

INDIANA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2018





On The Cover

This year the cover features conservation scenes from around Indiana County.

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A Letter From the Chairperson

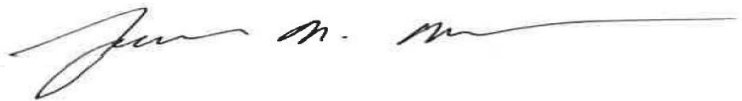
Leading for the Future

2018 was an exciting year for the Indiana County Conservation District. We grew our staff by one with the addition of a full-time watershed specialist position. This position complements our existing, talented staff, who specialize in erosion and sedimentation control permitting, nutrient management, and dirt, gravel and low volume roads programs. The Board also hired a new District Manager with the skills and ambition to lead the organization into the future. Additionally, we moved from our office in the Diamond Drug complex to a temporary office location on North Fourth Street. This new space has proven to be very valuable in assisting our office in conducting business on a day to day basis.

2019 is shaping up to be a landmark year for the District. We are currently in the final stages of design for the construction of our new office building and environmental education center, which will help secure our position for the foreseeable future. This new office and environmental education center will be located next to the Indiana County Technology Center on Hamill Road. We are anticipating breaking ground this spring with construction completed by fall 2019. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Indiana County Conservation District!

I want to thank everyone for their continued support of our office and our staff. We look forward to what 2019 has in store for us.

Thank you,



Jason W. McGinnis
District Chairperson



A Note From the Manager

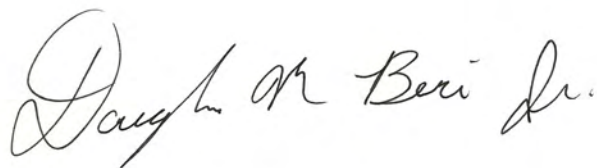
Water. When you think about water, you think of that clean drinking water coming out of the sink faucet. We use it for cooking, bathing, etc... Water is not only a vital part of our everyday lives, but something we depend on for survival. In today's changing world, now more than ever, we need to continually focus on conserving and protecting our water resources. The Indiana County Conservation District serves that function for Indiana County. As this report will detail, the Conservation District works to promote sustainable communities by conserving and protecting the vast natural resources of Indiana County.

Although only recently hired in November of 2018, I have a much longer history of involvement with conservation in Indiana County. I grew up in a small town called Gas Center in East Wheatfield Township. I graduated from United School District in 2005. While there, I participated in FFA, the Indiana County Envirothon, and took 4 years of Vocational Agriculture studies. After graduating from Pennsylvania Highlands Community College with an Associates Degree in Environmental Technology, I worked for a non-profit as their Projects Manager completing habitat restoration and invasive species control work throughout a five county region that included Indiana County. Later I became a board member, then Vice President of the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, helping to lead the charge on water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, recreation based economic development, and land conservation initiatives throughout the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin (a 1,886 square mile river basin that includes parts of Indiana County).

I am excited to bring my vision, enthusiasm and dedication to natural resource conservation to Indiana County and the Conservation District. In the short time that I've been here, I've learned that our County has the best team of passionate staff working on conservation related issues. They understand the importance that conservation plays in economic development and work tirelessly to build positive relationships with the communities that we serve.

The Conservation District is here to help the people of Indiana County, which is what we've done for decades and will continue to do moving forward.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas M. Beri Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Douglas M. Beri Jr.
District Manager

ICCD Staff

Dedicated to serving Indiana County and its residents.



Indiana County Conservation District staff left to right:
Josh Brown, Andrea Frustaci, Tammie Robinson, Brooke Russick, Doug Beri, Leya Ramer

We Moved

The Conservation District moved its operations to a new, temporary location. We plan to be in our current building for at least a year while planning for a new, permanent facility continues. We will continue to assist and serve the residents of Indiana County with the same quality and care while we are in the transitional space. If you need to reach us, our phone number remains the same at 724.471.4751. Our new address is 350 North 4th Street, Indiana, PA 15701.



District Hires Watershed Specialist

Josh Brown

Indiana County Conservation District is pleased to announce the addition of their new employee, Josh Brown.

Josh comes to the District with a Wildlife and Fisheries Management background. Prior to joining the District, Josh worked in the Anadromous Fish Restoration Unit of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Josh also has experience as a Wildlife Biologist, with emphasis on Herpetology, Threatened and Endangered Species, and white-tailed deer research. Additionally, he taught Wildlife Management Courses at Hocking College and is a Researcher for the North American Freshwater Turtle Research Group.

Josh earned an A.S. in Wildlife Technology and a B.S. in Wildlife in Fisheries Science from Penn State University and an M.S. in Biology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He is an Indiana County native and enjoys outdoor recreation and homesteading.



Josh Brown, Watershed Specialist

Donate to the Envirothon Education Grant Fund

Your tax deductible donation can be made payable to the Indiana County Conservation District Environmental Education Fund and mailed to

350 North 4th Street, Indiana, PA 15701.



Indiana County Conservation District

Continues Pursuit of Multi-Functional Office Building

Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD), in partnership with the Indiana County Commissioners, and the Indiana County Development Corporation, secured funding to construct a new office building and environmental educational center.

The ICCD has worked vigorously to secure a suitable location and has successfully negotiated an agreement with the Indiana County Technology Center (ICTC) for construction of the new facility. The new ICCD facility will be located on the ICTC campus adjacent to the school in White Township.

It is our goal that the building will not only serve as permanent office space for ICCD, and hopefully our partner agencies in the future, but also an environmental education center, meeting space for community organizations and partners, and a demonstration site for sustainable development in Indiana County.

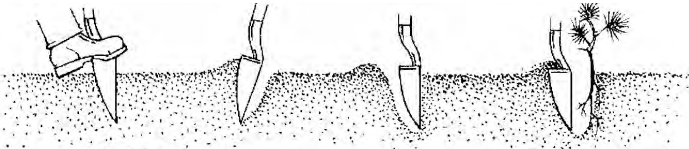
This building will allow us to enhance the services we provide to residents of the county and continue our mission “to promote sustainable agriculture and communities while protecting and wisely using the natural resources of Indiana County.” We are extremely excited to have the opportunity to pursue this valuable project.



Education Corner

How to Care for and Plant a Tree Seedling

Hand Planting with a Shovel



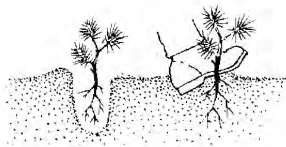
Insert shovel with the blade reversed and perpendicular.

Push the handle away from you, then pull the blade up to remove soil.

Make a second cut to straighten the opposite side of the hole.

Pull the soil toward you, and hold the hole open with the shovel. Place the tree in the hole with the roots in a normal position.

Remove the shovel and fill in the bottom half of the hole. Pack the soil with your heel.



Fill with remaining soil and pack down.

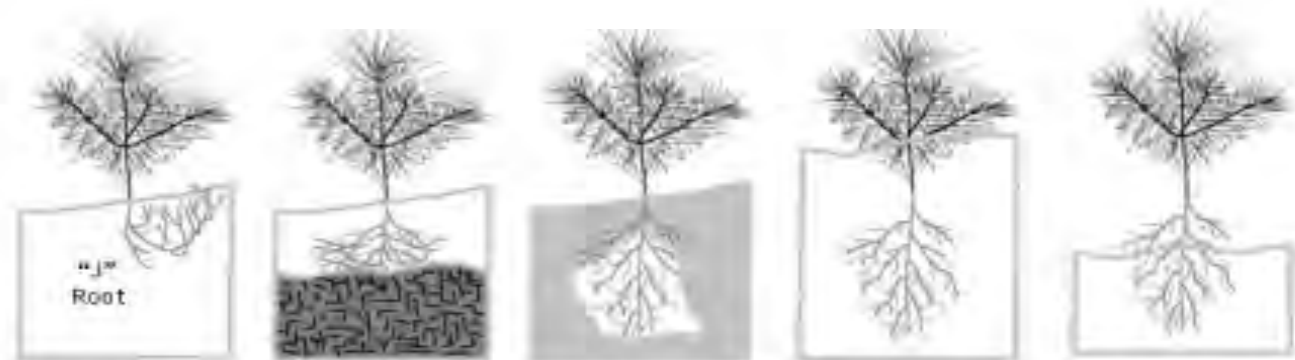
How to Correctly Place

Seedlings should be placed in the ground at the same depth at which it grew in the nursery.



This depth can be determined by the change to a lighter colored bark where the stem was below the ground or by a swelling or "root collar".

Common Planting Mistakes



Upturned Roots

Shallow Bedrock

Air Pocket

Too Deep

Too Shallow

Tree Seedling Sale 2020

Be on the lookout for our 2020 Tree Seedling Sale brochure! We will have various tree seedling available for purchase. If you would like to be placed on the seedling sale email list please contact the District.

DGLVR Statewide Workshop Held in Indiana County

Annual Maintenance Workshop

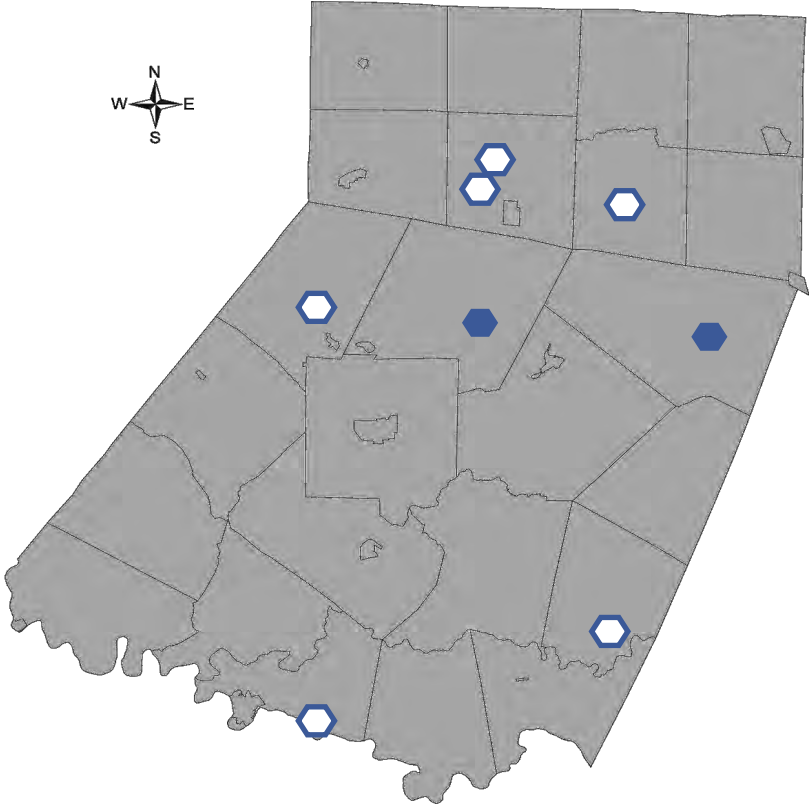
This year, ICCD had the pleasure of hosting the Statewide Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Maintenance Workshop organized by the Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies. There was great attendance with over 100 municipal officials, 49 of 65 Conservation Districts, state agencies, vendors, and others that gathered at the Kovalchick Center Athletic Complex for the annual workshop.

Attendees toured six completed project sites across Indiana County that were funded by the DGLVR grant program. Our staff worked closely with Penn State staff to showcase projects that demonstrate environmentally sensitive road practices, including stream crossing replacements, road fill, driving surface aggregate, off right-of-way improvements, and more. We received great feedback from attendees and are happy to have had the opportunity!



DGLVR Grants Awarded

Every year ICCD works with public road owners through the Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Maintenance Program. In 2018, ICCD funded seven municipalities on eight road projects to minimize roadway impacts on streams, while also decreasing long-term maintenance costs. Over \$774,000 went to fund dirt and gravel road improvements and \$242,000 funded low-volume road improvements.



2018



Low Volume Roads

- Green Township, Mulberry Road
- Rayne Township, Tanoma Road



Dirt & Gravel Roads

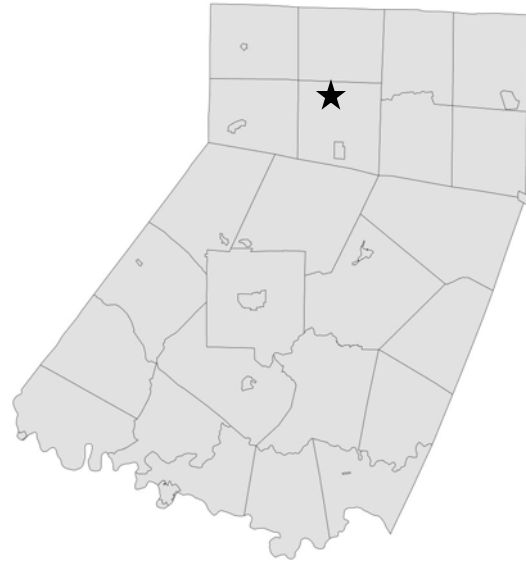
- Buffington Township, Wissinger Road

- Burrell Township, Oaks Point Road
- East Mahoning Township, Steele Road
- Grant Township, Braughler Road
- East Mahoning Township, Rowe Road
- Washington Township, Fairman Hollow Road

Project Spotlight:

East Mahoning Township, Simpson Road

Comprehensive Dirt & Gravel Road Project



This road was an environmental mess and maintenance headache for the Township. It needed a complete, comprehensive fix for road entrenchment, stormwater management, ditch stabilization, spring flow, off right-of-way water, a stream crossing, and surface stabilization.

Project Summary and Results

Over 6,000 tons of road fill were used to raise the road profile and allow for appropriate stormwater management. 1,100 feet of underdrain managed springs and field drains in road ditches. Over 1,000 tons of Driving Surface Aggregate were placed on top for the best surface stabilization.



Before and After: A 3FT round plastic pipe is replaced with one that meets the width of the stream to allow for aquatic organism passage, cause less erosion, and increase flood resiliency.



Active construction during road fill, left, underdrain installation, right.

A bank full width culvert with a 9 FT span was installed with grade controls/fish habitat improvement structures to allow for flood resiliency and aquatic organism passage. Simpson Road is one of our most successful projects yet and was featured on the 2018 Annual Statewide Maintenance Workshop field tour.

Funding Sources and Project Costs

\$96,596—Dirt & Gravel Road grant funds

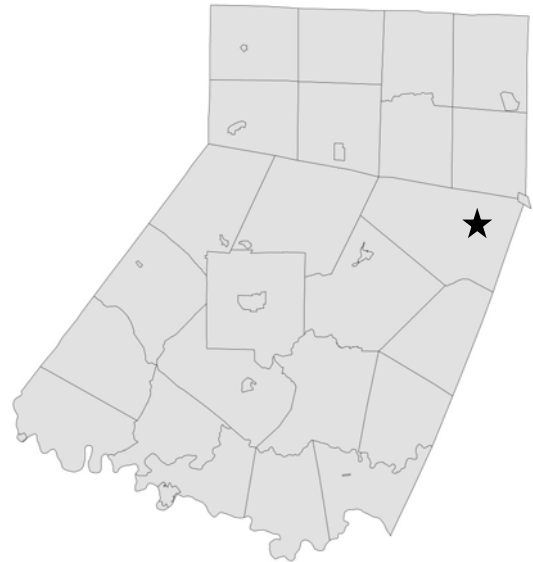
\$21,500—Township in-kind contribution (mostly township labor and equipment)



Driving Surface Aggregate was paver-placed as a final driving surface following drainage work.

Project Spotlight: Green Township, Mulberry Road

Low Volume Road Stream Crossing Replacement Project



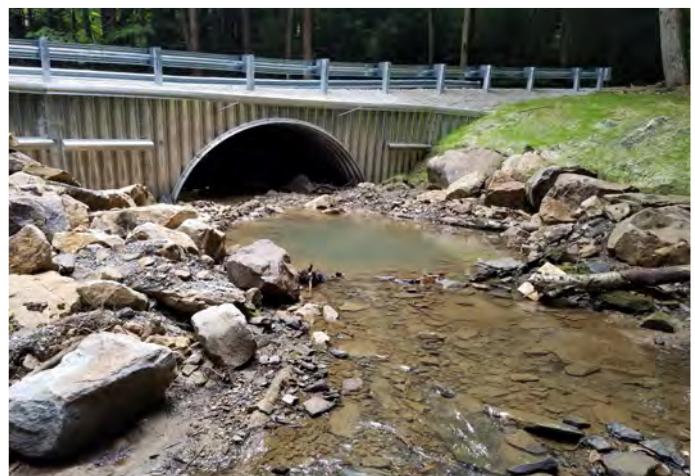
This culvert under Mulberry Road was severely undersized and in poor condition. It is on a tributary of South Branch Two Lick Creek, a natural reproducing brook trout stream located within State Game Lands 185. From the Township’s perspective, they noticed the roadway sinking over several seasons and were concerned about a total failure. Environmentally, the constriction in the stream caused sediment to build up at the inlet of the pipe and a large eroded pool at the outlet.

Project Summary and Results

ICCD worked with Green Township to design and implement this project. Per DGLVR Program policy, any stream structures paid for with DGLVR grant monies must be installed at no less than bank full width—i.e. the width of the stream when it’s at the top of its banks before it floods. In this case, bank full width was 14 feet. A bank full width culvert with a 15 foot span replaced the 3 feet wide collapsing pipe. It was installed with grade controls made of logs and large rocks to mimic natural stream features, hold streambed material inside the pipe, and facilitate aquatic organism passage.



Before



After



Above: District staff measure an un-impacted section of the stream to mimic in the new culvert.



Left—Streambed material inside the newly installed culvert. This not only extends the life of the aluminum by preventing abrasion, but it also mimics a natural stream to allow aquatic species to move through the pipe and access upstream habitat.

Right—A log framed deflector directs the power of the stream to the center of the culvert—designed by Trout Unlimited.

Funding Sources and Project Costs

\$97,750—Low Volume Road Grant funds

\$900—Township in-kind contribution

Key Project Partners

Green Township, Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies, Trout Unlimited

Indiana County Envirothon

Accept a Natural Challenge!

Envirothon continues to provide a high-quality learning opportunity for our county students. 95 students competed in the Senior Envirothon, (a new record!), while 120 competed in the Junior High event. Every school district in the county, as well as Seeds of Faith Christian Academy participated in this year's competitions. Many agency partners and dedicated community members work together to educate our students on aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue.

Envirothon tests students' knowledge of Pennsylvania's natural resources and environmental sciences. It provides generations the skills to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world, as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

Each member of the winning Senior Envirothon team is awarded a \$500 education grant to be used for post-secondary education. Indiana County students have been aided to the tune of \$29,000 since the grant program began in 2007. Thank you to our generous 2018 contributors: Don Bowers, Catalone Pipe & Supply Co., Crooked Creek Watershed Association, Elderton State Bank, Indiana Moose Lodge #174, Keller Engineers, Inc., Herbert Pollock, Stiffler McGraw, and Joe & Arlene Yackuboskey.



Ernest Borough

Mine Hill Road

ICCD coordinated with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) to assist Ernest Borough with a Quick Response Grant Repair to a compromised storm drain system near the intersection of Mine Hill Road and First Street.

The impacted site drains a 23 acre area into McKee Run. Heavy rainfall and blockages led to pipe failure and subsidence. This posed not only an erosion and sedimentation risk, but a public safety hazard, as well.

During excavation, a large rock and a cooler were found in the pipe, along with other garbage and debris. Additionally, the 36 inch terra cotta pipe was funneled down into a 24 inch pipe. Further excavation revealed an old concrete trough that restricted the diameter of the pipe.

Ernest Borough and the contractor demonstrated flexibility and ingenuity in overcoming unforeseen obstacles to the project. We were able to tie in to the 36 inch terra cotta pipe above the subsidence and install 36 inch corrugated pipe to the outfall, reducing erosion potential and restoring the integrity of the drainage system.



Before and After: Subsidence at Mine Hill Road intersection with First Street. Post construction the road will be paved by Ernest Borough.

Goose Run Special Project

Comes to a Close

Goose Run, located near Marion Center, PA, is a sub-watershed of the South Branch Plum Creek Watershed (SBPC). SBPC is one of several watersheds designated by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a priority agricultural watershed.

DEP focused funding and attention in this watershed to restore clean water utilizing a holistic approach to all the waters within it. DEP's Regional Agricultural Watershed Assessment Program Initiative (RAWAPI) program enabled the District to financially assist landowners in the Goose Run Watershed with planning and installation of a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs have reduced animal nutrients and sediment impacts to the streams.

Throughout the life of this program ICCD worked with numerous landowners to complete installation of valuable BMPs. These included 2044 FT of access road, 3353 FT of pipeline, two animal heavy use and manure storage areas, three spring developments (livestock water source), three watering facilities, 3461 FT of livestock fencing, including streambank fencing to limit livestock access, 50 FT of streambank protection, and multiple structures for water control.

The work completed by the landowners in the Goose Run Watershed will result in long-term improvements to the watershed and its receiving waters.



Pounds Farm Receives Clean Farm Award

Marion Center, PA

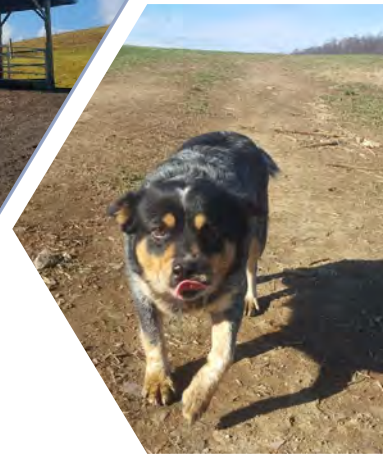
The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD) in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Indiana County Conservation District presented the Dave Pounds Farm with the Clean Water Farm Award.

This honor is awarded annually to a farmer who manages their farm operation in an environmentally conscious manner that helps to protect Pennsylvania's water quality.

Dave Pounds and his family own a 101 acre beef cattle farm in Marion Center. The farm has 16 acres of rotational grazing pasture with 35 acres of hay land, and over 20 acres of Conservation Reserve Program land. Best management practices include rotational grazing, a pressurized watering system, grassed diversion, contour farming, stabilized stream crossings, and over 35 feet wide riparian buffers on all stream corridors.

The Pounds family has allowed many local and regional farmers, agency personnel, and elected officials to tour the farm for educational purposes. Dave is an incredible wealth of knowledge and takes the lead when explaining the management of his operation, as well as explaining how the practices on his operation function to improve water quality.

Thank you to the Pounds family for always making conservation a top priority!



Delegated Programs

Chapters 102 & 105

Through delegation agreements with the PA Department of Environmental Protection, the Indiana County Conservation District administers the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&S), National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES), and Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Encroachment Act-Water Obstruction and Encroachment programs.

Indiana County saw a lot of activity in 2018 resulting in the review and oversight of many construction projects. ICCD is dedicated to ensuring that while development and expansion occurs, our natural resources are protected.

- Issued 49 Chapter 105 Stream Encroachment Permits
- Issued nine Chapter 102 NPDES Permits
- Reviewed 52 Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plans
- Conducted 48 Site Inspections seeking voluntary compliance
- Provided over 180 hours of technical assistance



Before and After: After a near record rainfall event in July, a historic stream enclosure collapsed along Marsh Run threatening homes along Water Street in Indiana Borough. ICCD provided assistance to Indiana Borough Public Works Department by expediting Chapter 105 permits to help repair the damage and prevent additional flooding.



Before and After: Andrea, assisting the DEP with site inspections following a train derailment in North Point, West Mahoning Township.



Before and After: Recovery of impacts to an unnamed tributary to Mahoning Creek after the train derailment in North Point, West Mahoning Township.

Manure Management

Efforts Continue

DEP manure management regulations require every farm in Pennsylvania that produces or applies manure to develop and implement a written Manure Management Plan (MMP).

With financial assistance from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts manure management mini-grant program, ICCD continued to host regular workshops to educate and assist farmers with writing a MMP for their operation. Throughout 2018, ICCD hosted four workshops and helped over 200 farmers comply with regulations.

ICCD Board of Directors



Indiana County Conservation District Board of Director Members Back: Richard Stumpf, Commissioner Rodney Ruddock, Edward Kuckuck, J. Scott Overdorff, Front : Beth Marshall, Jason McGinnis, Janis Long



Indiana County Conservation District Associate Directors: Alysha Trexler, Joe Yackuboskey, John Somonick , Craig Andrie. Not pictured: Cindy Rogers

ICCD Directory

Directors

Jason McGinnis - Chair

J. Scott Overdorff -Vice Chair

Edward Kuckuck - Treasurer

Rodney Ruddock - Commissioner Member

Janis Long

Beth Marshall

Richard Stumpf

Associate Directors

Craig Andrie

Cindy Rogers

John Somonick

Staff

Doug Beri, Jr. - District Manager

Josh Brown - Watershed Specialist

Andrea Frustaci -

Resource Conservation Technician

Leya Ramer - Agriculture Conservation Specialist

Tammie Robinson - Office Administrator/
Envirothon Coordinator

Brooke Russick - DGLVR Program Specialist

Alysha Trexler

Joe Yackuboskey

Contact Us

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Find us on Facebook






INDIANA COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
350 N 4TH STREET
INDIANA, PA 15701



CLEAN
STREAMS



DIRT GRAVEL &
LOW VOLUME
ROADS



ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION



SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE

