

Sullivan County Conservation District

2017 Annual Report



History

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 Services 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."

Francis Moll-Chairman

Wylie Norton-Vice-Chairman
(Commissioner)

Joanne Day- Treasurer

Richard Ryan- Secretary

Edward Zinser- Director

Andrew Trostle- Director

Carl Vough- Director

Associate Directors:

Bruno Najaka (Emeritus)

Betty Reibson

Jacquelyn Rouse

Tim Eriksen

Dave Engle

Harvey Vough

District Directors



District Staff



Holly Miller- District Manager/
Ag Technician

Tori Welliver- E&S Technician/
DGLVR Technician

Carrie Richmond- Administrative
Assistant

Corey Richmond- Watershed
Specialist/Bay Technician

Jackie's Retirement Party



After serving the Sullivan County Conservation District for 40 years, District Manager, Jacquelyn Rouse, retired the end of August, 2017.

An open house was held for Jackie at the Ag Services Center where directors, associate directors, commissioners, staff, state representatives, friends, and family came to wish her the best in her retirement. The directors and staff gave her a fly rod and lures since one of her passions is fishing. The commissioners presented her with a plaque with photos relevant to the work she has been involved with in the county. Citations were provided from both Senator Yaw and Representative Pickett's offices. The directors and staff recognized Jackie at the annual Ag agencies banquet and presented her with a clock and certificate in appreciation of her service to the conservation district and the county. Former E&S Technician, Holly Miller, took Jackie's place as District Manager. Jackie continues to serve the district as an associate director.



District Welcomes New E&S Technician

Tori Welliver

Tori grew up in Towanda, Pennsylvania where she likes to spend most of her time enjoying the outdoors. Having a passion for nature influenced her decision to pursue an environmental career. In 2016, she graduated from Bloomsburg University with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Geoscience. Her previous experience includes internships at Jeld-Wen, Global Tungsten & Powders Corp, and the Bradford County Conservation District. Tori is very excited to be starting her career with the Sullivan County Conservation District and is looking forward to educational outreach and working with the residents of the county.



Tori started with the conservation district July, 2017. She administers the Chapter 102 (Erosion & Sediment Control) Program along with the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volumes Roads Program. She also assists with educational programs at the district and designed the layout for our new website. We are very happy to have her on our team!



Chapter 102 Erosion & Sediment 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.

We also have a great working relationship with the codes office and landowners in the county. We visit construction sites and logging operations to be sure landowners and operators have all the plans, permits, etc. that they need. If you are planning an earth moving activity please contact the district for guidance.

2017 Outreach:

17 Outreach Events

783 Event Participants

81 Tech Assistance Con-
tacts

86 Codes Reviews



In September, the Northern Tier Hardwood Association partnered with the Bradford, Sullivan, and Wayne County Conservation Districts to present an E&S workshop for those involved in the timber industry. Attendees spent the day out in the field learning where to properly place skid trails, stream crossings and landings to minimize erosion and sedimentation.



Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads

Pennsylvania's Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads program was enacted into law in 1997 as Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code. The goal of the program was to create a better public road system that was environmentally and economically friendly. At first, \$5 million of annual funding (coming from taxes on fuel) was dedicated to environmentally sensitive road maintenance with \$4 million allocated to the State Conservation Commission to distribute to conservation districts. Today \$35 million is dedicated to road projects with \$28 million to the SCC to distribute to conservation districts. Thousands of projects have been completed across the state, improving travel and environmental health by keeping road fill on the roads and out of the streams. In 2014-15, a portion of the funds were directed towards low volume , sealed roads with 500 vehicles or less per day.

This broadened the program to more urban areas as well.

To be eligible for program funds the applicant should be a public entity that owns public roads that are open to public travel, the person in charge of work plan development and project implementation from the road-owning entity must have attended Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) training in the past 5 years, and the ESM certified person must be an employee or elected official of the entity.

9 DIRT AND GRAVEL PROJECTS COMPLETED

In 2017, four townships completed 9 road maintenance projects that stretched over 2 miles. The total cost of the projects was **\$370,428.64** with **\$87,362.54** being in-kind from the townships and **\$283,066.10** from program funds. 6 stream crossings and 5 cross pipes were replaced, 16 new cross pipes were installed, and 14 turnouts were added. Other material used included road fill, geo-fabric, and under-drain.



COMPLETED PROJECTS

2017

Before



After



Cherry Township –Shearer Road

Shearer Road was one of the county's largest projects completed in 2017. This project focused on improving ditches, stream crossings, road banks and managing storm water. To accomplish these goals the township added 7 new turn outs and 6 new cross pipes, replaced 2 cross pipes, replaced 4 stream crossings, added over 1,200 feet of under drain and placed over 14,000 tons of fill.

Before



After



Davidson Township – Elk Grove Road

This project consisted of replacing an undersized stream crossing pipe. By replacing the undersized pipe with a larger pipe more water may now pass through under the road instead of on top of the road. The township installed a five foot wide pipe and added precast blocks to add needed support.

Before



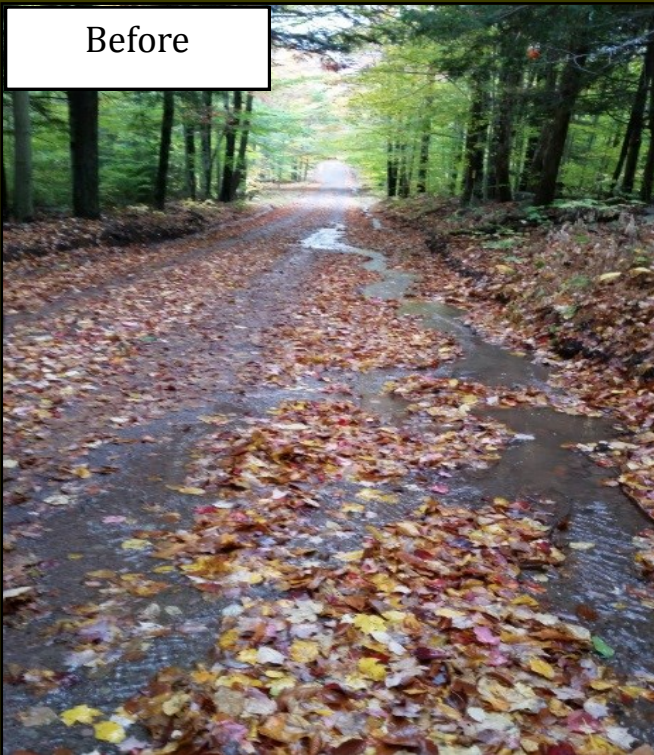
After



Elkland Township- Cemetery Road

On this dirt & gravel project 3 new cross pipes were added along with 130 feet of under drain. To improve the road base 2,355 tons of shale fill was added.

Before



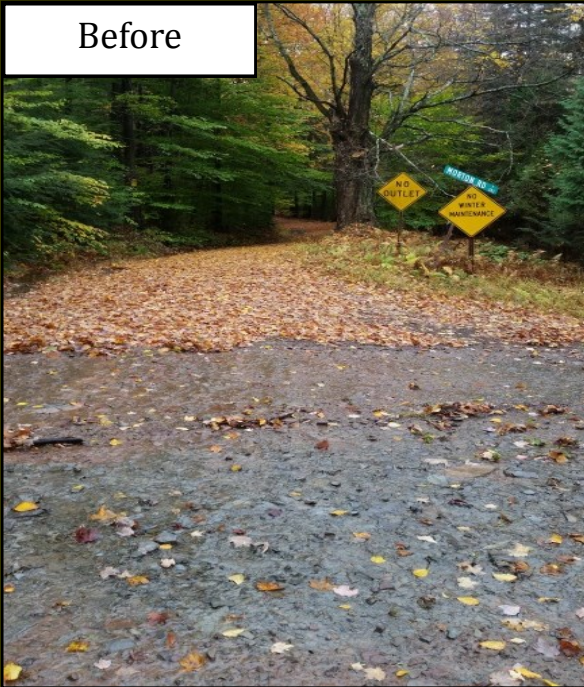
After



Elkland Township- Bear Mountain Road

This road would wash out after almost every rainfall (as seen in the before photo). This project included replacing one cross pipe and adding two new ones, with 120 feet of under drain as well. To improve the road surface 2,152 tons of fill was also added.

Before



After



Elkland Township- Morton Road

This is another road that would wash out after rain events (as shown in before photo). In order to fix this problem the township added four new cross pipes and replaced one old one. They also added 1,546 tons of fill to improve the road base.

Before



After



Forks Township- North Black Creek Road

This worksite needed better-quality ditches, more ditch outlets added and to improve the road base. In order to achieve these objectives the township added four ditch outlets, installed one new cross pipe, added 1,500 square yards of geo separation fabric, with 1,200 feet of under drain and added 2,617 tons of road fill to the site.

Before



After



Forks Township- Osthaus Road

Osthaus Road needed road base and ditch improvements to prevent the road from being washed out during intense rain events. To attain these necessary improvements the township added three new turnouts, replaced one cross pipe and added almost 2,000 tons of shale.

Before



After



Forks Township- Yanney Road

This project site was part of the old route 87, hence the appearance of the rock bridge structure. The water was eroding out underneath the structure thus carrying sediment down into the stream below. To prevent further erosion from occurring, a new 8 foot aluminum pipe was installed to allow for the water to travel through the pipe even during storm events.



E&S Technician, Tori Welliver, presented township officials with certificates of completion for DGLVR projects completed in 2017.



Annual Ag Agencies Banquet

On the left, Andrew Trostle accepts the Conservationist of the Year award at the annual Ag Agencies banquet. Right, Jacquelyn Rouse holds a citation presented to her from Senator Yaw's office for her 40 years of service to the conservation district as District Manager.



Agriculture

In Sullivan County it is our goal to assist farmers in making 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 better management practices (BMPs) on their farms.

In September, the Sullivan County Library and Conservation District hosted a tour that included looking at BMPs on farms. Touring the farms allows people to get a

better understanding of the planning and work that goes into keeping our clean water clean. Stay tuned for more tours coming to the county in 2018!

Also, new in 2018, will be a high clearance cover crop Interseeder available for use as part of a partnership between Bradford, Sullivan, Tioga, Lycoming, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties. The machine allows planting of cover crops between standing crop rows so that the cover crops can become established even when cash crops are harvested late. For more information contact the district or check out our website.

Sullivan County Farmland Preservation

The conservation district assists the county in administering the Sullivan County Ag Land Preservation program which has helped preserve farmland on 8 farms since 1994. The program allows state, county, and local governments to purchase conservation easements on quality farmland encouraging landowners to make a long-term commitment to agriculture. One farm was preserved in 2017 and we look forward to another in 2018. Applications for the Farmland Preservation program are accepted from January 1st – March 31st each year.





Chesapeake Bay

Starting in 1993, the Sullivan County Conservation District became involved with the Chesapeake Bay program. This “reboot” strategy focuses on assisting agricultural operations in order to meet Pennsylvania’s Watershed implementation Plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Conservation districts visit farms each year to ensure that they have an up to date Manure Management plan as well as an Ag E&S plan or Conservation Plan. The district is always happy to help with plans and answer questions about the program.

In 2017, farm visits continued and across Pennsylvania we are finding that farmer’s are doing a great job of keeping nutrients and sediment from reaching our water-

ways. Most farmer’s are doing work on their operations that isn’t required to go the extra mile to protect our natural resources. We extend a big thank you to all of our local farmers for their cooperation and dedication.

- We continue to work with USDA-NRCS to develop and fund needed practices for our farmers to improve water quality.
- The conservation district works with partner agencies to provide educational programs, and innovative techniques to our farming community.
- We continue to conduct farm visits to ensure farmers are meeting regulatory requirements.



Nutrient Management

Sullivan County works with Bradford to complete nutrient management tasks. Bradford completes plan writing and reviews for our county while both counties offer education, outreach, and administration of the program.

In 2017: 1 CAO plan reviewed on 72.6 acres
19 individuals reached through outreach and on-farm planning assistance

Tours, workshops, and newsletters

Watershed Updates

The District's Watershed Specialist works with the two major watershed associations in the county. Loyalsock Creek and Muncy Creek. Providing technical assistance to these groups aids work being done on the respective streams. Landowners also call on the watershed specialist to gain insight into tackling issues they have with streams. In 2017, seven instances were dealt with by the specialist.



In 2017 the conservation district partnered with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and Chief Oil & Gas to complete Phase III of the Elk Creek Restoration Project. The district received \$13,000.00 from Chief Oil & Gas for this phase. The focus in 2017 was restoring damage to the project from the October 2016 flood. The project involved the installation of root wads, additional log vanes, and 450 feet of modified mud sill.



Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment System Repair

In the fall of 2017 the district unexpectedly received word that a failing acid mine drainage treatment system would be funded for repairs. Hedin Environmental worked with funding from Southwest Energy and construction services from Rexer Excavating and cleaned and modified the system to treat 600 gallons per minute of acidic water from the underground mines. With three treatment systems on the upper Loyalsock Creek, it is refreshing to know that all are now working to their intended extent.



The project involved re-plumbing the system, removing an open pre-treat impoundment, and cleaning three existing limestone beds



Legislative Day

Conservation District Directors Andy Trostle and Joanne Day traveled to Harrisburg during “conservation district week” to meet with local state representatives to discuss concerns related to natural resources and the conservation district operations.



Landscaping at the Office

In 2017, trees were removed and replaced with Red Osier Dogwood shrubs in front of the office



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

NACD Poster Contest

1st-3rd place Winners from grades 4-6



Overall Winner



Conservation Tour

In September, the Sullivan County Conservation District and the Friends of the Sullivan County Library offered a conservation tour that focused on the importance of natural resources to local businesses and communities. The stops for the tour included Yonkin's Maple Syrup, Robert In-singer's dairy farm, a low volume road project on Drake Rd, a dirt and gravel project on Shearer Rd, Winterland Winery, an Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment system, and an Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation site.





5th Grade Environmental Day

Holly Miller provided information on soil erosion to students as part of the 2017 5th Grade Environmental Day.



Envirothon

This team of students and advisors took top honors at the 2017 Lycoming/Sullivan Envirothon. The team earned a trip to compete at the state Envirothon competition at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, PA.



Coal Mining Presentation

Corey Richmond and David Fowler teamed up to provide a program on Coal Mining and reclamation of its scars as part of the 2017 History Quest program.



Seedling Sale

Each year the district offers a seedling sale to help fund our educational programs. Directors, associate directors, staff, Envirothon students and their advisor, and volunteers come together to pack the seedling orders.

2018 order forms are due to the conservation district March 19th. The pick-up date is April 14th at the Cherry Township municipal building on Route 87 in Dushore.

2017 Sale

450 Deciduous

1,850 Evergreens

242 Fruit trees

1,195 Fruit shrubs/
plants

750 Native/Wildlife species

Also sold wildflower seed, food plot mix, clover, duck and blue bird boxes, fertilizer, and soil kits.

400 seedlings were provided to students



SAVE THE DATE

**COMING
UP**



Movie Night — Centralia: Pennsylvania's Lost Town— March 15th 6:00pm at the Ag Services Center

Farmland Preservation applications due—March 31st

Connect Soils to Profits Workshop—March 14th at the Wysox Fire Hall 8:30am-3:15pm

Seedling Sale—Orders due by March 19th Pick-up date is April 14th at the Cherry Township building

Coming Soon

DGLVR Annual Workshop— September

Sullivan County Road Maintenance Workshop—September

Conservation Tour—Fall

Pruning Workshop—January 2019

Sullivan County Conservation District

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