



CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

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2022 CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

Conservation award winners demonstrate excellence in their commitment to conservation best management practices and are recognized for their great work through the conservation awards. Each of these individuals and organizations go above and beyond to help conserve the natural resources of Cumberland County.

Educator of the Year



Jenna McIntire, Big Spring Middle School

Farmer of the Year



Stammy Farms, LLC

Clean Water Award



D.H. Funk & Sons, LLC

Conservation Organization of the Year



Yellow Breeches Anglers & Conservationists

EROSION & SEDIMENTATION CONTROL (E&S) / NPDES PROGRAM

This past year our office received several complaints regarding earth disturbance for smaller (<1 acre) projects. Investigations into these complaints found that landowners may not understand the regulatory requirements dealing with earth disturbance. As a result, we thought it would be a good time to explain your responsibilities when planning any new earth moving or construction on your property. The first thing to remember is that all earth disturbances require the implementation of adequate erosion and sediment controls. This means either plan for the work to be done quickly and seed and straw mulch immediately, or ensure that some type of sediment filtering Best Management Practice (BMP) is provided downslope. Examples of BMP's are, a 50 ft grass strip, silt fence or compost filter sock.

When you exceed 5,000 square feet of earth disturbance, you are required to have a written erosion and sediment control plan. This written plan will outline the limits of earth disturbance and show the proposed grading. It will indicate the location of the receiving surface water and the flow path of water from the disturbance to that stream. Additionally, it will show the erosion and sediment BMP's proposed to ensure that uncontrolled sediment laden runoff does not leave your property or enter a surface water. Lastly, it will specify how the site will be stabilized at the end of the project. If you are adding any new impervious area, such as a new garage or patio, you should contact your municipality to determine what is required for stormwater management.

At 1 acre or greater of earth disturbance, you are required to get an National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit application, which is processed by our office, will evaluate both the erosion and sediment control and the stormwater management plans for the construction activity. In most instances if you require a NPDES permit, consider contacting a design professional for preparing this permit application.

Requirements for Earth Disturbance Activities			
Disturbed Area	Written E&S Plan	E & S Plan Approved	NPDES SW Construction Permit
0-5000 Sq. Ft	Not required unless next to High Quality or Exceptional Value Streams or other DEP permit requirement (i.e. Ch. 105)	Not required but may be required by others**	No
5000 Sq. Ft to <1 acre	Yes	Not required but may be required by others**	No
1 or more acres	Yes	Required	Yes

**Although E&S plan approval is not required under Chapter 102 for these activities, E&S approval may be required by municipal ordinance or if other DEP permits are required, i.e. Chapter 105 Joint Permit or GPs.

Right: County map with municipalities identified that may require E&S plan approval from our office for earth disturbances less than one acre. To ensure you are following your municipality's E&S requirements, please contact your municipality to see if they require E&S plan submission to our office.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE VERIFICATION

The Conservation District is participating in a new program that will help give farming operations in Cumberland County credit for the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are installed, being maintained, and functioning in the County. These BMPs play a significant role in nutrient modeling. This program will provide credit for operations that are doing their part and continue to implement conservation and technological practices that reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment entering local waters and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

BMP verification is “the process through which agency partners ensure practices, treatments and technologies resulting in reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus and/or sediment pollutant loads are implemented and operating correctly.” If nutrient reduction goals are not met by 2025, more mandates could be forthcoming through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Some common questions that operators may have include:

Will district staff be certifying the structural integrity of my BMP? No. District staff will be checking to see if the BMP is present and appears to be functioning at time of visit.

What is the goal of this program? To inventory all eligible BMPs and enter them into DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Model database by December 31, 2025.

If a farming operation volunteers to have their BMPs verified, are there any additional requirements? No. District staff will only be documenting current BMPs on site.

Examples of BMPs we are looking to verify:

Manure Storages, Heavy Use Area Protections, Animal Mortality Facilities, Grassed Waterways, Field Borders, Grass Riparian Buffers, Riparian Forested Buffers, Terraces, Diversions, Underground Outlets, Subsurface Drains, Watering Facilities, etc.



Grassed Waterway



Roofed Heavy Use Area with Manure Stacking Pad



Concrete Manure Storage

If you are interested in participating in the program or would like more information, please call Rachel Stine at the District office at 717-240-7796 or email at restine@cumberlandcountypa.gov

WINTER MANURE APPLICATION

If winter manure application (December 15th – February 28th, ground is frozen at least 4 in or snow covered) is to occur, the following criteria will need to be met:

- All fields where manure is to be applied must have at least 25% crop residue at application time or an established and growing cover crop. Other than cover cropped fields, hay fields should be given priority.
- Manure may not be applied during winter on fields with a slope of 15% or greater. The NRCS soil survey slope designations of A (0-3%), B (3-5%), or C (5-10%) slopes are acceptable.
- 100ft setback from the top of a streambank which generally flows during the winter or spring and not within 100ft of a lake or pond.
- 100ft setback from an above ground inlet to an agricultural drainage system where surface water flow is towards the above ground inlet.
- A 100ft setback from a well or public drinking source is ALWAYS required when applying manure.
- The maximum rate for any liquid manure cannot exceed 5,000 gallons to the acre. Solid non poultry manure cannot exceed 20 tons per acre. Poultry manure cannot exceed 3 tons to the acre.

DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROADS

Dickinson Township, Cold Springs Roads South (DGR)

The last portion of road work finished on the south side of Cold Springs Road this past fall. This project stabilized 0.80 miles of road and will reduce sediment and nonpoint source pollution that flows to Sage Run, which flows into Mountain Creek.

Project Phases:

Phase 1: Drainage work included additional cross pipes, underdrains to collect spring seeps, and base repair.

Work completed in October 2021.

Phase 2: Shale placement built crown in road to assure surface drainage. Work completed in December 2021.

Phase 3: Surface placement utilized a specialized stone mixture called Driving Surface Aggregate that is designed to reduce sediment runoff. Work completed September 2022.



Above: Cold Springs Road (South Side) with completed Driving Surface Aggregate



North Newton Township, Oakville Road (LVR)

This project corrected stormwater and subsurface drainage problems on a section of Oakville Road that drains to an unnamed tributary to the Conodoguinet Creek. Subsurface underdrains consisting of 6-inch perforated pipes were installed in the ditch line and the existing concrete cross pipe that was starting to separate was replaced with a plastic pipe.

Left: Subsurface drainage ditch with topsoil surface

Municipal Field Day

Nine municipalities participated in a project showcase that highlighted several projects that were completed in Penn & Dickinson Townships. Drainage improvement Best Management Practices included cross pipe replacement, spring seep and groundwater controls through underdrain and French Mattresses, base repair using geocell and geotextile fabrics, stream crossing structures, base improvements to build road crown, and driving surface aggregate. Program updates, tips and tricks for applications were part of the classroom discussion.

Applying for a Road Grant!

The grant application period opens in January 2023 for both the Dirt & Gravel Road Program and the Low Volume Road Program. Grants are available to public road owning entities for projects that reduce sediment and nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality along public roads. Low Volume paved roads must have less than 500 average traffic count of vehicles per day. Applicants must complete the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance certification training prior to the application deadline on April 14, 2023.

Contact the District for more information and to set up technical assistance or a pre-application meeting.

Better Roads, Cleaner Streams!



WATERSHED

Yellow Breeches at Allenberry Resort

This project is located near Boiling Springs, starting at the historic stone bridge on Mountain Road near Children's Lake and extends over 4,000 feet to Allenberry Resort. Forty-three trout habitat structures and ninety-three rock clusters have been installed that provide critical trout and macroinvertebrate habitat enhancements. The structures will create a dynamic stream reach that now has additional pools, riffles, and cover features created through best management practices like rock vane deflectors, mudsill cribbing, and random boulder clusters. Funding was provided through DEP's Growing Greener Plus Program, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dave McMullen Consulting, Allenberry Resort, and the Foundation of California University of Pennsylvania.



Above: Field day participants learn about in-stream habitat improvement structures

Yellow Breeches at Stuart Park



Above: Single log-vane deflector

Work continues on Stuart Park in Dickinson Township, which is home to the historic Barnitz Mill. This project constructed trout habitat structures in July on 800 linear feet of stream to help enhance habitat as well as help protect eroding banks along the stream. Four acres of riparian buffer work is being managed to remove invasive bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, tree of heaven, and many other species. Native trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, rushes, and wildflowers are planned to be planted in late fall. Funding was provided through the Chesapeake Bay Program Countywide Action Plan through the Chesapeake Bay Program at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

ENVIROTHON

The Hellbenders from Cumberland Valley High School took first place at the 37th Annual Envirothon that was held at the Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Association on May 3, 2022. Coming in at second place were the Green Salamanders from Cumberland Valley High School and third place went to the Spring Fairies from Camp Hill High School. The Hellbenders advanced to the state competition at Camp Mount Luther where they placed 18th out of 62 teams!

Save the Date for the 38th Envirothon, which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. This year's Current Issue topic is "Adopting to a Changing Climate". The winning team from Cumberland County will advance to the state competition at Camp Mount Luther on May 24, 2023, with the oral presentation scheduled for the week prior to onsite testing.



The Hellbenders from Cumberland Valley High School. Team Members include: Max Long, Maddie Marco, Will Nichols, Shay McDonald, Maggie Lutz. Team advisors (not pictured) Amber Sim and Jenny Pyers.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Ag Plan Reimbursement Program through Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

Any operation that generates and or utilizes manure is required to have a Manure Management Plan (MMP). This plan covers what type of manure and how many animals are on the operation, how the manure is being stored, the type of manure, and the rate (tons/acre and or gallons/acre) at which manure is being spread, what season the manure is being applied (spring, summer, fall, winter) and what crop is receiving the manure.

Operations that conduct row cropping are required to have an Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Ag E&S Plan). This plan ensures the operation does not exceed the amount of soil loss (determined by the state) per crop rotation. For example, if an operation conducts any type of tillage, the soil loss value will be higher. If the operation plants a cover crop after the primary crop is harvested, the value will be lower.

The Ag Plan Reimbursement Program is in place to assist in offsetting the cost to have plans written. The program is on a first come first served basis. 80% of the total cost can be covered, with a cap at \$1,500/plan or \$6,000/farmer. Plans written for acres under the previous Department of Environmental Protection Ag Plan Reimbursement Program **ARE NOT** eligible. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2024.

Eligible Plans for Reimbursement Include

- Manure Management Plans (MMP)
- Nutrient Management Plans (NMP)
- NRCS 590 Plans
- Ag Erosion & Sediment Control Plans (Ag E&S)
- Conservation Plans
- Combination of 2 Plans (ex. MMP & Ag E&S)
- New plans or plans that need to be updated

If you are interested in participating in the program or want more information, please call the Conservation District office at 717-240-7812.

CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE GRANT PROGRAM

The Cumberland County Conservation District has completed two Best Management Practice (BMP) projects this year through the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) Program. Paul MacNamara and Ethan Wickard both installed roofed heavy use and waste stacking areas to reduce nutrients and sediment from entering the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Several other BMPs were also installed at both farms with additional cost-share and incentive programs through partnering agencies.

There are additional projects to be completed in future years with funding from the CEG and other programs.



Above Left: Barnyard before construction commenced. Above Right: After construction completed on roofed animal heavy use area

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 20th annual Cumberland County Conservation District golf event was held September 23rd at Rich Valley Golf Course. Thank you to our 106 golf participants and to our very generous hole sponsors and prize sponsors! This year's event was hit with lots of wind on the course but our golfers took that challenge on with gusto. The winning team was from Triple Crown Corp and included Nick DiSanto, Tom Watsula, Nate Weiss and Shawn Fabian. Awesome game guys!

The District would like to thank everyone at Rich Valley Golf that helped make the day a success. Also, a special thank you to all our hole sponsors. Their contributions allow us to continue our efforts in providing scholarships to Cumberland County students. This year's event raised \$5,800 for scholarships and to date, the tournament has raised over \$57,000. Special thank you to Beverage Express and Stan's Beverage for their generous donations over the years. And finally, thank you to all the golfers. We hope to see you all again next September!

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR HOLE SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING THE 2022 GOLF TOURNAMENT!

CONSERVATIONIST HOLE SPONSOR





Cumberland County Conservation District

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CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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