



# MCKEAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# CONSERVATION TIMES

Spring  
2024

## District Director, Cliff Lane Receives NCDEA Award

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Cliff Lane receiving the award from NCDEA President, Melissa Higbee and Executive Director Tim Riley

At the National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) Annual Meeting, February 10-14, 2024, in San Diego Cliff Lane, District Director, received the National Conservation District Employees Association's (NCDEA) Outstanding Conservation District Board Member award.

The Outstanding Conservation District Board Member awards are presented annually to recognize professionalism and dedication in the people behind the nation's conservation district programs. The program began in 1998.

In the past 20 years, Cliff's vision has transformed districts, built leaders, and inspired change. His legacy is one of passion, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to preserving our natural resources.

Cliff serves as the North East Region Representative to the National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) Executive Board. He spent 4 years as Pennsylvania's representative to NACD.

He serves as the Northwest Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) and is a member of the PACD Executive Board. Since 2004, Cliff has been a director for the McKean County Conservation District, previously as the Commissioner Director. He also serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Board.

# Scaffold Lick Assessment Grant

The McKean County Conservation District was awarded \$164,181.00 through DEP'S Bureau of Abandoned Reclamation Abandoned Mine Land and Acid Mine Drainage Grant Program Grant for a watershed-based surface-water quality assessment of the Scaffold Lick Run watershed.

This grant is focused on a watershed-based surface-water quality assessment of the Scaffold Lick Run watershed located primarily in Liberty Township. This stream flows from one of the only parts of McKean County that contains economic coal reserves and historic mining activity has left approximately 520 acres of abandoned mine land. A total of 16.4 miles of stream is listed as impaired due to acid mine drainage on DEP's Integrated Water Quality Report of impaired and threatened waters.

The District has secured the services of Hedin Environmental to provide an updated detailed assessment of the current water quality and watershed conditions and provide a plan for the most cost-effective restoration projects. Through the partnerships the District has developed with the private landowners and the PA Game Commission; the primary goal of this project is to develop a watershed restoration plan with the ultimate goal of removal of all streams in the Scaffold Lick Run watershed from DEP's Integrated Water Quality Report and reclamation of AML features to remove hazards and improves the productivity of the landscape.



Hedin Environmental Consultants, (l-r) Olivia Weaver and Neil Wolfe preparing for water quality assessment of Scaffold Lick Run.

## Conservation District Welcomes Two New Staff Members



(L-R) Conservation District new staff, Sarah Carlson, Resource Technician and Katelynn Decker, Conservation Technician.

The McKean County Conservation District welcomed two new staff members in February of . Katelynn Decker is the new Conservation Technician and Sarah Carlson is the new Resource Technician for the District.

In her duties, Katelynn will serve as a resource and technical advisor for consultants, developers, forestry and gas & oil industries, landowners and municipalities to meet local, state and federal environmental requirements. She will carry out the responsibilities of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program (Chapter 102), the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program, and the Water Obstruction & Encroachments

Program (Chapter 105) as outlined in the delegation agreement with DEP. Some of those responsibilities include providing educational programs and reviewing permit applications as well as reviewing erosion and sediment pollution control plans as applicable.

Katelynn is from Kersey and received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and minor in Chemistry from Lindenwood University in Missouri. Her past work experience includes working for the US Postal Service and was a Lab Intern for St. Marys Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Sarah will serve as a resource and technical advisor for agricultural producers and landowners to meet local, state and federal environmental requirements. She will carry out the responsibilities of the PA Nutrient Management and Manure Management Program as outlined in the delegation agreement with the State Conservation Commission and DEP. Some of those responsibilities will include providing educational programs and technical assistance with the development of Nutrient and Manure Management plans as well as review of those plans.

Sarah is from Kane and holds a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology from Thiel College. She was an Animal Care Technician for the Humane Animal Rescue in Pittsburgh and was most recently employed by Paws Along the River in Warren.

If you need assistance with meeting the requirements of the Chapter 102, Chapter 105, Nutrient Management or Manure Management programs contact Katelynn at (814)887-4008 or [kadecker@mckeancountypa.gov](mailto:kadecker@mckeancountypa.gov) or Sarah at 814-887-4017 or [s Carlson@mckeancountypa.gov](mailto:s Carlson@mckeancountypa.gov).

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

Spring is the time to start thinking about no-till seeding. Contact the district and schedule the use of our Great Plains 10' No-Till available for rent by landowners in McKean County.

- Rent the drill for \$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 [aacauser@mckeancountypa.gov](mailto:aacauser@mckeancountypa.gov) 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 [lktrojanowski@mckeancountypa.gov](mailto:lktrojanowski@mckeancountypa.gov).

# Let Us Help You Write A Manure Management Plan



Manure Management Plans can be prepared by the farmer, although the farmer may benefit from getting assistance by those trained and experienced in developing plans. Manure Management Plans do not have to be submitted for approval but must be kept on the farm and made available upon request.

Manure Management Plans identify manure and fertilizer application rates for each crop group, manure application setbacks from environmentally sensitive areas, and requirements for winter application through the following sections:

**Section 1**—General operation contact information and details

**Section 2**—Manure application details (where, when, how much, environmentally sensitive areas, and winter application rates.

**Section 3**—Must include a map. The map will identify field boundaries and acreage, environmentally sensitive areas, manure storage structures, manure stock-piling and stacking areas, pastures, ACAs and roads.

**Section 4**—Farmers are required to keep records of manure application, crop yield, manure export, and manure storage observations (if applicable).

**Section 5**—Manure Storage/Stockpiling details must be identified. Manure and agricultural process wastewater must be properly stored.

**Section 6**— Pasture management should be identified.

**Section 7**—The Manure Management Plans should include barnyards, feedlots, loafing areas, exercise lots or other similar animal confinement areas that will not maintain the dense vegetation of a pasture. ACAs are not pastures.

Pennsylvania Chapter 91 regulations address pollution control and prevention at agricultural operations. Section 91.36 of the regulations refers to the Manure Management Manual (MMM) as containing standards for development of a Manure Management Plan. The MMM has a workbook section designed to assist farmers to develop a written manure management plan.

If you would like help with writing your Manure Management Plan or for further assistance please contact the Sarah Carlson, Resource Technician at 814-887-4017 or [sjcarlson@mckeancountypa.gov](mailto:sjcarlson@mckeancountypa.gov).

## Who needs a plan ?

- ◆ All facilities or properties that have animals that produce manure or apply manure to crop fields and pastures.
- ◆ Including livestock, poultry, small hobby farms (sheep, goats, llamas, etc.) and horse owners.

# 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 workshop will be 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.**

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 AM and the 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, Resource Conservationist at (814) 887-4002 or [lktrojanowski@mckeancountypa.gov](mailto:lktrojanowski@mckeancountypa.gov).



# PAG-02 General NPDES Permit



The PAG-02 General Permit will expire on December 7, 2024. DEP expects that Notices of Intent (NOIs) to remain covered under the reissued PAG-02 General Permit will be required, and those NOIs will be due to the DEP or county conservation district office that approved original coverage by December 7, 2024. DEP expects to provide a streamlined renewal NOI form for this purpose. This form will not be available until PAG-02 is reissued (the current estimate is Fall 2024). Permittees that do not have Notice of Termination (NOT) approval by December 7, 2024 will need to submit a renewal NOI. However, DEP and county conservation districts cannot accept renewal NOIs for PAG-02 until

DEP publishes the final reissued PAG-02 General Permit.

**A draft of the PAG-02 General Permit that would become effective on December 8, 2024 has been posted to [DEP's eLibrary](#) and announced in the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#). Comments may be submitted through [DEP's eComment System](#). The public comment period will end on April 8, 2024.**

The Bureau of Clean Water administers the statewide Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S) program under [25 Pa. Code Chapter 102](#). Chapter 102 requires a permit from DEP for the following activities:

- Construction activities with earth disturbances greater than or equal to one acre, not including agricultural plowing or tilling, animal heavy use areas, timber harvesting activities or road maintenance activities, which require National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage. If eligible, persons disturbing one or more acres may apply for coverage under the [PAG-01 NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Small Construction Activities](#) or [PAG-02 NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities](#). If ineligible for PAG-01 or PAG-02 coverage, persons may apply for an individual NPDES permit using the [Individual NPDES Permit Application for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities](#).
- Timber harvesting and road maintenance activities involving 25 or more acres of earth disturbance. An [Erosion and Sediment Control \(E&S\) permit](#) is required under Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law for these activities, rather than a NPDES permit.
- Oil and gas activities (e.g., exploration, production, processing, treatment operations or transmission facilities) involving 5 or more acres of earth disturbance. An E&S permit is required under Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law for these activities. If eligible, persons conducting these activities may submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the [E&S General Permit \(ESCGP-3\)](#).
- Other activities involving 5 or more acres of earth disturbance not identified above require an E&S permit.

For additional information on the E&S program contact Katelynn Decker, Conservation Technician at 814-887-4008 or [kadecker@mckeancountypa.gov](mailto:kadecker@mckeancountypa.gov).



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## 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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*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.

