



INDIANA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MOVING FORWARD: 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

CONSERVATION
WATERSHED farms

natural resources

ENVIROTHON green

YOUTH **FUTURE**

clean streams

sustainable

Education **permits**



Our mission is to promote sustainable agriculture and communities while protecting and wisely using the natural resources of Indiana County.

AGRICULTURE

soils watersheds

food **ECONOMY**

health

WATER plants

dirt/gravel and low volume roads

Indiana County

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

2019 was yet another interesting year for the District. We had some change in staff, and we successfully completed the hiring of a new E&S technician, Watershed Specialist and Nutrient Management/Agriculture technician. In addition to these positions, we created a position for a part-time administrative assistant to help with workload in the office.

Additionally, we moved again from our temporary office location on North Fourth Street to another temporary office located on Indian Springs Road. This temporary space allows us to continue to conduct business on a day-to-day basis. The highlight of 2019 was finalizing the building designs and successfully putting the project out for bid. Bids were solicited and accepted by the County to construct a new office building and Environmental Education Center for the District staff.

2020 is shaping up to be a landmark year for the District. Although we are all dealing with drastic changes to our way of life currently with the COVID pandemic, our staff is working remotely, and we are striving to achieve our mission and goals. Construction has begun

and was progressing very well on the new building before the pandemic hit. We hope to resume construction when it is safe to do so, complete the building construction, and move into our new home this year. This new Office and Environmental Education Center is being constructed next to the Indiana County Technology Center on Hamill Road.

I want to thank everyone for their continued support of our office and our staff. We look forward to what the remainder of 2020 and beyond has in store for us.

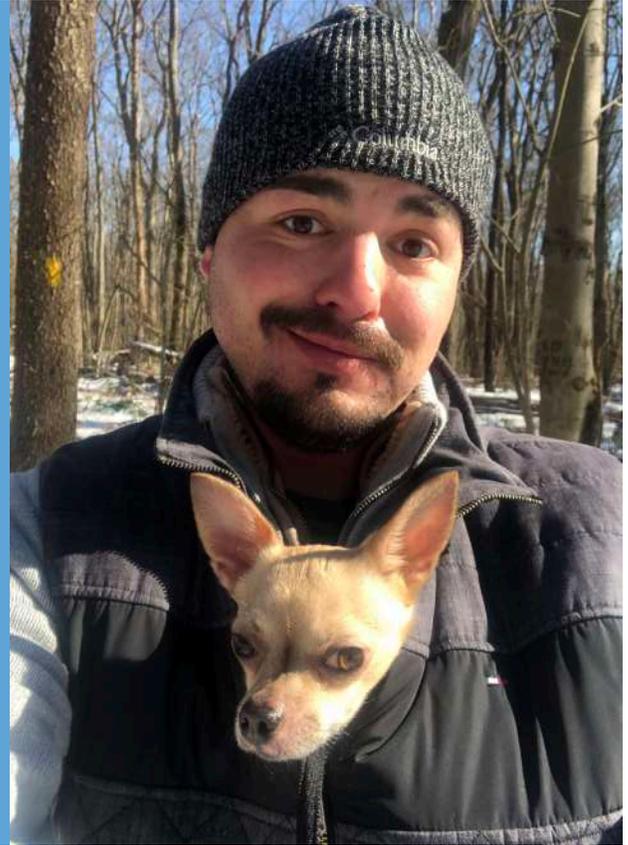
Thank you,

Jason W. McGinnis
District Chairperson

LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

The year 2019 brought about tremendous change, growth, and opportunity for the Indiana County Conservation District. Although it was the ending of an era for some, it was also the beginning of a bright future for others.

The District welcomed four new staff members, all with unique talents and a dedication to conservation, that will drive our programming to new heights. While maintaining our focus and dedication to existing programs, we've expanded and



*“Be the
change
you wish to
see in the
world.”*

-Mahatma Gandhi

strengthened our public outreach efforts including those to our elected leaders. Additionally, despite various challenges, we forged forward with our new office and education center, breaking ground in December.

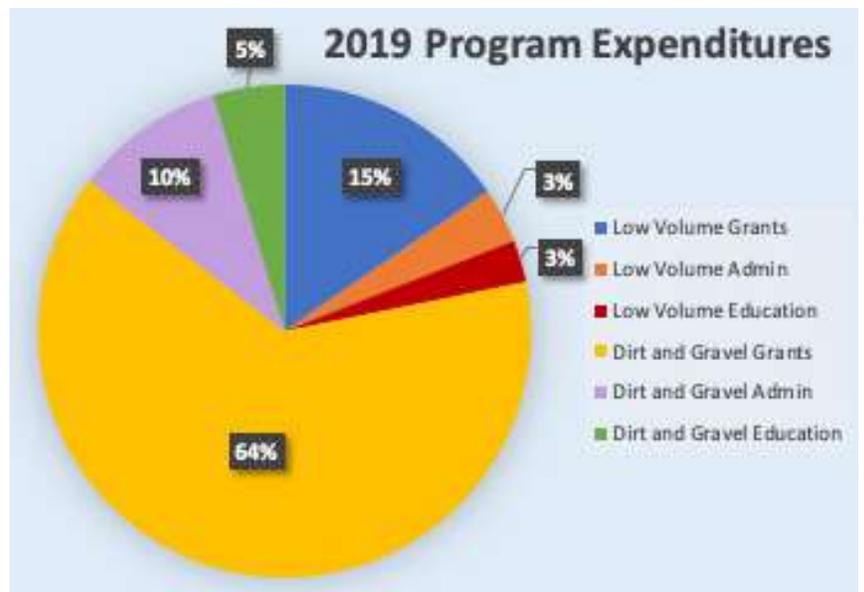
2019 was a year of great changes for the District, changes that will allow us to secure a sustainable future for both the District and County while we continue to move forward in 2020.

Kind Regards,

Douglas M. Beri Jr.
District Manager

Dirt/Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR)

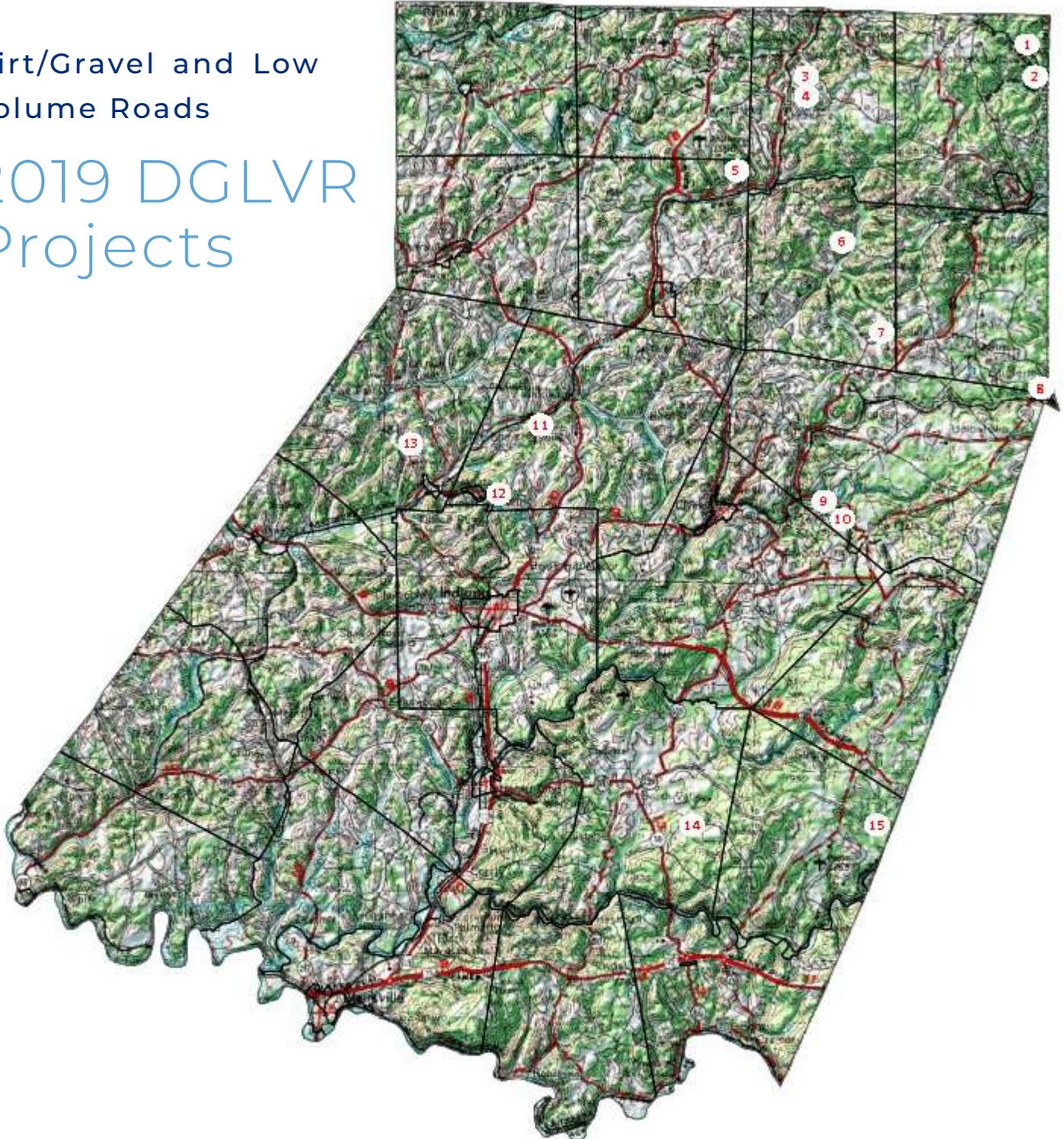
Every year the District works with public road owners through the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Maintenance Program. In 2019, ICCD funded 10 municipalities with 15 road projects to minimize roadway impacts on streams, while also decreasing long-term maintenance costs. Over \$915,000 went to fund dirt and gravel road improvements, and \$291,000 funded low-volume road improvements.



Hamilton Rd. Road Fill/Crosspipe Project in East Mahoning Township - Due to erosion over time, Hamilton Road was entrenched and water had to be managed with ditches on both sides. In order to improve drainage, the Township added over 7,000 tons of fill and upgraded existing drainage to drain water from the roadway.

Dirt/Gravel and Low
Volume Roads

2019 DGLVR
Projects



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Banks Twp, Sidney Rd | 7. Grant Twp, Lentz Rd | 13. Washington Twp, Miller Rd |
| 2. Banks Twp, Beckett Rd | 8. Cherry Tree Borough, High St | 14. Brush Valley Twp, Littletown Rd |
| 3. Canoe Twp, Stiver Rd | 9. Green Twp, Twolick Hill Rd | 15. Buffington Twp, Duncan Rd |
| 4. Canoe Twp, Stiver Rd | 10. Green Twp, Barr Rd | |
| 5. East Mahoning Twp, Hamilton Rd | 11. Rayne Twp, Groft Rd | |
| 6. Grant Twp, Pinevale Rd | 12. Rayne Twp, Grove Chapel Rd | |

Dirt/Gravel and Low Volume Roads

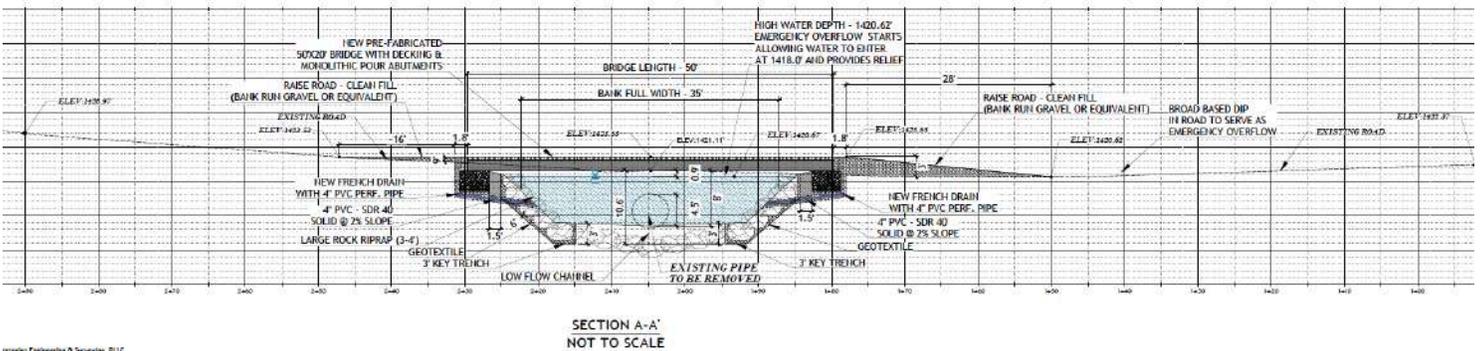
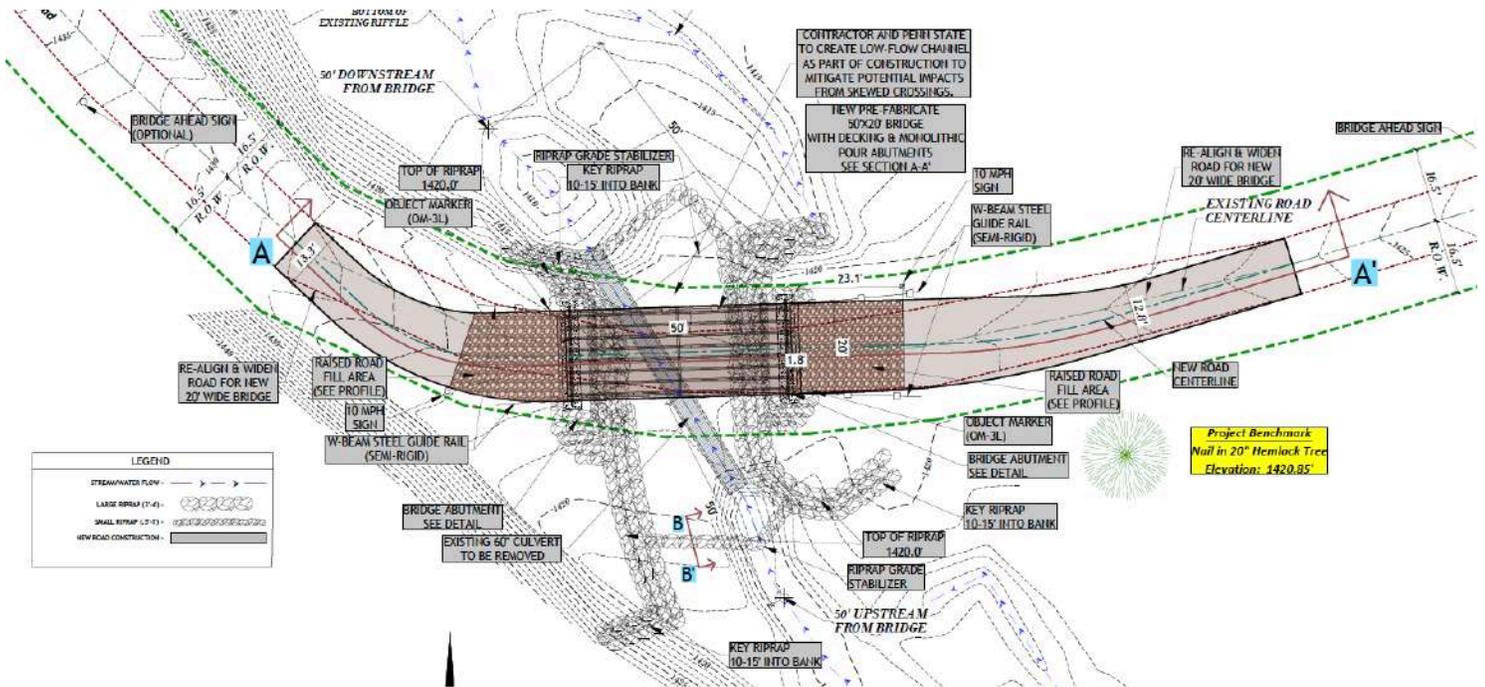
Dirt & Gravel Project Spotlight

This dirt road was nearly lost in a torrential rain event in 2018. During an intense summer storm, an existing five-foot plastic pipe was overwhelmed and flooded the road. Where it flooded, a canyon eroded, stopping just at the edge of Barr Road. This crossing is on Whitaker Run, a high-quality stream with native trout reproduction. Replacing this crossing was not only a priority for public safety, but a priority for the District to improve our natural resources. The District consulted with Trout Unlimited and Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies to determine that a bridge structure spanning over the entire stream channel was the most effective, efficient means of replacement. It is the largest crossing the District has tackled in the history of the program!



BEFORE – Inlet of the existing five-foot wide crossing (left) and the natural, 27-foot stream channel downstream (right).

Better Roads... Cleaner Streams



Project Summary and Results

The District partnered with Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies to use the Barr Road project as a demonstration project for other conservation districts interested in bridge structures and large stream crossings. The design is for a pre-fabricated bridge structure that sits on “floating abutments.” Due to the complexity of the project, construction was pushed back to May 2020. This project will be used for educational workshops and municipal trainings.

Funding Sources and Project Costs

\$120,000 — ICCD Dirt & Gravel Road grant funds

\$128,887 — Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies Demonstration funds

Project Partners

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

Dirt/Gravel and Low Volume Roads

Low Volume Project Spotlight

Grant Township utilized multiple funding sources to improve Pinevale Road - a main thoroughfare through the Township. With a LVR grant from the District, the Township replaced two undersized stream culverts on tributaries to Little Mahoning Creek, a high-quality stream. With a grant from Indiana County, the Township replaced nearly all of the drainage infrastructure from East Run Road to Nashville Road and has funding to resurface the road in 2020. Together, these grants resulted in a comprehensive project that will have a long-lasting impact on the road and community.



BEFORE – An undersized, two-foot diameter metal pipe was prone to clogging and flooding the roadway.

DURING – A larger pipe with an opening of over six feet wide was used to simulate the stream channel through the roadway.



AFTER – The Township and contractor worked to rebuild stream channel within the pipe to simulate normal stream conditions. This both protects the bottom of the pipe from abrasion and facilitates aquatic organisms to pass through the pipe.

Project Summary and Results

Stream pipes of two-foot and three-foot diameters were replaced with arch pipes with a width of six-feet and 5.5-feet, respectively. These widths were determined by matching the bankfull width of the stream – the width before it changes to flood stage.

Funding Sources and Project Costs

\$43,653 — ICCD Low Volume Road Grant funds

\$54,000 — Township in-kind contribution and County Aid funds

AGRICULTURE



Agriculture is a key cornerstone of the foundation of the District. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Indiana County has 951 farms that comprise a total of 148,288 acres with 58% being used for crops compared to 42% for livestock, poultry, and other products. Throughout 2019, the District continued to provide technical assistance services to agricultural producers in the county. Services included hosting manure management workshops to help farmers develop their required manure management plans, nutrient management plan review, and assistance in applying for funds for farm projects, to name a few.

Farming remains one of the most important industries in Indiana County. The District continues to serve our farming community by implementing best management practices to reduce soil and nutrient loss, thereby making the farm more profitable while cleaning up our streams in the process.

Tree Seedling Sale

The District conducted its first tree sale in 2019. The sale promotes tree planting of native species, along with the use of the trees to create riparian buffers. The 2019 sale had 35 orders for more than 1,000 trees, and the riparian bundle was a top seller. Proceeds from the sale help to fund the Indiana County Envirothon scholarships. The tree sale was able to donate \$500 to the scholarship fund.



AGRICULTURE

Project Spotlight Parker Stupic



The District completed a rotational grazing project on the Parker Stupic farm in the South Branch Plum Creek watershed. The project added almost 9,000 feet of high – tensile fence to keep animals out of a pond and waterway and created a paddock system. Removing access to the pond necessitated development of a spring and reservoir to provide multiple watering points in the rotational grazing system. This project will allow the farmer to manage his operation in a more efficient way, while protecting stream and water quality due to the increased vegetation cover provided by the rotational grazing system. This type of system is a large improvement in both agricultural business and conservation sustainability compared to the previous alternative of continuous large field grazing. These projects increase profitability while protecting the soil, keeping it on the farm and out of the water.



Key Project Statistics

- 8800 ft of fence
- 7 watering facilities
- 1 spring development
- 1 reservoir
- 400 ft of stabilized animal walkway

Installed Watering Points in the Rotational Grazing System on the Parker Stupic farm

WATERSHEDS

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common body of water. Everyone lives in a watershed. Indiana County has an abundance of flowing freshwater; however, a lot of it is plagued with pollution. The District works to address sources of pollution including abandoned mine drainage, sediment, and nutrients. Every year the District conducts watershed assessments, develops implementation plans, oversees restoration projects, provides capacity building technical assistance to watershed organizations, and conducts public education and outreach events.

In 2019, the District provided technical assistance to Indiana County's eight watershed associations, as well as the Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Conemaugh Valley Conservancy. We also worked to plan several future projects which included applying for funding to rehabilitate the Lucerne 3A/Waterworks abandoned mine drainage treatment system.



WATERSHEDS

Project Spotlight Shobert Riparian Buffer

The District applied for and received a Multifunctional Riparian Buffer Sub-Grant to plant a riparian buffer on property in Center Township. The multifunctional buffer is adjacent to an unnamed tributary (UNT) to Aultman's Run, and it extends at least 390 feet at a width of approximately 140 feet. The area had been primarily fallow field with very sparse evergreen trees.

Riparian buffers act to intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other materials in surface runoff, and reduce nutrients and other pollutants in shallow subsurface water flow. They also provide the stream with shade, lowering the water temperature.

Numerous native and/or noninvasive species were planted at the property including: hybrid chestnut, pawpaw, American redbud, persimmon, American hazelnut, swamp white oak, red oak, shagbark hickory, sugar maple, American elderberry, silky dogwood, spice bush, button bush, black chokeberry, black tupelo, red mulberry, black willow, serviceberry, and eastern white pine. This particular planting focused on edible fruit and nut trees.



Before



After

WATERSHEDS

Project Spotlight

Tom's Run Streambank Stabilization



Before - Brook trout jack-dam built in the 1980s that is no longer functioning as designed



After - Log cross vane low flow channel structure that reduces bank erosion and improves stream habitat

Located within Pine Ridge County Park, Tom's Run is a naturally reproducing trout stream. In 2018, the Indiana County Conservation District applied for a grant from the PA DEP Sunoco Mariner East II Penalty Fund to remove multiple failing trout habitat structures and stabilize sections of collapsing streambank that were causing sediment deposition in the stream.

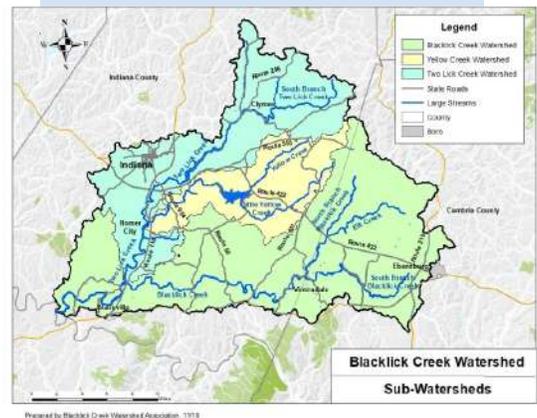
To complete the project, the District partnered with Trout Unlimited to install 32 fish habitat structures that included log vanes, cross vanes, and mud-sills. Five hundred fifty feet of streambank was stabilized with this project, preventing approximately 9.5 tons of sediment from entering the stream each year, and enhancing 1500 linear feet of trout habitat.

Although the heavy lifting portion of the project is complete, the District continues to work on developing educational signage for the site in partnership with Indiana County Parks and Trails.

WATERSHEDS

Project Spotlight Yellow Creek QHUP

In partnership with Blacklick Creek Watershed Association, the District is working with Hedin Environmental to conduct sampling and data analysis as part of the initial components necessary for designating the Yellow Creek Watershed as a Qualified Hydrologic Unit. This plan will open up future funding opportunities for the Watershed to clean up abandoned mine drainage and is expected to be completed in 2021.



Project Spotlight McKee Run

In 2019, the District completed a streambank stabilization project on McKee Run in an area that was threatening to destabilize a pond embankment. This project stabilized over 210 feet of streambank by using log vanes with rootwads and J-hook deflectors to move the flow of the stream away from the bank and prevent further erosion and stream sedimentation. Most importantly, this project preserved public safety by mitigating a potential pond breast failure.

PERMITTING



One of the most important programs at the District is permitting. Chapter 105 (Water Obstruction & Encroachments) and Chapter 102/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) are the two programs in which permits are issued through the District office. Keeping permitting at the local level ensures that applications are processed in a timely manner, allowing important development projects to move forward on schedule, which drives sustained economic development in the county. In 2019, the District processed 56 total permit applications in both program areas.

105 - Water Obstruction & Encroachments

Pennsylvania's Dam Safety and Encroachments Act (25 PA Administrative Code Chapter 105):

Encroachment: "any structure or activity that in any manner changes, expands, or diminishes, the course, current, or cross-section of any watercourse, floodway, or body of water."

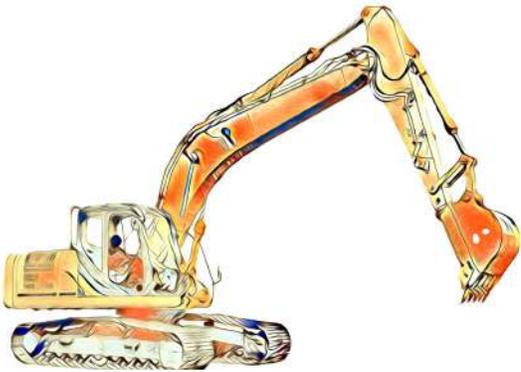
- Chapter 105 General permits are needed for any work that invades a stream.
- This type of work includes construction, crossings, fish habitat structures, obstructions, and encroachment.
- Chapter 105 general permits protect and prevent aquatic ecosystems and wetlands from any threats that these encroachments may present.



Stream Crossing Replacement that required a GP11
(maintenance, testing, repair, rehabilitation or replacement of water obstructions and encroachments)

Acknowledged Chapter 105 Permits

- (3) GP1 (fish habitat enhancement structures)
- (6) GP3 (bank rehab/protection, gravel bar removal)
- (1) GP4 (intake/outfall structures)
- (19) GP5 (utility line stream crossing)
- (2) GP6 (agricultural crossings and ramps)
- (6) GP7 (minor road crossing)
- (8) GP8 (temporary road crossing)



PERMITTING

102 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

Erosion and Sediment Control Program (25 PA Code Chapter 102)

- Program for storm water discharges associated with construction activities for earth moving one acre or more in size.
- Construction sites that discharge to High Quality and Exceptional Value streams require an Individual NPDES permit issued by the DEP.

To reduce sediment pollution, Best Management Practices (BMPs) are to be installed and properly maintained on construction sites. Two of the most commonly used BMPs are compost filter sock and silt fence. BMPs are used to filter sediment from storm water that may leave the site and prevent it from possibly entering the waters of the commonwealth. Conservation districts issue NPDES permits and inspect BMPs on construction sites.

In 2019, the Indiana County Conservation District processed 10 NPDES permit applications which included projects for: ICDC Windy Ridge Phase 3, IUP Weyandt/Welsh Hall Replacements; INDIGO Operations Facility/Parking Expansion, and First Energy Corp South Bend Transmisison Line, among others.

Compost filter sock on a construction site as part of an NPDES permit



EDUCATION



Education is one of the most important components of the District's operations. The District does both adult and youth education which includes hosting manure management workshops, trainings for municipal officials on road maintenance practices, urban agriculture workshops, environmental workshops, and, most notably, the Junior and Senior County Envirothons.

These events are possible thanks to the dedicated corps of volunteers from the community at large including Evergreen Conservancy, PA Senior Environmental Corps, Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Western PA Conservancy, Indiana County Parks and Trails, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, Penn State Extension, Indiana County Conservation District Associate Directors and their spouses, and District staff spouses.

2019 Junior Envirothon

One hundred twenty-seven students comprising twenty-six teams from every county school district, as well as Homeschoolers for Christ Co-Op. and Seeds of Faith Christian Academy participated in the competition at Blue Spruce Park. Indiana earned 1st place in both the 7th and 8th grade categories. The District undertook a "themed" event featuring pollinators. Each station focused on or included the importance of pollinators and what can be done to improve their habitat and help protect them.

The Indiana Black team won the eighth grade competition and was comprised of students Tehva Schiera, Victoria Gallagher, Catherine Akers, Tennyson Kubala, and Jayden Montague. The Indiana Red team won the seventh grade competition and was comprised of students Ethan Coleman, Grace Bowersox, Tim Birch, Lizzie Kinneer, and Abigail Jozefowicz. Both teams were advised by Faith Newman.





2019 Senior Envirothon

One hundred ten students from every school district, as well as Homeschoolers for Christ, participated in the competition. Five-member teams participated in a series of field-oriented tests that focused on aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue, which was “Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.”

The Bee Hive Five team from Marion Center High School placed first and represented Indiana County at the State Envirothon. The team included Jonah Vaglia, Brant Lydic, Alaina Kutsch, Emma Bland, and Aidan Cattau. Their advisor was Tom Betts.

Each of the five members of the winning team was awarded a \$500 David S. Frick Envirothon Education Grant to be used toward post-secondary education. \$31,500 in Envirothon education grants has been earned by Indiana County students since the grant program began in 2007. The grants are funded by donations from local businesses, conservation organizations, and private citizens.

Remembering Dick Farabaugh

Dick was a great guy and a good friend to the Indiana County Conservation District. He was a valued Envirothon volunteer for many years and contributed greatly to educate our county's youth about the environment. He will be deeply missed.

Thank You!





Education

Thank You 2019 Envirothon Donors

- J. H. Hickman Surveying, LLC
- The Markosky Engineering Group, Inc.
- Gibson-Thomas Engineering
- Arcadis
- Botsford Surveying, Inc.
- P&N Coal Company
- Mary Jane Javornik
- Keller Engineers, Inc.
- Crooked Creek Watershed Association
- InFirst Bank
- Red Barn Sportsman Club, Inc.
- Edward and Sherri Kuckuck
- McDonald's Southtown Plaza
- Joe and Arlene Yackuboskey
- Elderton State Bank
- Catalone Pipe & Supply Co.
- Stiffler, McGraw and Associates, Inc.
- Marion Center Area Lions Club
- Dilltown Sportsmans Club
- Herbert Pollock
- Blacklick Creek Watershed Association
- Pheasants Forever, Inc. Laurel Highlands Chapter #494
- Lias Tire, Inc.
- Janis Long
- Jim Resh
- Donald Bothell
- Cindy Rogers

WHO WE ARE

2019 DISTRICT STAFF

PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
Samantha Dull, Curtis Swiantek, Bob Sabo,
Douglas Beri Jr., Tammie Robinson, Nancy
Clawson. Brooke Russick (not present)



Thank You for Your Service!



2019 DISTRICT DIRECTORS

PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
Scott Overdorff (Vice Chairperson), Beth
Marshall, Ted Kuckuck (Treasurer), Janis Long,
Commissioner Rod Ruddock, Rick Stumpf,
Jason McGinnis (Chairperson)



2019 ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
Joe Yackuboskey, Craig Andrie, Alysha Trexler,
and John Somonick;
Cindy Rogers (not present)

A NEW HOME

With conservation education being at the heart of the District's mission, the excitement is building for the new Office and Education Center. On December 19th, 2019, the District broke ground for the new facility. Present for the ceremony were District board members, staff, local elected officials, and other partner organizations.



The new facility will give District staff an opportunity to stretch the reaches of their programs by filling educational gaps in the community in the subjects of conservation, natural resource management, and agriculture.

Construction is currently scheduled for completion in the fall of 2020.

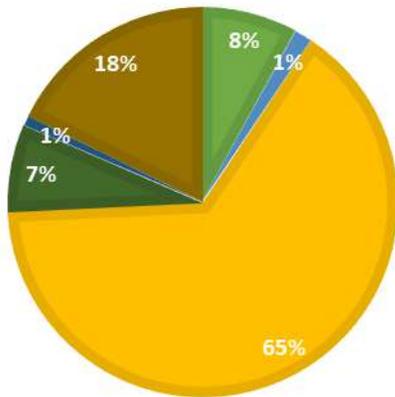


FINANCIALS

The Indiana County Conservation District pays critical attention to finances ensuring that the maximum amount of funding goes to on-the-ground projects and programs that make Indiana County a better place.

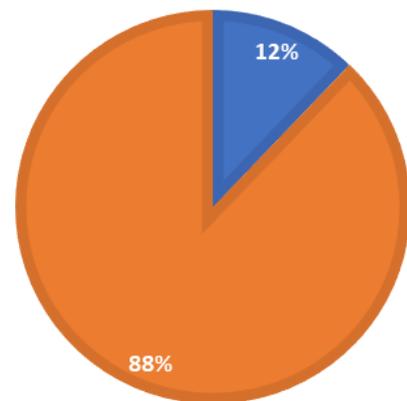
DISTRICT INCOME

■ County ■ Federal ■ State ■ Permit Fees ■ Donations ■ Grants



EXPENSES

■ Administration ■ Program/Project Related Costs



In 2019, every \$1.00 of county funds brought in over \$9.00 in matching funds from state and federal programs that would otherwise not have benefited the county.

\$850,610

In 2019, the District brought in over \$850,610.00 in funds from outside of the county comprised of money from various state and federal programs and grants. This money directly benefits Indiana County residents through implemented conservation projects and programs.

40 Years of Service



FARMER volunteer
EXCELLENCE
 Commitment
 dedication
LEADERSHIP

THANK YOU!

Board members, staff, and past/present colleagues and friends recognized long-time board member Edward “Ted” Kuckuck for 40 years of outstanding service to the Indiana County Conservation District.

Ted graduated from Penn State University with a B.S. in Animal Industries. Ted went on to become a vocational agriculture teacher at the Blairsville Senior High School from 1967 through 1982. He is an avid farmer advocate and has spent his life being a local community leader who is dedicated to the conservation of natural resources. Not only has Ted spent the past few decades advocating for responsible environmental stewardship, but he himself has implemented those practices on his 180-acre farm in Conemaugh Township. In 1986, Ted was recognized as the Outstanding Conservation Farmer in Indiana County. Ted has since retired as a farm seed and livestock feed dealer.

Ted has been a farmer-representative member on the District Board of Directors since 1980. He served as Chair for four years, Vice Chair for two years, and has been the Treasurer for the past 30 years. Additionally, Ted served on the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission for 30 years from 1986 through 2014, with 19 years as Vice Chair. His other community involvement includes serving on the White Township Planning Commission as the Assistant Secretary from 2004 to present, and a temporary appointment to the White Township Board of Supervisors in 2019.

District Manager, Douglas Beri Jr., stated that “Ted has been a vitally important member of our District board of directors and has provided an immeasurable service to the residents of Indiana County over the past 40 years.” He added, “Ted has left a lasting legacy at the District that will continue to drive the future sustainability and impact that we have on natural resource conservation in Indiana County.”

In recognition of Mr. Kuckuck’s service, he was honored with a legislative citation by State Representative Jim Struzzi.

2020 Personnel

Board of Directors

JASON MCGINNIS

CHAIRPERSON

SCOTT OVERDORFF

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

RICHARD STUMPF

TREASURER

SHERENE HESS

COMMISSIONER MEMBER

JANIS LONG

BETH MARSHALL

AARON SIMPSON

Associate Directors

CRAIG ANDRIE

ALYSHA TREXLER

CINDY ROGERS

JOE YACKUBOSKEY

JOHN SOMONICK

KAREN ELLER

THOMAS BERESNYAK JR.

District Staff

DOUGLAS M BERI JR.

DISTRICT MANAGER

TAMMIE ROBINSON

*OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR /
ENVIROTHON COORDINATOR*

NANCY CLAWSON

OFFICE ASSISTANT

BROOKE RUSSICK

DGLVR PROGRAM SPECIALIST

CURTIS SWIANTEK

AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

SAMANTHA DULL

RESOURCE CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

ROBERT (BOB) SABO

WATERSHED SPECIALIST

MONICA LEE

PMSC AMERICORPS MEMBER

2019 Personnel

Board of Directors

TED KUCKUCK (RETIRED)

TREASURER

RODNEY RUDDOCK (RETIRED)

COMMISSIONER MEMBER

District Staff

LEYA RAMER

*(FORMER) AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION SPECIALIST*

ANDREA FRUSTACI

*(FORMER) RESOURCE
CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN*

JOSH BROWN

(FORMER) WATERSHED SPECIALIST

JEFFREY HIMES

(FORMER) PMSC AMERICORPS MEMBER

Contact Us

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