



# CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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Web Page: [www.clintoncountypa.com/departments/conservation\\_district](http://www.clintoncountypa.com/departments/conservation_district)

**Mission Statement:** *The Conservation District provides quality leadership, education, and service for the stewardship and conservation of the county's natural resources.*



Seated Left to Right: Commissioner Paul Conklin, Bill Hunter, Charlie Dotterer, Coreena Meyer, Jim Harbach, Ron Brungart; Standing: Paul Courter, Ralph Harnishfeger, Larry Butler, Elam Stoltzfus, Phil Courter, Rob Bowman.

### 2019 Board of Directors:

**Charles Dotterer**, Chairman  
**Ralph Harnishfeger**, Vice Chairman  
**Paul Conklin**, Commissioner  
**Larry Butler**, Treasurer  
**Paul Courter**  
**Robert Bowman**  
**James Harbach**  
**William Hunter**  
**Coreena Meyer**

### Associate Directors:

**Philip Courter**      **Ron Brungart**  
**Elam Stoltzfus, Jr**      **Tom Shervinskic**  
**Stewart Ramm**

### Clinton County Conservation District 73 years 1946—2019

The District was organized by the County Commissioners in December 1946. We are a sub-division of state government, supported by the Clinton County Commissioners. We provide technical and educational assistance to the public on proper management of our natural resources (specifically soil & water) and interpretation of environmental related regulations. We are guided by a local Board of nine Directors nominated by local organizations. We administer the following state programs for our County:

- Ch. 102 Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control,
- NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits
- Ch. 105 Stream Encroachment General Permits
- Chesapeake Bay Financial & Technical Assistance
- Act 38 Nutrient Management Regulations
- Municipal Dirt & Gravel and Paved Low Volume Road Environmental Maintenance Program
- Watershed Specialist Program
- Agriculture Preservation Program



Conservation District Staff, Left to Right: Jake Wenrich, Lisa Blazure, Mary Ellen Stern, Mary Ann Bower, Scott Koser, Susie Peters, and Toby Boyer

### 2019 Conservation District Staff:

**Mary Ann Bower**, District Manager  
**Mary Ellen Stern**, Resource Conservationist  
**Jacob Wenrich**, Resource Technician  
**Toby Boyer**, Watershed Specialist & Education Coordinator  
**Scott Koser**, Roads & Ag Resource Technician  
**Lisa Blazure**, Agricultural Resource Conservationist  
**Susie Peters**, Program Assistant & Board Recording Secretary

### Resource Conservationist Mary Ellen Stern and Resource Technicians Jacob Wenrich conducted the following Technical Activities in 2019:

- 73 Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control (E&SPC) plans reviewed with 457 acres disturbed, which included:
  - 36 Residential Projects
  - 12 Government Projects—PADOT, State, Municipal, Water, Sewer
  - 14 Commercial/Industrial/Gas Related, Subdivision or Other Projects
  - 6 Agricultural Projects & 1 Timber Harvest
- 18 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or ESCGP Permits under review—13 NPDES permits issued
- 22 Stream Encroachment General Permits Acknowledged
- 64 Earthmoving Inspections
- 124 Complaints Investigated
- 716 Technical Assistance Services Provided
- Total: 903 individuals were provided technical assistance, training, or services on earthmoving or stream related activities.

### Funding support for Conservation District programs in 2019 was provided by:

Clinton County Commissioners, \$248,778;  
PA State Conservation Commission & DEP, \$142,897;  
Chesapeake Bay Technical Assist. Program, \$65,550;  
Watershed Specialist Program, \$57,479;  
Dirt&Gravel /Low Volume Roads Municipal Prog, \$222,843;  
Program Fees, Permits and Workshop fees, \$47,748;  
PUC Gas Well Fund, \$59,828;  
Donations and Sales, (benefits education programs) \$10,742;  
State, Federal & Other Special Project Grants, \$127,987.



Pictured above is a stream crossing on Harbaugh Road in Greene Twp. before and after a culvert replacement project. The culvert pipe was undersized and impacted the road and the stream by causing erosion, not passing high flows, and being a barrier for wild trout in a Class A trout stream. Greene Twp. utilized the CCCD's Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Funds to install a proper culvert to solve the stream and road problems.

Lisa Blazure, Agricultural Resource Conservationist, Scott Koser, Ag & Roads Resource Technician, and Jacob Wenrich, Resource Technician provided the following in 2019:

**Chesapeake Bay Program:** Assisted 22 farmers with Manure Management and Agricultural Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control plan development; Provided technical assistance to 49 people; Conducted 51 farm inspections to verify planning compliance; Worked with local agricultural operations to complete 4 grazing plans, and construction of 2 cattle crossings through streams. We also planned breakfasts meetings and spoke at workshops where information on maintaining Soil Health was presented to a total of more than 300 people.

**No-Till Drill:** Our drill & Inter-seeder were made available to 26 local farmers with 385.5 acres planted for soil conservation and cover crops.

**Nutrient Management (Act 38) Program:** We conducted 22 Nutrient Management Plan farm visits, reviewed & approved 20 Nutrient Management Plans and undertook 14 annual farm status reviews. We also provided technical assistance and conducted investigations for 71 contacts and provided 65 soil test kits to 31 landowners.

### Education Programs, Awards, and Scholarships:

- 2019 W. Max Bossert Conservation Award recipients were: Bucktail High—Tanner Riggle  
Sugar Valley Rural Charter School—Mckenna Fox  
Central Mountain High—Lance Bowman
- 2019 Rich Ramm Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jacob Jeffries and Elliot Probst. Each student received half of the scholarship and will be attending Penn State University. Applications for 2020 are due May 1st for this year's agricultural scholarship.
- 2019 (34th) County Envirothon Winning team was "Tsuga Canadensis" from Sugar Valley Rural Charter High School, with advisors Robbie Weaver & Chuck Bechdel, who also competed at the 36th annual State Envirothon held at Susquehanna University. The top three place teams each received an Envirothon monetary award—Congratulations!
- In 2019, we provided 21 outreach and conservation education programs to almost 7,200 county youth and adults.



2019 Envirothon Winning team from Sugar Valley Rural Charter School

### Dirt & Gravel and Paved Low Volume Roads Program for Municipalities:

In 2019, \$283,414 was distributed for 9 road projects completed in Allison, Bald Eagle, Chapman, Crawford, Gallagher, Leidy, and Woodward Townships, which included 1.61 miles of roads being improved. The program goal is to prevent sediment from entering streams by using proper environmental maintenance techniques on critical or damaged areas of roads that can affect water quality. A total of 72.15 miles has been improved with \$1,432,321 in funds spent on 76 County Dirt & Gravel and Paved Low Volume Road projects since 1999.

Federal, State, and Other Special Project Grant Money of \$418,367 in 2018, along with local matching funds, equals more than \$5.87 million spent on local conservation and water quality improvement projects overall in Clinton County over the last 19 years.

### Watershed Specialist and Education Coordinator Toby Boyer conducted the following watershed restoration and education activities in 2019:

- Completed water chemistry and biological monitoring in Fishing Creek, Cook's Run, and Tangascootack Creek to assess improvements in those streams from recent projects completed by the CCCD and its partners.
- Assisted the Sugar Valley and Kettle Creek watershed associations with several grants and programs to restore and enhance Clinton County streams.
- Assisted with or organized the following county wide Environmental Educational events: 6th Grade Conservation Field Days, Conservation Summer Day Camp, County Poster Contest, Project WET Workshops, Wildlife Leadership Academy, and the Envirothon.
- Provided stream restoration and watershed related technical assistance to landowners across the County.



Students from the 2019 Conservation Summer Camp proudly display their bluebird boxes they made with PA Game Commission

### 2019—Tangascootack Creek Improvements

In November 2019, a long awaited outcome was made official by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The lower 1.73 miles of Tangascootack Creek from where Bird Run enters to the confluence with the West Branch of the Susquehanna River was taken off of the impaired streams list. This is a huge milestone for the Clinton County Conservation District and all the partners involved in this effort. Upstream portions of the watershed will be assessed in the future to determine whether they have made enough improvement to be taken off the impaired waters list. If you are interested in learning more about the change in the watershed, you can view the DEP 2018 Integrated Report online or call us.



The Munro family—Alfred and Scott Munro—are presented the "Farm Family of the Year Award" at the Farm City Festival

**Free Soil Test Kits Available**—Soil testing is a tool used to determine the fertility of soil, and the optimum lime and fertilizer requirements for crops. A soil test can assist with creating a healthy soil environment for crops or lawns, and ensures you won't spend money on fertilizers that aren't necessary or over-fertilize. Free prepaid soil test kits are available at the Conservation District office. Your only cost is the postage to mail the sample to the Penn State Agricultural Analytical Services Lab. Test kits consist of a submission form, instructions on how to take a soil sample, a soil sample bag, and return envelope. The final report includes the chemical analysis of the soil along with lime and fertilizer recommendations for the crop specified. Each kit is easily capable of testing 1-2 acres. There is a limit of 6 kits per person, and you must be a Clinton County resident.



Dirt and Gravel Roads Resource Technician Scott Koser shows a project completed in 2019 along Old Pike Road in Gallagher Township during the Director Tour.



2019 Conservation Summer Camp—campers practice fishing skills at the USFW Lamar National Fish Hatchery.



One of the events held at the 2019 Farm City Family Festival in September was the goat milking contest.



2019 Conservation Poster Contest Winners, were Bailey Bickel (K-1) pictured above, Abbie Rutt (2-3 grade) and Mattisyn Mason (4-6 grade) (not pictured). The 2019 Theme was "Life in the Soil: DIG DEEPER".