



## McKEAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# CONSERVATION TIMES

Winter  
2024

## McKean County recognized by Northeast Association of Conservation District

### Inside This Issue:

Equipment  
Available for Rent 2

DSA and Road  
Maintenance Workshop 3

Winter Farmers  
Meeting 4

Erosion &  
Sedimentation  
Control in Our Forest  
Workshop 5

Dirt Gravel and  
Low Volume Road Training 6



Above: (l-r) McKean County Conservation District Manager Sandy Thompson and Cliff Lane with awards.

The Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees (NACDE) recently announced its 2023 award recipients, which included a pair from McKean County.

Sandy Thompson, manager of McKean County Conservation District and former NACDE vice president, received the 2023 NACDE President's Award.

The NACDE President's Award is given in recognition of outstanding service to NACDE and the Conservation Partnership in the Northeast Region. President Jeff Parker said, "Sandy is a longtime member of NACDE, serving as secretary from 2011 to 2016 and as vice president from 2017 to 2023. She has served both her district and NACDE with professionalism, dedication and service to the cause of conservation and of district employees in the northeast."

Cliff Lane received the NACDE District Leader Award. Representatives said the

award is presented to a director or other individual doing an outstanding job working with district professionals on a regional basis, helping to obtain the goals of NACDE and the regional partnership, and assisting in expanding employee professional development.

Lane currently serves as Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) North West Region director, National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) North East Region representative and Secretary/Treasurer at the Conservation District.

## No-Till Drill Available For Rent in Spring of 2024

The District's Great Plains 10' No-Till Drill is put away for the winter, but will be ready for rent by landowners within McKean County in the spring of 2024. The following rates have been established:

- \$12.00 per acre or \$24.00 per acre if used on conventional tilled ground.
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- Free use of the drill up to 30 acres if planting a non-harvested cover crop.

The District will transport the drill; however, landowners leasing the drill will pay a \$25.00 delivery fee within McKean County.

When completed with the drill, clean all seed and fertilizer from machine. Failure to clean the drill will result in a \$25 clean out fee. Once cleaned contact the District to let them know the equipment is ready to be picked up. An invoice will be mailed out after planting acreage has been determined.

Rental is FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, contact Adam Causer, Watershed Specialist at 814-887-4003 or [accauser@mckeancountypa.org](mailto:accauser@mckeancountypa.org) to schedule your anticipated use.



## Carbide Tipped Blade Available for Free to Municipalities



The Conservation District owns a carbide tipped blade that is available for use by all municipalities so that they can properly grade their road. There is no charge for use of this equipment. Compared to straight blades, carbide-tipped blade systems more effectively cut hard surfaces and will typically cut deeper with each pass.

Carbide bits shatter rocks rather than pulling them out of the road. The bits also grind off embedded rocks, allowing restoration of the road to the desired cross section and improving adhesion of gravel overlays.

Carbide-tipped blade systems offer numerous benefits over traditional straight grader blades for maintenance grading operations. This is the preferred tool for maintaining a road surface.

If your municipality is interested in using the District's carbide tipped blade contact Lindsay Trojanowski, Resource Conservationist at 814-887-4002 or [ltkrojanowski@mckeancountypa.org](mailto:ltkrojanowski@mckeancountypa.org).



## 2023 DSA & Road Maintenance Workshop

The District, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission, Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies, and the Potter County Conservation District held a free DSA and Road Maintenance Workshop for anyone who maintains unpaved roads on October 13th, 2023.

During the workshop, presentations were given on innovative and effective practices to reduce maintenance costs and sediment pollution from unpaved roads. Focus topics included a presentation on the Dirt and Gravel Programs DSA (driving surface aggregate) requirements. DSA Placement and Maintenance, Road Surface Maintenance, Ditch Maintenance and Invasive Plant Information. The workshop also included a live grading demonstration.

The workshop was held on Friday, October 13, 2023 at the Kane Fire Department. Municipal attendees received additional points towards the ranking of the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road application. Attendees also earned 4 hours (1 year) for PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) continuing education credits.



Above: Photo of live grading demonstration done by Wetmore Township.



# Annual Winter Farmers Meeting

The McKean County Conservation District, USDA Department of Agriculture, Penn State Extension, NRCS, and DCNR are partnering for the Annual Winter Farmers Meeting, Tuesday, February 13, 2024 11:30 – 4:00 pm at the Port Allegany Veterans Memorial, Route 155 Port Allegany, PA 16743. Registration for this event is FREE, which includes lunch.

Pre-registration required by February 5, 2024. Call 814-887-4025.

The first 25 registrants will receive a free-soil test kit.

PA Department of Agriculture has approved the program for 2 Core and 3 Category Credits (01-Agronomic Crops 2, 05-Forest Pest Control 1, 10-Right of Way & Weeds 1, 18-Demonstration and Research 3, 23-Park/School Pest Control 1).

## Program

11:30 PM Registration & Lunch

12:00 PM Cover Crops Termination – Nicole Thompson, Agronomy Educator, Penn State Extension

12:30 PM Cover Crops for Weed Suppression – Nicole Thompson, Agronomy Educator,  
Penn State Extension

1:00 PM Forestry Pest & Invasive Spraying – Marshall Hamilton, Service Forester,  
Susquehannock & Tioga State Forest

1:30 PM The Impact of Water Quality on Pesticide Performance – Danielle Rhea, Extension  
Educator, Water Resources, Penn State Extension

2:30 PM Agency Updates – USDA NRCS & FSA

3:15 PM Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program – Adam Causer, MCCD Watershed  
Specialist

3:45 PM Wrap Up and Evaluation

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, which is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



## 2023 Erosion & Sedimentation Control in Our Forest Workshop

On Thursday October 12, 2023 the Annual Erosion and Sedimentation Control in our Forest Workshop was made possible through a multi-county effort of the Conservation Districts of Tioga, Potter, Cameron, Elk, and McKean Counties in cooperation with the PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee and DCNR, Bureau of Forestry.

This is a workshop for foresters, loggers, logging contractors and private forest landowners to learn more about the fundamentals of erosion control, permitting, planning before a timber harvest, best management practices to implement during the harvest and stream crossing practices.

The 2023 workshop was held in Tioga County where there was 30 people in attendance. The day started with in-classroom learning then moved to the field to visit a retired timber harvest site. Topics covered the review of fundamentals for erosion control, permitting and stream considerations, how to plan before you harvest, using the SFI Timber Harvest Checklist, Best Management Practices (BMPS) and common site problems, and stream crossing BMPS.



# Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road ESM Training

The PA Dirt and Gravel Center has released the dates for the 2024 2-Day In-Person ESM Trainings. The McKean County Conservation District worked with the Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Center to secure a location in McKean County this year . **The 2-Day workshop in McKean County will held on May 15 & 16, 2024 at the Port Allegany Veterans Memorial, Route 155 Port Allegany, PA 16743. Registration for this event is free for municipalities.**

Below is the list of the 2024 ESM Training dates and locations. Registration is now open. To register please follow [www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/course-registration/#ESM](http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/course-registration/#ESM). Doors will open at 7:00, class will run both days from 8am to 4pm. Breakfast, snacks, drinks, and lunch will be provided.

If you have any questions, with the registration, please email Amy Pifer and Mindi Suhy at [DGregistration@psu.edu](mailto:DGregistration@psu.edu) .

The Center's Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Course is a classroom training focused on providing the knowledge and tools necessary for road owners to maintain roads in a more cost-efficient and environmentally sensitive manner. ESM trainings are an intense two-day classroom session focused on providing the knowledge and tools necessary for road owners to maintain roads in a more cost-efficient and environmentally sensitive manner. ESM trainings are open to both new certifications and those seeking a recertification.

Eligible entities such as municipalities are required to complete this course every 5 years to be eligible to apply for PA Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program grant funds through the Conservation District. If you are unsure if your municipality has staff who have completed this course, please contact Lindsay Trojanowski at (814) 887-4002 or [lktrajanowski@mckeancountypa.org](mailto:lktrajanowski@mckeancountypa.org).





### **Directors**

Jeff Larson - Chairman  
Chase Miles - Vice-Chairman  
Cliff Lane--Secretary/Treasurer  
Tom Kreiner—Commissioner Director  
Kerry Fetter - Public  
Blaine Puller - Farmer  
Ken Kane - Public

### **Associate Directors**

Pete Mader  
Boyd Fitzsimmons  
Lori Coffman  
Jeff Holcomb  
John Stratton

### **Staff**

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[www.mckeanconservation.com](http://www.mckeanconservation.com)



*The McKean County Conservation District was organized at the request of the County residents. The County was declared a District by the board of County Commissioners on August 19, 1959, according to provisions of the Soil Conservation Law of 1945, Act 217 of the General Assembly, as amended.*

*The primary goal of the District is the development, improvement, and conservation of the County's Soil, water and related resources as well as educating the community in various conservation and environmental practices and methods.*

*The District is administered by a board of seven Directors-three farmer members, three public (non-farmer) members and one County Commissioner. District Directors are appointed by the County Commissioners from a list of names submitted by countywide nominating organizations. The Commissioners also designate one of their members to serve as a Director.*

**Vision:** The Conservation District is the steward of McKean County's natural resource and embraces environmentally responsible decisions.

**Mission:** The Conservation District provides leadership and stewardship to ensure the protection and sustainability of McKean County's natural resources by fostering public and private partnerships.

