

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Sullivan County Conservation District

History

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On April 3, 1961, the county commissioners adopted a resolution to form the Sullivan County Conservation District. The district was organized as a subdivision of local and state government pursuant to Act 217, Conservation District Law.

The Board of Directors, local citizens with a common interest of conserving local natural

resources, guides the districts programs and staff. Through technical assistance, education, and partnerships, the conservation district provides an array of programs and services focused on using our natural resources in a conservative way to allow future generations to enjoy them as well. Four farmer directors, two public directors, and a county commissioner member make

up the board of directors in Sullivan County.

Board Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 12:30 PM. Committee meetings are held at 11:00AM. There is no meeting in December. All meetings are held at the Ag Service Center located at 9219 Route 487, Dushore PA unless otherwise noted.



Our Mission

“We provide people with information and assistance for making decisions in the conservation management of natural resources by providing quality services.”

Our Vision

“A dynamic and innovative team dedicated to providing quality leadership, education, and service for the stewardship and enhancement of Sullivan County’s natural resources.”

Our Function

“To take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.”

From the Manager’s Desk

2018 was a busy year for the conservation district and seemed to fly by. It was a year of great accomplishments, progress, and partnerships. I am very proud of our directors, associate directors, and staff who dedicate an incredible amount of time to conserving the natural resources of our beautiful Sullivan County. Our team offers educational programs and outreach, technical assistance, program administration and advice, project installation, and other services to the local area. We also represent the district on local committees and organizational boards. Our partners play a huge role in the work we do and without them, we could not have completed the endeavors we did. The staff would like to thank all of our partners, county commissioners, directors, and associate directors for supporting and guiding our efforts. We look forward to all the good things 2019 will bring.

Holly J. Miller

District Manager

Agriculture

In Sullivan County it is our goal to help farmers make decisions to increase productivity and profit while maintaining environmentally cautious practices. We offer guidance, technical assistance, education and outreach events, and updates and current news on programs that are available. We also search for

funding avenues for our farmers so they can install best management practices (BMPs) on their farms.

As part of the effort to clean up the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the conservation district began participating in the Bay “reboot” strategy that was developed in 2016. The program involves assisting farmers with

Manure Management and Ag E&S plans. Each year 25 farms are visited in the county and guidance is provided for writing and maintaining these plans.

If you have any questions or need assistance with plans or farm practices don't hesitate to contact the conservation district.

Farmland Preservation

Farmland preservation is a joint state/county program whereby development rights of working farms are purchased in order to strengthen the states Ag economy and protect prime farmland. Purchasing agricultural conservation easements provides long term farmland preservation because compensation is provided to farmers for tracts of land that they keep in agricultural use forever. They receive the easement value of the farmland instead of selling it off for non-farm development.

The State Farmland Preservation Board approved the George and Sandra Kramer Farm in Cherry Township (26.23 acres) to be included in the Farmland Preservation Program at the June 2018 meeting. The closing for the easement took place at the Sullivan County Courthouse on October 31, 2018. With the addition of this farm, there are 762 preserved acres in Sullivan County. We would like to congratulate George and Sandra for pursuing this program to preserve their farm.





Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Roads

The Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads program aims to create a better public road system with a reduced environmental impact.

Last year \$490,923.60 was allocated to Sullivan County Dirt & Gravel projects and \$44,335.50 was allocated to Low Volume projects. 7 municipalities par-

ticipated last year entering 14 dirt & gravel and 2 low volume roads into the program. In total, 1.75 miles of roads qualified.

Funding for the program is distributed by the State Conservation Commission and technical assistance is provided by Penn State's Center for Dirt & Gravel

Road Studies.

To be eligible for grant funding, an individual involved in project design and implementation from the road owning entity must be ESM(Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance) certified. Please contact the conservation district for more information

Before



Harney Road—Cherry Township

Grant Funding=\$195,912.31

In-Kind=\$45,615.01

Total Cost=\$241,527.32

After



Project Details

9.7 ft bottomless arch structure

30 sq. yards French mattress

750 ft underdrain

14,000 tons of fill

Annual Workshop

A road maintenance workshop was held in September 2018 to provide updates and highlights of the Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Roads program in the county. Speakers included Tori Welliver, SCCD E&S Technician; Maria White, PA One Call; Shaun McAdams, Trout Unlimited; Justin Challenger, State Conservation Commission; and Wade Brown, Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies.



Buffalo Turbine

Last year the district purchased a Buffalo Turbine Blower with program funding to offer to eligible municipalities for use on road projects.

The turbine is a tow-behind, self contained debris blower that can be used to clean out road ditches and culverts in a more effective way than scraping. The unit is remote controlled for easy adjustments and eligible municipalities can use it for three consecutive days for maintenance on road projects.



Stream Restoration Project

The Elk Creek Stream Restoration Project is a partnership between the Sullivan County Conservation District, Chief Oil & Gas LLC, and the PA Fish & Boat Commission. On average, Chief Oil & Gas provides \$15,000 to the stream project each year with the conservation district providing

additional funding. The Fish & Boat Commission and the conservation district provide oversight and guidance throughout the project to ensure proper stability of the stream bank and improvement of trout habitat.

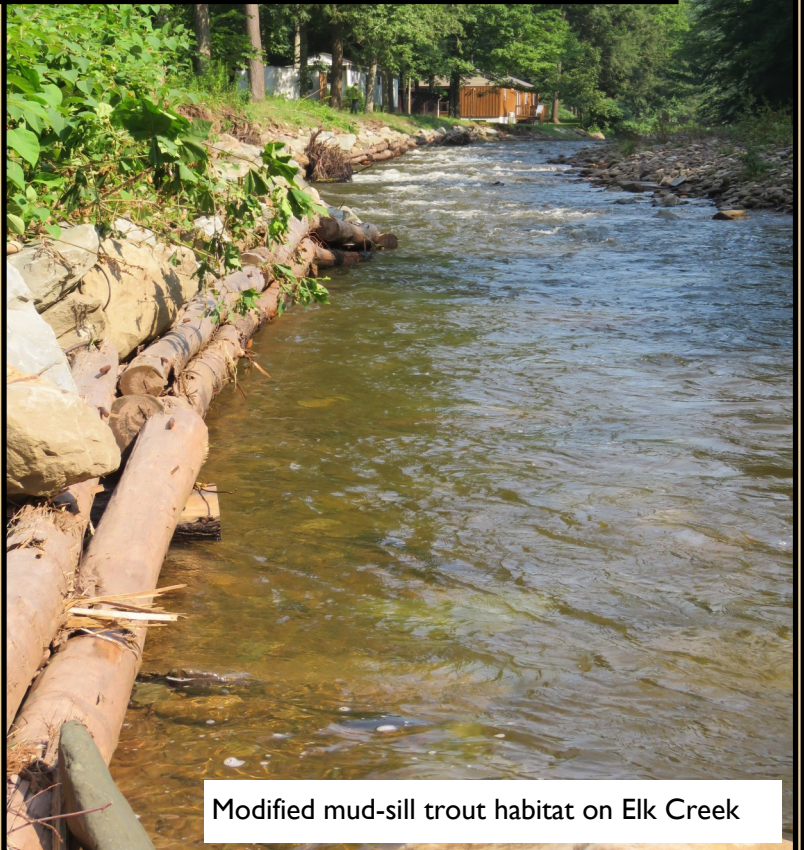
This year we began Phase IV of the Elk Creek Stream Res-

toration Project which included 100 feet of modified mud sill, 2 cross vanes, and multi-log habitat structures. Due to the large amount of rainfall we experienced in the summer, part of Phase IV was postponed until summer of 2019.

Construction of multi-log trout habitat structures on Elk Creek



Geofabric installation on a cross vane structure on Hoagland Branch



Modified mud-sill trout habitat on Elk Creek

Erosion & Sedimentation Control

We maintain a level II delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection to administer the erosion and sediment control program. Our district is responsible for review and inspection of E&S plans/sites, technical assistance, complaint response, and education and outreach. If you have any questions regarding earth disturbance activities on your property please reach out to the district for assistance.

2018 TOTALS

6 Plan Reviews
 74 Environmental Reviews
 8 Site Inspections
 91 Technical Assistance Contacts
 18 Outreach Events
 422 Participants Attended Events

When Do I Need an E&S Plan?

Requirements	Earth Disturbance Less than 5000 Sq. Ft.	Earth Disturbance 5000 Sq. Ft. or Greater and Less Than 1 Acre	Earth Disturbance 1 Acre or Greater
Installation of E&S BMPs	YES	YES	YES
Written E&S Plan on Site	Required in certain circumstances Contact the Sullivan County Conservation District	YES	YES
E&S Plan Approval from Sullivan County Conservation District	IF required by municipality or other regulation	IF required by municipality or other regulation	YES
Required NPDES Permit	NO	NO	YES
Required Written PCSM Plan	NO	NO	YES

Education & Outreach in Sullivan County

The directors and staff at the conservation district are dedicated to offering interesting and beneficial educational events across the county. We focus on pro-

grams such as agriculture, stream maintenance, storm water, erosion, road projects, clean water, and more! Here are just a few of the events we offered in

2018. If you have any suggestions for future events, let us know. We are always happy to offer new programs and workshops.



World's End Day

As part of the River of the Year celebration, the conservation district participated in World's End Day at World's End State Park. The district highlighted aquatic life and water quality, soil and erosion, and educational events. With such a great turnout, the Friends of World's End State Park group will be hosting the event again this year. Mark your calendars for July 27, 2019 at the park!

Lewis Lumber Day

The conservation district sponsored Lewis Lumber Day last fall at the Lewis Lumber Mill on Route 87 in Hills Grove. Discussion topics included history and forestry management of the Lewis Lumber company, spotted lanternfly, erosion and sedimentation controls and the new timber harvesting packet, chainsaw safety, DCNR services and practices, and information on the Bradford/Sullivan Forest Landowners Association including upcoming events



Seedling Sale

Last year we sold nearly 4,500 seedlings along with wildflower seed, soil test kits, fertilizer, food plot mix, and blue bird and wood duck boxes. The conservation district also continues to provide elementary school and Head Start students with seedlings for Arbor Day with the help of Envirothon students who help pack the trees.

Proceeds from the sale contribute to educational events at the conservation district.





Good Water Good Coffee

Our Good Water, Good Coffee event took place in the fall with the help of Josh Bogart, High Mountain Coffee Company, and Dr. Benjamin Franek, Bloomsburg University Professor. Participants learned about water quality and how it can impact the taste of coffee. They were able to try coffee brewed with different types of water

Emergency Stream

Intervention Workshop

Participants were introduced to tools like USGS Stream Stats to help with post-flood work and to better document the progress. The workshop included an in-class session along with a field exercise to demonstrate stream measurements and analysis.



Local Envirothon Event

Sullivan Team placed 2nd

The Local Envirothon event is sponsored by the Sullivan County Conservation District, Lycoming County Conservation District, Chief Oil and Gas LLC, Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, the original Loyalsock Creek Watershed Memorial Fund, and Pennsylvania Envirothon.



**Sullivan County
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

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VISIT US ONLINE AT:

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COUNTY CONSERVATION TEAM

Directors

Edward Zinser - Chairman
Andrew Trostle - Vice Chairman
Richard Ryan - Secretary
Joanne Day - Treasurer
Barbara Warburton
Carl Vough
Wylie Norton - Commissioner

Staff

Holly Miller - Manager/ACT Technician
Carrie Richmond - Administrative Assistant
Corey Richmond - Watershed Specialist/CBP
Tori Welliver - E&S Technician/ DGLVR Program

Associate Directors

Betty Reibson
Harvey Vough
Dave Engle
Jacquelyn Rouse
Tim Eriksen
Francis Moll

USDA Staff

Mike Hanawalt - Supervisory District Conservationist

DEP Field Staff

Jason Fellon - Watershed Manager
Jaci Kerstetter - DEP Field Representative

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