



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: District Receives AMD Set-Aside Funds for Watershed Assessment

Indiana County Conservation District

CONTACT PERSON: Douglas M Beri Jr., (724) 471-4751 Ext. 4

DATE: March 3, 2022

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has awarded the Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD) \$131,689.00 in Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Set-Aside funds to complete a watershed assessment of Upper Two Lick Creek. The Upper Two Lick Creek Watershed is comprised of the drainage that empties into and including Two Lick Reservoir which is approximately 74 square miles.

This project is part of the overall effort initiated by the Blacklick Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) to systematically address sources of water pollution within the Blacklick Creek watershed. Douglas Beri, Executive Director of ICCD stated in a press release that “As the BCWA has successfully addressed sources of abandoned mine pollution in other areas of the watershed, including the north and south branches of Blacklick Creek and projects like the Vintondale Active Treatment System, it is now important to shift priorities to other sub-watersheds like Yellow Creek and Two Lick Creek.”

Through this grant, approximately 70 miles of stream will be assessed using a combination of in-stream water sampling, biotic surveys, and inventorying of agricultural operations with/without manure management plans. The collected information will be used to develop a systematic plan for addressing major sources of impairment within the Upper Two Lick Creek Watershed.

Beri added, “This project will result in a plan that can be used by the BCWA, ICCD, PADEP, and other organizations to address sources of pollution in a prioritized way that will maximize the effectiveness of invested local, state, and federal resources.”

The BCWA was formed in 1993 to address sources of water pollution, primarily AMD, that were impacting the user experience of recreational assets including the Ghost Town Trail. Between then and now, BCWA has completed 13 mine drainage and reclamation projects in the Blacklick Creek watershed. ICCD and BCWA have been long-standing partners on watershed remediation efforts. “These joint efforts to remediate water impairments improve the overall health of our communities and create a better quality of life for residents,” Beri added.

This project is expected to start this year and be completed by the spring of 2025.

