLVR MUNICIPALITY OF THE YEAR

For the past 5 years Wayne Township Supervisors, Tim Chapman, Alan Wells and Jeff Blake have been working diligently to improve local roads with funds from the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) program administered by the District. Some projects completed through the program include: stabilization of landslides, installation of drainage features, day lighting and removal of berms that created entrenched roads along with other practices.

In 2020 Wayne Township Supervisor, Jeff Blake was the lead on a new endeavor for the township on township road #518 Goodwin Hill Road. This was a larger scale project compared to most dirt and gravel road projects that the township has tackled in the past. The project consisted of ensuring proper drainage and sheet flow by filling approximately ½ mile of road and repairing a landslide, along with establishing a new driving surface.

Most of the projects the township completed, with the program, were in-house projects that the township finished with their own equipment and labor. This project however, was larger than the township could do alone, and it was decided to bid the project. This was an unfamiliar process for the township but was faced head-on. It was a rocky road, but obstacles were overcome and lessons learned with the collaboration of an engineer and District staff. The project was completed successfully with an improved road in place.

Our municipal leaders have been met with many new tasks over the years and increasing responsibilities. They continue to take charge and successfully complete projects they may have thought they never could.

The District recognizes Wayne Township for the perseverance, oversight and sheer expression of interest in their project turning out to be one that shines. It is with great honor the district presents Wayne Township Supervisors with the 2020 Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Municipality of the Year award. The award recognizes the outstanding accomplishments in the establishment of Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Practices that protect water quality while providing the community with improved roads within the municipality. Congratulations Wayne Township Supervisors.



A. Wells

J. Blake

T. Chapman

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The Districts' 2020 Special Recognition Award was presented to Corbly L. and Christy W. Orndorff—the owners and operators of Valley View Farm. Valley View Farm has a rich history dating back to 1905. The farm was first founded by Corbly P. and Belle Orndorff and has been passed down through four generations of the Orndorff family.

A variety of businesses were operated throughout the generations from selling horses, carriages, and farm machinery. The first registered Belgian stallion was brought home in 1921 by Charles B. Orndorff; the grandfather of Corbly L. Orndorff. The Orndorff name became a legend in draft horse circles. Charles B. Orndorff began trading work horse teams in the 1920s and transitioned to maintaining all registered Belgian stock in the 1940s. Currently, Orndorff's Belgians, LLC, maintains a herd size of at least 40 registered breeding stock and over 80 head during spring foaling season. In 2014, the Orndorffs made the decision to renovate one of their



barns that could accommodate fundraisers, events, and remembrance services. The family's vision was to create a warm, peaceful haven to help families whose life has been put on pause – due to crisis, illness or loss – and help them find hope, peace, and new beginnings. While they were renovating their facilities for bereavement and remembrance services, they came across someone who wanted to get married on a farm and use their barn.

In 2014, they successfully held their first wedding and since then have made several improvements including an addition on the barn. This was the beginning of what is now the Valley View Farm Venue, hosting a variety of events year-round, including weddings, fundraisers, and more. A tithe from every event is donated to Butterfly Angels—an organization that aims to support bereaved parents who have lost a child. The venue is operated by owners Corbly and Christy, along with daughters Cassandra (Kyle) Lamb and Caitlin (Marlin) Morton.

# SERVICE RECOGNITION

20  
YEARS OF SERVICE



This year Lisa Snider was presented with an award dedicated to her twenty-years of service at GCCD. Ms. Snider began her career with the District in 2000 as the first Watershed Specialist. Lisa was promoted to Assistant Manager in 2005 where she held the position for five years before becoming District Director in 2010. She encourages participation with landowners in the District's GRACE Program and municipalities in the Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road Program. She has created a work environment of levity and works efficiently by fostering collaboration between employees and effective communication. She manages District staff as a unit with guidance and constructive criticism. Ms. Snider is a knowledgeable and driving force of the District. Her accomplishments and efforts do not go unnoticed.

10  
YEARS OF SERVICE



Lindsay Kozlowski received a service award dedicated to ten-years of service at the District. Ms. Kozlowski started working as a seasonal employee at the District with the West Nile Virus program. She was hired as a full-time employee as the Environmental Program Specialist (EPS) in 2010. This year she was promoted to District Office Manager. Some of Lindsay's accomplishments during her years of service are creating a relationship with DEP employees and starting the coloring contest for pre k students in the county which encourages soil and water conservation in the schools. All while keeping up with the ever changing rules and regulations of permitting Ms. Kozlowski expanded the scope of the Envirothon by obtaining sponsorships, including donations, to help cover the costs of the event. Lindsay is an outgoing, strong willed individual who embraces change.

## RALPH K. BELL BIRD CLUB SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The District supports the scholarship of the Ralph K Bell Bird Club by donating \$500.00 a year towards the winner.



The winner of the 2020 Ralph K. Bell Bird Club scholarship was Trezulka Budinsky of Waynesburg.

## 2020 PENNSYLVANIA RUNNER-UP PETITE MISS AGRICULTURE

Abigail Yenchik



# 2020 GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION COLORING AND POSTER CONTEST A GREAT SUCCESS

53 students participated in the contests this year. Both contests highlighted the role of pollinators in our everyday lives by asking the question, "Where would we 'BEE' without pollinators?"

The winners of the coloring contest were Braelyn Abbadini, 4, Grant Patton, 4 and Evan Blackburn, 4. Each of the winners won a new bicycle and helmet. The winners of the poster contest were as follows. In the K-1st grade category, Payton Joy Duncan in first place and Luke Patton in second place. In the 2nd -3rd category, Chloe B. Shaffer in first place. In the 7th -8th grade category Cheyenne DeBlasio in first place, Keisha McGowan in second place and Jaycee Melodia in third place. First place winners won \$100, second place winners won \$75 and third place winners won \$50. Payton Joy Duncan went on to win the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and place second in the National Association of Conservation Districts contest

## COLORING CONTEST WINNERS



Left to right Grant Patton, 4, Evan Blackburn, 4, and Braelyn Abbadini, 4.

## CLARKSVILLE STUDENT PLACES SECOND IN NATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION

The Conservation District is very proud that one of our local winners, Payton Joy Duncan, took second place in the 2020 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) poster contest. Payton is the daughter of Lainey and Travis Duncan and the granddaughter of David and Cheryl White, all of Clarksville. At the time of submitting her poster, she was a first-grade student of the PA Distance Learning Charter School.

The Theme for the 2020 Poster Contest was, "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators" and focused on the vital role pollinators play in health and sustainable food production. Payton reflected this theme with her poster and encouraged us to, "BEE Grateful for your Neighborhood Pollinators." Her poster won the Greene County Conservation District Poster contest in April of 2020. It went on to win the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts contest in June of 2020 and finally placed second at the NACD event early in February. All of the winning posters can be accessed on the NACD website ([nacdnet.org](http://nacdnet.org)).

Payton is the first Greene County student to reach the national competition since the poster contest was revived in 2016. The Conservation District congratulates Payton on her achievements and thanks her for participating in the competition.



Payton Joy Duncan placed second on the nation in the K-1 category of the 2020 National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest.

# GREENE COUNTY STUDENTS PLACE IN PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

Although all 2020 Envirothon Events had to be cancelled, students across the state still had an opportunity to “take a natural challenge!” in the form of the “2020 Pennsylvania Envirothon Week.”

Over 300 students from 100 schools in 47 PA counties participated in the event. Fifteen students from Carmichaels and Jefferson-Morgan High Schools took part in the event.

Christina Adams, of Carmichaels High School, came in tenth place overall with 425 points. Brooke Watters, also of Carmichaels High School, was right on her heels in thirteenth place overall with 420 points. Both had perfect scores on the Soils and Land Use Challenge, putting them in the top ten for those categories and winning them each a \$20 gift card from the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

Taylor Burnfield of Jefferson-Morgan High School really shone in the Current Issues Challenge, earning 90 points out of a possible 100 and making the top ten for the category and also winning a \$20 gift card from the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

We are thankful to the Pennsylvania Envirothon for taking the initiative to set up the event and are also appreciative to all of the partners that made it possible: Pennsylvania’s Departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Education; U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service; Fish & Boat Commission; and Game Commission. Event sponsors included: Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, State Conservation Commission, Shell, PSECU, EQT Foundation, UGI Utilities, Weis, Chief Oil & Gas, PPL, and Pennsylvania Trappers Association.



Christina Adams, of Carmichaels High School.



Taylor Burnfield of Jefferson-Morgan High School.



Brooke Watters, of Carmichaels High School.

## WEST NILE VIRUS AND TICK SURVEILLANCE 2020

The District has conducted West Nile Virus (WNV) surveillance since 2002. According to records, our 2020 samples showed the lowest mosquito populations since the program’s inception. The overall low numbers were most likely due to the dry summer and possibly COVID-19 restrictions. Sample sites were limited to the minimum trapping locations for this year.

Samples were taken from 6 sewage treatment plants throughout the county. The mosquitoes that are most common to carry WNV (*Culex pipiens* & *Culex restuans*) are attracted to the sewage smell. That being said, less than 1% of all mosquitoes carry WNV. 80% of people have no symptoms if infected with children and the elderly population most likely to show symptoms (flu like symptoms).

Mosquitoes contract the virus from biting infected birds, then transfer it with their next blood meal. WNV cannot be transferred through human to human contact, but could possibly be transferred with a blood transfusion, if infected. If you see a suspicious dead game bird (Hawk, Crow, Owl, etc.), this could be an indicator for WNV, contact our office for possible testing on the bird.

With the dry summer, mosquito numbers were down for most of the season. Numbers would rise when precipitation was in the area. It doesn’t take much water to produce

mosquito larvae, a bucket with 1 inch of water can produce over 1,000 mosquitoes a week. This is an example that can take us back to the best way to fight mosquitoes and WNV, Prevention! If you can prevent the mosquitoes from breeding nearby, you will have a better chance of not getting bit. Keep gutters clean, get rid of old tires, dump out and turn over any buckets, wheel barrows, change the water in bird baths every week, anything that can hold water should be investigated. Also, when practical, wear long sleeves and use bug spray. When looking for

bug spray, check the labels to see what percentage of “DEET” it contains. The higher the percentage, the better the spray will work. Some sprays contain up to 25% DEET or higher.

Tick surveillance conducted again this year. A priority was set out in search of nymph ticks (Second Stage of Ticks life). To locate the species a white felt was used to drag along the forest floor, the ticks would attach themselves to the cloth while making passes through the

sample area. The drags were conducted throughout the county’s game lands almost every week on sunny days. Luckily, there were not many nymph ticks discovered, as they are common carriers of Lyme Disease. Out of 45 samples that were collected from Greene County and sent to PA DEP Labs, only 6.7% of our ticks tested positive for Lyme Disease.

	2020	2018
Mosquito Samples	701 positive samples	6,982 positive samples
Humans	8 positive cases	135 positive cases
Bird	0 positives	106 positives
Veterinary	0 positives	3 positives

# 2020 GRACE PROGRAM

GRACE is the district funded Greene County's Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost-share and Enhancement Program. GRACE was formed in 2017 because the board found it essential to unite the farming community with available agencies in an effort to reintroduce farmers to programs that can benefit their operations while protecting resources.

The purpose of this program is to enhance and protect our soils through best management practice cost-share funding such as lime, fertilizer, livestock watering systems, interior fencing projects (for the purpose of pasture division, woodlot exclusion, stream/pond fencing), livestock stream crossings, a range of forestry projects, and obtaining Nutrient Management Plans.

*This program has led the conservation district to an increased presence in the farming community and has allowed our office to open the doors for other agencies through annual field visits.*

We are also using this program as a way to get farmers the tools and information they need to stay up to date with compliance by implementing program requirements such as a manure management plan and conservation plan and/or Ag E&S plans.

This year, the district had 59 applications — all of whom were approved for cost-share projects. This year's GRACE program approvals were approximately \$173,176.31 invested back into the agriculture community. An additional \$120,580.29 in funds for unfinished projects

from the 2018 and 2019 program years were also approved to allow previous GRACE participants extra time to finish previously approved projects. In all of 2020, a total of \$118,162.99 was spent reimbursing approved GRACE projects and this total amount covered the projects in the chart below:

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	PROJECT TOTALS REIMBURSED IN 2020
Full Livestock Watering Systems	17 Full Systems
Partial/Repair Livestock Watering Systems	8 Partial/Repair Systems
Pasture Division Fencing	5,118 Linear Feet
Lime	1,664,027 Tons
Fertilizer	403.175 Acres

Since the program's inception, the number of applicants has increased steadily and the number of applicants per program year are as follows:

**2017- 22    2018- 39    2019- 49    2020- 59**

Additionally, as a result of the program's outreach, the GCCD has received requests for assistance and added a total of 111 new cooperators to our district cooperator list since GRACE started in 2017.

Funds utilized by the program are a direct result of PA Act 13, which the District receives annually to foster conservation efforts within Greene County. The Greene County Conservation District Board of Directors are continuing to give back to the Greene County farming community in hopes that these funds ensure viable farm land for the future.

# RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION (REAP) PROGRAM

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program allows farmers and businesses to earn tax credits in exchange for installing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) on agricultural operations that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources. The program is administered by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the tax credits are awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

Eligible applicants may receive between 50% and 75% of project's eligible out-of-pocket costs as state tax credits for

up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation. The amount of tax credit available to a recipient is dependent on the type of BMP implemented. Farmers with operations located within a watershed with an EPA-mandated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) can receive 90% of project's eligible out-of-pocket costs as state tax credits for some projects. For Greene County, this would include those within the Whiteley Creek Watershed.

In 2020, one application was submitted to the SCC for REAP tax credits.



# GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION

The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the importance of agricultural systems as basic needs became scarce when consumers hurried to stock their pantries and refrigerators. Shortages pushed the nation to think about where food comes from. Farm to table is a complex system that is often underappreciated.

***Agriculture is the leading economic enterprise in Pennsylvania with a \$75 billion total economic impact. Preserving prime farmland for the future is crucial.***

In 1988, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture created the Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program and began its effort to preserve prime farmland from being lost to non-agricultural uses. Farmland preservation ensures prime farmland availability for future generations. The program has protected more farms and acres than any other state program in the nation. Approximately \$1.6 billion dollars have been invested by federal, state, county, and local agencies to preserve over 5,700 farms with more than 584,000 acres for future agricultural production within Pennsylvania.

Greene County joined the movement in 2007 by preserving its first county farm into the program. The first operation preserved was a dairy operation, one of two dairy operations remaining in the county. Since

2007, a total of nine farms consisting of over 935 acres have been preserved and over \$1.2 million dollars of state and county funds have been invested into purchasing these properties.

In 2020, the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board accepted its tenth property the Dominick and Kimberly Barbetta Farm as the highest ranked for the application period. This 79-acre parcel is located in Morgan Township and will add to the amount of preserved farmland in the county. The operation has not reached the final stage of encumbrment due to the GCFLP Program funding. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Farmland Preservation has a temporary hold until funds are available. For this reason, the GCFLP Board has suspended the application period until the end of 2021. Once funds are acquired the GCFLP Board will reevaluate opening the application period. Landowners are encouraged to continue reaching out the Greene County Conservation District regarding the program and requirements.

***This program would not be successful without the support of the Greene County Commissioners, the Greene County Farmland Preservation Board members, and the Greene County Conservation District staff.***

# MANURE MANAGEMENT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

During farm visits for the 2020-2021 GRACE Program, District Conservation Technicians discussed with landowners the benefits of having a manure management plan (MMP). The PA Department of Environmental Protection's Manure Management regulations require any farm in Pennsylvania that applies manure to the land - whether you fork it on, spread it with a machine, or let your livestock drop it directly in the pasture - is required by law to have a written MMP, regardless of size of the property or the operation. MMPs identify manure and fertilizer application rates for crops, manure application setbacks from environmentally sensitive areas and a guide for winter application.

Effective management of manure maximizes the use of on-farm available nutrients and can minimize the need and costs of supplemental fertilizer. A MMP can be written by the operator however, technical assistance is available. MMP Workbooks are found online and at the District per request. Nine operators received technical assistance for planning for a combined total of over 1,300 acres.

In 2020, the District Nutrient Management Conservation Specialist reviewed a second plan toward Nutrient Management Public Review Certification.

No manure-related complaints were received in 2020.

# WATER QUALITY CONCERNS

The Conservation District is a resource for landowners when they have questions or concerns about water quality. The District Watershed Specialist fielded several calls from landowners in 2020 related to water quality concerns.

Weather patterns for this year were unfortunately perfect for pond fish kills. A fish kill can actually be pretty traumatizing for a landowner and their thoughts often turn to a pollution event. In most cases, the actual culprit is oxygen depletion caused by weather patterns or a problem with the pond design itself. Based on field water quality measurements, this appears to be what happened in all three cases investigated by the District Watershed Specialist.

Another common call involves landowners finding foam or iridescent colors in their water reminiscent of oil or soap. Most often this is the result natural organic matter breakdown in streams and other water bodies. This Biofilm as it is called is not a cause for concern but the District takes these calls seriously, nonetheless. The District's Watershed Specialist responded to two

concerned landowners this year that were determined to be related to biofilm.

The District is always available to Greene County citizens who have concerns.



*Dead fish are always a cause of concern for pond owners.*

# CONSERVATION DISTRICT DISTRIBUTES RAIN BARRELS TO MANAGE STORMWATER

Stormwater management is possibly the most widespread water quality concern in Greene County. Unmanaged stormwater contributes to flooding and water pollution. Managing stormwater is a big job and costs municipalities and landowners both time and money.

Incorporating stormwater best management practices (BMP) at our homes and farms reduces the burden on municipal infrastructure, protects streams from polluted runoff and mitigates flood risk across our communities. The Conservation District has been working with Waynesburg Borough to promote stormwater management throughout.

***The Conservation District distributed 18 rain barrels at no cost to Greene County landowners in 2020.***

The District and Borough have been holding rain barrel workshops using funding from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Rain barrels collect water that would normally become runoff and store it for later use by the property owner. This reduces some of the sudden surges of stormwater runoff and also provides a benefit to the property owner by storing a supply of water suitable for

watering gardens, washing vehicles and equipment, cleaning decks and windows and a host of other household tasks.



*District Watershed Specialist shows how to build a rain barrel during a workshop.*

# CONSERVATION DISTRICT WORKS WITH LOCAL GROUP TO IMPROVE PUBLIC LANDS

The Conservation District is always eager to work with conservation-based citizen groups and watershed organizations. One such group is the Harry Enstrom Chapter of the Izaak Walton League (IWL). The District Watershed Specialist provides technical assistance on IWL projects and initiatives. In 2020, the IWL partnered with the Pennsylvania

Game Commission to install 25 Bluebird and 6 Wood Duck nesting boxes on State Game Lands 223 near Garard's Fort. Students from Carmichaels High School and the District's Watershed Specialist lent a helping hand throughout the day. Watch the Conservation District Newsletter for upcoming IWL activities that the District is assisting with.



*District Watershed Specialist assisted volunteers create habitat for wildlife and waterfowl on State Game Lands.*

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PARK STREAMBANK STABILIZATION

In 2019 and 2020 Washington Township Supervisors were the recipients of the District Water Quality Mini-Grant Program. This program was developed in the early 2000's to supplement state and federal grant/incentive programs or private funds specifically designated to off-set costs associated with the implementation/installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The BMP's are designed to prevent erosion, mitigate non-point source nutrient and sediment runoff, and generally improve downstream

water quality. Funding for this program is a direct result of the Conservation District's Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 program permitting fees collected and made available through the Clean Water Funds.

The Washington Township Park, has for years, been in danger of losing ground due to steep slopes and unstable banks of Ruff Creek, the stream that borders the property. The unstable banks not only contributed sediment loads to the stream, it also posed danger to its visitors. Supervisors and crew took action to make their park safe while contributing to removing potential sediment from Ruff Creek.



# GROWING GREENER FUNDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED

The Conservation District worked with three cooperating landowners in the Browns Creek Watershed to stabilize streambanks, and implement agricultural best management practices (BMP) using funds from the DEP Growing Greener program. Projects like these help the landowner and provide ecological benefits for the whole watershed.

Stabilizing streambanks locks valuable soils in place and ensures that storms won't carry them downstream. Keeping this soil in place is a benefit for the farmer as healthy soils are a large part of their livelihood. Additionally, keeping these soils out of streams reduces sediment pollution. Sediment is the most widespread

pollutant degrading Pennsylvania's streams and can harm the aquatic communities that live in them.

On the farm, these nutrients are a valuable commodity and not losing them to runoff means the farm retains and reuses them. Nutrient pollution disrupts stream food webs and can lead to serious problems for drinking water plants.

Everyone benefits from the work we do on projects like this. Farmers are better able to provide food for our communities, downstream drinking water operations are better able to provide us clean water, and the streams themselves are healthier and better able to provide recreational opportunities.

## WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE WORK COMPLETED DURING THIS PROJECT, WORK THAT INCLUDED:

INSTALLING  
**13 LOG CROSS VANES**  
**2 ROCK VANES**

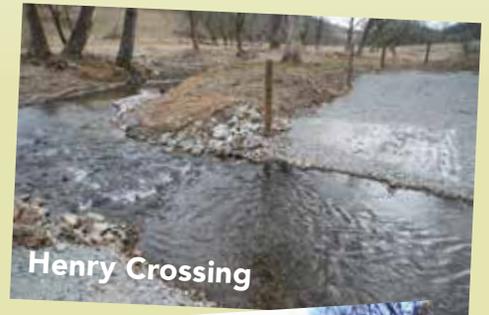
DEVELOPING **8**  
AGRICULTURAL  
WATERING SYSTEMS

FENCING  
**8,416 FT**  
OF STREAM

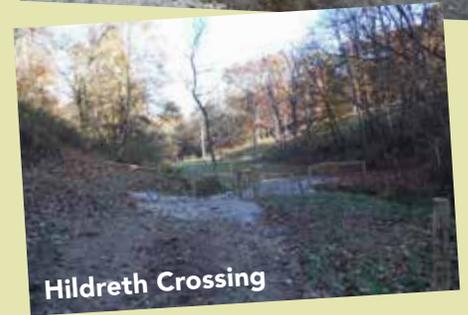
CONSTRUCTING  
**3** STABILIZED  
AGRICULTURAL  
STREAM CROSSINGS

STABILIZING  
**4,829 FT**  
OF STREAM

PLANTING  
**1.7 ACRES OF WILDLIFE  
& POLLINATOR HABITAT**



Henry Crossing



Hildreth Crossing



Henry Fencing

*Fencing cattle out of streamside areas buffer streams from sediment and nutrient pollution. It also keeps cattle from trampling banks. The fenced area shown here has been planted with native grasses and wildflowers that will provide much-needed habitat for pollinators. Additionally, a corridor has been created to allow cattle to move through a stabilized crossing.*

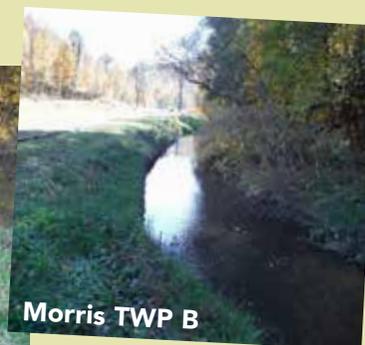
*Sometimes farmers need to move cattle across streams. Stabilized crossings like these provide an area where cattle may cross without polluting streams.*



Henry Streambanks



Morris TWP A



Morris TWP B



Hildreth Spring

*Spring developments like this one allow cattle a water source other than streams. Cattle drinking from streams trample streambanks and increase soil loss to erosion.*

*These previously eroded streambanks are now stable and protected from future*

# EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM: YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

The goal of this program is to protect Greene County's soil and water resources by monitoring and maintaining soil erosion and sedimentation. The Greene County Conservation District (GCCD) maintains a delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) which empowers our office to administer earth disturbance and water obstruction and encroachment permits. Our office has also been tasked with inspections of these permits to ensure compliance is being met with the clean streams laws. The GCCD has chosen not to partake in the enforcement actions but merely administer the programs. When compliance is not being met, and enforcement actions are needed, the PA DEP is contacted.

Sediment is one of the top pollutants to our waterways. The Chapter 102 (earth disturbance) and Chapter 105 (water obstruction and encroachment permits) are tools that are used to protect our streams and wetlands from accelerated erosion. Erosion is a natural process, but when

human activity (construction activities) cause erosion you get what is called accelerated erosion.

Best management practices (BMP's) are controls and/or activities (silt-fence, grass seed and mulch, etc.) that help minimize the effects of accelerated erosion/sedimentation as well as stormwater to our waterways. Anyone proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities are required to implement and maintain these BMP's. Permits are required for various earth disturbance activities, based on the size and the type of the project. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required when one acre or more of earth disturbance occurs over the life of the project. Erosion and Sediment Control General Permits (ESCGP-3) are required for projects associated with oil and gas activities that disturb five or more acres. Permits are also required for work in or near a stream or wetland. There are many types of permits depending upon the type of work that is proposed. It is always best to contact the office if there are any questions as to whether a permit is required.

CHAPTER 105 GENERAL PERMITS ISSUED	
GP-1 Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures	0
GP-2 Small Docks and Boat Launching Ramps	1
GP-3 Bank Rehab/Protection & Gravel Bar Removal	8
GP-4 Intake/Outfall Structure	1
GP-5 Utility Line Stream Crossing	21
GP-6 Agricultural Crossings and Ramps	1
GP-7 Minor Road Crossings	11
GP-8 Temporary Road Crossings	11
GP-9 Agricultural Activities	0
Chapter 102 Fees	\$35,000.00
Chapter 105 Fees	\$22,925.00
<b>Total 102/105 Fees Received</b>	<b>\$57,925.00</b>
<b>Funds Collected for PADEP Disturbed Acreage Fee</b>	<b>\$4,300.00</b>

**\*\* These fees go directly to the PADEP and are not kept by the GCCD.**

2020 CHAPTER 102/105 & NPDES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
Plans Received & Reviewed	65
Inspections & Sites Visited	262
NPDES Permits Issued	6
ESCGP-3 Permits Issued	2
E&S Plans Issued	13

Some of the larger projects received and/or under construction in 2020 were:

### GOSPEL TABERNACLE

A recreation center for the Gospel Tabernacle located in Mt. Morris.

### RYERSON STATION STATE PARK POOL COMPLEX

The pool complex has been under construction since late 2018. The project should be completed in early-mid 2021 and will be a great place for the family and a relaxing atmosphere.

### HILL TOP ENERGY CENTER

Under construction since late 2018, the energy center is hoping to be completed in the near future. This natural gas fired power plant will provide many jobs for Greene County.

### PENNDOT GREENE COUNTY MAINTENANCE FACILITY

A new maintenance facility for PennDot, located in its same location just coming into Waynesburg off Rt.188.



### WISECARVER PARK

A plan to build a park next to the lake was permitted in June 2020. The park includes softball fields, a walking trail, and more!

## PERMITTING UPDATES

For the past several years, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has been developing an electronic permitting system for programs in the Bureau of Clean Water and Bureau of Waterways and Wetlands.

In 2019, the system went live for Chapter 105 stream and wetland permits. Applicants can submit permit applications and fees through this program and obtain approvals without sending in paper copies.

Chapter 102 earth disturbance permits are more complex and require engineering and stormwater management. Engineers are required to design the permits to current regulations, so creating an online application process has been very challenging for all involved.

With the challenges the year 2020 brought with teleworking, the need for electronic submittals was more vital than ever. PA DEP, engineers, and conservation districts across the state

have been working together to get the online program up and running. We are proud to announce that Chapter 102 E-Permitting officially went online on January 25, 2021.

Although electronic submittals are not required at this time, our office is now accepting applications through the state's E-Permitting System for both Chapter 102 and Chapter 105. GCCD will still be accepting hard copies of all applications unless the state moves to full electronic submittals in the future.

Below is the link to register and begin the process of submitting an application through the E-Permitting system.  
<https://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/gpl/users/register>

# COOPERATING AGENCY ACTIVITIES

## CALENDAR YEAR 2020 – WEST GREENE FFA YEAR IN REVIEW

The Fair Funds/Improvement Account Money (Conservation District Donation) primarily paid for the Jacktown Invitational (Market Rabbit and Goat Shows). We covered costs that the Jacktown Fair board did not. We had premiums for Land Judging (1st Place Brock Bedilion, WG FFA) and Dairy Judging (1st Place, Brody Varner, Wbg FFA).

### PA FFA MID-WINTER CONVENTION / PA FARM SHOW

Three West Greene FFA Members received their Keystone (State) FFA Degree at the 2020 Mid-Winter FFA Convention held the PA Farm Show. Members were Benjamin Archer (11th), Emily Cooke (11th), and Kenneth (DJ) Jones (12th)

*Pictured Left to Right: Benjamin Archer, Emily Cooke, and Kenneth (DJ) Jones.*



Four West Greene FFA Members received their very first FFA Jacket, the corduroy blue at the 2020 Mid-Winter FFA Convention as well. Members were, Daren Orndoff, Brandon Cooke, Neil Lemmon, and Stephanie Ward. Jackets are awarded to outstanding students in the PA FFA organization who complete an essay application. Jackets are paid for by donations that are made to the PA FFA Alumni and Supporters Organization.



*Pictured left to right: Daren Orndoff, Brandon Cooke, and Neil Lemmon.*

### 2020 FARM SHOW GROUP PICTURE



### AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION ESTABLISHES SUCCESS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (ACES)



*Students attending the ACES Conference in Harrisburg in February 2020. Pictured L to R: Keri Shipman, Jaime Jacobs, Kaden Bennington, Zachary Frye, Emily Cooke, Eric Huston, and Kiley Meek.*

### NATIONAL FFA WEEK 2020

Students participated in National FFA Week activities, including creating a display board or demonstration that was presenting to students in grades K-8 throughout the week, as well as teacher appreciation gifts, and a community night with refreshments.

### GROUP PICTURE FROM NATIONAL FFA WEEK ACTIVITIES.



### 2020 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Students were able to participate in the National FFA Convention virtually. Students viewed various leadership workshops as well as FFA Ceremonies.

### 2020 BANQUET

We were able to hold a 2020 banquet at Valley View Farm in June. It was smaller than what we are used to, but nonetheless, we were able to award students and allow them to finish out their year.



*The 2020 FFA Scholarship Recipients of \$1,500 each were Kaden Bennington, Kenneth (DJ) Jones, Avery Berdine, and Gregory Staggers. (Pictured Left to Right)*



*Savannah Pettit was awarded her American Degree in October.*

## GREENHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS



Students in the new Construction class were able to concrete half of the greenhouse. We are hoping to concrete the second half in the 2021-2022 school year.

## GREENHOUSE 2020 SALES

The Greenhouse Season started out normal, with students planting pepper seeds and geraniums, however, as well all know, it soon became a world of uncertainty. As we had plants still being shipped and bills that needed to be paid, we pushed through to get our entire greenhouse full of more than 400 hanging baskets and tables full of bedding plants. If it wasn't for Dr. Raleigh Daniels, I am not sure how our greenhouse would have ended up. We owe a great deal of gratitude to him and his efforts for making our sale possible. Our sale took place online and we created a website through Square.

We had both a successful spring greenhouse sale and fall poinsettia sale. This year for poinsettias, we grew 800 plants instead of our normal 400. While sales were slightly down, we were able to donate quite a few to the local Nursing Homes at Christmastime.



## 2020 MARKET LIVESTOCK SHOWS

While there were no fairs in 2020, the community was able to pull together to make the Market Shows happen for the 4-H and FFA members. Market Goats and Market Rabbits were shown and sold at the Jacktown Fairgrounds. Market Lambs and Market Steers were shown and sold at the Greene County Fairgrounds. We are extremely blessed to have a community come together to support the students.

## 2020 FOOD DRIVE

We collected non-perishable foods as part of community service for National FFA Week. The food was donated to the school's pantry to help to give food to students in the backpack and pantry programs. We collected more than 1000 items.



## 2020 RENOVATIONS

The West Greene Ag Department (As well as West Greene's entire STEAM departments) underwent a massive renovation during the summer of 2020. The Ag Department had a complete facelift. We remodeled Mrs. Wright classroom space, added a science laboratory, a food science lab/kitchen, and Floral Design lab area. We were also able to add on to our metal lab, and a CNC Plasma Table.



## NEW FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM

With the new renovations we were able to begin the West Greene Floral Design Program. We have had the opportunity to make the Homecoming Flowers, and several senior night flowers. We also had a really successful Valentine's Day Sale.



Pictured L to R: Krysten DeBolt and Alexandria VanDyne with the 2020 Homecoming Flowers and Fall Senior night flowers.

## 2020 HARVEST FESTIVAL



Group picture from the 2020 Harvest Festival.

## LEGISLATIVE FARM TOUR

On August 28, George Scull, Director of Government Relations for the Greene County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau invited local, state, and U.S. Representatives to tour a local farm to understand the issues currently facing farmers. The tour was held at the Thistle Tree Farm, owned by Harold and Gay Thistle, which had been awarded the "Tree Farmer of the Year 2015". The property is located west of Waynesburg at 3033 W. Roy Furman Highway.

The tour was followed by the bureau meeting and lunch at the Greene County Fairgrounds with our representatives. Attending: Camera Bartolotta 46th district state senator, Eric Cowden, field representative office of Camera, Matt Mackowiak, representing Pennsylvania's 14th congressional district, U.S. representative Guy Reschenthaler, Mike Belding and Betsy McClure, Greene County commissioners.

Topics for discussion included: State issues; Dairy Development grants and small meat processing grants to diversify the supply chain, relief from excessive stormwater management regulation and fees, Civil liability reform, Relief from requirements for indoor sprinkler systems, State tax fairness and reform; exempt farmers paying unemployment compensation for H2A workers which do not qualify for



unemployment compensation, Allow landowners to use percentage method deduction for oil and gas wells, same as federal tax policy, Expansion of high speed broadband infrastructure in rural areas. National issues: Dairy, allow unflavored and flavored whole milk to be offered in schools and expanded milk options of low fat flavored milk, enforcement action against manufacturers labeling non-dairy products as dairy, allowing whole milk or 2% milk to be excluded from the fat cap in school lunches.

## SPOTTED LANTERNFLY PROJECT

The Greene County Master Gardener's have participated in researching the Spotted Lanternfly invasion of southeast counties of Pennsylvania. Despite efforts, including quarantine, it has continued to spread across the state. It has now been found in 26 counties. As part of a statewide program, the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Greene County participated in a surveillance program. We were given instructions for two SLF traps. Five volunteers made them and located them across sites in Greene County. Weekly trips are made to check the traps, and fortunately no SLF have been spotted thus far. Locations of the traps include: Center Township Community Park, Thistlewaite Winery, Wana B Park in Carmichaels, Greene River Trail in Rice's Landing and Richie Park in Waynesburg. When checking the traps, the Master Gardeners have the opportunity to answer questions for those visiting. Since the first frost would kill the Spotted Lanternfly, the traps were removed for the winter. We hope to participate again in 2021.



*Pictured are traps at Wana B Park in Carmichaels*

# COOPERATING AGENCY CONTACTS

## GREENE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Waynesburg, Pa 15370

### Michael Belding

Mbelding@co.greene.pa.us

### Betsy McClure

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### Blair Zimmerman

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## FARM SERVICE AGENCY

### Michal E. Roup

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724-222-3060 ext. 2  
Fax: 855-847-3602  
michal.roup@pa.usda.gov

## USDA / NRCS

### Phil Evans

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E-mail: Phil.Evans@pa.usda.gov

## PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

### Eric Davis

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## PA GAME COMMISSION

### Steve Leiendecker

SW Regional Field Office  
4820 Route 711  
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Bus: (724) 238-9523  
Email: sleiendeck@pa.gov

## PENN'S CORNER RC&D COUNCIL

### Council Chair: Jonathan Burgess

(Allegheny County)  
Allegheny County Conservation District  
River Walk Corporate Centre  
33 Terminal Way, Suite 325 B  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Bus: (412) 241-7645  
Email: jburgess@accdpa.org

## GREENE COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning Commission  
**Jeremy Kelly, Director**  
93 E. High Street  
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Waynesburg, Pa 15370  
Bus: (724) 852-5300  
Email: jkelly@co.greene.pa.us

## BUREAU OF FORESTRY

### Russell Gibbs, Service Forester

PA Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry, Forbes State Forest  
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Lemont Furnace, PA 15456  
Bus: (724) 437-7983  
E-mail: rugibbs@pa.gov  
www.dcnr.state.pa.us

## PENN STATE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

26 West High Street, Room 1  
Waynesburg, PA 15370-1324  
Contact: Thomas Beresnyak  
teb119@PSU.EDU  
Bus: 724-627-3745  
Fax: 724-852-4318  
GreeneExt@psu.edu

## SOUTHWEST PROJECT GRASS

6024 Glades Pike  
Suite 103  
Somerset, PA 15501  
Email: email@swprojectgrass.com  
Phone: Contact your local  
conservation district

## PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Southwest Regional Office  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15322  
Bus: (412) 412-4000

## DEP CALIFORNIA DISTRICT MINING OFFICE

724-769-1100  
Surface or underground mining  
complaints

## DEP OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

412-442-4006  
Oil and gas complaints

## US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS- PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

412-395-7500  
Permitting, river and wetland issues

## US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

814-234-4090

## DEP EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

1-800-541-2050  
Chemical and oil spills from transport  
trucks, trains and industrial facilities

## BUREAU DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

(717) 787-3062  
ra-doglaw@pa.gov

## PENN DOT-GREENE COUNTY MAINTENANCE

724-627-6131



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Waynesburg, PA 15370

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## OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the District to commit to protection, stewardship, and conservation of the County's natural resources to ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of the landowners of the County.

It is the District's belief that conservation works best when people living and working in the local area work together to manage their natural resources collectively. Valuable partnerships are formed when diversity is brought into the conversation and decision-making process. Our office is a conservation-oriented organization that offers a wide variety of expertise and knowledge. The District staff can assist with questions related to permitting, offer guidance on planning for farming, and assist landowners with various natural resource related topics.