



# BERKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to a new year of good stewardship for the Berks County Conservation District Board and Staff! We are facing some new challenges this year and we have some exciting new programs. A new Assistant District Executive has been hired and will focus on the administration of the new Low Volume Road Program. We will be offering support and education about Invasives, following the verification of the Spotted Lanternfly this past fall. We will continue to assist the agricultural community in writing Conservation and Nutrient Management plans. Also, we have partnered with Stroud Water Research Center on their Farm Stewardship Program to provide funds for assisting farmers with the installation of stream buffers. We have partnered with the Master Gardeners to raise scholarship monies through the Tree Seedling Sale and we will continue our conservation educational efforts with the Envirothon and the Don Hartman School. Thanks to our partners, great staff, and a united Board, we will continue to do our best to offer quality service to our residents in the preservation and health of our resources.

**"Let the good work continue!" - Piper Sherburne**

### Education and Outreach

Kate Keppen & Staff

In 2014, the Berks County Conservation District almost doubled the amount of people that have heard our conservation message. Due to the success of various partnerships, a total of 1,860 people received direct education and outreach. This number does not include people that have seen our BCTV appearances, our West Nile Virus prevention bill boards, or our Comcast News-makers YouTube appearance to discuss rain barrels!

#### **ENVIROTHON**

A total of 200 students were educated through the Envirothon education programs.

#### **SCHOOL & YOUTH**

A total of 662 youth were educated through school and youth activity presentations.

#### **ADULT EDUCATION**

A total of 998 adults received education relating to agriculture, MS4, rain barrels, and BMPs at our workshops and events.

### Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program

Josh Hanna, Dean Druckenmiller

In 2014, the Dirt and Gravel Road Program was allocated \$20,000 of funds to aid in the reduction of pollution to nearby streams, while improving the rural road network. The District entered into a contract with the Borough of Birdsboro for \$7,950 for a project on Hampton Drive that should be underway in the spring of 2015.

#### **A LOOK AT 2015**

As a result of Act 89 (PA Gas Tax), additional funding has been allocated to the Dirt and Gravel Road Program which will now include Low Volume Roads (<500 vehicles per day). The BCCD has received almost \$290,000 for the 2015 Program year. Approximately \$80,000 towards Dirt and

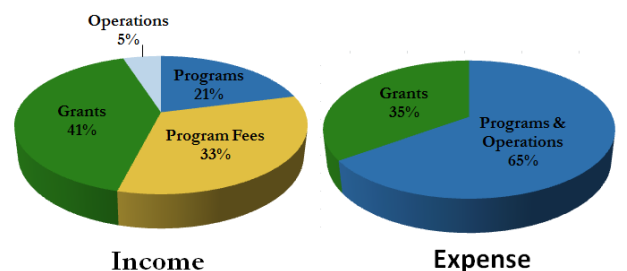


Gravel roads and \$210,000 for Low Volume roads. One of the qualification requirements of the Program is to direct funding to "worksites" where road runoff is affecting water quality of a nearby stream.

### 2014 Financial Report

Dan Greig

#### **2014 Financial Report**



### Affiliate Membership Program

The Pine Creek Watershed Association, Landis C. Deck & Sons, and Laureldale Borough, along with 47 other organizations have given donations for the continuation and growth of the Berks County Conservation District's mission to serve the community by protecting natural resources.

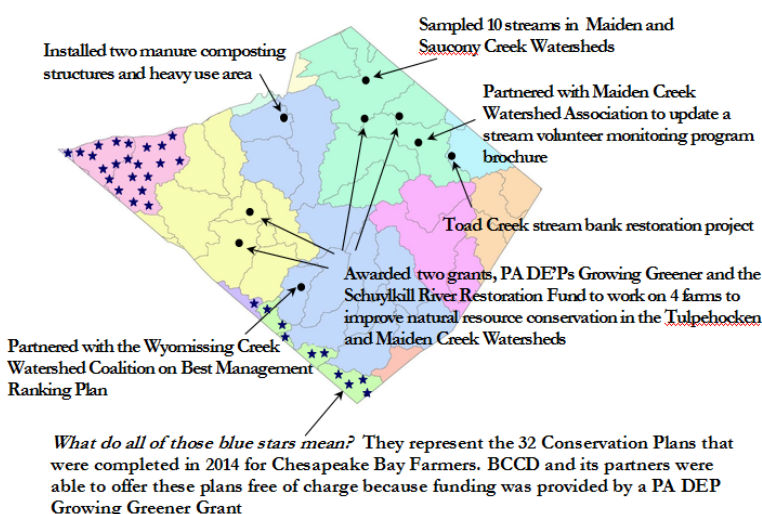
**Champion of Conservation**  
Pine Creek Watershed Association

**Defender of Conservation**  
Landis C. Deck & Sons  
Laureldale Borough



The grants that the BCCD administers are funds that go to local landowners and organizations to install practices that improve the environment!

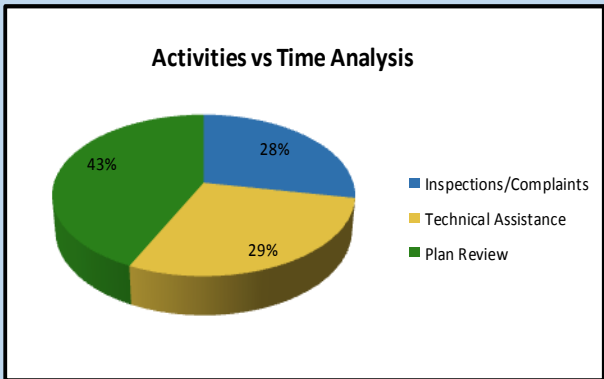
#### **Watershed Coordination in 2014**



### Urban Team

Kevin Witmier, Mike Pedrick, Samantha Gordon

In 2014, the Urban Team performed a total of 434 plan reviews, consisting of Erosion & Sediment Control plans and PCSM plans. Additionally, the District processed and issued 132 NPDES Permits and processed 30 Water Encroachment Permits. An overall total of 649 inspections (routine, follow-up, final, and complaint) were performed on various construction project sites.



In 2014, over 1,375 acres of disturbed soils were reviewed in E&S plans. This resulted in approximately 37.3 million gallons of stormwater being treated by BMPs for every 1-inch rain event. The District hosted three training events in 2014 with 26 participants being educated in the protection of water quality.



**Top Image:**  
Construction of a sediment trap

**Bottom Image:**  
Basin improvements for creating wetland habitat



The BCCD completed the 4<sup>th</sup> and final Pennvest Agricultural Best Management Practice project in 2014. This multiyear effort was successfully finished in 2014. The project was in cooperation with NRCS to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent barnyard runoff, to direct roof runoff around barnyard areas, and to capture/store manure adequately. The BMPs installed on the final farm included: two manure compost bedded pack structures, concrete heavy use areas and stormwater controls.

We would like to thank our partners and farmers for working with us on this large project!



**BERKS COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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For more information visit: [www.berkscd.com](http://www.berkscd.com)

### West Nile Virus

Samantha Gordon, Caitlin Heffner

In Berks County, 733 adult mosquito samples and four avian samples were submitted for West Nile Virus testing in 2014. Of those, a total of 33 adult mosquito samples and one avian sample tested positive for West Nile Virus. There were no human or veterinary positives recorded in Berks County for 2014. Overall, Berks County ranked 15th in the state in the total number of positives recorded. As part of educational grant funding, the Conservation District addressed tips on how to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus with three billboards and three bus shelter displays posted throughout Berks County. The District will be participating in the West Nile Virus control program again in 2015 by providing county-wide mosquito surveillance from April 1st through October 1st.



### Agricultural Team

Christine Griesemer, Jeff Overstreet, Olivia Carlson, Joshua Hanna, Rita Seidel, Caitlin Heffner

In 2014, the Agriculture Team completed 21 Conservation Plans ensuring soil conservation that totaled 1,350 acres. The team also reviewed 27 Nutrient Management Plans that were approved by the Board of Directors. The approved plans totaled 3,008 Animal Equivalent Units per acre and will enable farmers to manage their manure responsibly. An Animal Equivalent Unit is equal to 1000 pounds of animal weight and is used by the state in classifying an animal operation as concentrated animal operations (CAO). Additionally, a total of \$103,732.76 of Chesapeake Bay Special Projects funding was utilized for Conservation Plan Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation and Nutrient Management Planning in the Little Swatara Creek, Little Cocalico Creek, Muddy Creek, and the Little Conestoga Creek watersheds. The District was awarded \$45,600 for Conservation Plan Implementation and Nutrient Management Planning as well as \$44,000 for a manure storage facility to accompany a roofed animal heavy-use area for a beef operation that was completed in May of 2014. The funds were utilized in conjunction with NRCS EQIP participants to construct manure storage facilities, grassed waterways, animal heavy-use areas, animal walkways, water control structures, and nutrient management planning to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **Haven's Farm**

Before and after pictures of a manure storage facility installation through Pennvest grant funds.



#### **Board of Directors**

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Mark A. Wolfskill, *Treasurer*  
T. John Bicksler, *Farmer Member*  
Troy Alderfer, *Farmer Member*  
Brian D. Boyer, *Public Member*  
Christian Y. Leinbach,  
*County Commissioner Member*

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Steve Miller  
John Schueller  
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