

## West Nile & Zika Virus

Evan Corondi

The 2016 Berks County mosquito season resulted in 680 samples tested for the WNV pathogen and 48 samples tested for the Zika pathogen equaling 728 samples tested, and 40,251 mosquitoes collected. Of the WNV samples tested, 40 samples returned positive, a decrease from last season. The hot, dry summer and absence of breeding habitat are believed to contribute to the lack of virus replication and low number of WNV positives.

As for the Zika samples, all were negative. PA ranked 6th in the nation for imported/travel related cases with 166 reported. Two birds were sampled and tested for WNV, and returned negative. The earliest mosquito positive recorded was collected 6/16/2016 in Wyomissing Borough, Berks County.

## 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. The Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Road program was extremely busy this past year. Three Low Volume Road projects were completed and a fourth was started in December. The project grant value of these four Low Volume Road projects exceeded \$216,000. A large Dirt and Gravel project was completed by District Township (shown below) with the total project value just over \$73,000.



All applications are ranked by the Quality Assurance Board based on road improvements and water quality impacts with the highest ranking projects being awarded the grant.



# BERKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

2016 brings a new direction and a calm reflection of Berks County Conservation District's 70 year anniversary. We will still continue to focus on our fundamental purpose: Soil - Water - Air.

We will resume our core programs and education efforts while we celebrate our past successes.

- Special focus on Bay farmers this year is our mandate.
- Soil health will be our topic for our poster contest and educational outreach.
- We will work to keep invasive species from progressing and attacking our resources.
- We will utilize grants to install Best Management Practices and improve water quality by awarding contracts for Low Volume and Dirt and Gravel Road projects.

Our partners are our best allies in working with the public to offer the best choices available to project our resources.

We hope to recognize both our past and present stewards within our organization as we continue moving forward maintaining the health and prosperity of our County and as a leader in Agriculture nationwide. "Let the good work continue".

--Piper Sherburne, Chair

### Board of Directors

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Jason Bailey  
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Leonard Good  
Larry Kehl  
James McCarthy  
Steve Miller  
John Rost  
John Schueller  
Ross Stowell  
David Wolfskill

*Farmer, Public or Commissioner Member*

### BCCD STAFF

#### Operations:

Dean Druckenmiller District Executive  
Tammy Bartsch Office Manager  
Deborah Winkler Administrative Assistant  
Kent Himelright Watershed Coordinator  
Evan Corondi WNV/Vector Control & Outreach Coordinator

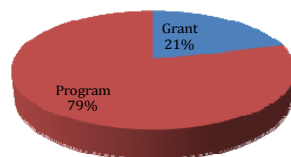
#### Ag Resource Conservationists:

Joshua Hanna Ag Supervisor  
Olivia Carlson, Christine Griesemer, Nicole Kerstetter,  
Jeff Overstreet, Rita Seidel

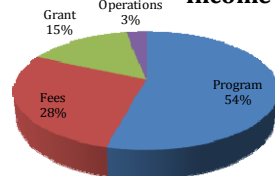
#### Urban Resource Conservationists:

Kevin Witmier Team Leader  
Eric Hout, Brian Shields as of 12/31/16

### Expenses 2016



### Income 2016



### Affiliate Membership Program

The Pine Creek Watershed Association, along with 60 individuals and organizations gave donations for the continuation and growth of the work 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

Barwis Construction LLC, Berks County Planning Commission, Landis C. Deck & Sons, Mohnton Fish & Game, VIST Bank

### Watershed Coordination Efforts

Kate Keppen

With our partners at the Berks County Planning Commission, Berks Nature, and the thirty-six municipalities in the Berks County MS4 Steering Committee - BCCD discussed urban stormwater with over 1,500 Berks County residents!

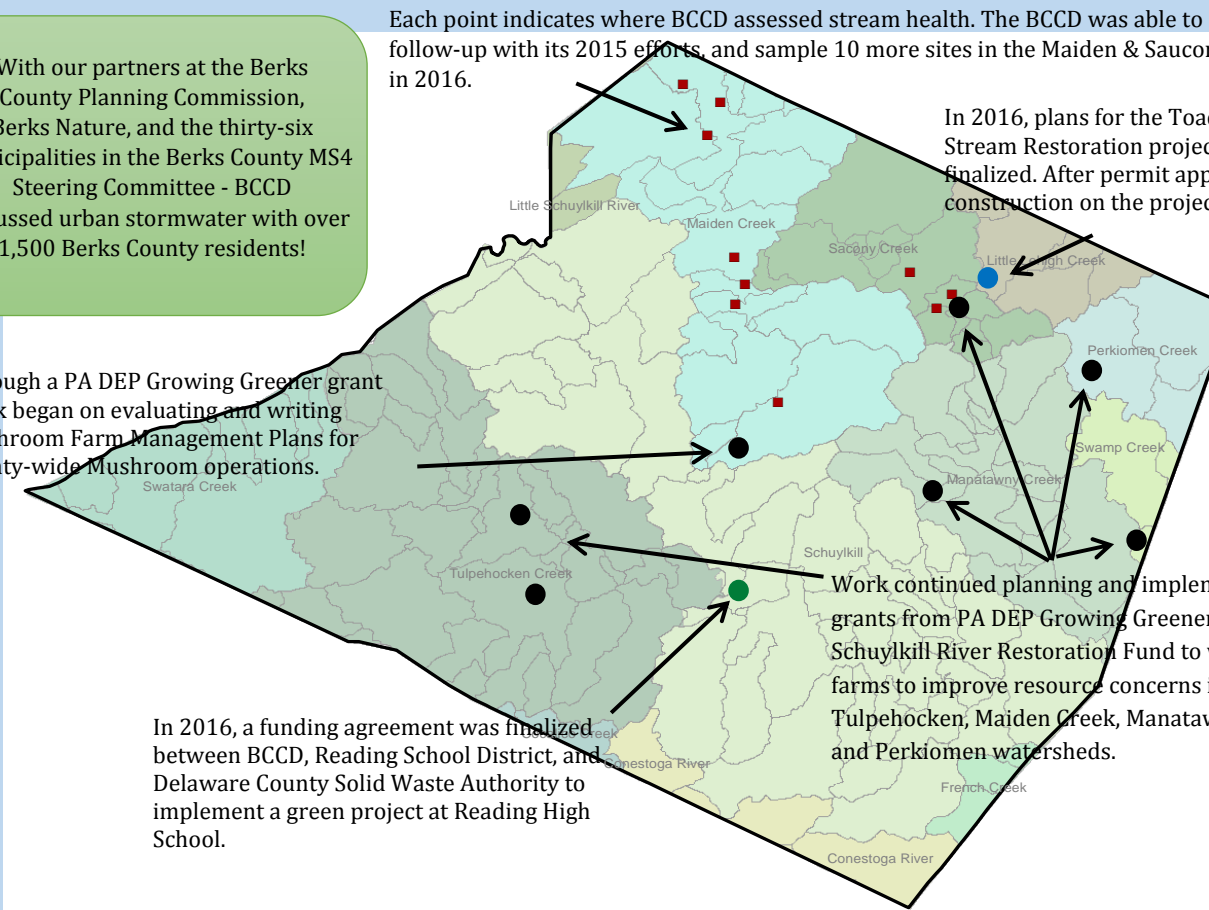
Each point indicates where BCCD assessed stream health. The BCCD was able to follow-up with its 2015 efforts, and sample 10 more sites in the Maiden & Saucony Creeks in 2016.

In 2016, plans for the Toad Creek Stream Restoration project were finalized. After permit approvals, construction on the project can start.

Through a PA DEP Growing Greener grant work began on evaluating and writing Mushroom Farm Management Plans for county-wide Mushroom operations.

Work continued planning and implementing grants from PA DEP Growing Greener and the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund to work on six farms to improve resource concerns in the Tulpehocken, Maiden Creek, Manatawny, Swamp, and Perkiomen watersheds.

In 2016, a funding agreement was finalized between BCCD, Reading School District, and Delaware County Solid Waste Authority to implement a green project at Reading High School.



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



### Agricultural Team

**Joshua Hanna - Ag Supervisor; Olivia Carlson, Christine Griesemer, Nicole Kerstetter, Jeff Overstreet, Rita Seidel**

In 2016 the team completed 23 Conservation Plans protecting 1,439 acres from soil erosion and nutrient runoff. As a result of those Conservation Plans, 118 Best Management Practices (BMPs) were planned and implemented on 21 operations with assistance from our partnering agencies such as PACD and NRCS. These BMPs were designed to treat resource concerns that if left untreated, could have a negative impact on water quality in Berks County and beyond.

The team reviewed 22 Nutrient Management (NM) Plans that were approved by our Board of Directors, plus 62 Status reviews were completed. In total, Berks County currently has 75 operations in the Nutrient Management program, of which 33 are Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), and 12 are volunteers to the program (VAOs).

As always, the District educated and kept Berks 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 2016 a total of \$74,075 of Chesapeake Bay Special Projects funding was utilized for Conservation Plan Implementation in the Little Swatara Creek, and the 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 Left: Eroded gully in a crop field



Right: Grassed Waterway to correct the gully

Below Left: Two middle school teams taking the *Envirothon* wildlife challenge.



Right: Judging *Paint the Rain* barrels - part of the annual *Seedling Sale* and *Backyard Basics* event.



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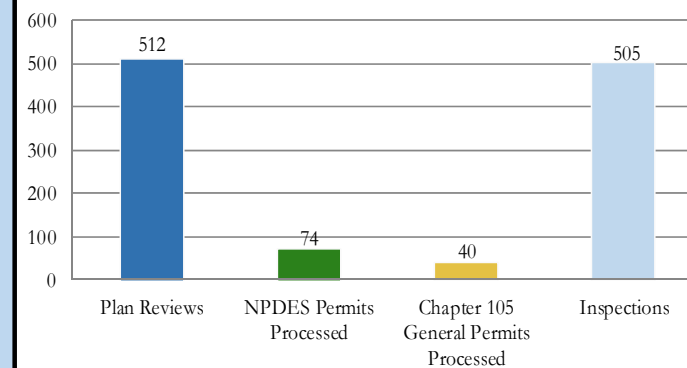
### Education and Outreach

**Evan Corondi, Kate Keppen & Staff**

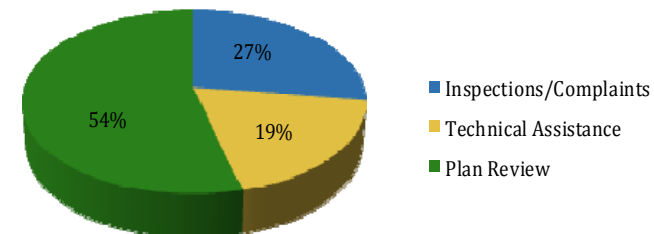
In 2016, the Berks County Conservation District again increased the amount of people that have heard the conservation message. Due to the success of various partnerships, over 3,100 people received direct education and outreach. The 30th Annual Berks County Envirothon saw a record number of participating students and had a total of 3 new schools participate. Aquapolluzza was an event developed by several major contributing partners, including BCCD, in an attempt to educate elementary aged students about the importance of clean water. The first time event was a success with over 700 students participating and learning the message. A strategy for increased Spotted Lanternfly outreach is being developed for 2017. In addition, the district's website was viewed over 24,000 times.

ENVIROTHON: 210 students educated  
 DON HARTMAN: 12 students total, 9 for the 3-day and 3 for the 1-day  
 SCHOOL & YOUTH: 2,101 youth educated  
 ADULTS: 1,022 adults received information relating to MS4, agriculture, rain barrels, Spotted Lanternfly, West Nile Virus, and BMPs at our workshops and events.

#### Urban Team: Plan Reviews & Inspections



#### Activities vs Time Analysis



### Urban Team

**Kevin Witmier - Team Leader; Eric Hout, Mike Pedrick, Brian Shields**

In 2016, over 1,180 acres of disturbed soils were reviewed in E&S plans, NPDES permit applications and Chapter 105 General Permit registrations. The implementation of these plans will result in approximately 5.6 million gallons of stormwater being treated by Best Management Practices (BMPs) for every one inch of rainfall. The District hosted/assisted with 5 training/outreach events in 2016 resulting in 177 people being educated in the protection of water quality.



Top Image: Temporary sediment trap

Bottom Image: Completed bio-retention basin



This year 4,828 plants were sold during our Annual Seedling sale which will provide soil retention, shade, fruit, habitat, and improve water and air quality in Berks County.

**... PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY HAVE HEALTHY LAND TO LIVE AND WORK ON AND CLEAN WATER FOR DRINKING AND RECREATION.**