

SULLIVAN COUNTY 2015

From the Manager’s Desk:

As you review this information, you’ll notice that the staff and directors have been busy during 2015. When you see them, thank them for the work they do for the health of our environment and natural resources. The directors, staff, and associate directors continue to represent the district on local and regional committees, and organizational boards such as PA Association of Conservation Districts (PACD), Endless Mts. Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D), PA Envirothon, PA’s Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Roads, Northern Tier Hardwoods Association, Farmland Preservation, Muncy Creek (MCWA) and Loyalsock Creek Watershed Associations (LCWA), and Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR). We also partner with many cooperating agencies including Penn State Extension, PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, PA Department of Environmental Protection, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources – Bureau of Forestry, State Conservation Commission, in addition to other local conservation districts.

The district was involved in many activities and educational outreach. The district continues to provide elementary and Head Start students with seedlings for Arbor Day. Soil Stewardship Week materials are provided to local clergy and Head Start. Student information for grades three & five was also made available during the Sullivan County Fair as handouts. We also provide bookmarks to the county and school libraries. Our staff members provide other educational opportunities to our young students and adults. Red Rock Job Corps Center works with the district through Job Shadow Day (near Groundhog Day) to learn about the administrative and environmental aspect involved at the district. The district continues to work with The Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads to develop program materials for the Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Road Program. Some municipal officials attended regional 2-day Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Trainings to be eligible for grant funding of projects. The training is only good for five years but may be renewed by attending the two-day state-wide workshop. The dates for the 2-day ESM training in Sullivan County are October 19 & 20, 2016 at St. Francis of Assisi Hall in Mildred. On-line registrations are required. Payments were made for twelve Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Projects in 2015. The district’s outdoor meeting was successful with a tour of the Elk Creek Stream Restoration Project (funded by Chief Oil & Gas) with the picnic lunch and board meeting held at Reibson’s Pavilion. A second stream restoration project was coordinated with the DGLVR Program on Lick Creek in Forks Township. Several Boy Scouts were involved with providing assistance with the structures in the stream bed. We are planning a tour of some of our projects on August 3, 2016. Watch The Sullivan Review, our newsletters, website and Facebook for future details. Even though there is no funding, the district handles the county’s responsibility with the Gypsy Moth Program. Sullivan County Conservation District partnered with the Bradford County Conservation District for administering the Nutrient Management Program in the county. District staff provided manure management planning assistance to farmers needing plans for their operations. Staff members continue to provide one-on-one assistance to operators who still need management plans. Starting in July 2016, the district will be visiting 50 Sullivan County Farms per year for verification of Manure Management Plans, Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plans and/or Conservation Plans. This is being handed down by the Environmental Protection Agency, down to the Department of Environmental Protection, and then down to the Conservation District. We are doing this in an effort to have excellent water quality in our local area and then to send it down to the Chesapeake Bay. District staff members monitor water quality at 12 local stream sites. In 2016 they will also be monitoring for nitrates. The district is thankful for Act 13(Oil & Gas) funding to keep our operating expenses lower. We continued working on preserving the eighth parcel under the Farmland Preservation Program, which will be finalized in 2016. The district had signs created to promote preserved farmland. Six signs will be installed in 2016. The district continued taking and comparing soil samples on gas pipelines and soil samples adjacent to the pipelines. More samples will be taken in 2016. Soil sample kits have been provided by the State Conservation Commission. The district was privileged to have been able to honor one of our own staff members – Corey Richmond – with a Pennsylvania Environmental Council Partnership Award for his endless work with our environment and natural resources. Our best wishes go out to Duane Reibson and Michael McMahon who ended their years of service as directors for the district on 12/31/15. The Conservation District will be celebrating its 55th Anniversary on October 18, 2016 in the 4-H Building at the Sullivan County Fairgrounds. Come out and celebrate with us. More of our activities and educational outreach are captioned in the photograph section.

We always welcome your comments about our programs and educational outreach activities. Thank you to all those individuals who support and/or give a donation towards our educational activities through our seedling sale. Don’t forget to pick up your orders on Saturday, April 16th at the Cherry Township Municipal Building before noon.

Thank you to our nominating organizations for performing an important role in submitting names of individuals willing to serve as directors for the Conservation District. If you are affiliated with a county organization that is not a nominating organization and wish to become one, please let us know.

Our newsletters continue to reach over 200 individuals. If you’d like to be added to that list, or need to update your mailing address, give us a call or contact us through our website and Facebook.

Whether you are a municipal official, contractor, farmer, teacher, student, seedling sale customer, or concerned citizen, the Sullivan County Conservation District directors and staff look forward to continuing our working relationship with you in 2016 as we bring quality services for the various programs we offer.

Jacquelyn Rouse
District Manager

SULLIVAN COUNTY 2015 CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT

CONTACT INFORMATION

Regular Meeting Date: Second Tuesday of the month – 12:30 PM; Committees – 11:00 AM
District Mailing Address: 9219 Route 487 Suite B Dushore, PA 18614
Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Telephone Number: 570- 928-7057
Fax: 570- 928-8258
Website: www.sullcon.com
E-mail: conservation@sullivancounty-pa.us
Facebook: Sullivan County Conservation District
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Nondiscriminatory Employer

DIRECTORS		PROVIDED SERVICE SINCE:
Francis Moll.....	Chairman	1991
Harvey Vough.....	Vice-Chairman	1965
Richard Ryan.....	Secretary	2006
Edward Zinser	Treasurer	2012
Duane Reibson.....	Member	2008
Michael McMahon.....	Member	2006
Wylie Norton.....	County Commissioner	2012
Bruno Najaka.....	Associate Director	2012
Betty Reibson.....	Associate Director	2012
Daniel Schaad.....	Associate Director	2012

STAFF		
Jacquelyn Rouse.....	District Manager/ACT Technician	1974
Corey Richmond.....	Watershed Specialist/Chesapeake Bay Technician	1993
Randy Reibson.....	Erosion & Sedimentation Control Technician	1995
Carrie Richmond	Administrative Assistant	2006

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.”



As part of the 2015 District Picnic Tour, directors and guests were given an up close look at the Elk Creek Project completed through a partnership with PA Fish and Boat Commission and Chief Oil and Gas.



The Lewis acid mine drainage treatment system was re-worked to better treat a mining discharge site that drains to Birch Creek. The project was coordinated by the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), Hedin Environmental, and PA DEP. The updated system allows for more effective treatment and collection of precipitates.



A Soil Health Workshop was offered to local farmers in December. The Workshop featured speakers from Penn State Extension, Penn State University, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Conservation District.



In June, the conservation district teamed with Sustainable Energy Education and Development Support (SEEDS) to provide a two part workshop on incorporating Solar Power as a home energy source. The workshop provided participants with information on value, payoff, purchase, and installation of solar power systems.



The 2015 Overall winning entry in the annual conservation poster contest was presented to Amber Gardner. Her poster then competed at the state level through the PA Association of Conservation Districts.