

West Nile Virus

Kevin Witmier

In Berks County, 705 adult mosquito samples (25,931 specimens) and 5 avian samples were submitted for West Nile Virus testing in 2015. Of those, a total of 47 mosquito samples tested positive for West Nile Virus. There were no avian or veterinary positives recorded in Berks; however, one human positive was recorded in the County in 2015.



Positive mosquito samples were recorded in 17 municipalities throughout the county, including the City of Reading. The week of 8/31-9/4/2015 saw the highest number of positives recorded for the season (11).

The county ranked 14th in the state for total number of positives recorded. Berks County will again participate in the statewide West Nile Virus control program in 2016 by providing county-wide mosquito surveillance from approximately April 1-October 1, 2016.

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Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program

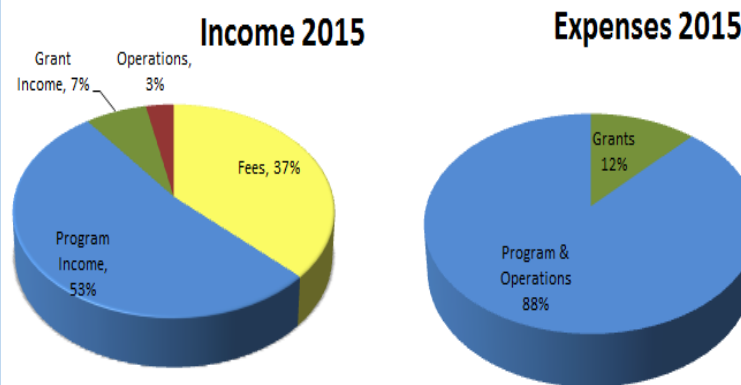
Dean Druckenmiller

The goal of the Dirt & Gravel Road Program is to aid in the reduction of pollution to nearby streams, while improving the rural road network.



Before and after pictures of road project in Perry Township

2015 marked the first year the program was expanded to include paved roads that were traveled by fewer than 500 vehicles per day. The BCCD visited with 9 townships and reviewed a total of 27 potential Dirt & Gravel and/or Low Volume Road projects. A Dirt & Gravel project was awarded to District Township in the amount of \$49,148. Perry Township was awarded one Low Volume Road project for \$9,625 and Marion Township was awarded four projects for a total of \$127,891.



Affiliate Membership Program

The Pine Creek Watershed Association, along with 53 other organizations gave 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 Valley Watershed Assoc.

Defenders of Conservation

Borough of Laureldale, County of Berks,
H&K Group, VIST Bank



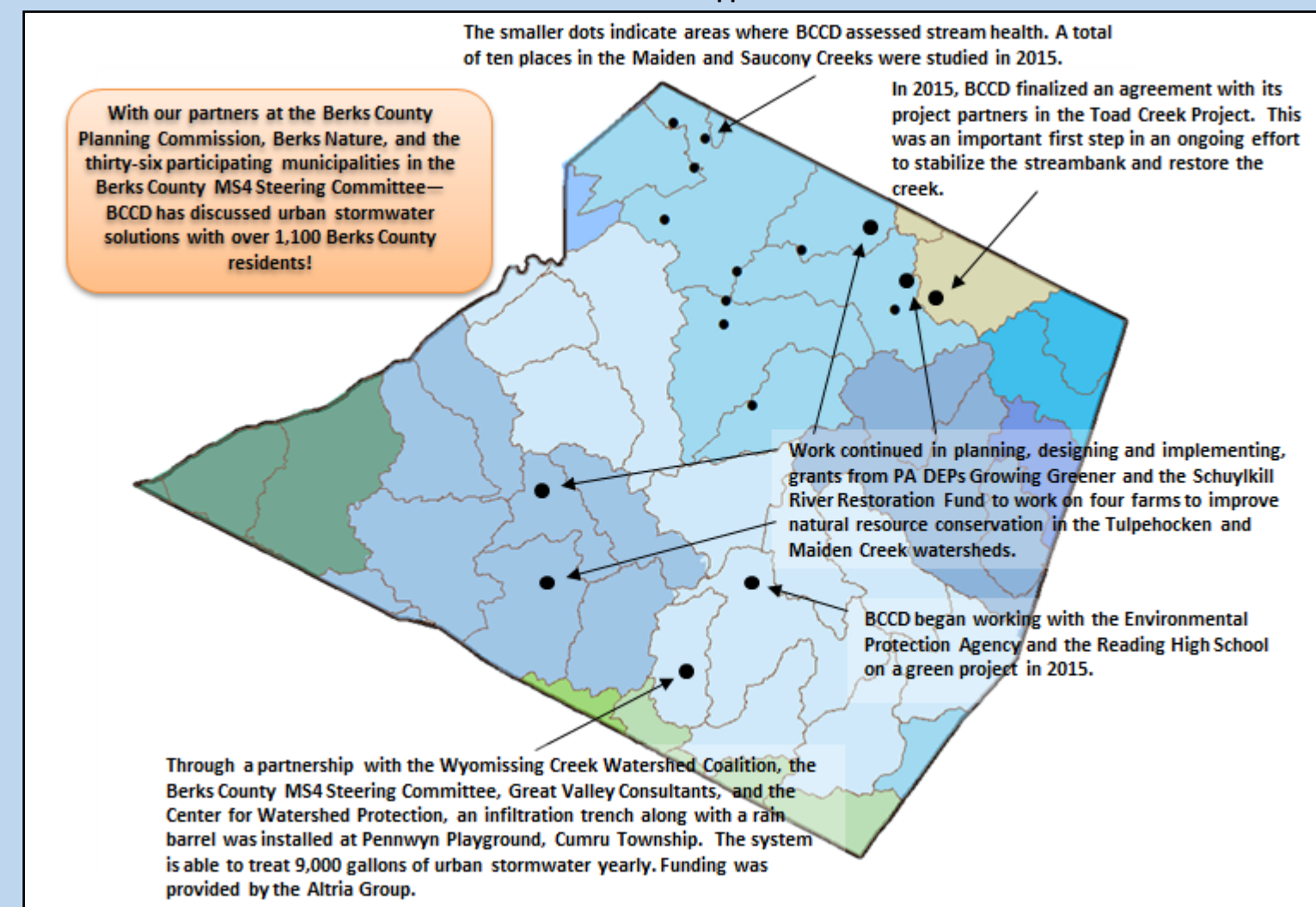
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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2015 has been a year of change for the Berks County Conservation District. We have seen some longstanding Board members and professionals leave us and welcomed new members and staff on board. Succession is hardest for those who are left behind. The end of 2016 will mark the District's 70th year working for the wise stewardship of our resources. Many thanks to all who dedicated so much of their time over the years. It has been a pleasure learning and working together with all of you. The legacy left behind by you is your gift to us all. The process of going from student to teacher and still maintaining continuity is both challenging and rewarding. We have tackled some problems this year with new regulations, policy changes, a rise in insurance costs and threats to our agricultural industry from the invasive Spotted Lanternfly. We have celebrated with our building partners in the formation of a County Department of Agriculture and recommitted our education efforts in reinstating the Don Hartman Leadership Academy. As always, moving forward, we pledge our commitment to maintain a high standard of professionalism and excellence. Conservation doesn't just happen – it is our conscious choice to protect our soil and water resources that motivates us to do the good work. — Piper Sherburne, Chair

Watershed Coordination Efforts

Kate Keppen



Agricultural Team

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

In 2015, the team completed 43 Conservation Plans helping to protect 2,574 acres against soil erosion and nutrient runoff. As a result of those Conservation Plans, 54 Best Management Practices (BMPs) were planned and implemented on 14 operations with assistance from our partnering agencies such as PACD and NRCS. These BMPs were all designed to treat resource concerns that if left untreated, could have a negative impact on water quality here in Berks County and beyond.

The team also reviewed 36 Nutrient Management (NM) Plans that were approved by our Board of Directors. In total, Berks County currently has 83 operations in the NM program, of which 27 are volunteers to the program (VAOs), 56 are Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) and 33 are Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

As always, the District continued to educate and keep our County's farmers up to date on the rules and regulations that affect them. Through various outreach events and workshops we reached over 300 members of the farming community. In 2015, a total of \$45,502 of Chesapeake Bay Special Projects funding was utilized for Conservation Plan Implementation in the Little Swatara Creek, Little Cocalico Creek, Muddy Creek, and the Little Conestoga Creek watersheds. The available funds were mostly utilized in conjunction with NRCS EQIP participants to construct manure storage facilities, animal heavy-use areas, animal walkways, water control structures, and for nutrient management planning.



Above: Manure storage before & after : Lagoon vs. circular concrete

Below: Schuylkill Acts and Impacts Farm Tour



Education and Outreach

Kate Keppen & Staff

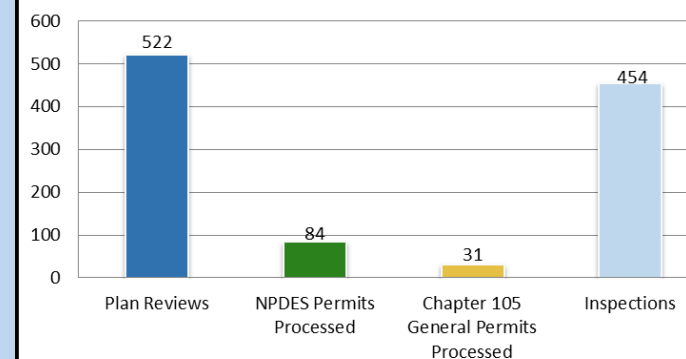
In 2015, the Berks County Conservation District again increased the amount of people that have heard the conservation message. Due to the success of various partnerships, over 2,600 people received direct education and outreach. This number does not include people who have seen special BCTV appearances or the municipal stormwater discussion on PCN TV! In addition, the district's website was viewed over 18,000 times.

ENVIROTHON: 204 students educated

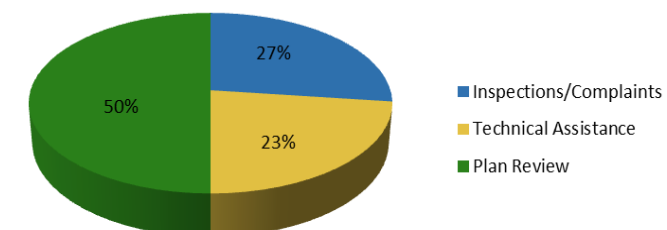
SCHOOL & YOUTH: 1,203 youth educated

ADULT EDUCATION: 1,208 adults received information relating to MS4, agriculture, rain barrels, and BMPs at our workshops and events.

Urban Team: Plan Reviews & Inspections



Activities vs Time Analysis



Urban Team

Kevin Witmier, Mike Pedrick, Eric Hout

In 2015, over 829 acres of disturbed soils were reviewed in E&S plans, NPDES permit applications and Chapter 105 General Permit registrations (637 total Plan Reviews). The implementation of these plans will result in approximately 2.5 million gallons of stormwater being treated by Best Management Practices (BMPs) for every one inch of rainfall. The District hosted/assisted with 11 training/outreach events in 2015 resulting in 355 people being educated in the protection of water quality.



Top Image: Construction of a sediment trap

Bottom Image:
Basin improvements for creating wetland habitat



CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR FUTURE

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