



Executive Order Update for Sullivan County

In the spring 2010 issue of *The Conservationist*, we told you the overall plan that President Obama has for cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and its 64,299 square miles in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. We mentioned the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reductions for Nitrogen, Phosphorus and sediment that EPA and PA DEP will be expected to achieve through Watershed Implementation Plans. We also said we would work with the farming community in understanding where they stand regarding pollution potential and improved management needs. As of this date, we have worked with seven farms in Sullivan County. Our evaluation/survey was completed for each farm as to potential pollution, immediate needs of an operation for baseline compliance, and best management practices that were wanted or could be implemented with funding through the 2007 Farm Bill Programs and/or other available funding.

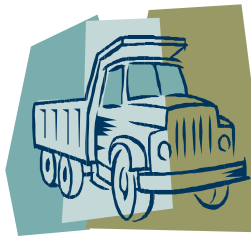
There are approximately 77,000 farms in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The 2007 Census of Agriculture (newest edition) quotes 165 farms in Sullivan County. Whether you have dairy, beef, bison, donkeys, hogs, sheep, goats, horses, poultry, Alpacas, or Llamas, we would like to do a voluntary evaluation of your farm or farmette. Give us a call at 928-7057 to set up a time that best meets your schedule.

The clock is ticking. By June 1, 2010 states were to submit their preliminary Watershed Implementation Plans to EPA. During June those plans will be reviewed to determine whether state programs are sufficient to meet nutrient goal reductions. From August 15 through October 15, 2010 draft TMDL's and Watershed Implementation Plans will be released for a 60-day public review and comment period in each state. By November 1st states are required to submit final

Watershed Implementation Plans to EPA. By December 31, 2010 EPA and the states agreed that the final TMDL will be published in the Federal Register. That takes us through the steps in 2010.

Even with these deadlines, EPA has been busy taking action on farms that have not been in compliance with the Clean Water Act regulations in Centre and Lancaster Counties. Just recently a farm in Manheim with 36,000 egg-laying hens and 80 dairy cows was ordered to cease discharging pollutants to the stream until the required Clean Water Act permit was obtained. A compliance action plan is also required. For more information about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Enforcement Strategy, visit <http://epa.gov/compliance/civil/initiatives/chesapeakebay.html>. We'll keep you updated with future articles on the Executive Order and our accomplishments. Hopefully, EPA won't have to come to Sullivan County.

Dist Dirt & Gravel Roads Update



There have been four projects completed since the beginning of the year. Elkland Township completed a project on Eldersville Road. The project consisted of changing the road profile

with shale and supporting the road with geotextile fabric. The total cost of the project was \$29,180.00 D&G paid for \$22,850.00 and there was \$6,330.00 of in-kind. Fox Township completed a job on Hoagland Branch Road. The project consisted of under drain, adding a culvert and changing the road profile. Cost of the project was \$8,090.00. Forks Township completed three

projects that were all connected on Warburton Hill Road. All three projects consisted of under drain. The cost of all three projects was \$12,190.51.

The next opening for applications will be some time late fall.

2010 Poster Contest Receives 87 Entries

The District's 2010 Poster Contest was once again cosponsored by Dushore Borough. The annual poster contest is made available to students in grades 4-6 at the county schools. Corey arichmond, district technician and contest coordinator provided classroom programs for students to kick-off the event.

This year's theme was "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats" and gave the students a focus on practicing good conservation will lead to healthy surroundings for not only themselves, but many animals that share our same communities. The students learned about developing backyard habitats, providing habitats at their schools, and the importance of a healthy habitat as it is related to pollinators such as bees.

The award winners received a plaque and a t-shirt with their poster on it. Honorable mention entries were also recognized with ribbons.

The PA Game Commission provided bluebird nesting box kits for the top three entries in each grade level.

Winning entries were as follows:

Fourth Grade: 1st Place: Kassandra Houseknecht, 2nd Place: Madelyn Fritsch, 3rd Place: Kody Wells. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Macy McCarty, Quincy Fry, and Sarah Gibbs.

Fifth Grade: 1st Place: Hayden Baumunk, 2nd Place: Marana Nitzcznski, 3rd Place: Lauren Chase. Kaiti Beinlich, Ashley Faus, Libby Schreffler, and Kendra Par-doe received honorable mentions.

Sixth Grade: 1st Place: Carli King, 2nd Place: Dylan Ammerman, 3rd Place: Bethany Finch. Honorable mentions were given to Olivia Morgan, Kayla Shaffer, Takyra Kleinsmith, and Dominick Rakofski.

Judges selected the entry of

Carli King as the overall winning poster and she also received a \$25.00 gift card from Dushore Borough. The poster was submitted to the PA Association of Conservation Districts for the state poster contest judging.

The conservation district would like to thank the Dushore Borough for its continued support of this contest. Thanks also go to the PA Game Commission for the donation of the nesting kits. A special thank you goes out to the teachers for

providing leadership and instruction to the students that completed posters for the contest.



2010 Envirothon Competitions

The Conservation District again showed its support of natural resource education by sponsoring the annual Envirothon events at the local and state levels. The Envirothon is an educational program in which students study resource materials and are tested in the fields of Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Aquatics, Wildlife, and a current issue, which is protecting groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning. The students study materials and compete at the county level to earn a spot at the state Envirothon event. The winning team of the PA Envirothon wins an all expense paid trip to the Canon Envirothon, which is North America's largest natural re-

source education competition.

The district joined with the Lycoming County Conservation District in conducting a local county event for high school students in the two counties. 15 teams of five students each competed for the title of the overall winner. Sullivan County High School had three teams that competed. The overall winning team was from Montoursville High School. The high scoring teams from each county are eligible to move on to the PA Envirothon.

At the PA Envirothon, teams from 66 counties competed for top honors. The event was held at PPL Montour Preserve near Washingtonville. The top

spot was earned by Penn Crest High School from Delaware County. The Delaware County team will move on to represent Pennsylvania at the Canon Envirothon event to be held in Fresno, California from August 1st - 6th, 2010.

The Sullivan County team finished the state event in 55th place.

The Conservation District provides funding for the local competition and pays all fees for the county team to participate in the PA Envirothon.

Rain Barrel Workshop Held

The Conservation District conducted another stormwater management/rain barrel workshop to 11 participants on May 5, 2010. The workshop focused on raising awareness of property owners to water that runs off their land and the consequences we face due to excess water runoff. From parking lot pollutants to eroding stream banks, runoff from storm events impacts our stream water quality

and poses a threat to downstream neighbors.

The workshop provided the opportunity for participants to calculate just how much water is kept from re-entering the ground due to impervious cover such as house roofs, drive ways, and more.

As part of the program, participants concluded by building a rain barrel to collect roof runoff for watering needs. The rain barrels serve as a first step in looking at keeping rainfall on the property and allowing for infiltration into the ground to replenish the groundwater aquifers.

No Till Farming is Becoming More Popular

The practice of not tilling the soil is growing in popularity across the county. Many farmers are seeing the benefit of the practice and applying it to more and more of their crop fields.

No till farming improves soil fertility, improves soil moisture, decreases potential for soil erosion, decreases fuel use, and serves to lock carbon in the soil where it is essential for healthy crop production.

The conservation district has been busy with providing incentive fund-

ing to farmers that are making the conversion to no-till to relieve some of the cost. No-till takes a bit of a learning curve in particular to address weed control, but its saving to the farmer in fuel costs is certainly showing that no-till has its place in the county's crop land.

For more information on no-till conversion, feel free to contact the district at 570-928-7057 and/or the Cooperative Extension office at 570-928-8941 or stop by the Ag Resources Center near Dushore.



ARRA Update

We are into the last month of the ARRA project that we received from PENNVEST. Insinger Excavating has stepped up their progress to complete all the projects.

Parker Road in Elkland Township, the first of seven sites associated with the project, is totally complete. This part of the project included subsurface drainage, cross pipes, road profile adjustment and driving surface aggregate

(DSA).

Insingers have finished the subsurface drainage and cross pipes, french mattress and profile adjustments on Brown's Road in Elkland Township, Lick Creek in Forks Township, Pigeon Creek in Colley Township and Connell's Dam Road in Cherry Township. They are currently working on Laporte Township's road. They also are starting to place DSA on Warburton Hill Road in Forks Town-

ship. The project is approximately 60% complete at the time of the article. All projects must be completed by June of 2010.

We will be visiting the Connell's Dam Road project as part of our picnic tour in July. I should have totals of materials used and money spent at that time.

REAP Applications are now available

The REAP program approved by the State Conservation Commission for FY 10-11 is essentially the same as last year's program. Eligible BMPs, costs, etc. remain the same. One notable change is that the Commission will **first consider** the applications submitted last year which were not approved because the credits were exhausted. All of these applicants have been mailed an "addendum" application.

The addendum applications will be considered in the order in which they were received and numbered last year, prior to the submission of new applications.

New applications (the one attached here) will be accepted beginning August 2, 2010 using the same first-come, first served process as previous years.

For more information please contact the Sullivan County Conservation District at 570-928-7057.

Calendar of Events

July 5	Office Closed for Holiday	September 1 – 6	Sullivan County Fair
July 13	District Board Meeting at 11 AM	September 6	Office Closed for Labor Day
August 10	District Board Meeting at 11 AM	September 14	District Board Meeting at 11 AM
August 25	NE Nutrient Management Field Day at 11 AM at D&D Hottenstein Farm	October 11	Office Closed for Columbus Day

2010 Woodland Resource Adventure Camp Campers and Sponsors Needed

Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council and its partners are once again holding the Woodland Resource Adventure Camp for 2010. This twenty-three year old program (previously named Youth Forestry Camp) will be held on the campus of The Haft, near Dushore, Sullivan County, Pennsylvania. The Woodland Resources Adventure Camp begins on Sunday, July 18 at 12:00 pm and runs through Thursday, July 22 at 3:00 pm. WRA is an overnight camp and is open for students ages 12-16. This year's theme is "Aquatics". Most sessions will be held at The Haft, but one full day will be spent kayaking on the Susquehanna River. Participants will learn about the following topics: emerging contaminants, acid mine drainage, pond and lake ecology, wetlands, macroinvertebrates, stream dynamics and hydrology, fish management, boating safety, and much more.

The student is responsible to pay \$175. The remaining \$100 is provided in the form of a sponsorship. We encourage students to make every effort, on their own, to obtain local sponsorship from an organization or business. The Woodland Resource Adventure Camp committee has a limited number of sponsorships available, if you cannot find one on your own. The total fee covers the cost of meals, lodging, insurance, tour transportation, and program materials.

WRA Camp is recommended

for young people who want to learn about the outdoors and the environment through an excellent hands-on experience. The Camp provides an opportunity to prepare for the Envirothon competitions, 4H Events and can be used as credit toward Scout Merit Badges.

For any student interesting in attending the camp, please contact Endless Mountains RC&D Council to obtain a brochure.

Any individual, group or business interested in becoming a sponsor of a student or the camp in general, please contact Endless Mountains RC&D office by phone 570-265-5288 ext. 5. Donations of any denomination will be accepted. Endless Mountains RC&D Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so any donation/sponsorship for the camp or a student is tax deductible.

For more information on the Woodland Resources Adventure Camp, contact Endless Mountains RC&D Council office by phone 570-265-5288 ext. 5 or www.endlessmountainsrcd.org.

WRA Tentative Agenda: Not all topics and speakers have been confirmed

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Leave No Trace

General Watershed Overview (surface and groundwater)

Emerging Contaminates-Poisoned Waters

Acid Mine Drainage

AMD T-shirts and Chalk

Monday, July 19, 2010

Pond and Lake Ecology

Wetlands and Soils

Macroinvertebrates

Stream Day

Hydrology

Stream Morphology

Stream Measurements

Riparian Buffers

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Fish Management/Identification and Electro-shocking

Herps

Safe Boating and Boating Skills

Fish Habitat Enhancements

Fish Print T-shirts

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Kayaking on the Susquehanna River

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Fly Fishing

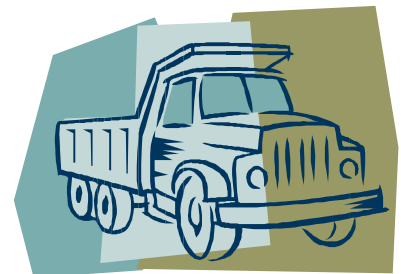
Eels and Mussels

Invasives

Environmental Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Workshop 2011

The Sullivan County Conservation District Q.A.B. is preparing for the two day Environmental Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Workshop for the beginning of 2011. Sullivan County will be the first training in 2011 for the Dirt & Gravel Road Center. In order to be eligible for grant funding under the program, someone from the applying agency must have attended one of these ESM trainings **within the previous five years.**

The training runs from 8am to 4 pm for two days and includes lunches. The ESM training covers many aspects of road maintenance and focus on practices to reduce both maintenance costs and environmental impact on unpaved roads. There will be more information when we get the exact dates.



PARKING LOT RENOVATIONS AT AG CENTER

The lower parking lot at the Sullivan County Ag Resources Center has been in need of some repair for quite some time. The lot has been looking a lot differently these past three weeks. The project is in its final stage of paving the driving area.

In the winter of 2007 our District Manager had looked at a Community Development Block Grant application that had been mailed to her husband from the planning and development office. It looked like the Conservation District would be able to apply for funding to repair both parking lots. On January 4, 2008 County Commissioner Getz and several district directors including a neighbor, Bruno Najaka, looked at the lots and noted where the sewer and drainage pipes were laid when Dr. Saul was

anticipating building his home and office on the site. In the spring of 2008 the application was submitted by the planning office and approved in January 2009 for \$40,000. Funding was approved through CDBG for the lower parking lot because Head Start is classified as low income. Funding, however, was not approved for the upper parking lot. We need to find another source of income to do similar repairs. Retired District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), John C. George, had completed his design of both projects in October 2008. Bids were let out and opened on March 3, 2009. The low bidder was T. Brennan of Carbondale. Work began in the fall of 2009 with the drainage from Head Start along the lower side of the parking lot. Preparations for the Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) and

paved driving area began on May 3, 2010. The project should be complete by the week of June 7, 2010. Kevin Rohe and Michelle Hanley of NRCS have been the inspectors for this project. The re-vamping of the concreted area was a "change order" from the County Commissioners since that area was also in need of repair.

The Conservation District wishes to thank all of those individuals who played a part in seeing this project completed by providing support letters to include with the application, the application process, the Sullivan County Commissioners for approving this as a project for CDBG, the contractor, inspectors, and especially John George for his design. Photographs can be viewed elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.

2010 District Seedling Sale a Success



The Sullivan County Conservation District would like to thank all the people who supported the 2010 seedling sale by placing orders. There were 78 orders with approxi-

mately 3,600 seedlings and trees sold this year. The District donated 275 seedlings to the both elementary schools and Head Start for Arbor Day. This means there should be at least 3,875 new trees growing at this time. All monies raised support Conservation District programs within the County. Thanks again for making this

year's sale a success. We would like to thank Kevin Rohe, Hurley's Super Market, The Sullivan Review and the Cherry Township Supervisors for their support of our fund raiser. We would also like to thank all the business's that permitted us to post our order forms.

Agricultural Conservation Technician Resigns

On March 22, 2010 we received word that Lynn Ottaviani would be leaving us as of April 2nd. Lynn began working with the Conservation District on July 25, 2007. She was the coordinator for the Farmland Preservation Program and West Nile Virus Program in the county. She also worked with the Nutrient Management Program and Chesapeake Bay Program. She served the Northern Tier Hard-

wood Association as Treasurer and board member. In light of budgeting shortfalls, the County Commissioners decided to "reshuffle the deck" so to speak as far as the duties of the conservation technician. Present staff members at the conservation district have assumed some of the duties. Jackie will be the coordinator of the Farmland Preservation Program and serve as part-time ACT. Corey will be doing

stream assessment and testing. Randy will be representing the Northern Tier Hardwood Association as a board member. We will continue to provide technical assistance to our agricultural and forestry community in meeting those needs. In light of some of these changes, Carrie will take on the duties of the seedling sale, newsletters, and updating the website.

SAVE THE DATE

The Northeast Nutrient Management Field Day will be held on August 25, 2010 at D&D Hottenstein Farm near Overton. This is being put together by Penn State Extension, Bradford and Sullivan County Conservation Districts and NRCS.

Endless Mountains Resource Conservation & Development Council has put together a DVD with the help of FSA and NRCS. The title of the DVD is "Tools you need to grow a successful conservation planting-weed management for land owners". The cost of the DVD is \$7.95. This can be purchased by contacting the Sullivan County Conservation District.



The 2010 Conservation Poster Contest winner was Carli King, a student at Sullivan County High School. With Carli is Dushore Borough's Scott Sample and Conservation District Manager, Jackie Rouse. The Conservation District and Dushore Borough partner in providing the annual poster contest for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students.

Conservation District directors, associate directors, staff, and county commissioners worked to package orders for the 2010 Seedling Sale. A big thank you to Kevin Rohe for the use of his garages for the purpose of packing orders.



This group of students participated in the 2010 local county envirothon held in conjunction with Lycoming County. The top team, shown wearing green ribbons, represented the county at the PA Envirothon held on May 26 at PPL Montour Preserve.



T. Brennan of Carbondale working on the final coat of paving for the driving area.

Insinger Excavating compacting DSA (Driving Surface Aggregate) for ARRA project on Warburton Hill Road, Forks Township.



USDA Issues Final Rule for Conservation Stewardship Program

Sign-up extended to June 25th

HARRISBURG, PA—June 4, 2010- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has published the final regulations governing the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, CSP is a voluntary program that offers payments

to producers who exercise good land stewardship and want to improve their conservation performance. Changes to the program expand access, increase payment limits, and promote greater environmental benefit while maintaining program goals.

The current enrollment period

for CSP has been extended an additional two weeks, now closing **June 25, 2010**, when applications will be scored, ranked, and funded.

For more information please contact NRCS in Bradford County at 570-265-6969.



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