

Strategic Plan

2019—2022



Clinton County Conservation District

45 Cooperation Lane, Mill Hall, PA 17751 Phone: (570) 726-3798

Clinton County Conservation District Strategic Plan

2019 - 2022

This Strategic Plan was adopted by the Clinton County Conservation District Board of Directors at the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on May 16, 2019.

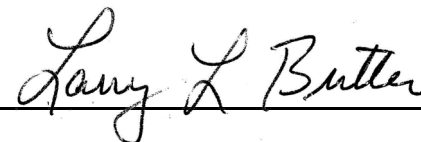
It will serve as guidance for the Conservation District's Directors, Management, and Staff as well as guidance for the District's Programs and Goals & Objectives through 2022.

Funding provided through the State Conservation Commission Leadership Development Program

Thanks to all who contributed to this document!



Charles Dotterer, Chairman



Larry Butler, Secretary



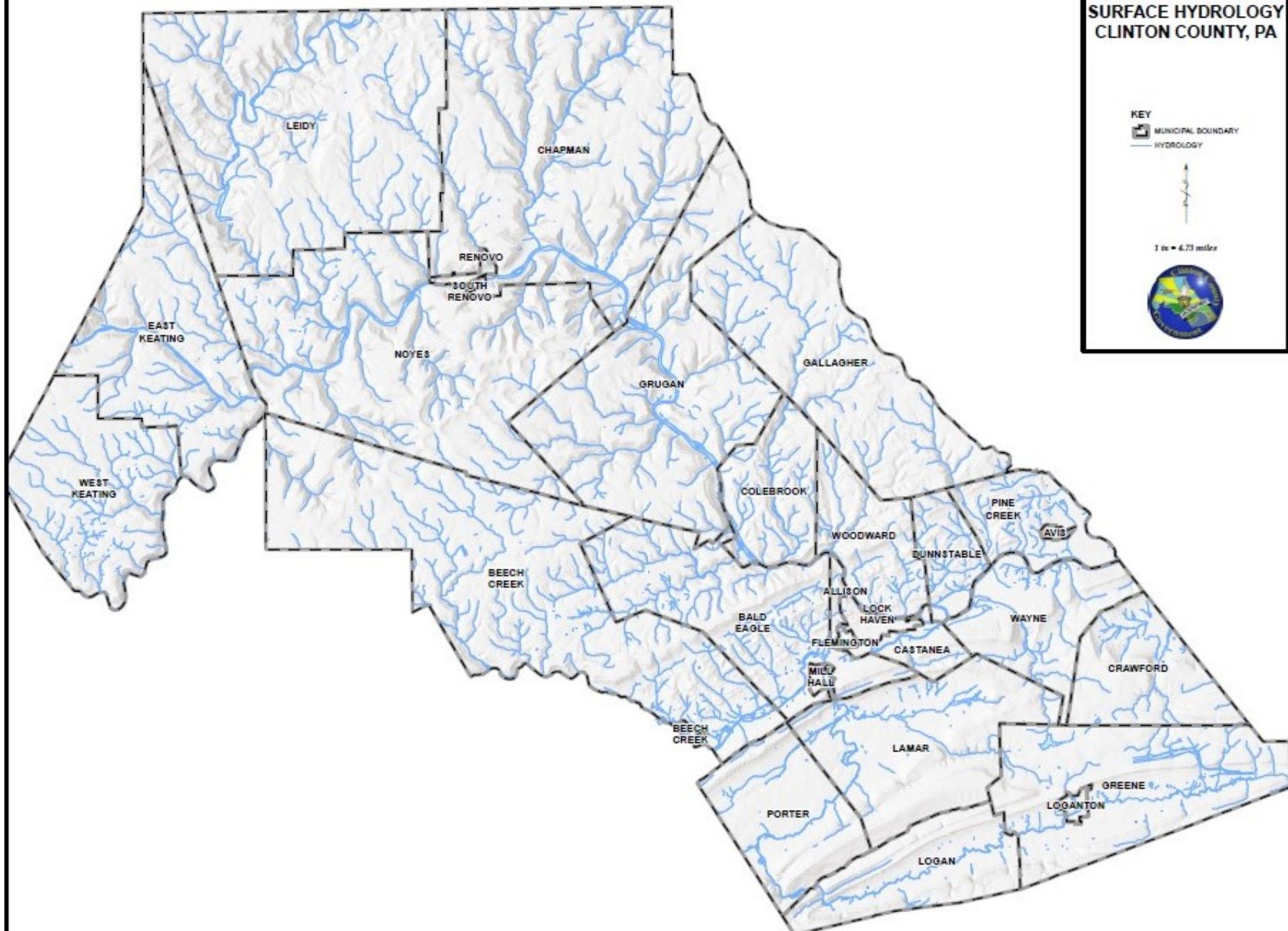
Adoption of
Plan

SURFACE HYDROLOGY CLINTON COUNTY, PA

KEY
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
HYDROLOGY



1 in = 4.73 miles



Airbus, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, GSA, GSI and the GIS User Community

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Introduction

This Strategic Plan was developed with full knowledge of the ever-changing land use issues facing Clinton County. Our Board of Directors instructed the members of the strategic planning ad hoc committee to look to the future, while incorporating the lessons learned from past experience. This plan, as well as all strategic plans, needs to be viewed as a dynamic, adaptable and ever-changing document which may be modified to address issues as they emerge.

The Clinton County Conservation District is a subdivision of Pennsylvania's state government created to administer conservation work within the county's boundaries. Taken as a whole, the Board of Directors are local people working toward improving land, water, and related resources in Clinton County.

Funding for the District is provided by the Clinton County Commissioners, the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the Unconventional Gas Well Fund. The Board of Directors consists of five farmer directors who derive a major portion of their livelihood from farming and/or forestry; three public directors; and a County Commissioner.

This plan combines priorities that were identified in prior strategic plans, the long-term goals established by the district as well as input that was provided via a survey of countywide citizens and property owners, partner agencies, and business owners, consultants, and contractors with operations in or related to Clinton County. This planning document will serve as foundational long-range plan for district programs and staff while creating the framework for setting shorter-term annual goals. By adopting this plan, we recognize that this plan is not all encompassing; however, it does address the full range of the District's program responsibilities while setting the stage for future efforts. As this plan nears the beginning of its 4th year, the District will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary, also known as its Diamond Jubilee, on December 19, 2021.



Mission Statement

The Clinton County Conservation District provides quality leadership, education and service for the stewardship and conservation of the county's natural resources.

Our Function

To provide technical, financial and educational resources, while helping county residents and businesses in conserving soil, water and related natural resources.

We Serve

*Clinton County residents, landowners and businesses
and every living thing which lives downstream*

Why?

The Clinton County Conservation District was organized at the request of county citizens interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning and flood prevention.

*The county was declared a District by the County Board of Commissioners
on December 19, 1946.*



Strategic Plan

2019 Board of Directors

Charles Dotterer, Chairperson
Dr. Ralph Harnishfeger, Vice Chairperson
Larry Butler, Secretary/Treasurer
James Harbach
Paul Courter
William Hunter
Coreena Meyer
Rob Bowman
Paul Conklin, County Commissioner

2019 Associate District Directors

Philip Courter
Ron Brungart
Elam Stoltzfus Jr.
Thomas Shervinskie
R. Stewart Ramm



2019 District Directors and Associate Directors, left to right sitting: Larry Butler (Secretary/Treasurer), Charlie Dotterer (Chair), Coreena Meyer, Bill Hunter; left to right standing: Jim Harbach, Commissioner Paul Conklin, Rob Bowman, Associate Ron Brungart, Paul Courter, Associate Phil Courter, Associate Elam Stoltzfus, and Ralph Harnishfeger (Vice-Chair)



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email: conserve@clintoncountypa.com
website: www.clintoncountypa.com/departments/conservation_district

2019 Staff

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



District Committees

- Land and Water – which includes subcommittees on:
 - Agriculture Farm Plans
 - Nutrient Management Plan Reviews
- District Operations and Legislation – which includes subcommittees on:
 - Personnel
 - Finance - Audit, Budget, and Operations
 - Building Committee
- Education and Public Relations – which includes subcommittees on:
 - Scholarships & Sponsorships
 - Watershed Association Support

Programs Administered

- Chapter 102 Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control
- Chapter 105 Waterway Encroachment Permits
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits
- Nutrient Management Act 38
- Dirt & Gravel and Paved Low Volume Roads Maintenance for Municipalities
- Farmland Preservation



Other Key Responsibilities

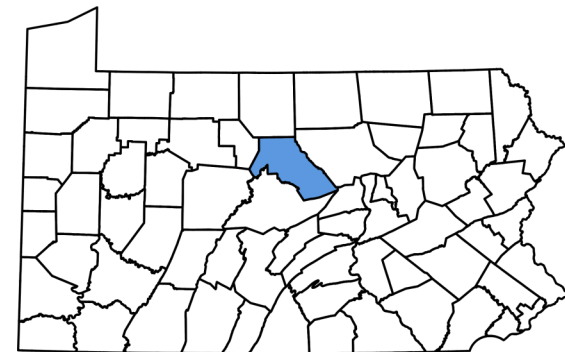
- Chesapeake Bay Program project implementation
- Special projects for watershed protection and assistance to local watershed groups
- Environmental Education Programs which include Envirothon, conservation summer camp, 6th Grade conservation field days, school booklets, seedlings to schools, school group visits, public displays, annual poster contest, and workshops for Lock Haven University pre-service teachers
- Act 167 Stormwater Management Planning
- Floodplain Management Assistance
- Soil Survey Maps and information
- Farm-City Family Festival
- Tree seedling sales
- Assistance to landowners, contractors, engineers, and municipalities



Brief History and Geography of Clinton County

In 1839, Clinton County became the fifty-fifth county in Pennsylvania when it was created from parts of Centre and Lycoming Counties. The county is named after the famous New York-based canal builder, Dewitt Clinton.

Clinton County encompasses 575,123 acres (899 square miles), all of which lie within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The majority of acreage in Clinton County is forested while approximately 7% (or 40,259 acres) of the acreage is agriculture. The West Branch of the Susquehanna River bisects the county diagonally with all the main watershed tributaries draining into the river. The land use in the county consists of three main regions; Northern Half, Southern Half, and the South-Central River Corridor which includes the City of Lock Haven. The northern two-thirds of the county consist primarily of forestland, which provide abundant recreational opportunities along with wildlife habitat in the Allegheny Plateau which is characterized by formerly glaciated geography. The southern one-third consists primarily of farmland in the Ridge and Valley Province which is reminiscent of the Great Appalachian Valley with broad valleys and steep escarpments. The South-Central River Corridor is where most of the county's commerce takes place including manufacturing zones, business districts and many pleasant residential communities.



Sources of pollutants vary depending on the region. Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) from historic coal and clay mining activities continues to negatively impact some streams in the northern two-thirds of the county. The southern one-third is primarily farmland in the valleys resulting in nutrient pollution and sedimentation being the principal pollution concern in this region. In the South-Central River Corridor, pollutants result mostly from a combination of suburban and urban interface, interspersed with prime farmland along the Susquehanna River and Bald Eagle Creek floodplains. Water quality issues in this region of the county include urban stormwater runoff, nutrient pollution, and unchecked sedimentation.

Information in this section has been provided by the following source:

- Mapping provided by Clinton County GIS Department (found on page 8 of this Plan)



Significant Clinton County Facts

- Agriculture land consists of approximately 40,259 acres.
- Forested land consists of approximately 517,6110 acres.
- Urban land consists of approximately 14,378 acres.
- The population is 39,536 people.
- The County is home to five State Parks: Bucktail, Hyner Run, Hyner View, Kettle Creek, and Ravensburg.
- Clinton County has 12,962 people employed. (2017 Annual Averages)
- Median age in county is 38.5 years (Two years younger than state average)
- The unemployment rate is 4.9%. (February 2019)
- In February 2019 there were 900 unemployed residents and 423 job openings
- Largest five employers in Clinton County, by number of employees:
 1. First Quality Products, Inc.
 2. Keystone Central School District
 3. First Quality Tissue, Inc.
 4. Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
 5. Keane Frac, LP
- Largest employment sectors in Clinton County
 - Management-Business, Science & Arts
 - Sales & Office
 - Service
 - Production, Transportation & Materials Moving



Information in this section has been provided by the following sources:

- 2019 Community Profile & Membership Directory by Clinton County Economic Partnership

- Mapping provided by Clinton County GIS Department (found on page 8 of this Plan)



Population by Municipality

Allison Township	192 residents
Avis Borough	1,498 residents
Bald Eagle Township	2,090 residents
Beech Creek Borough	696 residents
Beech Creek Township	1,011 residents
Castanea Township	1,180 residents
Chapman Township	849 residents
Colebrook Township	200 residents
Crawford Township	935 residents
Dunnstable Township	1,011 residents
East Keating Township	11 residents
Flemington Borough	1,338 residents
Gallagher Township	385 residents
Greene Township	1,751 residents
Grugan Township	51 residents
Lamar Township	2,548 residents
Leidy Township	180 residents
Lock Haven City	9,284 residents
Logan Township	812 residents
Loganton Borough	476 residents



Population by Municipality (continued)

Mill Hall Borough	1,611 residents
Noyes Township	357 residents
Pine Creek Township	3,264 residents
Porter Township	1,509 residents
Renovo Borough	1,220 residents
South Renovo Borough	433 residents
Wayne Township	1,700 residents
West Keating Township	29 residents
<u>Woodward Township</u>	<u>2,377 residents</u>
Clinton County	38,998 residents

*Information in this section has been provided by the following source:
<https://www.rural.palegislature.us/municipalities.cfm>*



SIMPLE LANDUSE CLINTON COUNTY, PA

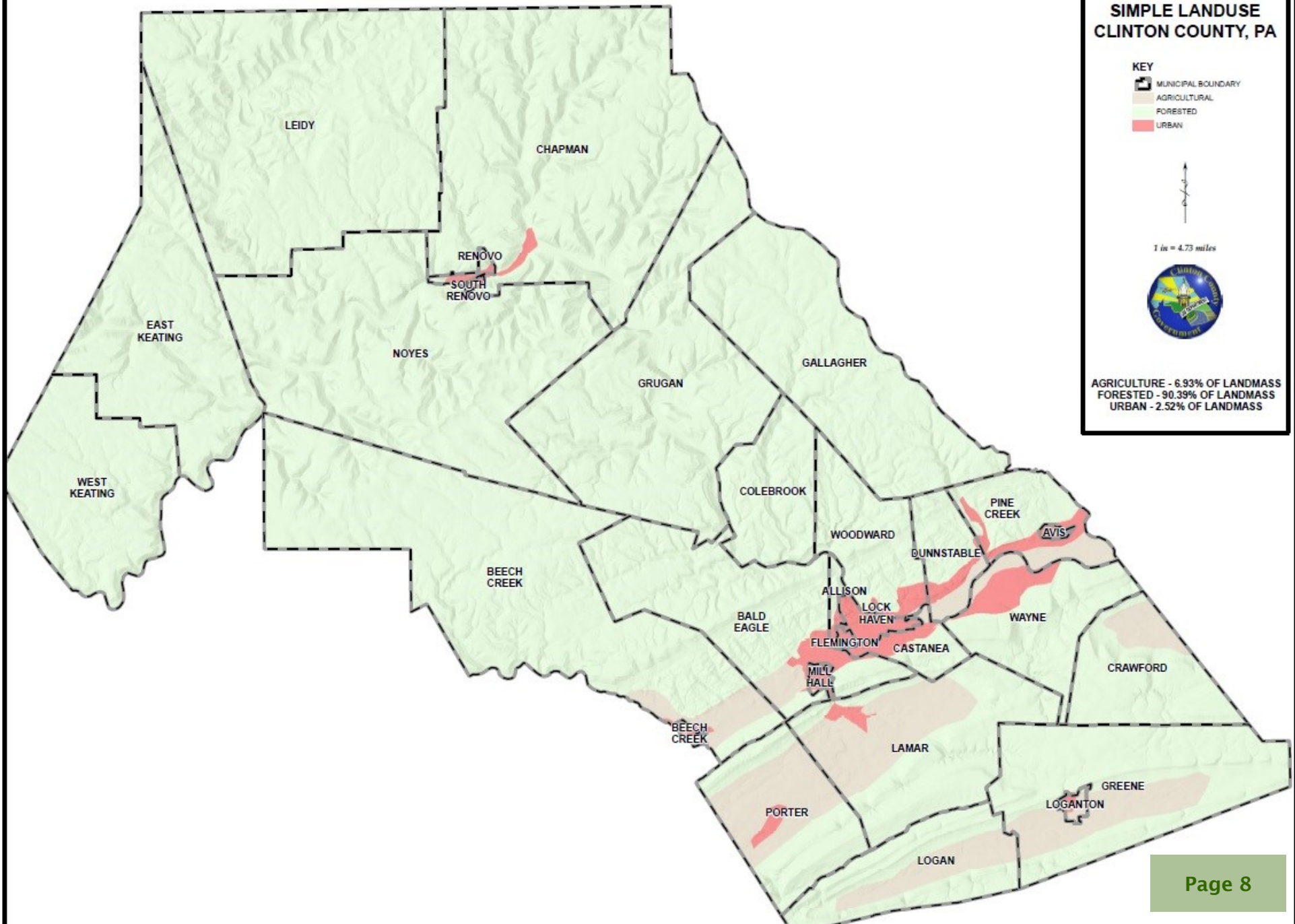
- KEY**
-  MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
 -  AGRICULTURAL
 -  FORESTED
 -  URBAN



1 in = 4.73 miles



AGRICULTURE - 6.93% OF LANDMASS
 FORESTED - 90.39% OF LANDMASS
 URBAN - 2.52% OF LANDMASS



Plan Development

Now in its fifth iteration, this update of the Clinton County Conservation District Strategic Plan emanates from an original plan which was adopted in June 2002. The first update to this initial plan was adopted in May 2006. The next two updates to the plan covered the year 2012 through 2015 and 2016 through 2018. The current plan is intended to serve as the strategic basis for the District through its 75th Anniversary which will be on December 19, 2021.

Emanating directly from this plan, the District Directors and staff develop annual goals for each of the three key program areas:

- Land and Water
- Education and Public Relations
- District Operations and Legislation.

This strategic plan serves as the principle source and the single record of the District's long-range plans and as the foundation to set the annually-revised short-term goals and objectives. The critical issues identified in this plan represent a broader scope and the vision behind the issues addressed by District programs and activities.

Ideally, a planning meeting will be held each January where the committee members and staff will establish the annual goals to achieve the action items set forth in this strategic plan. An annual review of action items will be conducted at the July meeting. Annual goals will be considered as an addendum to this document.

A committee of District Directors and staff worked with a skilled plan facilitator to identify critical resource concerns facing the county and evaluated program responsibilities to address those concerns. A countywide survey of District clients, customers and community leaders provided guidance to the plan's development. This survey resulted in nearly 100 responses. The responses were analyzed and discussed by the plan development steering committee members. The priorities and opportunities identified via the survey have been incorporated into this plan.

Once the steering committee members had completed the draft of the plan, the entire Board of Directors provided their input. The final draft of the plan was posted for public review and comments beginning on April 22, 2019. Comments were accepted through early May 2019, and all input was considered and included in the final edition of the plan.

The Clinton County Board of Conservation District Directors adopted this plan at their regularly-scheduled meeting on May 16, 2019.



List of Acronyms

AMD – Acid Mine Drainage/Abandoned Mine Drainage
BAMR – DEP, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
ACOE – Army Corps of Engineers
BCWA – Beech Creek Watershed Association
BMP – Best Management Practices
CAO – Concentrated Animal Operations
CAFO – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
CCCD – Clinton County Conservation District
CREP – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
DCNR – Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
DGLVR – Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Programs
DEP – Department of Environmental Protection
E&SPC – Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control
ESCGP – Erosion & Sediment Control General Permit (specific to gas industry)
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FSA – Farm Service Agency
GIS – Geographic Information System
KCWA – Kettle Creek Watershed Association
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
NMP – Nutrient Management Plan
NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
OSM – Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining
PCSWMP – Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan
PDA – Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
PennDOT – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
PFBC – Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
PGC – Pennsylvania Game Commission
QAB – Quality Assurance Board (for DGLVR Programs)
SCC – State Conservation Commission
SVWA – Sugar Valley Watershed Association

Plan Distribution

To promote ‘buy-in’ from and to advance the general conservation understanding among Clinton County residents, particularly landowners, the review and comment period for this strategic plan was broadly publicized via websites, social media and every available traditional news source. Additionally, draft copies were distributed to cooperating partners. These copies were also made available at public libraries and other appropriate public facilities.

List of Acronyms (continued)

PFBC – Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
PGC – Pennsylvania Game Commission
QAB – Quality Assurance Board (for DGLVR Programs)
SCC – State Conservation Commission
SVWA – Sugar Valley Watershed Association
TU – Trout Unlimited
USGS – United States Geological Survey
WBSRC – West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition
WIP – Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase III - Chesapeake Bay Program)
WPCAMR – Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



Five Critical Natural Resource Conservation Issues

The following is a brief synopsis of the critical issues incorporated into this plan. More detail on each issue is provided in the body of the document at the beginning of each section.

Issue #1 Erosion and Sedimentation Control

Erosion and its resulting sedimentation have the potential to have large impacts on the natural resources in the county. The erosion of topsoil can change the characteristics and productivity of the land. Sediment that discharges to a body of water can adversely impact the biotic life and alter hydrology. The District addresses these potential impacts by reviewing E&SPC plans for construction activities and by encouraging farmers to follow their conservation or agriculture E&SPC plans and implement BMPs whenever possible.



Issue #2 Water Quality

Impacts to water quality can be from many sources: sediment, excess nutrients, abandoned (or acid) mine drainage, or from natural gas extraction activities. District programs are designed to minimize and to remedy the potential negative impacts on water quality.

Issue #3 Nutrient Pollution

Excess nutrients in streams and rivers have received increased attention because of their historical degradation impact on the Chesapeake Bay. Clinton County lies entirely within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Pennsylvania resource regulators working in tandem with the Legislature and Governor have set nutrient reduction goals and District programs are tailored to help meet these goals whereby improving the overall health of the Bay and its entire watershed.



Five Critical Natural Resource Conservation Issues (continued)



Issue #4 Environmental Education and Public Outreach

Educational programs and outreach activities continue to have a large and important role in District responsibilities. It's important to offer programs tailored for both the youth and for adults to learn about the potential impacts that their actions or inaction might have and to motivate individuals to make the behavioral changes that will help protect and preserve our natural resources.

Issue #5 Land Development

Land development represents a broad category that includes but is not limited to large natural gas construction projects including pipelines and major interstate transmission lines, flood impacts and mitigation, stormwater issues, the Farmland Preservation program, and overall forestry management. The level of District involvement in these issues varies but together they all relate to promoting responsible development and smart growth which can have the lowest potential negative impact to natural resources.



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Erosion and Sedimentation Control

It's not overly dramatic to say that soil is truly our layer of life. Exposed soil, with no protective vegetative cover, has a great potential for erosion and for becoming infertile, barren land. In northcentral Pennsylvania, nearly all soil erosion occurs as the result of rainfall. Productive soil is a precious resource. Sound science instructs us that it can take as much as 500 years to develop one inch of topsoil. In a significant rainstorm, under the right conditions, the equivalent of an inch of topsoil can be eroded in a single event. Productivity will suffer should erosion continue and the topsoil layer degrade or be lost. Protecting the topsoil layer is critical for the sustainability of soils in our county.

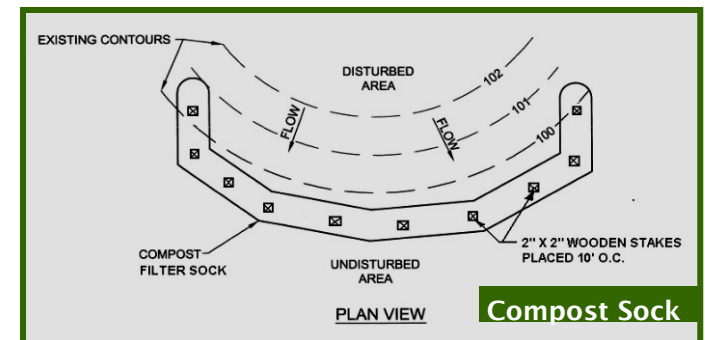
Erosion often leads to sediment pollution and is derived from several sources. Common sources of sediment pollution are construction activities, plowing and tilling, farm fields without a cover crop, timber harvest activities, stormwater issues, and poorly-maintained gravel roads. Sediment pollution is most often associated with streams and rivers. Excess sediment in these systems can alter macroinvertebrate and fish habitat by filling the void spaces in cobble and gravel beds. The depth of in-stream pools can be reduced and new gravel bars created which may alter the hydrology of the system. Nutrients, most often phosphorus, are often attached to soil particles and this compounds the problems caused by sedimentation.

The District has several programs that can be and are used to address erosion and sediment pollution. The District maintains delegation agreements with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to administer the following programs:

- Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program
- NPDES General Permit Program
- Chapter 105 Waterways Encroachment Permit Program
- Dirt, Gravel and Paved Low-Volume Roads Program

In addition, the District works with county landowners and provides technical assistance with:

- Agricultural Conservation Plans and Farm Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- No-till Farming Techniques and Cover Crops
- Manure Management Plans
- Stormwater Management Issues
- Streambank Stabilization
- Stream Improvement Projects



1.A. Non-permitted Construction Projects

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To review construction activities under 1 acre disturbance (or program threshold) for potential resource concerns.</p> <p>To encourage landowners and contractors to implement Best Management Practices for sediment runoff.</p> <p>To review Timber Harvest plans submitted to our office.</p>	<p>Implement the E&S review process and administer the Chapter 102 Erosion Control program.</p> <p>Implement a review fee to defray costs and maintain staff positions.</p> <p>To provide technical assistance to property owners, contractors, PADOT, DCNR & municipalities</p> <p>Investigate complaints and provide technical assistance with resolutions.</p>	<p>Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>Program Assistant</p>	<p>GIS Technology</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>Local governments</p> <p>DCNR Bureau of Forestry</p> <p>Local Municipalities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To perform the plan review within 20 days or according to program thresholds, after receiving an administratively complete application.</p> <p>Complaints will be responded to within 3-5 working days.</p> <p>As appropriate, investigations/site visits will be completed within prescribed time frames.</p>



Strategic Plan

1.B. Permitted Construction Projects

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To administer the NPDES Permit Program and review projects that require a permit for potential natural resource concerns.</p> <p>To review natural gas pipeline construction activities.</p> <p>To review large scale forestry projects that require permits.</p> <p>To encourage low impact development.</p>	<p>Follow the state/federal guidelines for NPDES reviews pertaining to E&S and PCSWM controls.</p> <p>Staff training completed related to program requirements and updates.</p> <p>Provide appropriate technical assistance to increase general understanding of the NPDES program.</p>	<p>Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>Program Assistant</p>	<p>DEP</p> <p>Engineers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To perform the NPDES Permit Administrative completeness review and E&S Plan Technical Review within the timelines set by the program guidelines.</p> <p>To perform ESCGP plan reviews and reviews of small gas-related projects in accordance with timelines set by the program guidelines.</p> <p>To perform review and/or offer technical assistance in forestry projects to ensure program compliance.</p> <p>To provide technical guidance at pre-application meetings and during technical assistance.</p>



1.C. Agriculture Erosion and Sedimentation Plans and/or Conservation Plans

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>For all county farms to implement plans that comply with Chapter 102 standards.</p>	<p>Educate farmers on the need for these plans.</p> <p>Provide guidance to farmers with the developments of these plans.</p> <p>Refer farmers to partner agencies and technical assistance providers.</p> <p>Increase outreach efforts by District Directors.</p> <p>Inspections conducted via farm visits.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Ag Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>NRCS</p> <p>FSA</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>Private Planners (third party)</p> <p>DCNR</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Guidance provided to at least 75 farm and/or land owners.</p> <p>Verify implementation of Agricultural E&S Plans on 100 farms by 12/31/2022.</p>



1.D. Stream and Corridor Restoration

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To reduce sediment loading from streambank erosion.</p> <p>Assist landowners with proper stream bank stabilization, stream habitat Enhancement methods, the necessary permitting and funding opportunities.</p> <p>Promote the implementation of riparian buffers.</p>	<p>Evaluate county streams for erosion locations.</p> <p>Explore funding opportunities for projects.</p> <p>Assist landowners to install structures to stabilize streambanks and create habitat.</p> <p>Support stabilization projects conducted by partnering agencies.</p>	<p>Watershed Specialist</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p>	<p>Pa Fish & Boat Commission</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>Trout Unlimited</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy</p> <p>Watershed Associations</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Lead one project per year and support projects conducted by partnering agencies, as funding is available.</p>



1.E. No-till, Cover Crops and Soil Health

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To encourage adoption of no-till techniques and establishment of cover crops.</p> <p>To improve soil health using no-till and cover crop methods.</p>	<p>Promote the no-till drill and Inter-Seeder rental program.</p> <p>Promote the benefits of soil health through workshops, newsletters and individual technical assistance.</p> <p>Collect baseline soil health test results and Infiltration data.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Ag Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>NRCS</p> <p>FSA</p> <p>Penn State Extension</p> <p>Farmer District Directors</p> <p>No-till Drill & InterSeeder</p> <p>PA No-till Alliance</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>To facilitate the planting of 300 acres per year with the no-till drill and/or inter-seeding.</p> <p>To host one workshop and one field day per year to promote soil health.</p> <p>To establish baseline of the number of total acres in cover crops by the end of 2020.</p> <p>To establish baseline of the number of total acres planted using no-till practices by the end of 2020.</p>



1.F. Dirt, Gravel and Paved Low-Volume Roads Program

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To facilitate the Dirt, Gravel and Paved Low Volume Road environmentally sensitive maintenance program with municipalities and eligible public road entities to address sedimentation issues.</p> <p>To protect or improve water quality by reducing sediment from road drainage issues and erosion.</p>	<p>Provide funding to eligible public road owning entities for road projects based on ranking criteria.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance by identifying concerns and potential solutions.</p> <p>Maintain staff to accomplish program goals.</p> <p>Perform follow-up site visits on each completed project.</p>	<p>Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>Program Assistant</p> <p>Roads Resource Technician</p>	<p>Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads</p> <p>PFBC</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>Quality Assurance Board (QAB)</p> <p>District Directors</p> <p>Municipalities</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>To allocate our funds as available to local public road owning entities that qualify for funding.</p> <p>To hold at least one meeting of the Quality Assurance Board to review/rank applications, and, policies, and perform site visits, as needed.</p>



BEFORE – Picture above taken from Selfe Rd in Bald Eagle Township. The Road shoulder and streambank were collapsing with direct sedimentation to a tributary to Sugar Run.



AFTER – Streambank stabilized decreasing the chance for road failure and sedimentation to stream.



1.G. Technical Assistance Related to Programs and Regulations

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To assist the public and other entities with implementation of erosion control best management practices.</p> <p>To provide assistance to the public with stream encroachment regulations.</p>	<p>Provide technical assistance with interpreting and implementing applicable regulations to the public, including landowners, operators, engineers, local municipalities, and agencies such as, PADOT, DCNR & PA Game Commission, etc.</p> <p>Keep the website updated and user friendly so the public can find information required to stay in compliance.</p>	<p>Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>Program Assistant</p>	<p>GIS Technology</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>Local Governments</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>To track and report annually the number of public assisted to remain in compliance with erosion control environmental regulations.</p>





Water Quality

Residents of and visitors to Clinton County have the good fortune of having the majority of streams designated under Chapter 93-Water Quality Standards of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law as either High Quality (HQ) or Exceptional Value (EV). Not all Pennsylvanians have this high level of superb resources within their county boundaries. It's imperative that we work diligently together to protect and preserve our streams. Because of these classifications, activities in the watersheds are held to higher standards to minimize any potential negative impacts. Under the Chapter 105 delegation, the District reviews activities occurring along streams and the Susquehanna River and if these activities meet the clean stream regulations, staff then issues General Permits for proposed projects.

In addition, Clinton County has several streams that do not meet the standards for their designated uses and have been deemed to be impaired by the state. One of these watersheds is Tangascootack Creek which has been and continues to be impacted by acid/abandoned mine drainage from former coal and clay mining activities. Dating back to 1968, the District and its partners have been involved with restoration efforts in this watershed and have constructed numerous passive treatment systems. District staff and volunteers monitor and report both water chemistry and biological life in the county's streams to evaluate watershed improvements from restoration efforts.

A second Clinton County watershed that is deemed to be impaired is Fishing Creek in Sugar Valley. Pennsylvania regulators determined that sections of this stream are impaired. Their research indicates that this impairment is from agricultural sources of sediment and nutrient pollution. For many years, the District worked for and continues to strive to implement best management practices on farms in this valley with the goal of reducing these pollution sources.

The District is committed to promoting the principles of soil health as a core agricultural improvement program. Agricultural lands with healthy soils infiltrate more water, thereby reducing both soil erosion and stormwater runoff. Healthy soils produce healthier plants. These are plants which require less fertilizer and pesticides inputs, thereby reducing the chance that these potential pollution-producing products to enter local waterways. There continues to be an emphasis on enhancing riparian buffers and installing stream bank fencing. What's more, forested buffers will shade the stream, thereby reducing water temperatures, provide an enhanced wildlife habitat while supporting overall stream ecology.



2.A. Acid Mine Drainage/Abandoned Mine Drainage

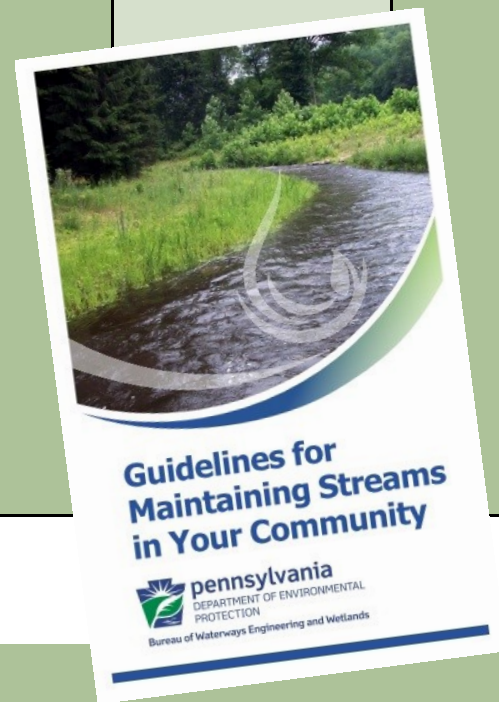
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To alleviate the impacts of historical coal and clay mining to restore aquatic life to the streams.</p> <p>Maintain the effectiveness of AMD systems already constructed.</p>	<p>Construct treatment systems, maintain existing systems, and identify emerging sources of AMD pollution.</p> <p>Seek and acquire funding for projects that improve AMD impaired streams and allow for removal from the impaired list.</p> <p>Support AMD restoration efforts of partnering organizations.</p>	<p>Watershed Specialist</p> <p>District Manager</p>	<p>DEP</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>Trout Unlimited</p> <p>Grant funds</p> <p>Private engineers and consultants</p> <p>WPCAMR</p> <p>PFBC</p> <p>WBSRC</p>	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Maintain existing systems to an effective level by conducting regular measurements.</p> <p>Measure five water quality parameters (conductivity, temperature, alkalinity, pH, and flow) in AMD system outflows biannually.</p> <p>Plan for necessary maintenance and seek funding.</p>



Strategic Plan

2.B. Chapter 105-General Permits

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To administer the Chapter 105 responsibilities delegated to the District.</p> <p>Provide Chapter 105 assistance through the new e-permitting process.</p>	<p>Provide technical assistance to landowners with stream related projects and necessary permits.</p> <p>Acknowledge Chapter 105 General Permits.</p>	<p>Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>Program Assistant</p> <p>Watershed Specialist</p>	<p>DEP</p> <p>ACOE</p> <p>PFBC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Review projects and General Permit applications – issue acknowledgement letters within the timeframe established under the Permit Decision Guarantee.</p> <p>Understand ePermitting process and system and establish District guidelines to administer the Chapter 105 program using ePermitting.</p>



2.C. Agricultural Impacts

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>Assist with establishing buffers on streams.</p> <p>To educate landowners in maintaining existing buffers.</p> <p>Encourage landowners to install fencing to limit animal access to streams.</p> <p>Eliminate polluted barnyard runoff to streams, waterways, and groundwater.</p>	<p>Assist landowners with installing streambank fencing, promote the CREP program, educate landowners on the importance of buffers.</p> <p>Seek and acquire funding that allows for the installation of BMPs.</p> <p>Provide outreach and technical assistance to landowners with resource concerns.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Ag Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Watershed Specialist</p>	<p>CREP Staff</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>Grant Funds</p> <p>PGC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Assist landowners in establishing 2 acres of buffers and 2500 linear feet of streambank fencing by the District’s 75th Anniversary.</p> <p>Pursue funding to complete barnyard projects to eliminate nutrient and sediment runoff.</p> <p>Provide education on the desirability of maintaining existing buffers and fencing.</p> <p>Conduct evaluations of existing buffers.</p>



Strategic Plan

2.D. Monitoring

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>Monitor water quality to evaluate the effectiveness of restoration projects and installation of BMPs.</p>	<p>Collect water, fish, and macroinvertebrate samples.</p> <p>Compile data and provide reports to assess project success and to make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the project.</p>	<p>Watershed Specialist</p>	<p>DEP</p> <p>Trout Unlimited</p> <p>PFBC</p> <p>OSM</p> <p>WBSRC</p> <p>County Watershed Associations</p> <p>USGS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Use data to document conditions and show trends in water quality.</p> <p>Use data to recommend improvements in the project as a basis for grant funding applications.</p>



2.E. Technical Assistance for Watershed Associations

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To support County Watershed Associations with meeting attendance, technical assistance, grant administration, mini-grants and project implementation.</p>	<p>Provide technical assistance and mini-grant opportunities to Watershed Association members.</p> <p>Pursue grant funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Watershed Specialist</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Watershed Support Sub-committee</p>	<p>DEP</p> <p>Grant Funds</p> <p>PFBC</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>Trout Unlimited</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To assist Watershed Associations with meeting organizational goals.</p> <p>Attend at least 80% of each Watershed Association’s meetings.</p>



Strategic Plan

2.F. Soil Health

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To improve the soil health of county agricultural lands.</p> <p>To promote wise use of fertilizer and pesticide in the county.</p> <p>To reduce stormwater runoff into local waterways.</p>	<p>Provide technical assistance to landowners for implementing soil health principles.</p> <p>Host meetings and fields days.</p> <p>Experiment with management strategies in the demonstration plots.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for farmer-to-farmer soil health communications.</p> <p>Collect baseline soil health and infiltration data</p> <p>Survey soil health cooperators about fertilizer and pesticide usage</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Ag Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Watershed Specialist</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>NRCS</p> <p>PA No-Till Alliance</p> <p>Soil & Water Conservation Society</p> <p>PASA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Encourage landowners to collect at least 25 baseline soil health and water infiltration tests over next four years.</p> <p>To host at least one meeting/workshop every year.</p> <p>Host one farmer-to-farmer networking event per year.</p>



2.G. Planning and Implementing Water Quality Best Management Practices

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To support farmers wishing to install BMPs to reduce sedimentation and nutrient pollution.</p> <p>Participate in the countywide planning process for Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) as outlined by DEP and the Chesapeake Bay Program.</p> <p>If a countywide action plan is developed for the Phase II WIP, develop a plan for implementation.</p>	<p>Pursue additional funding sources for design and construction projects.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to farmers as well as construction oversight.</p> <p>Play a major role in the Phase III WIP countywide action team, that will identify goals for water quality and local resources, select actions, and report accordingly.</p> <p>Play a major role in creating an implementation plan for the Phase III WIP.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Nutrient Management Staff</p> <p>Ag Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Watershed Specialist</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>Grant funding</p> <p>SCC</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>Private engineers and consultants</p> <p>County Planning</p> <p>Clinton County Commissioners</p>	<p>Work within grant timeframes.</p>	<p>To be awarded BMP funds through a successful grant application process.</p> <p>To assist in the development of a countywide action plan for Phase III WIP.</p> <p>To promote the implementation of Phase III WIP and associated plan BMPS.</p>



Nutrient Pollution

An ever-increasing emphasis is being placed on nutrient pollution over the last several years largely due to the continuing degradation of the Chesapeake Bay. States, such as Pennsylvania, that are within the Bay watershed have the duty and the responsibility to implement programs that will lead to the reduction of nutrient inputs. Nitrogen and phosphorus are the nutrients of largest concern since excess amounts of these elements can cause an increase algal growth and the resulting low-oxygen levels when the algae naturally decay. Nitrogen readily dissolves in water, but phosphorus is typically attached to soil particles which are introduced via sedimentation. One of the most effective ways to reduce phosphorus levels is to control soil erosion. Typically, the focus for nutrient reductions efforts are targeted on farmers and wastewater treatment plants which discharge into waterways.

Nutrient pollution reductions can be achieved through simple management changes and modifications as well as from large-scale projects such as manure storage facilities or roofed heavy-use areas, such as structures and areas frequently used by people, animals or vehicles. Soil and manure testing are an important component of this program. Improving soil health can also lead to reduced fertilizer inputs and reduce the risk of nutrient losses to surface water and into groundwater. Outreach and technical assistance also need to be prioritized on farms which have direct discharges to surface or groundwater.

District staff will continue to be involved in outreach and education efforts that regularly remind farmers of the need for basic compliance with agricultural laws. District staff will assist landowners with the development of manure management plans and agricultural erosion and sediment control plans while deploying best management practices whenever possible.



The District maintains a delegation agreement to administer the PA Act 38-Nutrient Management Rules and Regulations. These regulations apply to farms classified as a Concentrated Animal Operation (CAO) or Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). These farms are required to have a nutrient management plan on file and there's subsequently much more oversight of the operation and the record keeping on the part of District staff.

In accordance with the finding of our strategic survey, District staff will increase their efforts to encourage landowners to work with the Conservation District in developing appropriate plans, implementing best management practices, and in improving overall soil health. This will benefit both the natural resource and the landowner who is interested in improving the look and value of their property.



3.A. Manure Management Plans

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To educate farmers on the need for proper nutrient use and encourage development and implementation of their manure management plans.</p> <p>To serve as the local coordinator between county landowners and state/federal agencies.</p>	<p>Make one-on-one contact with farmers in Clinton County.</p> <p>Provide assistance with developing plans and guidance on record keeping.</p> <p>Inspections conducted via farm visits.</p> <p>Educate farmers on the need for these plans.</p> <p>Provide guidance to farmers with the development of these plans.</p> <p>Refer farmers to partner agencies and technical assistance providers.</p> <p>Increase outreach efforts by District Directors.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Nutrient Management Staff</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>DEP</p> <p>SCC</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>Private Consultants</p> <p>Private Planners (third-party)</p> <p>DCNR</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Guidance provided to at least 75 farm/land owners.</p> <p>Verify implementation of Agriculture E&S Plans on 100 farms by 12/31/2022</p>



Strategic Plan

3.B. Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>For all CAO and CAFO farms in the county to have and implement a nutrient management plan.</p> <p>Advocate for regulatory flexibility/reform to fit real world conditions.</p>	<p>Identify all CAO farms in the county.</p> <p>Review NMPs according to state guidelines and provide Board approval.</p> <p>Perform annual reviews of the plan and records.</p> <p>Provide feedback to EPA/DEP on regulatory rulemaking/policy development.</p>	<p>Nutrient Management Staff</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>SCC</p> <p>Private consultants</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>PSU</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>To visit every regulated farm at least once a year to review records and plan implementation.</p> <p>Write or review plans as needed.</p> <p>To request records of manure haulers and importers.</p> <p>To improve the workability of regulations at the farm level.</p>



3.C. Soil and Manure Testing

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To inform landowners on proper nutrient use and the importance of soil and manure testing.</p> <p>Encourage residential landowners to have lawn soils tested and to make them aware of impacts from over-application of nutrients.</p>	<p>To distribute soil test and manure test kits.</p> <p>Educate county residents through newsletters and media.</p> <p>Assist farmers with soil and manure sample collection.</p> <p>Pursue grant funds to purchase test kits and to conduct workshops or programs on interpreting results and implementing ways to improve soil health.</p> <p>Promote the use of the soil health test results.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Nutrient Management Staff</p> <p>Ag Resource Conservationist</p>	<p>Grant funding to purchase kits</p> <p>SCC</p> <p>NRCS</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>To distribute 75 soil test kits and 10 manure test kits.</p> <p>Encourage farmers to collect 25 soil health tests per year.</p> <p>Host workshops and educational events related to the lawn care industry’s connection to soil health.</p>



3.D. Outreach, Farm Visits, and Mandated Inspections

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To educate county landowners about manure management plans, erosion control plans, and the need for BMPs</p> <p>Identify and make more frequent visits (at least 2 per year) to farms that have a resource concern or high potential for pollution.</p> <p>Better educate residents on the proper application of nutrients, including residential landowners.</p>	<p>One-on-one visits, workshops and media outreach.</p> <p>Encourage farms with resource concerns to install BMPs to reduce pollution.</p> <p>Host workshops/programs for area golf courses and lawn care companies to discuss the impacts of over-application of nutrients.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Ag Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p>	<p>Barn sheets and publications</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>SCC</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>PSU Master Gardeners</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>To make contact with and inspect the number of farms required by state programs or regulations.</p> <p>Complete at least 2 visits per year to farms that have a resource concern or high potential for pollution.</p> <p>Educate at least 100 residents on the proper application of nutrients, including residential landowners.</p>



3.E. Best Management Practice Implementation Funding

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To support farmers wishing to install BMPs to reduce sedimentation and nutrient pollution.</p>	<p>Pursue additional funding sources for design and construction projects.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to farmers as well as construction oversight.</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Nutrient Management Staff</p> <p>Ag Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Watershed Specialist</p>	<p>Grant funding</p> <p>SCC</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>Private engineers and consultants</p>	<p>Work within grant time frames.</p>	<p>To award BMP funds through a successful grant application process.</p>



Strategic Plan

Education, Outreach, and Public Relations

Education is at the core of everything the District does. Historically, the District's 75-year legacy has been a series of successes in educating the residents of Clinton County about the critical importance of conservation of our natural resources.

Over the years, District Directors and staff have shown that education needs to occur at all age levels and among various groups and sectors. While, initial

District efforts focused almost entirely on teaching farmers about conservation practices that would protect their soils and increase their production, later outreach efforts have been more inclusive and diverse. Today, these outreach efforts have grown and expanded to include regulatory programs for contractors, engineers, and for municipal officials.



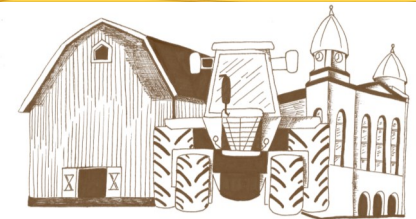
Of particular interest was data that was derived from the strategic survey conducted in early 2019, which indicated that the top three District programs were: tree sales, soil test kits, and the annual Farm-City Family Festival. This feedback provides quantifiable information that the Conservation District paradigm has truly shifted, and our customer base is much larger than just farmers and foresters.



The traditional youth-centered environmental education programs seem to grow every year with more and more young people engaging with the District in a multitude of ways. The Conservation District has many well-established and time-tested annual youth education events. Some of those events include the wildly-popular Envirothon program, our Conservation Summer Camp, Sixth Grade Conservation Field Days, and the Conservation Poster Contest. District staff members field several requests per year from teachers and youth organizations requesting specific conservation-focused programs. Additionally, the District pursues grant funding for both youth and adult education programs and the topics for these events vary based on community

needs and the input received through our surveys.

Information about District programs and activities is actively distributed to the general public through news articles, newsletters, direct mailings, direct contacts, and various social media outlets. We did learn through our strategic survey that our web presence is lacking, and our site received relatively low marks from our customers. This plan addresses the concerns which were raised and proposes possible solutions.



4.A. Youth Programs

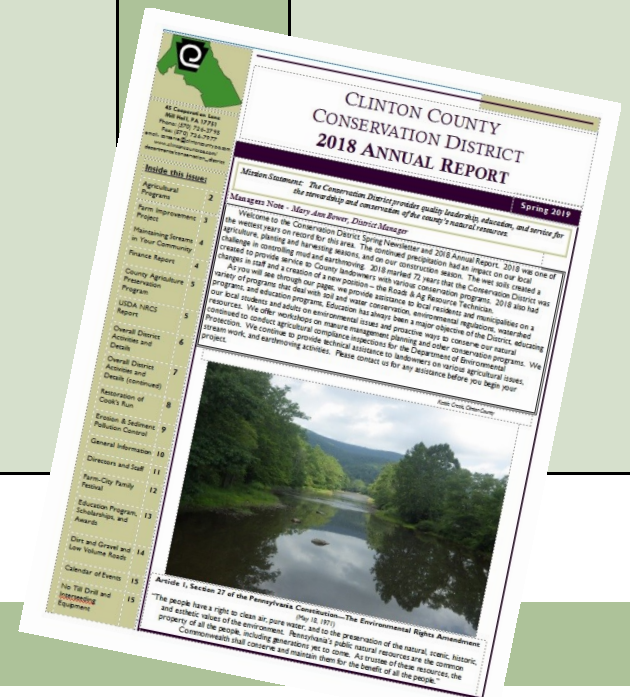
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To educate county youth on the importance of natural resources.</p> <p>Provide hands-on programming about natural resources.</p>	<p>Host and support environmental education events/activities.</p> <p>Distribute environmental education materials.</p>	<p>Education Coordinator</p> <p>Watershed Specialist</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>Educational displays, models, lesson plans, and associated tools.</p> <p>DCNR</p> <p>PFBC</p> <p>PGC</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>Local School Districts/ Homeschoolers/ Parochial Schools</p> <p>PACD</p> <p>District Directors</p> <p>Lock Haven University</p> <p>Southern Clinton County Sportsmen Association</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>To reach 5000 youth each year.</p>



Strategic Plan

4.B. Workshops

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
To provide environmental education opportunities to county adults including programs regarding agency regulations and requirements.	Host workshops and events. Keep abreast of current agency regulations and relay that information to the public.	District Staff District Directors	DEP NRCS & FSA SCC LHU DCNR – Bureau of Forestry	Annually	Three workshops or meetings per year. Publish newsletters and an Annual Report



4.C. Media Relations

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To inform the public about District programs using available media sources</p>	<p>To develop outreach efforts using newsletters, press releases, website, and social media.</p> <p>Enhance the District website and evaluate on a quarterly basis to ensure that information is current.</p>	<p>District Staff</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>Software</p> <p>Lock Haven Express</p> <p>Local Radio Stations</p> <p>County Website</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Two newsletters and 10-15 press releases annually.</p> <p>To investigate and use a CD intern to improve and assist with communications.</p> <p>Improve and maintain the District’s website to provide information on our programs.</p>



4.D. Tree and Shrub Establishment

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To promote the establishment of trees and shrubs in the county to enhance wildlife habitat, riparian zones, and urban forestation.</p>	<p>Offer trees and shrubs to the public during our annual tree sale program.</p> <p>Distribute Game Commission trees to county residents.</p> <p>Assist local groups participating in the Tree Vitalize or other available programs.</p> <p>Encourage woody plantings along stream corridors.</p>	<p>Program Assistant</p> <p>District Staff</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>Local nurseries</p> <p>PGC</p> <p>Tree Vitalize</p> <p>CBF</p> <p>CREP</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Conservancy</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>To promote our annual tree sale program by contacting 150 residents to encourage tree planting each year.</p> <p>Assist watershed associations and partner organizations with 1 tree planting per year.</p>



4.E. Farm-City Family Festival Event

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To educate the public about the importance of the farm and urban relationship in providing food to American families.</p> <p>Educate event attendees about conservation and stewardship of our farmland.</p> <p>Promote an awareness of the interaction between urban and farm residents.</p>	<p>Direct and plan the Farm-City event by organizing and structuring committee meetings leading to the event.</p>	<p>Program Assistant</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>District Directors</p> <p>Education Coordinator</p>	<p>Clinton County Fair Association</p> <p>Clinton County Government</p> <p>Farm Bureau</p> <p>Mill Hall Kiwanis</p> <p>NRCS</p>	<p>Yearly event in September</p>	<p>To plan a successful Farm-City Family Festival that is attended by 1000 people.</p>



Land Development

Growth in the county is inevitable and when done correctly, can be very desirable. While the large influx of natural gas exploration activities of a few years ago, has ebbed a bit for now, Pennsylvania is now a major energy exporting state and Clinton County will have an ongoing role in that designation. While not all gas-related activities fall under the responsibility of review and inspection by the District, it is still important to keep abreast of natural gas-related projects within the county.

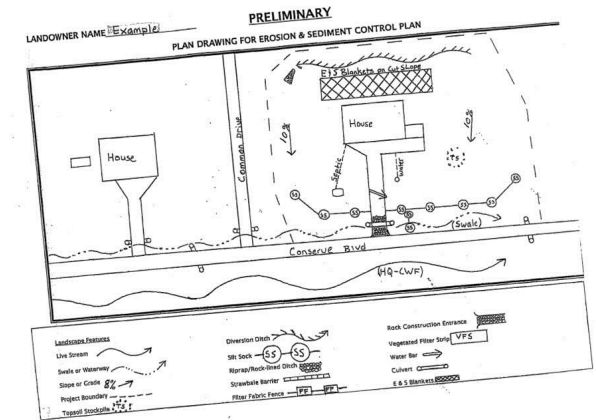
Growth is most obvious when it occurs as part of large-scale industrial projects, pipelines and potentially residential development. However, in many cases it's the smaller-scale individual projects that have the greatest impact on the long-term use of the land.

We will continue to work alongside our county and the many municipal Planning Commissions to develop land use policies and to promote smart, sustainable growth. When requested, we will enthusiastically assist and cooperate with municipalities and their leaders in implementing their programs and ordinances.

The District provides technical assistance to landowners on stormwater and potential flooding issues. Frequently, District Directors and staff can use technical knowledge and field experiences in ways that are helpful to landowners. We live and work in an area that has the designation as being part of the newly-coined "River Towns." While this designation is certainly delightful, it also reminds us that it's not so much a question of 'if we might have another flood', it's more of a statement of 'when we will have our next flood.' Preparedness and resiliency are the current clarion calls when it comes to life in or near floodplains.

Forests are a large component of the land area within Clinton County and done properly, timber harvesting promotes healthier forests and provides useable habitat for wildlife. Large timber harvests that have 25-acres or more of earth disturbance require an E&S Permit, for which the District and DEP provide review. Smaller timber harvest operations are also governed by environmental regulation; therefore, District involvement and technical assistance is important to help guide the proper and appropriate use of E&S controls.

With the opportunity to review large-scale construction projects at the planning stage, we can encourage low-impact development and applicable best management practices to ensure that there are minimal negative impacts to our region's natural resources.

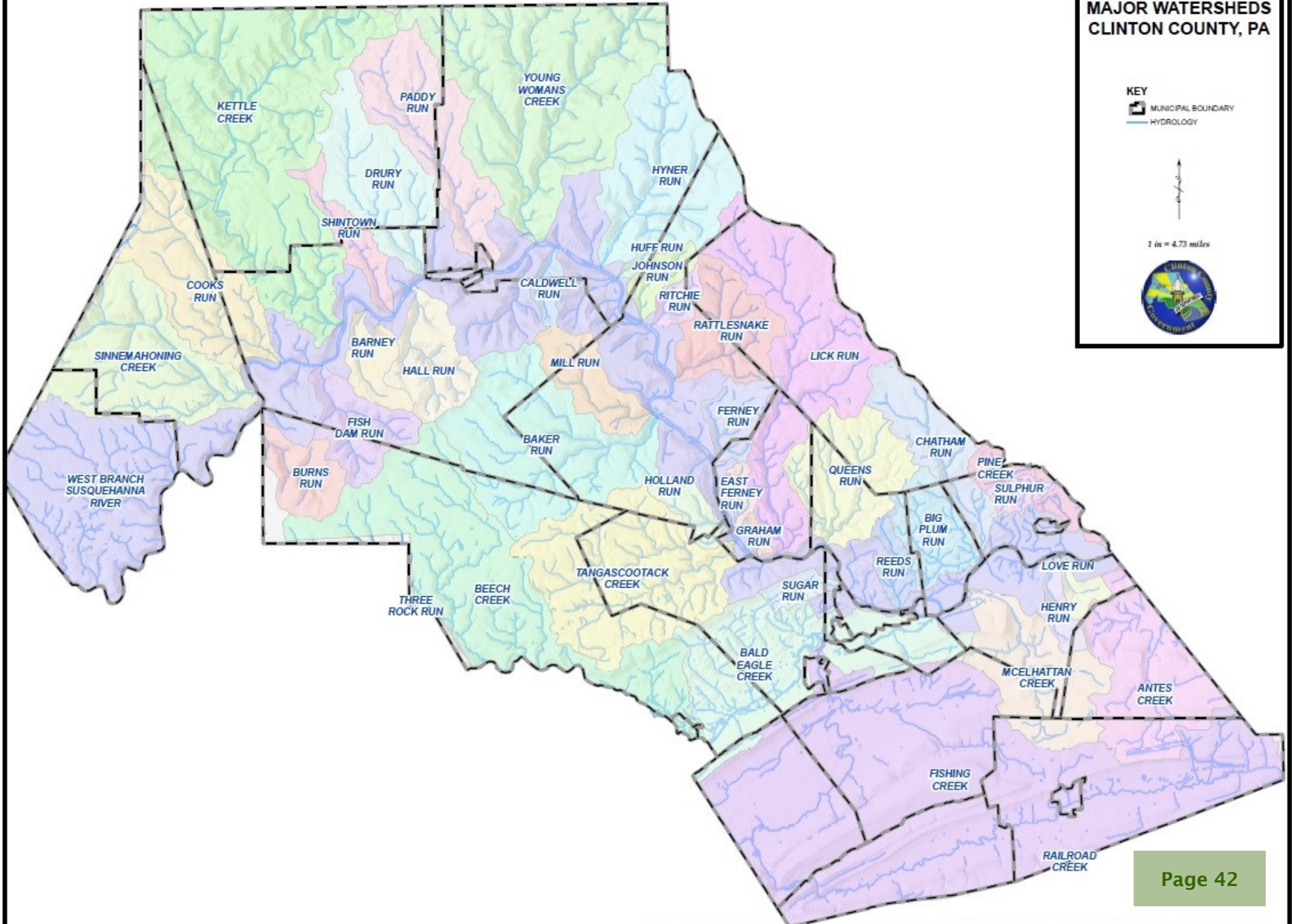


MAJOR WATERSHEDS CLINTON COUNTY, PA

KEY
 MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
 HYDROLOGY



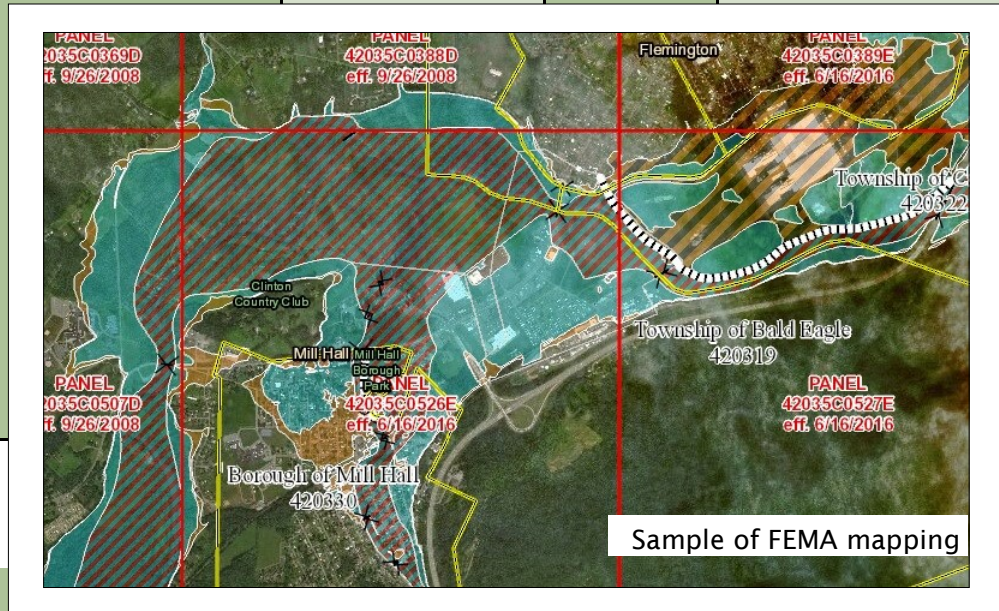
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Strategic Plan

5.A. Floodplain Management

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
To assist county landowners and municipalities with floodplain determinations and provide guidance about the permitting requirements for development in the floodplain.	To maintain an up-to-date dataset of mapped floodplains in the county via paper maps and the GIS system.	Resource Conservationist Resource Technician District Manager	FEMA Floodplain Maps DEP Municipalities GIS County Planning Office	Ongoing	To provide timely and responsive service to all requests made of our office for assistance within 7 working days.



Sample of FEMA mapping



5.B. Stormwater

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To provide county landowners with technical assistance on stormwater issues and provide guidance to resolve stormwater problems.</p> <p>Provide guidance that would lead to the reduction of the amount of stormwater runoff from non-agricultural and agricultural lands by improving infiltration rates.</p> <p>Follow guidelines, if provided by DEP, for the development of a county-wide Act 167 Plan and for updating existing Act 167 Plans by individual Watersheds.</p>	<p>Keep abreast of state and municipal stormwater policies or ordinances.</p> <p>To encourage low impact development.</p> <p>If action is required by DEP, be involved in the development of a county-wide Act 167 Plan and assist in updating already existing Act 167 Plans.</p>	<p>Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>Watershed Specialist</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Technical Staff</p> <p>Roads and Ag Resource Technician</p> <p>Watershed Associations</p>	<p>Act 167 Stormwater Plans</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>Municipalities</p> <p>County Planning Office</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>PennDOT</p>	<p>Ongoing Assistance</p> <p>As required</p>	<p>To provide timely and responsive service to all requests made of our office within 7 working days.</p> <p>To provide technical assistance for low impact development as needed or requested.</p> <p>If required, develop a county-wide Act 167 Plan and provide assistance in updating existing Act 167 Plans.</p>



Strategic Plan

5.C. Farmland Preservation

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To administer the county Farmland Preservation Program.</p> <p>Promote the preservation of Prime Farmland and Soils of Statewide Importance to maintain robust Agricultural production.</p> <p>To insure compliance with Farmland Preservation Program.</p>	<p>Coordinate with the State Farmland Preservation Board</p> <p>Conduct County Agriculture Preservation Board meetings. Attend trainings to understand duties and responsibilities involved in administering the program.</p> <p>Inspect and keep proper records of farms in the program to insure compliance with Farmland Preservation Program.</p> <p>Rank applicants for program eligibility.</p>	<p>District Manager</p> <p>Roads and Ag Resource Technician</p> <p>Program Assistant</p> <p>Other District Staff</p>	<p>GIS office</p> <p>USDA soil maps</p> <p>County Agriculture Preservation Board</p> <p>County Commissioners</p> <p>NRCS</p> <p>PA Farmland Preservation Bureau</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To provide timely and responsive service to all requests made of our office for new farm applications.</p> <p>To keep proper documentation and filing of easement files.</p> <p>To enroll up to two farms by 12/31/2022.</p> <p>Within each two-year period, inspect every farm in the Agricultural Preservation Program to ensure program compliance.</p>



5.D. Natural Gas Activities

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To minimize the potential negative impacts to resources from natural gas related operations, including pipelines.</p>	<p>Coordinate pre-application meetings to encourage implementation of E&S plans and controls.</p> <p>To review permit applications for large scale and multi-county pipeline projects.</p> <p>To keep abreast of natural gas activities within the County.</p> <p>Serve on the County Natural Gas Task Force Committee.</p>	<p>Resource Conservationist</p> <p>Resource Technician</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>DCNR – Bureau of Forestry</p> <p>DEP</p> <p>County Natural Gas Task Force Committee</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To review ESCGP Permits and E&S plans within 30 days after receiving an administratively complete application.</p> <p>To coordinate with other counties or municipalities on review of plans.</p>



District Operations

The smooth operation of the Conservation District while upholding our Mission Statement is of utmost importance to District Directors as well as to administrators. A strategic plan survey was conducted to provide baseline data on the effectiveness of district operations. We were judged to have highly-effective staff who are knowledgeable about programs and timely in responding to requests for assistance and information. The survey indicated that growth can be made in the areas of providing technical assistance to rural, non-farmer landowners as well as to local government officials. Our online presence, specifically our website, is in need of improvement. It should be noted that our website is not completely managed by District staff. The results of the survey have been very beneficial in helping to formulate the objectives, goals, and strategies of this plan as we forge forward toward our 75th Anniversary.

Through the adoption of this plan, the Board of Directors has committed to provide an environment to foster the professional development of both themselves and their staff. What's more, they've committed to keep abreast of natural resource concerns and to maintain sound financial practices by staying strategically focused and fiscally constrained. The Directors also recognize that new to our operations, is the ownership of our property. They must maintain our facility to provide a beneficial work environment, while being prudent with our funds.



On March 1, 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding and Article of Agreement were signed to transfer 45 Cooperation Lane, Mill Hall, PA from Clinton County to the Clinton County Conservation District and to document our working relationship. Directors, Associate Directors, County Commissioners, and Past Directors present for the ceremony are pictured above.

Left to right sitting:

Past Director Daniel Vilello, Past Director Betty Baird-Schantz, Past Director R. Stewart Ramm, and Past Director Paul Dotterer

Left to right standing:

County Commissioner Jeffrey Snyder, County Commissioner Pete Smeltz, County Commissioner and Commissioner Director Paul Conklin, Director James Harbach, Director Larry Butler (Secretary/Treasurer), Director Rob Bowman, Director Ralph Harnishfeger (Vice-Chair), Director Charlie Dotterer (Chair), Director Paul Courter, Associate Director Elam Stoltzfus, Associate Director Ron Brungart. Director Bill Hunter is not pictured.



District Operations (continued)

Additionally, with this Strategic Plan update, the Board of Directors is recommitting, as well as reemphasizing its commitment to providing a full complement of professional staff which includes maintaining quality staff who are knowledgeable in their respective programs, capable and effective in communication with the regulated community, and dedicated to public service.

It's critical that the Conservation District continue to represent its objectives at local and statewide meetings. Maintaining open and two-way lines of communication with other cooperating agencies and associations can only benefit county landowners and municipal officials. The Directors are once again encouraging staff to find and pursue grant opportunities to maintain and grow our services while both meeting and surpassing our current conservation objectives.



Board and Staff members present at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on March 1, 2019.

Directors and staff must keep abreast of current legislation that can affect funding and regulations for natural resource programs. The District should act locally when warranted on environmental issues of statewide and national importance.

At the core of any successful Conservation District are the Directors who volunteer their time, talents and financial resources to meet, discuss and review current issues and make the prudent and sometime difficult decisions that guide our programs. The District strongly encourages nominating organizations to provide nominations of worthy candidates who will serve on the Board of Directors. Once on the Board, these Directors will have voting powers, and they can actively recruit Associate Directors to serve in a non-voting capacity and to participate on various committees.



Strategic Plan

6.A. Professional Development for Directors and Staff

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To provide training and learning opportunities to staff and District Directors to enhance their understanding of natural resource concerns, new regulations and programs, and the role of the Conservation District.</p> <p>To keep present District Directors abreast of current issues, and to recruit and encourage more Associate District Directors to participate.</p>	<p>Send staff and District Directors to relevant trainings.</p> <p>Inform staff and District Directors about relevant conferences and encourage attendance.</p>	<p>District Staff</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>Partner agencies</p> <p>Other natural resource related entities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>For each staff member or Director to have the opportunity to attend at least two trainings/ meetings per year.</p>



6.B. Finances, Policies, and Procedures

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>Develop a budget with all aspects of funding and expenses taken into consideration to properly manage programs.</p> <p>To develop a Conservation District and county-related budget that is prudent and is adaptable to any changes in revenue sources and program expenses.</p> <p>To have an effective and current District Operating Policy.</p>	<p>Present the County Budget in a timely manner by date requested.</p> <p>Support a working relationship with and encourage meetings with the County Commissioners.</p> <p>Review the effectiveness of and update the District Operating Policy, as needed.</p>	<p>District Staff</p> <p>District Directors</p> <p>District Finance Committee</p>	<p>Partner agencies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Present a county-related budget to the County Commissioners that maintains adequate county funding to continue services and manage programs efficiently.</p> <p>Develop an overall budget to sustain programs and operate the Conservation District in an efficient manner that fulfills Annual Goals and Strategic Plan Objectives.</p> <p>Follow the District Operating Policy.</p>



6.C. Active Engagement with Conservation Partners

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>Represent the Conservation District and its objectives at statewide and local conservation related meetings.</p> <p>Keep abreast of current legislation, and its impact on the operations of the Conservation District.</p>	<p>Send staff and District Directors to relevant meetings, such as, PACD, DEP and SCC conferences; watershed association meetings, etc.</p> <p>Support needed funding and legislation for wise use of our natural resources.</p>	<p>District Staff</p> <p>District Directors</p>	<p>Partner agencies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>For each staff member and director to have the opportunity to attend at least two meetings per year.</p> <p>At least one staff member and one director attend SCC and PACD meetings.</p>



6.D. Assessment and Evaluation of Program Effectiveness

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>To evaluate volunteer District Directors to determine if they are meeting their responsibilities as directors.</p> <p>To evaluate if the goals of the Conservation District are being met.</p>	<p>District Directors attend District meetings regularly so that a quorum is attained and official business can be conducted.</p> <p>Provide annual evaluations of staff performance.</p> <p>Provide an annual evaluation of Board performance.</p> <p>Survey and/or interview the public about District programs to help assess how well we are meeting our goals and objectives.</p>	<p>District Directors</p>	<p>District Directors</p> <p>DEP Field Representative</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>To have District Directors attend all meetings unless excused and to have a quorum present at every regular and special meeting.</p> <p>Participate in staff interviews and written evaluations, if on appropriate subcommittee.</p> <p>Report public survey and interview results to the entire Board at the January planning meeting.</p>



6.E. Property Ownership and Property Management

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	RESOURCES AND PARTNERS	TIME FRAME	GOALS
<p>Meet the conditions of the both the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Sales Agreement with Clinton County Government.</p> <p>Maintain and improve the physical condition of the property.</p> <p>Uphold operating procedures related to the use of contractors and subcontractors.</p> <p>Manage the facilities both as occupants but also as rented facilities.</p>	<p>Consider/plan investments, rentals, grants, administrative fees, permit fees, etc. (as appropriate and allowed) to yield value to cover and/or offset payment obligations.</p> <p>Establish and update, as needed, identified property maintenance and improvements goals.</p> <p>Establish and update, as needed, appropriate procedures related to the use of contractors and subcontractors.</p> <p>Establish and update, as needed, appropriate policies for property management.</p>	<p>District Directors</p> <p>District Manager</p>	<p>District Directors</p> <p>District Manager</p> <p>Clinton County Government</p> <p>Service Providers / Contractors</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Make required mortgage payments, meet insurance requirements, maintain accounts payable and meet other requirements as stated in the MOU.</p> <p>Make annual property improvements that are consistent with identified goals of the Board of Directors and the Building Committee.</p> <p>Maintain the facility using contracted services as needed.</p> <p>Locate, develop, and retain occupants of rentable facilities.</p>



Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution

Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution provides as follows:

“The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

