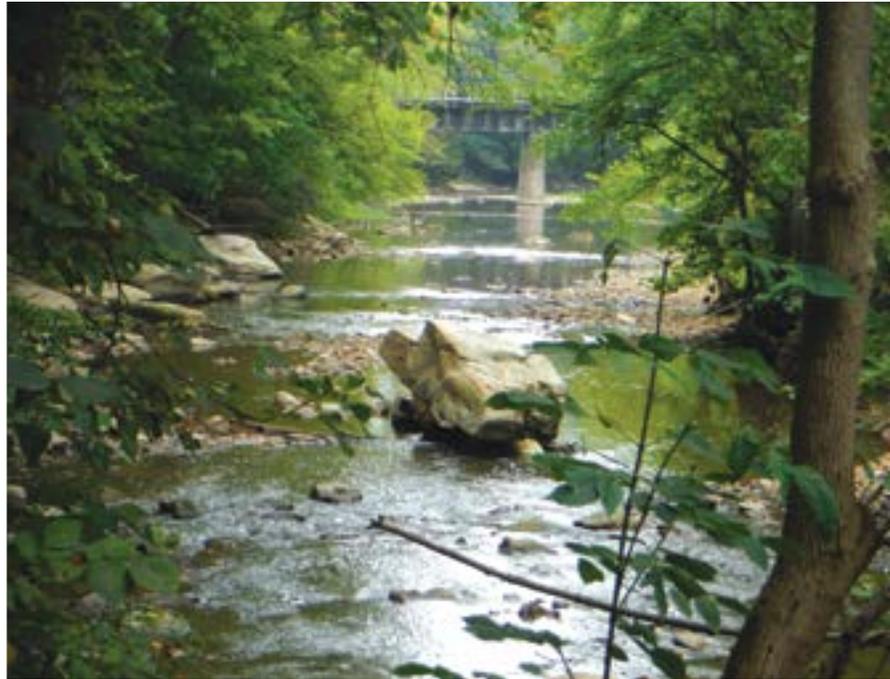




# Greene County Conservation District

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015



**724-852-5278**

[gccd@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:gccd@co.greene.pa.us)

[www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd](http://www.co.greene.pa.us/gccd)

22 West High Street, Suite 204

Waynesburg, PA 15370

# BOARD MEMBERS

## 2016 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Blair Zimmerman, Chairman
- Dave Coder, Vice Chairman
- Archie Trader, Secretary

## 2016 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
- William Wentzel, Public Director
- Greg Hopkins, Farmer Director
- Mike Belding, Farmer Director

## DIRECTOR EMERITUS

- J. Robert Rice

## 2016 ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Jim Kenney
- Gay Thistle
- Glodenna Halstead
- William Cree, Jr.
- Jerry Day
- Rick Patton
- Dave Shipman
- Jim Willis
- Jeff Rode

## DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Manager
- Lindsay Kozlowski, Environmental Program Specialist II
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Program Specialist
- William Wentzel, Environmental Program Associate
- Karlie Wright, Agriculture Technician
- Becky Salosky, Fiscal Officer
- Jared Zinn, Watershed Specialist
- Vacant, Environmental Program Specialist/Agriculture Tech. Assistant

## COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Greene County Department of Economic Development  
Robbie Matesic, Executive Director  
Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager
- Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Phil Evans, District Conservationist
- PA DEP Field Representative  
Chuck Kubasik
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
Russell Gibbs, Service Forester

## DISTRICT LOCATION

Our office is located on the 2nd Floor of the Ben Franklin Building at 22 West High Street, Suite 204 Waynesburg, PA 15370  
Phone: 724-852-5278  
gccd@co.greene.pa.us  
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

*The GCCD Board meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 am in the second floor conference room of the Greene County Office Building located at 93 East High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370*



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January through December 2015

Other Income	4,779.45
UGWF-CDFAP	258.38
UGWF-PUC	56,908.10
Donation Income	1,500.00
Grant Income	556,988.55
Interest Income	2,845.56
Lime Spreader	780.54
Program Income	178,075.00
Refund (Income)	1,500.00
Sales	61.00

**Total Income** **\$803,696.58**

GROSS PROFIT 803,696.58

Reconciliation Discrepancies	2,799.99
Farmland Preservation	2,015.50
Scholarship	3,000.00
Total Advertising	13,153.19
Total Automobile Expense	35,754.38
Bank Service Charge	0.00
Contracted Work/Contracts	211,239.53
District Mtgs.	925.50
Donation	2,850.00
Dues & Subscriptions	2,290.80
Education Expense	3,705.72
Equipment/Supplies	29,224.46
Events/Workshops	4,224.12
Grant Expense	5,000.00
Insurance Bonds	774.00
Licenses & Certifications	6,063.40
Lime Spreader Maintenance	0.00
Miscellaneous	2,139.86
Office Supplies	130.96
Postage	2,334.41
Professional Services Rendered	9,289.25
Salaries & Benefits	194,227.92
Telephone	2,359.34
Total Travel	18,183.86

**Total Expense** **\$515,318.47**

NET INCOME 288,378.11

# 2015 Greene County Conservation Awards and Special Recognition



## 2015 Special Recognition Honorees

Each year, the Conservation District honors those within the county who have shown an outstanding commitment to soil and water conservation. Honorees this year included Bradley and Shirley Eisiminger of Woodside Farm, recipients of the 2015 Special Recognition Award for Agricultural Excellence; Gay and Harold Thistle, recipients of the 2015 Special Recognition Award for Forestry; Pine Belt Energy Services, LLC, Outstanding Conservation Contractor of the Year; Gilmore Township, the inaugural Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Municipality of the Year; and Rodney Parson, recipient of the 2015 Conservation Speaking Award.



Bradley and Shirley Eisiminger of Woodside Farm received the 2015 Special Recognition Award for Agricultural Excellence. Pictured, from l. to r., are Bradley Eisiminger, also Conservation District Board chairman, and Jim Cowell, District secretary.

The Conservation District also honored Kevin Willis, a teacher and Envirothon team coach for Carmichaels Area High School, who this year was listed as an honorable mention for the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators. Four Conservation District board and staff members also received special service awards.

Bradley and Shirley Eisiminger were recognized for their many years of agricultural and conservation efforts that led to them recently being named the 2015 North American International Livestock Exposition Shorthorn Show Honorees.

The couple was honored Nov. 16 in Louisville, Ky., during the Jack C. Ragsdale National Shorthorn Show, the largest all-

breed, purebred livestock event in the world. The Eisimingers were noted for their outstanding contributions to the livestock industry, long-time involvement with the American Shorthorn Association and devotion to building the Shorthorn breed. Gay and Harold Thistle were recognized for their forest conservation efforts that have gained them the honor of being awarded Pennsylvania's Tree Farmer of the Year for 2015. The Thistles previously received the Conservation District's Forester of the Year award in 2011.



Harold and Gay Thistle received the 2015 Special Recognition Award for Forestry.

## 2015 Outstanding Conservation Contractor

Pine Belt Energy Services, LLC, the 2015 Outstanding Conservation Contractor, was recognized for its protection of the environment and Greene County's natural resources from erosion and sedimentation. The company was also noted for its willingness to work with landowners and its respect for the land. Pine Belt provides support to the oil and gas industry and has worked closely with Momentum Oil & Gas to repair and maintain slides that resulted from the installation of gas pipeline infrastructure in Greene County.



Pine Belt Energy Services, LLC, was named the Outstanding Conservation Contractor of the Year. Pictured is owner Allen Entreklin (right) with District Treasurer Thomas Headlee.

## 2015 Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Municipality of the Year

This year for the first time, the Conservation District chose to award a municipality within Greene County that has participated in the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program. This program was developed to enhance municipal roads with environmentally sensitive maintenance practices as developed by the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads. The inaugural Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Municipality of the Year award was presented to Gilmore Township.

Gilmore Township was recognized for outstanding accomplishments in the establishment of environmentally sensitive maintenance practices that protect water quality within the municipality. Since 2013, the township has installed 10 projects and has applied for additional future projects. The township has worked diligently to complete these projects in a timely manner and has worked closely with the district to improve its road system.



Gilmore Township was named the inaugural Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Municipality of the Year. Pictured, from l. to r., are District Treasurer Thomas Headlee, Gilmore Township Supervisor Chuck Wise and District Secretary Jim Cowell.

## 2015 FFA Conservation Speaking Contest Honoree

Rodney Parson, a junior at West Greene Junior/Senior High School and current FFA chapter president, was recognized for his outstanding speaking skills and for winning the 2015 Greene County FFA Speaking Competition with his speech, "EPA's Waters of United States Rule and its Effects." Parson



Kevin Willis of Carmichaels Area High School received a special certificate for his honorable mention for the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators, and Rodney Parson, a junior at West Greene Junior/Senior High School and current FFA chapter president, received the 2015 Conservation Speaking Award. Pictured, from l. to r., are Willis, Parson and District Chairman Bradley Eisinger.

not only placed first at the county speaking contest, but also continued through the local and regional competitions and became one of 12 students in the state to represent his FFA chapter, school and county at the State FFA Conservation Speaking Contest this past summer at the Pennsylvania FFA State Convention. He placed second overall. Parson is the son of Tim and Tina Parson of Graysville.

### Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators Honorable Mention

This year, the District was honored to help with the unveiling and presentation of national recognition to Kevin Willis of Carmichaels Area School District. Willis made the list of honorable mentions for the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators and received a special certificate. Willis was nominated for his leadership, guidance and accomplishments in engaging and expanding his students' knowledge.

### 2015 GCCD Board and Staff Service Awards

Four service awards were given to current Conservation District board and staff members. J. Robert Rice, board director emeritus, was recognized for 50 years of service to the board. Rice's service includes three years as former director, nine years as district treasurer, 32 years as district chairman and the past six years as director emeritus. A tri-colored beech tree has been planted in his honor at the Greene County Historical Society Museum.



Four Conservation District board and staff members received service awards. Pictured, from l. to r., are Environmental Resource Specialist Lindsay Kozlowski, 5 years; Fiscal Officer Rebecca Salosky, 35 years; Board Director Emeritus J. Robert Rice, 50 years; District Chairman Bradley Eisinger; and District Manager Lisa Snider, 15 years.]

Rebecca Salosky, District fiscal officer, received recognition for her 35 years of committed service. Salosky is a valuable asset to the board and staff and has watched the District grow over the years, from one other staffer to seven full-time and two seasonal staff members. District Manager Lisa Snider was recognized for 15 years of service. Snider began her career at the District as the watershed specialist and has been the manager of the office since 2010. Under her supervision, the board has dramatically increased its fiscal, programmatic and staffing responsibilities. Lindsay Kozlowski, environmental resource specialist, was recognized for five years of service. Kozlowski first started with the

District as the West Nile Virus coordinator until she took her current position. She is responsible for environmental permitting and was commended for her knowledge of the programs she administers.

### 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 8 years ANR has generously donated funds to establish a Greene County Conservation District Envirothon Continuing Education Scholarship that is awarded to each member of the winning team of the County Envirothon event. The winning team members receive a \$500 scholarship towards 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. Thank you Alpha Natural Resources.

**The Community Foundation of Greene County** also plays a vital role in annual county Envirothon. The Foundation provides financial assistance through its EITC grant annually. This program allows companies to donate to state approved educational programs and receive tax credits.

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 Greene County.



# 2015 Education and Outreach Programs

## 2015 Greene County Envirothon



The Conservation District organized the 2015 Greene County Envirothon with financial support from Community Foundation of Greene County's Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program through CONSOL Energy. This year's event was the 28th annual Greene County Envirothon and was held on Wednesday, April 29th at Wana B. Park in Carmichaels. Fifty-three high school students from four of Greene County's five school districts competed in the areas of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and the 2015 current issue, urban and community forestry.

Carmichaels Team #1 won this year's competition with a score of 418 points out of a possible 500 points. Team members Blake Conard, Ashley Dotson, Emma Lowry, Philip Mikalik and Kaleb Wilson and team advisor Kevin Willis will represent Greene County at the state Envirothon, which is scheduled for May 19-20 at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and the Windber Recreation Park in Windber, Pa.

Mapletown Team #1, consisting of students Reid Griffin, Ryan Kovach, Luke Pecjak, Garrett Phillips and Abby Shipley and advisors Amber Burkett and Sara London, earned second place with a score of 373.

The third-place team was Carmichaels Team #2, which included students Allie Christopher, Zachary Juliani, Joel Spishock,

Brady Watters and Parker Woodring and advisor Willis. The team earned 371 points. The five students who made up the winning team each received a \$500 college scholarships funded by Alpha Natural Resources and the Community Foundation of Greene County.

The Conservation District sponsored the Greene County champions to represent Greene County at the state Envirothon, on May 19-20 at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and Windber Recreation Park. They earned fourth place at the statewide event.



1st Place Team



2nd Place Team



3rd Place Team

## Adopt-A-Highway Program



The Conservation District annually takes part in the Adopt-A-Highway program.

Conservation District staff spent two days in 2015 collecting roadside litter along a two-mile stretch of Garard's Fort Road. 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).



## Conservation Leadership School Scholarship

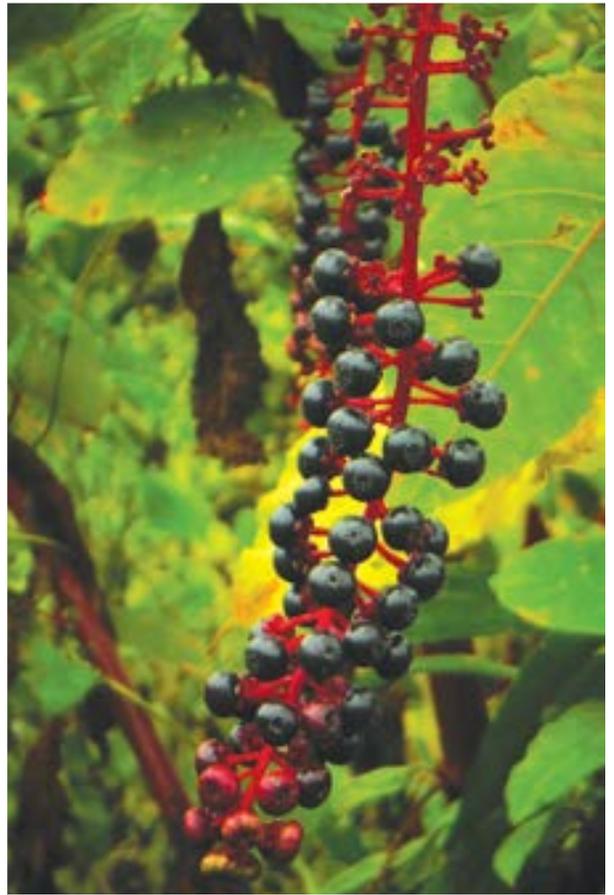
The Conservation District annually awards a scholarship to at least one Greene County high school student so that they may attend the Conservation Leadership School. The school is hosted by Penn State's School of Forest Resources at Stone Valley Recreation Area in University Park, Pa. The Conservation Leadership School is a one-week residential program for high school students interested in learning more about the environment through exploration of natural habitat, hands-on educational and recreational activities.

Kaleb Wilson and Hunter Davis, both of Carmichaels, received scholarships and attended the Conservation Leadership School in 2015. We are thankful to the sponsors who have provided partial or full funding for these scholarships. These include Alpha Natural Resources, the Community Foundation of Greene County and CONSOL Energy.



## Greene County Summer Day Camp

Conservation District staff assisted the Greene County Department of Recreation with their 2015 summer day camp. Campers took part in educational lessons and interactive activities that expanded their knowledge of soil and water resources. Approximately 250 students, age five through fifteen learned about the water cycle, the importance of water and the role of wise land use in preventing water pollution.



## Greene County Fair



The Conservation District once again presented a display in our new building at the Greene County Fair. Displays highlighted each of the Conservation District's main programs, Erosion and Sediment Control, Agriculture, and Watershed Management.

Visitors to the Conservation District building could discuss soil and water conservation with staff, examine interactive displays, ask about the many useful programs offered for landowners, and take away free gifts.

The 2015 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. This outreach resulted in several possible new cooperators building relationships with the Conservation District and also yielded several new participants in the District's new water monitoring program.

## The 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 over 500 individuals and groups with additional copies available for dissemination through the Conservation District office.

## 2015 West Nile Virus Program Overview



Greene County Conservation District has once again staffed part-time summer intern positions to assist the PA DEP Vector Control Program with monitoring in the Greene County

area. This District employed two part-time interns to assist with the monitoring, Alex Rush and Travis Basinger, both are students at California University. Both received training from GCCD and PA DEP staff. Over 60 samples were collected and submitted for processing by PA DEP.

For the 2015 WNV season no positive detection of WNV was detected in any Greene County sample. The low rain totals throughout the season kept mosquito numbers reasonably low. Across the state

41 Positive samples were reported of those positive samples, 39 were mosquito samples and 2 were avian samples.

In 2015 positives for WNV were reported in 16 counties (Allegheny, Cambria, Blair, Center, Lycoming, Adams, York, Dauphin,

Lebanon, Lancaster, Berks, Lehigh, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, and Delaware).



### Listed below are the sites visited during the 2015 season:

- Waynesburg Borough WWTP
- Franklin Twp. WWTP
- Carmichaels WWTP
- Dry Tavern WWTP
- Lower Ten Mile WWTP
- Rices Landing WWTP
- Greene County Fairgrounds
- Bobtown WWTP
- Mt. Morris WWTP
- Greensboro WWTP
- Center Township WWTP
- Center Township Park
- Nineveh WWTP
- Ankrom Road Jefferson Township
- Wanna B. Park

# 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. The 2014 passing of PA Act 89 of 2013 the PA Transportation Funding Bill increased funding from \$4 million to \$20 million annually and allowed funds the Low Volume Road Program (LVR). LVR program allows work to be completed on low volume paved roads with a daily average of traffic less than 500 vehicles per day. This drastic change to the program allows Greene County municipalities



Taylor Run, Gilmore Township

now to apply for funding that was very limited in the past. It is expected that each year new funding levels should average around \$400,000.00 for the DGR and \$100,000.00 for LVR projects.

In 2015, twelve projects were awarded utilizing the 2014-2015 funds. Those projects totaled \$393,675.15. Of those projects 2 larger projects were able to be awarded that would stabilize 2 roads for approximately 2 miles, other projects included daylighting of roads, adding drainage features and stabilizing road base.

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



Six Run, Gilmore Township



Meighen Run Road, Gilmore Township

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; Road flooding caused by restricted flow or improper pipe size.

## 2015 Dirt and Gravel Road Program Summary

### Completed Projects

#### Aleppo Township - Quiet Dell Road

Stream Crossing Replacement  
Grant-\$11,079.20

#### Greene Township - Roberts Run

Install five new cross drain pipes, and add two additional.  
Grant: \$10,978.00

#### Gilmore Township - Six Run Road

Replace a 36" culvert pipe.  
Grant: \$2,350.00

#### Gilmore Township - Shough Creek Road

Replace an 18" culvert pipe.  
Grant: \$2,035.00

#### Aleppo Township - Blacks Creek/Kuhn Hill Road

Stream crossing replacement.  
Grant: \$9,600.77

#### Aleppo Township - Hewitt Run Road

2 Stream crossing replacement.  
Grant: \$19,667.07

#### Aleppo Township - Allman Road

Stream crossing replacement.  
Grant: \$9,905.05

#### Aleppo Township - Blacks Creek/Martin Road

Stream crossing replacement.  
Grant: \$8,618.98

### 2014-2015 Awarded Contracts

#### Gilmore Township

Roberts Run Drainage Project - \$4,180.00  
Meighen Run Drainage Project - \$14,290.00  
Six Run-Driving Surface Aggregate - \$138,103.00  
Six Run-Drainage Project - \$12,050.00  
Taylor Run Drainage Project - \$13,400.00

#### Morgan Township

Beagle Club Road Driving Surface Aggregate Project - \$134,277.35

#### Greene Township

Roberts Run Daylighting - \$19,600.00  
Falls Hollow Daylighting - \$8,600.00  
Randolph Daylighting - \$11,200.00

**Total 2014-2015 Project Awards \$393,675.15**

# SWPWOA and Carmichaels Area High School Trade Tours



Carmichaels Students and their teacher Kevin Willis visit the Thistle Tree Farm



Southwestern Pa Woodland Owners visit the native species greenhouse and view work completed by Carmichaels High School students and their teacher Kevin Willis.



## Ten Mile Creek Gets New Canoe & Kayak Launch Sites

These sites are made possible due to a partnership of the Jefferson-Morgan Regional Council of Governments with funding assistance provided by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Program. Special thanks to Michael Dufalla P.E.P.L.S. for his design expertise. The site affords handicap accessibility, parking and a safe area to launch a canoe or kayak.

The Conservation District commends the Jefferson-Morgan COG on a job well done and would like to encourage everyone to try out the new launches. The first launch is located on Beagle Club Road just off Rt. 188 near Jefferson. The second is located at the Franklin Township Route 188 Park in Waynesburg just below the soccer and football practice fields.



**Emerald Coal Resources, L.P.**  
**Franklin Township**  
**Route 188 PARK**



# Erosion and Sedimentation Pollution Control Program

The goal of the Conservation District is to conserve and protect the natural resources of Greene County. One of the ways this is done is through the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program. GCCD maintains a delegation agreement with PA DEP which allows staff to administer earth disturbance and water obstruction and encroachment permits.

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

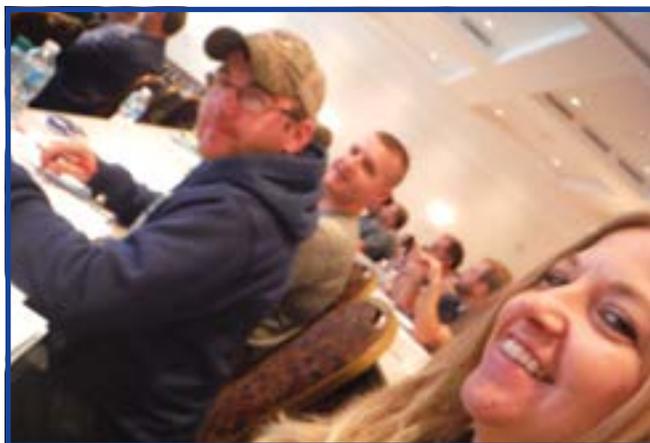
Sedimentation is one of the largest contributors to pollutants to our streams in PA. All projects are different and in some cases permits are needed. The 102 and 105

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. Erosion and Sediment Control General Permits (ESCGP-2) are 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.

GCCD staff also worked on and prepared posters for all 26 municipalities in Greene County that summarizes the potential permits needed when conducting earth disturbance near a resource such as a stream or wetland.

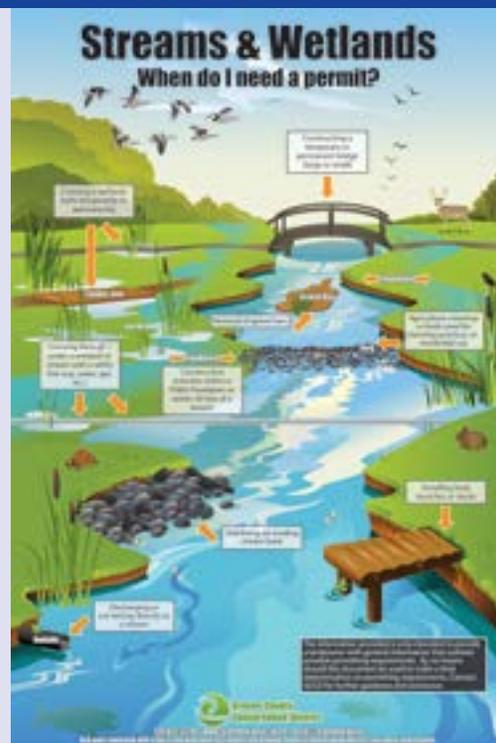


GCCD staff at 102/105 Annual Training

Below is a summary of permits and money received from Chapters 102 and 105 for 2015.

## 2015 Chapter 102/105 & NPDES Program Accomplishments

Plans Received & Reviewed .....	89
Inspections & Sites Visited .....	416
NPDES Permits.....	8
ESCGP-2 Permits .....	6
<b>Chapter 105 General Permits Issued</b>	
GP-2—Small docks and boat launching ramps.....	0
GP-3—Bank rehab/protection & gravel bar removal .....	2
GP-4—Intake/outfall structure.....	0
GP-5—Utility line stream crossing .....	26
GP-6—Agricultural crossings and ramps .....	0
GP-7—Minor road crossings.....	9
GP-8—Temporary road crossings.....	20
GP-9—Agricultural activities .....	0
Chapter 102 Fees .....	\$141,100.00
Chapter 105 Fees .....	\$48,875.00
<b>Total 102/105 Fees Received:</b> .....	<b>\$189,975.00</b>



# Conservation District holds Workshop for Engineers



*Darl Rosenquest, PA DEP, discusses commonly encountered problems with projects.*

The Conservation District organized a workshop for engineers on Chapters 102 and 105 of the Pennsylvania Code on April 9th at the Greene County Fairgrounds. The purpose of the workshop was to help the engineers better understand these state regulations that govern erosion and sediment control and water obstructions and encroachments.

The workshop included presentations from the Conservation District and from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Speakers discussed new rules, permit application processes and requirements, how to handle typical

problems encountered, landowner requirements, and examples of commonly used calculations. Multiple question-and-answer sessions enabled workshop participants to seek clarification of difficult aspects of the 102 and 105 regulations directly from the agencies administering them.

This workshop was a great opportunity for industry and government agencies to come together and increase clarity in these regulations. This proactive approach helps the engineers maintain compliance with state regulations on their projects. Approximately 60 people, from various companies, attended the workshop.



*Jennifer Orr, PA DEP, outlines state stormwater management regulations.*

## Chapter 105 Workshop

The Conservation District held a Chapter 105 workshop on October 14, 2015 at the Stover Center on the campus of Waynesburg University. Pennsylvania Code, Title 25, Chapter 105, Dam Safety and Waterway Management rules and regulations govern activities associated with dams, reservoirs, water obstructions and encroachments in the Commonwealth. Obstructions include bridges, culverts, fill, wing walls, piers and other structures that are built in or around water bodies. Encroachments are structures or activities that change, expand or diminish the course, current

or cross section of a watercourse, floodway or body of water.

The goal of this workshop was to help engineers and consultants working in Greene County to better understand Chapter 105 and their role in safeguarding our county's water resources. The workshop included presentations from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. They discussed the rules, regulations and permits associated with Chapter 105.



*Attendees of a previous Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop held by the Conservation District in the spring of 2015*

# Some of the larger projects reviewed in 2015 include:



## Greene County Memorial Hospital Foundation

The foundation plans to build a recreation center in Evergreene Technology Park in Franklin Township.

## Applebees

Apple Corporation submitted plans to build a restaurant in Greene Plaza next to Taco Bell.

## Baileys Crossroads

Baileys Crossroads is the intersection of SR 21 and George Street in Cumberland Township. The project involves re-aligning the intersection so traffic on SR 21 remains flowing.

## Gateway Senior Housing

Located right on High Street in Waynesburg, Gateway Senior Housing is an assisted living facility. It is 4 stories and is currently under construction.



## Planting Seeds of Environmental Stewardship in Minds and Communities

Alpha Natural Resources worked with over 130 students from four area school districts to plant and maintain an existing 5 acre wetland developed for mitigation which is located on Pennsylvania Gamelands #223 located near Kirby, PA. Students removed invasive cattails from the open water wetlands. The PA Game Commission provided several plant species, from service berries to trees. Wetland plants and shrubs were installed on the inside banks of the wetlands and trees were installed on the top

of banks of the wetland. A large planting of sun flowers was undertaken and all the uninhabited bird boxes were cleaned. In all 130 students planted 2,500 trees including maples, sycamore, oak, black gum and a variety of pine, on five acres of land.

This work was completed by students that are science oriented, FFA members, and Envirothon Team representatives. Alpha Natural Resources employees led the group of local agency personnel from

PA Game Commission, Greene County Commissioners and Conservation District and PA Department of Environmental Protection, Moody and Associate employees, Pratt Excavating. Hats off to Alpha Natural Resources for their youth outreach and education efforts!



# 2015 Watershed Management Program Overview

## Greene County Water Monitoring Program

Greene County Conservation District initiated a water monitoring project in spring of 2014. This program was continued throughout 2015. Built around the CATTFish device, a simple in-home water monitoring device developed by Carnegie-Mellon University's CREATE lab, this program provides an opportunity for the Conservation District to partner with landowners in monitoring water quality.



This citizen science approach, involves landowners in the process of water conservation by allowing them to take part in daily monitoring activities. They assist the Conservation District in developing a county-wide baseline of water quality while at the same time, learning about their own water quality in a hands-on way. Approximately 30 landowners from all

over Greene County have taken part in the program. They have provided datasets to the Conservation District that span ranges from just a couple of months to nearly two years. In addition to this, we have used

funding from this project to conduct more traditional laboratory testing for nearly all participants.

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. The datasets provided by these landowners represents that baseline of water quality throughout the county. Participant reported data indicates that mean monthly conductivity varies not only by location but also through time. Visual examination of data trends

suggests specific seasonal variation of mean monthly conductivity. To date, no dramatic changes in conductivity, which would indicate a pollution event, have been detected.

Continuation of this project will help us better understand the mechanisms that determine water quality and influence seasonal variation as well as providing early detection of significant water quality changes.



## Monongahela River Watershed Plan

The Conservation District provided assistance to the Greene County Department of Economic Development and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop the Monongahela River Watershed Plan. This plan is currently under review by the Army Corps prior to publication. This plan was developed to provide 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.

## Waynesburg University Outreach

In the spring of 2015, Conservation District staff arranged for environmental professionals from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to speak with students and provide hands-on training in stream assessment procedures. In addition to this the Conservation District began working with Waynesburg University students in late 2015 on an inventory of stormwater infrastructure within Waynesburg Borough. These students are gaining valuable experience while helping Waynesburg Borough develop their stormwater management plan.

The Conservation District regularly attends the University's Service fair and speaks with a number of students. The Service Fair at Waynesburg University 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.



# Agricultural Security Area Program

The Agriculture Security Area Law (Pennsylvania Act 43 of 1981) allows any owner or owners of land used for agricultural production to petition their township supervisor 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 supervisor. 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 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.

Franklin Township finished establishing their ASA and they ended up with 5 landowners and 803.76 acres to start their ASA. Additional parcels were added to an established ASA located in Cumberland Township during 2015.

Greene County has a total of 83 landowners with 11,104.53 acres enrolled/approved

in the ASA program, they include the following:

- Cumberland Township — 908.23 acres enrolled with 6 landowners
- Center Township — 1,691.4 acres enrolled with 7 landowners
- Franklin Township — 803.76 acres enrolled with 5 landowners
- Greene Township — 1,189.14 acres enrolled with 5 landowners
- Jefferson Township — 429.63 acres enrolled with 4 landowners
- Morgan Township — 1,604.66 acres enrolled with 8 landowners
- Washington Township — 2,364.27 acres enrolled with 40 landowners
- Wayne Township — 2,122.9 acres enrolled with 8 landowners

For more information about the ASA Program please contact the District or check the Bureau of Farmland Preservation Website.



# Farmland Preservation Program



The Greene County Farmland Preservation Program finished up its 9th year with five farms in three townships preserving 591 acres of farmland. The easements were purchased with a combination of State and County funds for a total of \$550,288.00.

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 over 4,919 farms and 518,827 acres preserved in 57 counties. 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 comprised of local farmers, municipal leaders and residents, has seen growth in Agriculture Security 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 ASA's can apply to the county program.

The Richard Phillips farm is the program's fifth agricultural easement. Located in Cumberland Township along Route 88, this 107 acre farm is a beef cattle operation. Accepted by the PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation in June 2015, the final easement documents were recorded in October 2015.

The Farmland Preservation Program is dedicated to protecting valuable farm acreage from development. In 2006 the Greene County Farmland Preservation

(GCFLP) Program bylaws and Board of Directors was established and adopted by the County. The first conservation easement purchase was finalized in 2008. The Farmland Preservation Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise advertised. The current Board members are listed below:

- William A. Cree, III – Chairman
- David Shipman – Vice Chairman
- Charles Day – Secretary
- Richard Thistlethwaite – Treasurer
- Commissioner Archie Trader
- Richard Belding
- Chris Eisiminger
- Corby Orndorff
- Jim Willis



# 2015 District Agriculture Program Overview

## 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, planned grazing systems as well as many other practices. This program is purely voluntary and encouraged by staff and board members. Three landowners, totaling 48.82 acres, enlisted as new cooperators during 2015; all of which requested assistance with their agriculture production.

## Manure Management Workshops



In 2015, 30 Greene County residents attended two half-day manure management workshops held at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Financial support for this workshop was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., through a grant from the PA DEP under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. GCCD staff would like to thank Hannah Hoblitzell and Tom Ulrich Washington, Conservation District Agriculture Technicians for their assistance and guidance.

This workshop focused on PA Department of Environmental Protection's Manure Management regulations that require any farm in Pennsylvania that applies manure

to the land - whether you fork it on there, spread it with a machine, or let your livestock drop it directly in the pasture - is required by to have a written manure management plan, regardless of size of the property or the operation. The workshop reviewed the regulations and assisted with the completion and gave guidance on developing operation specific plans.

Two manure-related complaints were received in 2015.

## Lime Spreader Program and New No-Till Drill

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 out 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 2015, the program's seventh season, the lime spreader was rented to 5 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.

In the winter of 2015 the District Staff and Board members worked towards purchasing a 7' End Wheel No-Till Drill to rent to Greene County residents in the spring of 2016.

## Conservation Planning

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.



## Farm Bureau Legislative Tour

Jim and Billie Cowell hosted the 2015 Farm Bureau Legislative Tour at the Frosty Springs Farm located in Garards Fort last summer. Many farmers, legislators, and other representatives gathered to learn about the programs that have helped the Cowells better manage their operation. This tour was conducted to bring a real world example of funds utilized by landowners in our area and highlight how important it is that our legislators continue to support farming in Pennsylvania and Greene County.



## Greene County 2015 Snapshot



The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Lemont Furnace Service Center under the auspices of Supervisory District Conservationist Phil Evans transitioned through personnel changes in 2015 to deliver a variety of services to Greene County. In addition to serving in an advisory capacity for the Greene County Conservation District's Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, NRCS is pleased to have provided direct technical assistance to 19 Greene County landowners scattered throughout Center, Cumberland, Franklin, Gilmore, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Morgan, Morris, Washington, and Wayne Townships. USDA NRCS also participated in the annual Envirothon,

and assisted both the West Greene and Waynesburg Central High Schools FFA/Vo-Ag classes with soil judging.

Recent changes in staff have resulted in a temporary staff reduction for the NRCS team and as a result on the ground practices installed are slightly less than in previous years. However, NRCS is pleased to report the following conservation practices were completed by Greene County farmers and landowners during 2015:

221 acres of conservation plans written.  
300 acres of land with conservation applied to improve water quality.  
315 acres of land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base.

114 acres of non-federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality.

140 acres of forest land with conservation applied to improve and protect vegetative condition.

568 acres of land with conservation applied to improve environmental quality. Looking forward, NRCS is gratified that 2015 showed a marked increase in applications received for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) from Greene County farmers and landowners. NRCS will continue to support the design and installation of a wide range of conservation practices as funding becomes available.

## 2015 DCNR Bureau of Forestry Forbes State Forest District 4

### Cooperative Forest Management Report

Across Greene County, 15 private woodland owners were assisted in 2015. Each visit included a site examination where the landowners could gather information pertaining to various topics associated with sustainable forestry. Following each visit, a letter was sent explaining observations, concerns, and recommendations. Meetings covered NRCS implementation certifications, planting assistance, management plan revision, timber sale recommendations, insect and disease recognition, and invasive species control methods. Forest landowners are encouraged to have a

Stewardship Plan prepared by a technical service provider (consulting forester). Currently, there are 30 active Stewardship Plans in Greene County

Russ Gibbs, DCNR Service Forester, conducted various educational forestry programs throughout the county. Groups associated with these programs include Carmichaels Area School District, Southwestern Pennsylvania Woodland Owners Association, and Ryerson Station State Park. He currently serves as the DCNR Forbes District\* Seed Collection Coordinator and Ecological Services

(Invasive Species) Liaison. During spring fire season, he serves as one of the heliport dispatchers located at the Somerset County Airport.



\*DCNR Forbes District includes Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, & Westmoreland counties.

# Greene County Conservation District Water Quality Mini-grant Program

The Water Quality Mini-Grant Program supplements federal, state, and private grant and incentive programs that are designated to offset costs associated with Best Management Practice (BMP) installation. BMPs are designed to prevent erosion, mitigate non-point source nutrient and sediment runoff, and generally improve downstream water quality. Beginning in 2015, the Conservation District rolled out an overhauled Conservation District Water Quality Mini-grant Program. The program's maximum award was increased to \$5000, a greater emphasis was placed on reporting and discreet application periods were instituted. The program has been incredibly successful in its first year with 13 applicants. Of these, 5 were ultimately awarded grant funds.



## Penn State Cooperative Extension Newsletter

### 2015 Greene County 4-H Program in Review



In 2015, the Greene County 4-H program reached over 700 area youth through traditional 4-H programs, camp, and outreach events. The county program gained more than 30 new members and held outreach programs introducing over 300 county youth to 4-H.

Through the year, 180 members engaged in 4-H in 13 traditional county 4-H clubs participating in over one hundred meetings, activities, competitions, and special events. These members focused on Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math (STEM) projects including livestock, small animals and pets, pleasure horse, shooting sports, robotics, textiles, and teen leadership. The Greene County 4-H Shotgun clubs senior and junior teams earned the honor of winning both divisions in the state shooting sports competition at State College in July. In addition to projects, members built personal leadership skills through club, regional, state, and national activities and community service projects including Relay for Life and various other charitable causes.

The 4-H program participated in outreach events to meet community needs and share the value of the 4-H program. Progressive Ag Safety Day has been held annually in May for many years. The event reached 300 third grade students from county schools in 2015 utilizing Extension staff, service agencies, county departments, and industry partners to provide a day of safety information. The information provided focused on every day topics that students can use to protect themselves and their families. Other outreach events include county 4-H Day Camp and after-school programs. At County Day Camp, forty 4-H and non-4-H youth participated in a day of learning about the underground world at the "Fun Down Under" Camp. The camp included a trip to Laurel Caverns. At Waynesburg elementary, science related hands-on workshops were presented to the third through fifth grade participants. Topics included maple-sugaring, the science of noise, and knowing your brain.



The 4-H program's outlook for 2016 is strong. Membership is expected to rise with the addition of a new Robotics/Engineering Club and increased partnerships with local schools. 4-H continues to build on its foundation "learn by doing." 4-H offers projects and programs for youth that foster learning while building friendships and with the support of the community under the guidance of caring adult volunteer leaders.



**JOIN THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY**



# Cooperating Agency Contacts

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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Service Center Office  
2800 North Main St., Suite 1  
Washington, PA 15301  
Bus: (724) 222-3060 ext 2  
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## USDA / NRCS

Phil Evans  
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Lemont Furnace, PA 15456  
Bus: (724) 437-7971 ext 101  
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## PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

Eric Davis  
236 Lake Road  
Somerset, PA 15501-1644  
Bus: (814) 445-8974  
E-mail: [erdavis@state.pa.us](mailto:erdavis@state.pa.us)



## PA GAME COMMISSION

Steve Leiendecker  
SW Regional Field Office  
4820 Route 711  
Bolivar, PA 15923  
Bus: (724) 238-9523  
Email: [sleiendeck@pa.gov](mailto:sleiendeck@pa.gov)

## PENN'S CORNER RC&D COUNCIL

Council Chair: Jan Lauer (Allegheny County)  
Allegheny County Conservation District  
River Walk Corporate Centre  
33 Terminal Way, Suite 325 B  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Bus: (412) 241-7645  
Email: [jlauer@accdpa.org](mailto:jlauer@accdpa.org)

## PENNSYLVANIA DEP

Southwest Regional Office  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15322  
Bus: (412) 412-4000

## GREENE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Greene County Office Building  
3rd Floor  
93 East High Street  
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Bus: 724-852-5210  
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Blair Zimmerman, Chairman  
[bzimmerman@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:bzimmerman@co.greene.pa.us)  
Dave Coder, Vice Chairman  
[dcoder@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:dcoder@co.greene.pa.us)  
Archie Trader, Secretary  
[atrader@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:atrader@co.greene.pa.us)

## GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Planning Commission  
Jeremy Kelly, Planning and Business Development Manager  
49 South Washington Street  
Fort Jackson Building  
Waynesburg, Pa 15370  
Bus: (724) 852-5300  
Email: [jkelly@co.greene.pa.us](mailto:jkelly@co.greene.pa.us)

## DCNR, BUREAU OF FORESTRY

Russell Gibbs  
2800 N. Main Street Suite 1  
Washington, PA 15301  
Bus: (724) 437-7983  
E-mail: [rugibbs@pa.gov](mailto:rugibbs@pa.gov)

## PENN STATE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

26 West High Street, Room 1  
Waynesburg, PA 15370-1324  
Contact: Joseph Conklin  
Bus: 724-627-3745  
Fax: 724-852-4318  
[GreeneExt@psu.edu](mailto:GreeneExt@psu.edu)

## BUREAU DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

Contact: Beth Newman  
Bus: 412-973-0215

## 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

## 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 MAINTENANCE

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