

2018



WAYNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

It is the mission of the Wayne Conservation District to assist the public in conserving Wayne County's natural resources through technical assistance and education.

DIRECTORS

Paul Kowalczyk, Chairman
Peter Snyder, Vice-Chairman
Walter Garing, Treasurer
Timothy Jaggars
Andrew Weist
Karl Eisenhauer
Brian Smith, Commissioner Director



ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jack Barnett
Richard Kemmann
Christina Salak
Jim Sanders
Matthew Shaffer



STAFF

Jamie Knecht, District Manager
David Mitchell, Resource Conservationist
Mikyla Pigeon, DGLVR Specialist (January—April)
Kelley Stewart, Forest Specialist
Zachary Jones, Nutrient Management Specialist
Colleen Campion, Watershed Specialist
Keith Pierson, Resource Conservationist
Kris Krager, DGLVR Specialist
Sylvia Thompson, Fiscal Coordinator/Bookkeeper II

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, beginning at 9:30 am, at the Wayne Conservation District office.

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INTRODUCTION

It has been a good year for conservation work in Wayne County. With the addition of two new staff members to the District the team has pulled together and worked in unison beautifully throughout the 2018 year.

Mikyla Pigeon, our Resource Conservationist and Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Specialist, went on to serve in the Peace Corps with a 27 month commitment in Uganda, Africa. We are happy to report that everything is going well there for her and she is doing wonderful work for their community. We were sorry to lose her here at the District, however, she has moved on to do amazing things with her time and we wish her all the best!

Keith Pierson was hired on as our Resource Conservationist in March. Keith comes to us with a diverse background in work experience and a Bachelor of Science Degree from East Stroudsburg University in Environmental Studies. Keith has the ability to learn very quickly and has been a great asset to the erosion control programs here at the District. Keith has also taken on responsibility with management of our website and facebook page.

Kris Krager was hired on as our Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program (DGLVR Program) Specialist in May. Kris also comes to us with a diverse background in work experience and an Associate of Science Degree from Lackawanna College. The DGLVR Program has taken on a new life over the course of the past five years with the introduction of the Transportation Bill here in PA. Because of the Transportation Bill our District's funding allocation increased from around \$100,000 per year to almost \$600,000 per year. In order to properly administer the program and give it the time and energy it deserves we worked hard to hire on a full-time person in this position. Kris has been a wonderful addition to the District team and has excelled at familiarizing himself with the program through trainings, providing assistance to the townships and on the ground work.

Upon reflection of the 2018 year I feel very fortunate to work with the team of people we have here at the District including the Staff, volunteer Board of Directors and the County Commissioners. We are looking forward to another great year of exciting new projects, partnership and community integration in 2019!

*Yours in Conservation,
Jamie A. Knecht
District Manager*

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

Education

While coordinating with the National Park Service on complaint sites on the Upper Delaware, the Chief of Resource Management, Don Hamilton and E&S staff decided it would be beneficial to the county and the National Park Service for Wayne Conservation District to hold an educational training on Erosion and Sediment Pollution. District staff presented a half day training that went very well, and as a result staff was invited to speak at the Upper Delaware Council for their January meeting about E&S. At this time our E&S staff are coordinating and conducting a number of workshops with townships, private companies, and state agencies to better educate and update on any changes to E&S best management practices and regulations.

Chapter 102

In 2018 we had a significant amount of rain which caused a number of issues for everyone working outside, and construction was no exception. We did receive and responded to fifty-one complaints involving earth disturbance in Wayne County. Most of these we were able to work with the responsible party and get them to work on their project to bring them into compliance through voluntary actions. We also completed eighty-one field inspections in 2018. This past year we reviewed thirty seven E&S plans. These varied from complex plans for larger projects to some small project plans which could be reviewed quickly and have the applicant walking in and out the same day with an approved plan. We received and processed five new individual NPDES permit applications and one renewal application. Three Notices of Termination were processed for existing NPDES permits.

Chapter 105

Over the course of the year we acknowledged forty-seven general permits for water/wetland encroachment under our Chapter 105 delegation. This included seventeen docks or boat launching ramps, fifteen bank stabilization or gravel bar removals, four utility line crossings, six minor road crossings, and five temporary road crossings. Our staff has become proficient at acknowledging these permits and in many cases were able to have a resident come in and walk out with a permit the same day.

E-Permitting

The DEP has been moving permitting to a paperless format called e-permitting. The system is a completely different application process but the forms and data required are still the same. The Chapter 105 E-permitting opened up in October and it is being improved by the DEP as problems present themselves. At this time the DEP is still allowing the processing of paper permits for those experiencing difficulties using the e-permitting system. Wayne Conservation District did not receive any e-permitting applications in 2018, but the program did start at a typically slow time of the year for Chapter 105 applications.

The DEP is planning on eventually moving to all electronic permitting for not just Chapter 105 but also Chapter 102 permitting. The Conservation District will be keeping up on changes and incorporating that into the future education, workshops, and assistance we do.



Before and after picture of ideal vegetative stabilization on the D&H trail following pipeline work. The contractors hydroseeded the hillside and had excellent uniform germination. It is good for the nearby Lackawanna River and it looks great too!

WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

Stream, Lake, and Pond Technical Assistance

Throughout the year, the Wayne Conservation District provides landowners with a variety of technical assistance regarding water resources. Whether it is an invasive species growing in your private pond, a stream bank erosion issue following a high water event, or a lake association looking for advice on overall aquatic health we can make recommendations and/or provide contact information for other appropriate professionals in the field. During 2018, the District assisted several landowners and residents with these types of inquiries.



2018 Pike/Wayne Envirothon



The 2018 Pike/Wayne Envirothon competition was held on Thursday, April 26th at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, Pa. Participating schools from Wayne County included Canaan Christian Academy, Honesdale High School, and Western Wayne High School. Schools representing Pike County included Delaware Valley High School and Wallenpaupack Area High School. Teams compete to demonstrate their overall knowledge in the areas of Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, and this year's Current Issue of the Benefits of Grassland and Pastureland Management. The first place team for Wayne County was the Spudsters from Honesdale High School. They went on to represent Wayne County in the PA State Envirothon competition placing 54th out of 66 teams.

Grant-Funded Educational Workshops

The Wayne Conservation District was awarded two educational mini-grants through the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Program. Financial and other support for the NPS Mini-grant Program is provided by PACD through a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The District coordinated and hosted two adult educational workshops focusing on water quality and pollution prevention. The Stream Maintenance and Flood Intervention Workshop was geared toward local municipalities and emergency

post-flood response professionals to provide training in stream behavior and how to use basic stream assessments to design interventions that will work in cooperation with a watershed's natural tendencies. The Rain Barrel Workshop was offered to all Wayne County residents and provided an overview of watershed cycles, methods and benefits of harvesting rainwater, and rain barrel design and maintenance. Free rain barrels were given out to each participant. The Wayne Conservation District is dedicated to providing diverse environmental educational programming throughout the community.

A promotional graphic for a Rain Barrel Workshop. It features a drawing of a rain barrel with a spigot and a yellow starburst graphic that says 'FREE Rain Barrels!'. To the right is a vertical list of topics: 'Your Watershed', 'Benefits of Harvesting Rainwater', 'Rain Barrel Design', 'Maintaining Your Rain Barrel', and 'Free Rain Barrel with Registration'. At the bottom, it says 'WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD AT 6 PM' and 'RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP'. A small fine print section at the bottom left discusses the project's funding.A promotional graphic for a Stream Maintenance & Flood Intervention Workshop. It includes a photo of a stream, the date 'THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH 8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM', and a detailed description of the workshop's purpose: 'This one-day workshop is aimed toward local municipalities and emergency flood response professionals. We aim to give training on the natural tendencies of streams and how to use basic stream assessments to design interventions that will work in cooperation with a watershed's natural tendencies to reduce flood after a flood event and reduce the erosion and sedimentation that occur during repeated reconstruction efforts. The workshop will be held at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA. Refreshments will be provided. A catered lunch will be outside be part of the day. Pre-registration is required and lunch will be provided. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged.' It also lists 'Stream Behavior & Design', 'Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention', 'Non-Point Source Pollution Reduction', 'Stream Reconstruction Planning', and 'With Presentations By' followed by a list of speakers. At the bottom, it says 'WAYNE CONSERVATION DISTRICT' and provides contact information.

FORESTRY

Forest Health

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*

Since Emerald Ash Borer's detection in February of 2017 near Lake Henry, woodpecker damage to ash trees has been observed throughout the county. As the range of emerald ash borer (EAB) increases in Wayne County, landowners have been actively removing American ash (*Fraxinus americana*) trees from their forest stands. EAB insects will utilize all diameters and ages of ash trees from seedling size up to mature adults. The state has released parasitic non-stinging wasps that lay their eggs within EAB eggs, on top of or within EAB larvae. The hope is that biocontrol will aid in protecting ash regeneration in areas that have been affected by the insect.

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*

Spotted lanternfly, SLF, (*Lycorma delicatula*) populations in Pennsylvania have remained in the 13 quarantined counties from 2017 (Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Carbon, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Monroe, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill). New populations have been confirmed in the states of New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia. Our office educated the public about the risks associated with SLF throughout the year at fairs, events and informational sessions. SLF's preferred host, tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), is a non-native invasive species that was found in Honesdale this past fall. It was noticed on a previous fill site and the surrounding area. The number of Ailanthus trees observed is minimal. Our office will be working to identify other areas containing Ailanthus trees in Wayne County. We will be actively educating landowners about the invasive nature of the tree, the risks of SLF, and the importance of removal. It is our hope to eradicate tree of heaven from our county and lessen the future impacts from SLF.



Spotted lanternfly on tree of heaven

Erosion & Sediment Control for Timber Harvesting

In July, DEP accepted the final drafts to the Timber Harvest Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, PPC Plan, and Site Inspection Templates. Our office participated in the drafting of these documents by serving on the committee. The updated template is now available on DEP's eLibrary website. The template is intended for operations that require a written E&S Plan under § 102.4(b)(2). The PPC Plan Template and Visual Site Inspection Report can be accessed at the PA SFI website. Our office held a training to introduce industry professionals to the new template.



Wayne County 35th Woodsmen's Competition

On Saturday, August 4th, we held our 35th annual Woodsmen's Competition at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Honesdale. This year we added a target on our skilled tree felling poles. The targets were a huge hit with audience and competitor alike. We had 30 competitors participate in the eleven events. The competition would not be possible without the generosity of the Wayne County Fair, and local business sponsorship.

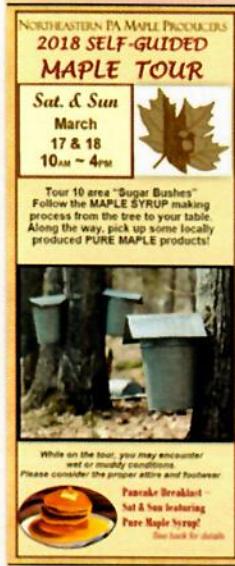


Northeastern PA Maple Producer's Association

The NEPA Maple Producer's display at the 2018 PA Farm Show received a first place! The theme for the display was 'Maple Syrup Production' which compared 'Back Yard Sugaring' to 'State of the Art'. The Wayne Conservation District assisted the association with designing the display as well as filming and creating two short videos that showed both processes from start to finish.



Kristin Curtis, Journey's End Farm, was voted Best Syrup of the Show! Kristin also placed 1st in 1/2 gallon Maple Syrup and 6th for Maple Sugar/Crumb! Bob & Peggy Simons, Morning Sun Farm, received 1st Place for Maple Candy and 2nd Place in quart size Maple Syrup. Jesse Yatsonsky, Sugar Creek Maple Farm, placed 2nd in Maple Cream and received 3rd in 1/2 gallon Maple Syrup, 5th in Grade A Amber, 6th in Grade A Dark, and 4th in Grade A Very Dark!



'Sugar on Snow', Peggy Simons from Morning Sun Farm

Upper Delaware BioBlitz

Our district led the botany team for the Upper Delaware BioBlitz in Starlight, PA on June 29th and 30th. The team had an intense 24 hours collecting and identifying plants and trees. The event was well attended by the public allowing an opportunity to talk to many landowners about invasive species and district programs.



PERRY WESTGATE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Richard Nadolski was the recipient of the 2018 scholarship. Richard graduated from Wallenpaupack Area High School. He was accepted to Rochester Institute of Technology majoring in civil engineering with a minor in environmental engineering. The Wayne Conservation District board of directors congratulated Richard and wished him success in his future studies.



Left to right: Commissioner Brian Smith, Richard Nadolski, Andy Weist, Tim Jaggars, Pete Snyder, Karl Eisenhauer, Walter Garing, Paul Kowalczyk

DIRT, GRAVEL AND LOW VOLUME ROADS

Even with the rainy construction season that the northeast region experienced this year we were still able to complete five Dirt and Gravel road projects and one Low Volume road project. The Dirt and Gravel projects that were completed in 2018 were: Navajo Road in Berlin Township, Rutledge Road in Preston Township, Penn Hill Road in Stuucca Borough, Adams Pond Road in Berlin Township, and Mountain Road in Scott Township. The Low Volume project that was completed was Old Route 6 in Canaan Township. Gallik Road in Canaan Township, another Low Volume Road project, was also completed. However, due to heavy storm damage right after completion, a new contract was written to fix the storm damage. This project will be completed in early Spring of 2019.

There was additional funding remaining in the Low Volume Road Program and three new projects were added to use up the remaining funding. Those projects are: Mican Road, Keen Lake Road, and Canaan Road, all in Canaan Township. These projects will be completed in the Spring of 2019.

An informational breakfast was held in September for all Township Supervisors and Contractors. At this breakfast applications for projects for next year's funding were given out and the DGLVR Specialist explained some of the construction practices that the district would be looking for and enforcing in future projects.



This year, the Wayne Conservation District had approximately \$370,000.00 for Dirt and Gravel projects and \$62,000.00 for Low Volume Road projects. We received fifteen applications from Townships requesting funding from the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road program. The funds were allocated to five Dirt and Gravel sites and one Low Volume Road site.

Rutledge Road in Preston Township (top-before, bottom-after)

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2018 County Farm

This year the District decided to try a value added small grain demonstration at the county farm. The crop was intended to be a 2 row malting barley that would give producers an extra income if they chose to diversify. The spring was too wet to get the plot sprayed and planting was delayed. The coming year will hopefully bring a more timely planting to get an accurate evaluation of the barley varieties.

2018 No-Till Program

The 2018 planting season was successful given the challenging year with all of the rain. Through the mud and the rain, however, farmers were able to put in 143 acres of no-till crops and in June the District purchased a new seeder. The Kasco was traded in for an Esch drill. The new seeder is twelve inches narrower; however, it has tighter row spacing's at five and a half inches! The Esch is a tow behind unit that has a more accurate and precise seed metering system, it is heavier, more rugged, and better suited for our heavy clay soils. The cover crop program was approved again with over 76 acres of bare ground from annual crops covered and protected from erosion. The district will reimburse 75 percent of seed cost planted at the Penn state agronomic rate, and there was no acreage fee on the district seeder.

Cooperating Agencies and Northeast Regional Contacts

Wayne County Commissioners
(570) 253-5970

Penn State Cooperative Extension
(570) 253-5970 Ext 4110

Wayne County Planning Commission
(570) 253-5970 Ext 4060

PA Department of Environmental Protection
(570) 826-2511

PA Fish and Boat Commission
(570) 477-5717

PA Game Commission
(570) 675-1143

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
(570) 280-3337

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