



Greene County Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



724-852-5278

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19 South Washington Street, Suite 150

Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mezzanine Level of the Fort Jackson Building



BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Chuck Morris, Commissioner Chairman
- Archie Trader, Commissioner Vice Chairman
- Blair Zimmerman, Commissioner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Bradley Eisiminger, Chairman, Farmer Director
- Archie Trader, Vice Chairman/Commissioner Representative
- Tom Headlee, Treasurer, Public Director
- James Cowell, Jr., Secretary, Farmer Director
- Jim Kenney, Farmer Director
- William Wentzel, Public Director
- Greg Hopkins, Farmer Director

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

- J. Robert Rice

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Gay Thistle
- Glodenna Halstead
- Sandy Theis
- William Cree, Jr.
- Jerry Day
- Rick Patton
- Dave Shipman
- Jim Willis
- Mike Belding

DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Manager
- Lindsay Kozlowski, Environmental Program Specialist
- Warren Dickerson, Environmental Program Specialist
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Program Specialist
- William Wentzel, Environmental Program Associate
- Karlie Wright, Agriculture Technician
- Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer
- Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist

GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF

- Robbie Matesic, Executive Director
- Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager

COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
Rennie Stoy, District Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA DEP Field Representative
Chuck Kubasik

DISTRICT LOCATION

Our office is located on the Mezzanine Level of the Fort Jackson Building at 19 South Washington Street, Suite 150 Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone: 724-852-5278
gccd@co.greene.pa.us
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January through December 2014

Other Income	2,000.00
UGWF-CDFAP	61,893.29
UGWF-PUC	56,818.18
Donation Income	8,625.00
Grant Income	218,094.79
Interest Income	1,371.83
Lime Spreader	851.00
Program Income	113,793.00
Refund (Income)	33.00

Total Income \$463,480.09

GROSS PROFIT 463,480.09

Reconciliation Discrepancies	(0.01)
Farmland Preservation	511.31
Scholarship	1,500.00
Total Advertising	10,725.19
Total Automobile Expense	4,832.07
Bank Service Charge	30.00
Contracted Work/Contracts	63,087.51
District Mtgs.	907.22
Donation	4,900.00
Dues & Subscriptions	3,161.00
Education Expense	5,367.15
Equipment/Supplies	32,141.55
Events/Workshops	1,886.36
Insurance Bonds	2,298.70
Lime Spreader Maintenance	258.05
Miscellaneous	2,073.20
Office Supplies	24.78
Postage	2,599.10
Professional Services Rendered	7,810.75
Salaries & Benefits	194,540.88
Telephone	1,854.32
Total Travel	5,470.89

Total Expense \$345,980.02

NET INCOME 117,500.07

2014 County of Greene Salary Contributions \$106,080.95

Greene County Conservation Awards and Special Recognition



The Greene County Conservation District honored six recipients during its annual awards ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Thistlethwaite Vineyards in Jefferson. Each year, the Conservation District honors those within the county who have shown an outstanding commitment to soil and water conservation.

Bill and Faye Milesky of Skymile Farms in Oak Forest received the 2014 Cooperator of the Year Award. The Mileskys were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in the conservation of water, soil, and natural resources through their farming practices. Their 552-acre, 80-cow/calf operation of Maine Anjou cattle is located along Woods Run and Pursley Creek in the south fork of the Ten Mile Creek watershed.

MaKayla Henary, a junior at Waynesburg Central High School, received the 2014 Conservation Speaking Award. Henary, an FFA member, was recognized for her outstanding speaking skills and achievement of winning the 2014 Greene County FFA Speaking Competition with her speech entitled "Fracking and Farming." The speech focused on the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry and the environmental impacts that are made throughout the drilling process. Henary is the daughter of Jim and Kim Henary of Mt. Morris.

The 2014 Greene County Forest Conservationist of the Year Award was presented to Ryan Egidi of Morgantown, W.Va. Egidi was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments in the conservation of Greene County's forest resources. Although Egidi officially entered the Forest Stewardship Program in 2013, he has been sustainably managing his property well before entering the program. Egidi has spent countless hours on the property ridding it of invasive species such as tree of heaven and multiflora rose.

This year for the first time, the Conservation District chose to award a contractor that has worked in Greene County and has shown awareness of the importance of erosion and sediment control practices, or has shown tremendous improvement in their practices.

The inaugural Conservation Contractor of the Year Award was presented to Nello Construction Company of Canonsburg.

Nello Construction Company – founded in 1952 by Giulio Torriero – has served as the general contractor for several recent area projects, including those for Carmichaels Area High School, R.G. Johnson Company, National Guard Readiness Center, and Avalon Court apartment complex. The award was presented to Jerry Falso and Jason Betters, Nello project managers, in recognition of their commitment to the protection of the environment and Greene County's natural resources from erosion and sedimentation, their respect for the land, and their willingness to work with the district.

Two service awards were given to current Conservation District board members

Jim Kenney, farmer director, and Thomas Headlee, public director. Both men have committed time to the district as board members and have worked to shape the direction of the district, which has led to the valuable conservation of Greene County's natural resources. Kenney was awarded for his 10 years of service, and Headlee was awarded for his 30 years of service.

In 2014 GCCD made special contributions to projects or causes that fit with their mission. The district chose to supplement the Ralph Bell Bird Club and the Greene County FFA chapters.

Ralph Bell and Byron Hughes both were past board members of the conservation district for many years and unfortunately in 2014 Greene County lost both. These men strived to put others before themselves. Ralph, Greene County's well known bird



Faye and Bill Milesky of Skymile Farms in Oak Forest received the 2014 Cooperator of the Year Award. The Mileskys (left) are pictured with their grandson, Hunter, and Bradley Eisiminger, Greene County Conservation District Chairman (right).



MaKayla Henary, a junior at Waynesburg Central High School, received the 2014 Conservation Speaking Award. Henary (right) is pictured with Bradley Eisiminger, Greene County Conservation District Chairman.



Ryan Egidi of Morgantown, W.Va., received the 2014 Greene County Forest Conservationist of the Year Award for his property in Jefferson Township. Egidi (center) is pictured with Russ Gibbs (left), service forester for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Bradley Eisiminger, Greene County Conservation District Chairman.



Nello Construction Company of Canonsburg received the inaugural Conservation Contractor of the Year Award. Pictured, from l. to r., are Jason Betters and Jerry Falso, project managers for Nello, and Bradley Eisiminger, Greene County Conservation District Chairman.

lover and Byron, a leader and advocate for FFA. Both men were very active in their roles as local experts and this is why the Conservation District chose to honor both by establishing annual contributions to organizations that honor both men. The district will annually contribute to scholarship programs that benefit both men's passions. The Ralph K. Bell Bird Club Educational Scholarship and the Greene County FFA Improvement Association.

Special Thanks:

The Conservation District would like to recognize and thank the following for their contributions during the past year that helped improve district programs:

Alpha Natural Resources - The Conservation District thanks Alpha Natural Resources (ANR) for its contribution to the annual Envirothon scholarship and Conservation Leadership School. For the past 7 years, ANR has generously donated funds to establish a Greene County Conservation District Envirothon Scholarship that is awarded to each member of the winning team of the County Envirothon event. The winning team members receive a \$500 scholarship toward any higher education costs. Greene County is one of the few counties throughout the state that has a corporate sponsorship dedicated to the advancement of youth higher education that is linked to the County Envirothon competition.

The Conservation District sponsored three Greene County students to attend

Pennsylvania State University's Conservation Leadership School, whose theme for this year was Our Natural Resources. All three students, Christopher Thomas, Christopher Thomas, Emma Lowry, and Blake Conard, earned scholarships offered by Greene County Conservation District and funded by Alpha Natural Resources. Each student spent a week in an outdoor classroom where they learned about natural resource conservation, teamwork, conflict resolution, and leadership while engaging in activities such as hiking, canoeing, bird watching, and fishing.



Highlights of their week included a tour of Sproul State Forest guided by a district forester, elk viewing at Benezette, and an opportunity to complete the thousand steps at Jack's Mountain. They also learned about energy production by touring Marcellus Shale gas well pads and the North Allegheny Wind Farm. They gained hands-on experience with resource conservation by working as a group to build fish habitat structures and create forest wildlife habitat.

Attending the Conservation Leadership School has equipped these young people to be responsible leaders and stewards as they transition to adulthood and begin to make decisions that affect the future of natural resources in Greene County and beyond.

The Community Foundation of Greene County also plays a vital role in the annual county Envirothon. The Foundation provides financial assistance through its Earned Income Tax Credit grant annually. This program allows companies to donate to state-approved educational programs and receive tax credits. CONSOL funded the 2014 EITC grant for the Envirothon.

Bill Iams, Owner, Log Cabin Fence Company - The District thanks Mr. Iams and his family for their donation of the structure at the Greene County Fairgrounds that now houses the improved Conservation District Greene County Fair display. This structure is located just outside of the arena and will allow the district a home at the fair that is a recognized location.



to ensure that beef and dairy cattle are maintained in a manner which will result in a safe and wholesome beef product for the consumer. This is the definition and the goal of BQA. Specifically, BQA is designed to enhance carcass quality by preventing residues, pathogen contamination, and carcass defects such as injection site blemishes and bruises. This will enable beef producers to enhance their product and maximize marketability. The Pennsylvania BQA Certification Program is based on recommended national guidelines and scientific research.

Frosty Springs Farm Wins Pennsylvania Beef Quality Assurance Award

James and Billie Cowell, owners of Frosty Springs Farm in Waynesburg, were recently recognized as winners of the 2014 Pennsylvania Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Award. The Cowell family will represent the Commonwealth in national competition later this year, with winners announced at the 2015 Cattle Industry Convention. Mr. Cowell is the secretary of the Greene County Conservation District Board, and the Board commends the Cowells on their achievement.



Adopt-A-Highway Program

Roadside litter is a huge problem throughout Pennsylvania that costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year. Aside from being unsightly, litter can result in human health impacts and can cause great harm to the environment, including impacts to plant growth and injury or even death of fish and wildlife. Greene County Conservation District annually takes part in the Adopt-A-Highway program operated by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). On April 23, 2014, Conservation District staff spent the day collecting roadside litter along a two-mile stretch of Garards Fort Road. Staff collected 32 bags of trash which were later transported to a disposal site by PennDOT.

Greene County Summer Day Camp

The Conservation District presented an education program at the 2014 Greene County Summer Day Camps. Approximately 300 children, ranging in age from 5 to 15 years old, took part in the program, where they learned about the properties of water, the water cycle, the watershed concept, surface runoff, water pollution, and our role in protecting water resources. The program incorporated discussion, physical activity, and a presentation using the Enviroscape watershed model. Each student also received a package of learning materials to take home and share with their families.

Developing Educational Materials

The Conservation District received a \$2,000 Non-Point Source mini-grant through the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts to develop an educational brochure highlighting the challenges landowners face in managing streamside areas. Conservation District staff collaborated in developing the brochure's content, and



the design work was contracted to a local printer. The Conservation District arranged to have this brochure included as an insert to the GreeneSaver, a regional publication that reaches nearly 20,000 homes and businesses. Public response from the brochure has been positive, and it remains in use as a handy guide for landowners and a valuable tool for Conservation District outreach. At least 10 Greene County landowners have specifically mentioned this brochure when they called the Conservation District with questions or requests for assistance.

2014 Greene County Envirothon

The Conservation District, with financial support from Community Foundation of Greene County, continued the tradition of fostering a culture of conservation in Greene County youth by organizing the 27th annual Greene County Envirothon on April 30, 2014, at Ryerson Station State Park. Sixty-eight high school students from Greene County's five school districts tested their environmental knowledge in the areas of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and the 2014 current issue, sustaining local agriculture and buying locally.

Carmichaels Team #1 won this year's competition with a score of 439.5 points out of a possible 500 points. Team members included Tyler Crago, Ashley Dotson, Doug Kowalewski, Emma Lowry, and Philip Mikalik and team advisor Kevin Willis.

Mapletown Team #1, consisting of students Eric Armel, Ried Griffin, Sara Hlatky, Katelyn Kelly, and Ryan Kovach and advisors Amber Burkett and Sara London, earned second place with a score of 334.

The third-place team was Carmichaels Team #2, which included students Allie Christopher, Blake Conard, Taylor Dodson, Connor Spangler, and Parker Woodring and advisor Willis. The team earned 318.5 points.

The five students who made up the winning team each received a \$500 college

scholarships funded by Alpha Natural Resources. The Greene County champions went on to represent Greene County at the state Envirothon on May 20-21 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa. They earned third place at the statewide event with a score of 510 out of a possible 600 points, only 12 points behind the winning team.



Carmichaels Team #1 won this year's Greene County Envirothon with a score of 439.5. The Envirothon is organized by the Greene County Conservation District and funded through the Community Foundation of Greene County. All winning team members will receive a \$500 scholarship from Alpha Natural Resources. Pictured, from l. to r., are Tom Headlee, GCCD board director; Michelle Anderson, Alpha Natural Resources; Jim Cowell, GCCD board director; team members Doug Kowalewski, Philip Mikalik, Tyler Crago and Emma Lowry; team advisor Kevin Willis; and team member Ashley Dotson.



Mapletown Team #1 won second place at this year's Greene County Envirothon, organized by the Greene County Conservation District. Pictured, from l. to r., are Tom Headlee and Jim Cowell, GCCD board directors; team members Ryan Kovach, Sara Hlatky, Ried Griffin, Katelyn Kelly and Eric Armel; and team advisors Amber Burkett and Sara London.



Carmichaels Team #2 won third place at this year's Greene County Envirothon, organized by the Greene County Conservation District. Pictured, from l. to r., are Tom Headlee and Jim Cowell, GCCD board directors; team members Connor Spangler, Parker Woodring, Taylor Dodson and Allie Christopher; team advisor Kevin Willis; and team member Blake Conard.



Greene County Fair

The Conservation District found a new home at the Greene County Fairgrounds this year thanks to the Iams family and Log Cabin Fence Company. Fairgoers visiting the new building could discuss soil and water conservation with staff, examine informational displays, ask about the many useful programs offered for

landowners, and take away free gifts. They had the opportunity to learn more about the Conservation District's groundwater monitoring program by handling the CATTfish device that this program is centered around. They could also examine a rain barrel installation and take a look at a two-ton wet lime spreader the Conservation District offers for rental to landowners. Also on hand was the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which demonstrated its rainfall simulator. The 2014 Greene County Fair was a great opportunity to connect with the public, raise awareness about soil and water conservation, and get the word out about the great things going on at the Conservation District.

Waynesburg University Service Learning Fair

The Conservation District attended the Service Learning Fair at Waynesburg University and spoke with a number of students. The fair is held twice per year and provides students an opportunity to connect with various non-profit organizations and find service opportunities fitted to their interests and talents. Students from many different majors and backgrounds expressed an interest in the

environment and an excitement for service opportunities. One student named Joe stated, "I'm interested in the environment, but I never expected to see something like this here. This is awesome." Our staff handed out pamphlets highlighting service opportunities for students and encouraged them to contact the Conservation District for more information.

Greene County Conservation District Newsletter

The Conservation District publishes a quarterly newsletter as a form of community outreach. The newsletter serves several purposes. It highlights the work that the Conservation District and other regional conservation groups and agencies are doing in Greene County. It educates the general public about conservation issues and enables them to make wise use of Greene County's natural resources. It provides a means of advertising upcoming opportunities for citizens to engage in conservation, both with the Conservation District and other groups. The newsletter is received by nearly 700 individuals and groups with additional copies available for dissemination through the Conservation District office. In 2014, the Conservation District published an Annual Report and three issues of the newsletter.



2014 West Nile Virus Program Overview

Greene County Conservation District has once again staffed a part-time summer intern position to assist the PA DEP Vector Control Program in the Greene County area. The District hired Nathan Ribar, a Waynesburg University student, to intern as the WNV monitor for 2014. Mr. Ribar received training from GCCD and PA DEP staff. Mr. Ribar collected 82 samples that were processed by PA DEP. For the 2014 WNV season, no positive detection of WNV was found in any Greene County sample.



The 2014 season was met with no complaints received by GCCD staff, and information concerning WNV was published in the district newsletter and submitted to the

local newspaper, the Observer-Reporter. Funding for the program was partially contributed by the Unconventional Gas Well Fund monies received by the district for FY 14-15.



Listed below are the sites visited during the 2014 season:

- Bobtown Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)
- Greensboro WWTP
- Carmichaels WWTP
- Lower Ten Mile WWTP
- Center Township WWTP
- Mt. Morris WWTP
- Dry Tavern WWTP
- Rices Landing WWTP
- Franklin Township WWTP
- Waynesburg Borough WWTP
- Greene County Fairgrounds
- Youth Development Center WWTP

Dirt & Gravel Roads Program

The Dirt & Gravel Roads Program is a statewide program which was passed into law in 1997, as Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code. The program was established to reduce sediment pollution to nearby streams and dust pollution by utilizing Environmentally Sound Maintenance (ESM) practices generated by unpaved roads. In 2014, a couple of drastic changes were made to the program, one of which was the increase of funding statewide due to the passing of PA Act 89 of 2013, the PA Transportation Funding Bill, which increased funding from \$4 million to \$20 million annually. With the passing of Act 89, the program now funds the Low Volume Road (LVR) Program, which allows work to be completed on low volume paved roads with a daily traffic average of fewer than 500 vehicles per day.



This drastic change to the program allows Greene County municipalities to now apply for funding that was very limited in the past. On average, the Conservation District received approximately \$80,000 per year which did not allow for many projects to be put in place. With the new funding, the Conservation District was awarded \$420,263 for the Dirt and Gravel Road Program and \$108,893 for the Low Volume Road Program. This has

increased our funding by about six times what our annual allocation had been. This will allow for larger complete projects in the future.

The 2013 funds enabled the District to initiate 10 contracts totaling \$167,233.07 with four local municipalities, which almost completely used our funds for the program. In 2014, no contracts were awarded, but applications were accepted and ranked. In order to award program funds to the local municipalities, the funds had to be

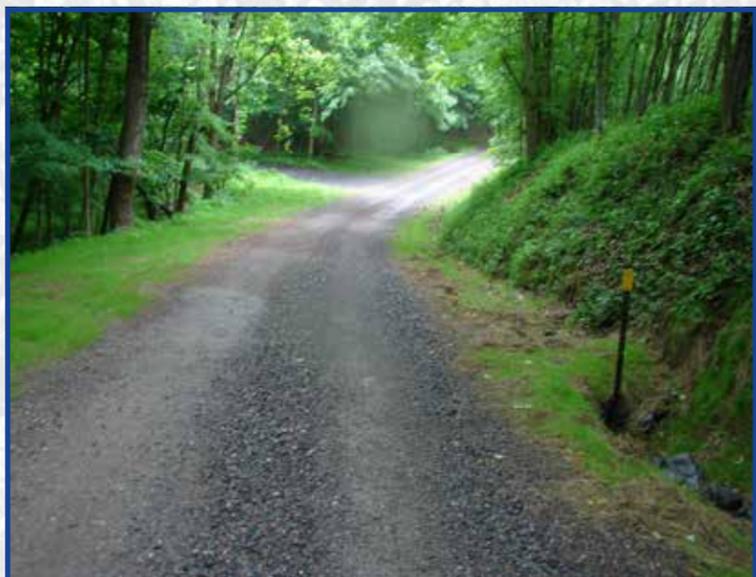
obtained by the district prior to awarding contracts. Being that this was the first initial year for such high amounts of funding to be distributed throughout the state, funds for 2014 were never received by the district until January 2015.

This program only considers work that

benefits stream water quality; it is still a beneficial program for the municipality. Consider where most problems occur on dirt and gravel roads – generally near streams, steep grades, and areas where culverts are needed or need to be maintained. These areas will more than likely qualify for funding under the program since most of the time they drain to a local stream. We are looking for ruts or pot holes caused by moisture accumulated by improper drainage, lack of crowning the road, or aggregate; runoff outfalls that are causing severe erosion; scoured ditches caused by high velocities of water that may be caused by the lack of culverts for the slope of the road; blocked, damaged, or irregularly aligned culverts; roads that are below the elevation of a nearby stream; and road flooding caused by restricted flow or improper pipe size.

Completed Projects

Greene Township - Roberts Run
Install five new cross drain pipes and add two additional
Grant: \$10,978.00
In-kind: \$7,670.00
Project total: \$18,648.00



Gilmore Township - Renner Creek Road 2013/2014 Project



Remaining Projects:

Aleppo Township - Allman Road
Stream crossing replacement
Grant: \$9,905.05
In-kind match: \$2,034.80
Project Total: \$11,939.85

**Aleppo Township - Blacks Creek/
Kuhn Hill Road**
Stream crossing replacement
Grant: \$9,600.77
In-kind match: \$2,021.25
Project Total: \$11,622.02

Aleppo Township - Quiet Dell Road
Stream crossing replacement
Grant: \$11,079.20
In-kind match: \$1,396.50
Project total: \$12,475.70

**Aleppo Township - Blacks Creek/
Martin Road**
Stream crossing replacement
Grant: \$8,618.98
In-kind match: \$1,721.25
Project Total: \$10,340.23

Aleppo Township - Hewitt Run Road
Two stream crossing replacements
Grant: \$19,667.07
In-kind match: \$3,651.92
Project Total: \$23,318.99

Gilmore Township - Six Run Road
Replace a 36" culvert pipe
Grant: \$2,350.00
In-kind match: \$1,090.00
Permit: \$400.00
Project Total: \$3,840.00

Gilmore Township - Shough Creek Road
Replace an 18" culvert pipe
Grant: \$2,035.00 • In-kind match: \$500.00 • Permit: \$400.00 • Project Total: \$2,935.00

Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Program

The Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program is a division of the Conservation District that works to provide protection of waterways and wetlands within Greene County. GCCD maintains a delegation agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) which affords GCCD staff local control and administration duties of permitting programs that aid in the protection of the natural resources in Greene County.



only enforcement when a project has either refused compliance procedures or exceeded district permitting thresholds.

District staff's goal each year is to protect the soil and water from construction activities and accelerated erosion. Sedimentation is one of the largest contributors to pollutants to our streams in PA. In order to protect streams from sedimentation, GCCD has accepted responsibility to ensure permitting is obtained in certain instances during construction activities and proper erosion and sedimentation techniques are used. All projects are different and in some cases permits are needed. The 102 and 105

programs afford tools to keep our streams and wetlands protected from accelerated erosion and sedimentation.

Any person proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities is required to develop, implement, and maintain best management practices to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation and to manage post construction stormwater. Permits are required for some earth disturbance activities based on size and type of project. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required if the disturbance is one acre or more over the life of the project. An Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-2) is 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 different types of permits depending on the activity proposed. It is always best to contact the District if there are any questions as to whether or not a permit is required.

Below is a summary of permits and money received from Chapters 102 and 105 for 2014.

Those programs are:

- PA Title 25 Chapter 102 which includes Erosion and Sediment Control (Earth Disturbance)
- PA Title 25 Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Management (Streams and wetlands)
- PA Clean Streams Law

GCCD Directors have chosen to only administer the programs and not take on enforcement as a duty of the programs. PA DEP remains the enforcing agency responsible for actions concerning earth disturbance, streams and wetlands. GCCD staff has been tasked with obtaining compliance and

2014 Chapter 102/105 & NPDES Program Accomplishments

Plans Received & Reviewed	100
Inspections & Sites Visited	416
NPDES Permits.....	17
ESCGP-2 Permits	16

Chapter 105 General Permits Issued

GP-2—Small docks and boat launching ramps.....	3
GP-3—Bank rehab/protection & gravel bar removal	6
GP-4—Intake/outfall structure.....	3
GP-5—Utility line stream crossing	20
GP-6—Agricultural crossings and ramps	4
GP-7—Minor road crossings	7
GP-8—Temporary road crossings.....	22
GP-9—Agricultural activities	1

Chapter 102 Fees	\$65,288.00
Chapter 105 Fees	\$43,675.00

Total 102/105 Fees Received: \$108,963.00



Some of the larger projects in 2014 included:

Taco Bell

The restaurant only required an E&S Plan because it is 0.6 acres including the building and parking lot. The storm water is maintained in an underground chamber, and then flows downhill toward Elm Drive.



McDonalds

A new McDonald's restaurant was constructed in approximately the same location as the previous restaurant located at Sugar Run Road. The building was relocated because of the Morrisville Corridor project and bridge expansion.



Morrisville Corridor

The Morrisville Corridor project involves the construction of a new railroad spur and four lane bridge over the South Fork of Ten Mile Creek, where Freedom Bridge currently exists. This project also includes some minor road realignments of Greene and High Streets.



Emerald Longwall Panel D-2 Exposure Project-Texas Eastern

Located off of N. Porter Street, the exposure was completed earlier this fall. The project included 4 gas lines that were all replaced, and set on top of crib and sand bags. After long walling has been completed, the lines will be re-trenched and placed back underground. The project will then be returned to original conditions.

Ryerson Repairs & Improvements

The repairs at Duke Lake began in late 2014. Dredging has commenced on the lakebed and is being hauled to the Mather slate dumps (Gob Pile) for reclamation. Once the lake is fully dredged, repairs to the dam will begin. The project is expected for completion in 2017.

Agricultural Security Area Program

The Agricultural Security Area Law (Pennsylvania Act 43 of 1981) allows any owner or owners of land used for agricultural production to petition their township supervisors for creation of an Agricultural Security Area (ASA). An ASA is a tool for strengthening and protecting quality farmland from urbanization. The Bureau of Farmland Preservation administers the ASA program at the state level.

Landowners voluntarily apply to become an ASA through their township supervisors. ASAs are reviewed every seven years; however, new parcels of farmland may be added to an established ASA at any time. A minimum of 250 acres from among all participating farmers is required to begin an ASA. An ASA may include non-adjacent farmland parcels of



at least 10 acres or those that are able to produce \$2,000 annually from the sale of agricultural products. Participants receive special consideration regarding:

- Local ordinances affecting farming activities
- Nuisance complaints

- Review of farmland condemnation by state and local government agencies

If the landowner chooses, lands within an ASA may be considered for the Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program so long as the ASA has at least 500 acres enrolled.

At the end of 2014, Franklin Township had begun the process of establishing an ASA. Although it was not completely finished in 2014, many hours went into the process. Additional parcels were added to an established ASA located in Greene Township during 2014. This brings Greene County's total to 76 landowners with 10,159.7 acres enrolled in ASA programs throughout Center, Cumberland, Greene, Jefferson, Morgan, Washington, and Wayne townships.

Ruff Creek / Pumpkin Run / Whiteley Creek Stream Rehabilitation Grant Final Report

We requested this grant to complete two streambank stabilization projects in the South Fork Tenmile Creek Watershed and one agricultural best management practice in the Pumpkin Run Watershed. We expected to rehabilitate 850 ft. of streambank/riparian buffer, bring an additional 190 acres into an Act 38 Nutrient Management plan, and update the existing conservation plan.

Our final accomplishments were:

- 1 streambank stabilization project in the South Fork Tenmile Creek Watershed
- 2 Ag BMP's projects in the South Fork Tenmile Creek Watershed and Ruff Creek Watershed
- 1 Ag BMP project in the Pumpkin Run Watershed
- 1 Ag BMP project in the Whiteley Creek Watershed

Measurable Results:

- 180 ft. of streambank rehabilitation
- 4506 ft. of streambank fencing
- 4 agricultural crossings
- 0.5 acre Roofed Heavy Use Area with manure storage
- 6600 sq. ft. Animal trails and walkways
- 320 ft. Gutters/downspouts roof runoff control
- 310 ft. Underground outlet protection/installation
- 0.33 acre critical use area seeding
- 2080 sq. ft. access road
- 5 spring developments
- 2 watering facilities
- 80 ft. pipeline-livestock water delivery
- 2 Nutrient management plans--190 acres
- 2 roofed manure stacking facilities
- 2 conservation plan updates
- 1 grazing plan developed
- 2 manure management plans

Photographs of Eisiminger Projects



Animal access area prior to construction



Animal access area after construction



Underground downspout outlet



A watering trough installation



Before



Underground downspout outlet

Photographs of Christopher Projects



A stream crossing before construction began



The same stream crossing after construction was complete

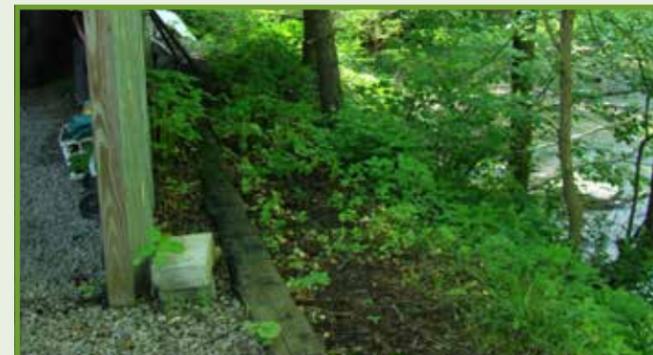


Streambank fencing



A spring development

Photographs of Taylor Projects



Streambank before construction



Taylor streambank after construction



Taylor streambank after construction during a high water event

Photographs of County of Greene Projects



Manure storage facility prior to construction



Manure storage facility after final construction

Photographs of Willis Projects



Winter feeding area before



Animal walk after construction



Animal access area before construction



Animal access area after construction



Animal heavy use area after construction



Streambank fencing

This summary shows that we installed more practices across more watersheds than initially planned. We accomplished this by including more landowners in the grant process and obtaining grant extensions. While the original landowners we obtained the grant with were not able to participate, we found other landowners facing similar problems that could be addressed within the grant's timeframe.

By working with the largest producer in the Pumpkin Run Watershed to reduce sediment and nutrient loads, we were able to address nutrient-related issues identified in the TMDL for Pumpkin Run. Working with landowners in the Whitely Creek Watershed to install best management practices, we addressed sediment-related issues identified in the TMDL for Whitely Creek. Working with landowners to rehabilitate the headwaters of Dyers Fork has led to larger, watershed-based projects within the Whitely Creek Watershed. This project originally was to take place in the South Fork Tenmile

Creek Watershed, specifically the Ruff Creek Sub-watershed. We worked with a landowner to install agricultural BMP within the headwaters of this sub-watershed. Also within the South Fork Tenmile Creek, we worked with the Greene County Fairgrounds to install two manure stacking facilities and develop a nutrient management plan that will be used for public outreach during the annual agricultural fair and other events. Taken together, these projects reduced sediment and nutrient loads in the South Fork Tenmile Creek Watershed.

Further work is necessary to address sediment- and nutrient-related issues in each of these watersheds. The Conservation District is developing an assessment of the entire South Fork Tenmile Creek watershed that will identify areas in need of remediation from sediment, nutrient loads, AMD, other pollutants, and the lack of watershed-based education and management. This assessment will guide future projects and funding within this watershed.

Dissemination of the results of this work is facilitated through project field days, newsletter, articles, and displays at events such as the Greene County Fair. We are planning future educational events and potentially site tours to highlight completed projects, including new manure stacking facilities which are highly visible at the Greene County Fairgrounds. One completed project in the Whiteley Creek Watershed is visible to agricultural producers from across the United States due to an annual cattle sale held by its owner. This landowner takes great pride in playing a role in soil and water conservation. He is quick to show others his project highlight its benefits to the environment and to his operation.

The funding we received not only completed the projects we intended but additional projects without the need of further funding. We worked some projects to completion under budget and partnered with other sources of funding such as ACT 13. Landowner match funds far exceeded our expectation.

Farmland Preservation Program

The Greene County Farmland Preservation Program finished up its 9th year with four farms in three townships preserving 483 acres of farmland. The Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation program was developed in 1988 to help slow the loss of prime farmland to nonagricultural uses through easement purchases. Pennsylvania leads the nation with more than 4,500 farms and 484,000 acres preserved. This program enables state, county, and local governments to purchase conservation

easements, sometimes called development rights, from owners of quality farmland.

The Greene County Farmland Preservation Board (GCFLPB), a seven-member board composed of local farmers, municipal leaders, and residents, has seen growth in Agricultural Security Area program activity and Farmland Preservation applications during recent years. Farm applications meeting program requirements are ranked and then forwarded to the state board for approval after offers have been made. Only farm owners located in approved ASAs can apply to the county program.



The Charles A. and Thelma S. Harry crop farm is the program's fourth agricultural easement. Located in Morgan Township

along Route 188, this 165-acre farm has been in the Harry family for 200 years. Accepted by the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation in December 2013, the final easement documents were recorded in April 2014.

Currently, the Farmland Preservation Board is preparing to ease a 107-acre farm that was ranked and accepted as the 5th farm to be eased. The final easement should be completed in 2015, and the farm is located in Cumberland Township.

Greene County Water Monitoring Program

Greene County Conservation District initiated a water-monitoring project in the spring of 2014. This project is built around a simple water quality testing device called a CATTFish, or Conductivity and Temperature in your Toilet. The CATTFish device has been used as part of the *Southwestern Pennsylvania Water Monitoring Project* undertaken in 2013 by the Washington County Watershed Alliance (WCWA), Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP), and Carnegie Mellon University's (CMU) CREATE lab. Conservation District staff from Greene and Washington counties jointly applied for a \$100,000 grant from the Colcom Foundation. This funding allowed Greene County's project to begin and enabled Washington County's project to continue



throughout 2014. Landowners in Greene County who use a private well or spring as their primary water source are eligible to receive a CATTFish at no cost to them. Participating landowners install the device, collect water quality data, and send that data to the Conservation District. The Conservation District analyzes, reports, and stores this water quality data. The two main purposes of this project are developing a baseline of water quality in Greene County and ensuring early detection of potential groundwater contamination. Nearly 30 landowners are participating in this project, and preliminary water quality results are favorable. This program is a great way for the Conservation District to work with landowners to ensure water quality protection in Greene County.

Monongahela River Watershed Plan

The Conservation District assisted the Greene County Department of Economic Development and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop the Monongahela River Watershed Plan. This plan addressed several aspects of management of the Monongahela River Watershed that were identified in the 2011 Monongahela River Watershed Assessment. This plan will provide guidelines for water budgeting to ensure adequate supply for multiple competing stakeholders. It will develop recommendations for unification of water quality data across agencies and groups.

The plan will address major concerns within the watershed by providing improvement options for stormwater management, flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration. Finally, it will evaluate USACE operations and options for development of a regional management perspective. The Conservation District provided insight into issues, concerns, and challenges related to that portion of the watershed in Greene County to ensure that local issues are considered and recommendations fit Greene County's needs.

Greene County Conservation District Water Quality Mini-Grant Program

The Conservation District overhauled its Water Quality Mini-Grant Program in 2014 to begin in 2015. The program's maximum award was increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000. This will allow applicants to pursue larger and more efficacious projects. The updated grant improves transparency by placing a greater emphasis on reporting as a condition for the program. As funding amounts become larger, accountability becomes more necessary to ensure that the program is not abused. The other major change to the program is the application period. Applications are still accepted year-round, but now they will be considered quarterly. Moving to discrete periods of consideration rather than continuous periods has several benefits. First, it is easier for the Conservation District to get the word out about the program. Second, it is easier for the applicant because they will know exactly when they need to get their application to us, and they will know exactly when they can expect a response.



Benefits of Being Cooperator Program

The Greene County Conservation District is proud to offer assistance to all landowners within Greene County. The District's Technical Assistance Program aids landowners not only in planning and executing projects, but also in obtaining financial assistance when funds are available. District staff can assist landowners with cropland, woodland, agricultural waste, wildlife habitat and grassland management, streambank protection, erosion and sedimentation control practices, surface water control, irrigation and livestock watering, and planned grazing systems, as well as many other practices. This program is purely voluntary and encouraged by staff and board members. Three landowners, totaling 273 acres, enlisted as new cooperators during 2014, and all requested assistance with their agriculture production.

Conservation Planning

District Staff also completed updates to one conservation plan, covering 157 acres. The district's role in conservation planning is to conduct a site assessment, discuss landowner goals, assess resource needs, and visually inspect operations. Staff then map operations using Customer Service Toolkit, a specialized ArcView GIS program, and develop a best management practice (BMP) implementation schedule/conservation plan. The landowner can also use this visit to request additional information on programs or practices that may be suited for their management style. Others enroll as cooperators to qualify for Farm Bill Programs through the USDA-NRCS.

Nutrient Management and Manure Management Program

The GCCD delegation agreement was amended in 2012 to administer the nutrient and manure management programs for Greene County. This program regulates Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), Act 38 Volunteer Animal Operations (VAO's), and any landowner utilizing manure in Pennsylvania.



With funding provided through a PACD mini-grant, a manure management workshop was held in February 2014. Approximately 17 people attended the event, and five additional plans were written in one-on-one sessions. In addition to this, many manure management manuals were distributed through various outreach events and direct mail. Several educational articles were published in local newspapers, and presentations were given to the West Greene FFA, the Greene County Farm Bureau, and the Penn State Cooperative Extension board.

Two Act 38 plans, one of which is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), were received for review during 2014. In Greene County, there are 1,895.5 acres and 600 animal units under voluntary Act 38 compliance nutrient management plans.

Two manure-related complaints were received in 2014.

Lime Spreader Program

As livestock production in the region has transitioned into more grass-based

rotational grazing systems, the need for lime to help support quality forage production has become imperative. Applying lime to pasture and hay fields is one of the simplest management decisions to make. Increasing soil pH can increase forage yields and palatability,

with relatively low cost to the producer. The difficulty is getting lime where it is most needed and at the correct time.

Greene County Conservation District assists producers in getting lime to their fields by maintaining and renting a specialized lime spreader. A spreader of this size and type is easier to use on steep ground and more maneuverable in smaller pasture paddocks. Additionally, this specific machine is equipped with surge brakes and a longer axle to provide better control and stability on Greene County's hillsides. In 2014, the program's sixth season, the lime spreader was rented to 7 producers for application of lime on hay and pasture ground in Greene County.

To rent the lime spreader, producers must complete the *Lime Spreader Rental Agreement*, provide proof of insurance, and pay a \$50 deposit. The standard rental period is three days, and the final rental charge is based on total tons of lime spread. To receive their deposit back, producers must return the machine clean and undamaged.



The year 2014 held fewer weather-related challenges for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Greene County than 2013, resulting in a more normal construction season. NRCS was pleased to assist Greene County farmers and landowners as well as the Greene County Conservation District (GCCD) plan and meet conservation goals. NRCS was also

pleased to assist GCCD with the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program at these locations: Allman, Blacks Run, Hewitt Run, Kuhn Hill, and Martin roads in Aleppo Township; Glade Run Road in Dunkard Township; and Shough Creek and Six Run roads in Gilmore Township. In April, representatives of NRCS participated in the 27th Greene County Envirothon at Ryerson Station State Park.

NRCS is pleased to report the following conservation practices were completed by Greene County farmers and landowners during 2014:

- Conservation plans written: 311 acres
- Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality: 47 acres
- Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil health and sustainability: 41 acres
- Land with conservation applied to improve water quality: 477 acres
- Grazing land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base: 376 acres
- Grazing land with a conservation system applied to achieve a sustainable forage-animal balance: 222 acres



- Non-federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality: 408 acres
- Forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve vegetative condition: 170 acres

NRCS is appreciative of the continued support and assistance received from the Greene County Conservation District and its Board of Directors. It is important to note that without partnering agencies such as the Greene County Conservation District, it would be difficult if not impossible for NRCS to plan and implement conservation practices throughout Greene County.



DCNR Bureau of Forestry District Four 2014 Report

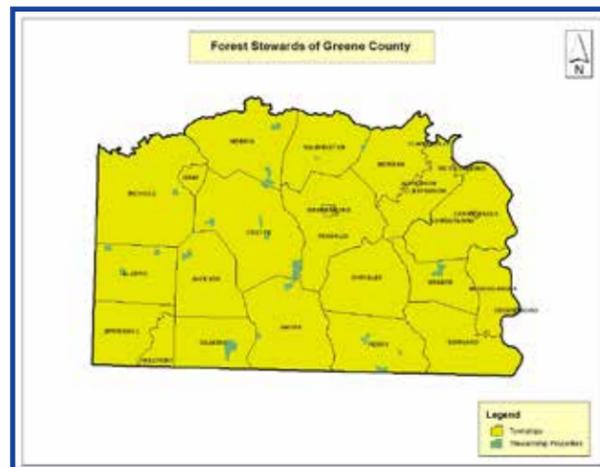
DCNR assisted 19 private woodland owners throughout Greene County during 2014. Visits included a site examination with landowners and data collection. DCNR sent each landowner a post-visit examination report explaining observations, concerns, conclusions, and recommendations. Forest landowners are encouraged to have a Stewardship Plan prepared by a certified technical service provider (consulting forester). Topics covered during visits included NRCS practice certifications, timber stand improvement recommendations, planting assistance, site selection, insect and disease recognition, and management plan assistance. There are currently 28 active Stewardship Plans in Greene County.

Russ Gibbs, DCNR Service Forester, conducted various educational forestry demonstrations and programs throughout

the county. Groups associated with these programs include Carmichaels Area School District, Southeastern Greene School District, Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association, and Ryerson Station State Park. He currently serves as the DCNR District 4* Seed Collection Coordinator and Ecological Services (Invasive Species) Liaison. The counties covered during the 2014 season included Fayette, Greene, Somerset, and Washington. Acreage examined over the course of 2014 covered nearly 6500 acres of forestland throughout all four counties. During the spring fire season, he serves as our

fire program aircraft dispatcher at the Somerset County Airport.

*District 4 includes Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Somerset and Washington counties.



DCNR, Bureau of Forestry

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BUREAU DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

Beth Newman • 412-973-0215 • Dog violations

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

GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

724-852-5300 • Zoning, lot splits, development issues

NUMBER TO REPORT FOR FINDING DEAD BIRDS/WNV

1-877-724-3258 EXT. 4 • To report a dead bird of interest

PENN DOT-GREENE COUNTY

724-627-6131

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




Greene County Conservation District

Promoting Soil and Water Conservation in Greene County Since 1956

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. Over the past year, the Greene County Conservation District Board members and staff have worked diligently and thoughtfully to promote and protect a diverse range of natural resources within 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 topics.

Our District would like to thank the County of Greene and those cooperating agencies and organizations that assist us with our programs. Without the support of these entities, our programs would not be effective for the residents of Greene County.

Display & Outreach Opportunities

- Greene County Fair Display
- Waynesburg Farmers' Market-Planning
- FFA Local and Regional
- GreeneSaver articles and advertisements
- Quarterly newsletter
- Observer-Reporter news articles
- Waynesburg University Outreach
- Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful



- Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency
- Greene County Farm Bureau
- Greene County Township Association
- Izaak Walton League of America, Harry Enstrom Chapter
- Greene County Business Expo
- Greene County Parks and Recreation