



McKEAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION TIMES

Spring
2023

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)

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The District will now begin accepting applications for round 1 until April 28, 2023 for the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) for funding to implement agricultural conservation practices. These applications will be ranked on May 17, 2023.

Remaining Application & Ranking Schedule for 2023:

- ♦ Round 2 July 24, 2023 deadline
August 9, 2023 ranked
- ♦ Round 3 November 15, 2023 deadline
December 13, 2023 ranked

To be eligible, an applicant must have a conservation plan or agricultural erosion and sediment control plan and a manure or nutrient management plan.

The following are examples of the BMPs that may be implemented through the ACAP program:

- ♦ Agricultural stream accesses
- ♦ Heavy Use Areas with or without a roof
- ♦ Roofed Manure Stacking Pad
- ♦ Exclusionary & Streambank fencing
- ♦ Spring development
- ♦ Streambank Stabilization Structures

Pre-application site visits are required for the District to assist the potential program participants to ensure the application they submit is in the best interest of the applicant and the program. Please contact Adam Causer, Watershed Specialist at 814-887-4003 or accauser@mckeancountypa.org to schedule a pre-application visit.

No-Till Drill Available For Rent

The District recently purchased a Great Plains 10' No-Till Drill now available for rent by landowners within McKean County. The following rates have been established:

- ♦ \$12.00 per acre or \$24.00 per acre if used on conventional tilled ground.
- ♦ 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.

Contact the District to schedule a rental date. Once scheduled, the District will deliver equipment to your operation. Upon delivery, a Lease/Rental Agreement will need to be signed by the landowner. If assistance is needed, the District will help with proper setup of the machine.

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 to schedule your anticipated use TODAY!



FREE NO-TILL DEMO DAY

May 2, 2023 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Come see and learn about the District's No-Till Drill

NRCS Grazing/pasture practices & funding

Lunch is included

At the

McKean County 911 Center

17175 Route 6

Smethport, PA 16749

Call 814-887-4025 to make a reservation

Do you need a Permit?



With spring fast approaching landowners begin to think of all the projects they want to get completed this year. The McKean County Conservation District reminds landowners and contractors that certain activities may require permits or erosion and sedimentation plans.

Before beginning your project, it is important to check with your municipality and county planning office regarding their requirements and building permit information. Also, check with the District about requirements for erosion and sedimentation and work near waterways.

Here are a few guidelines when planning your project.

If your project:

- ◆ Will have less than 5,000 square feet of earth disturbance, it is not necessary to have a written plan on site but **erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) are required** to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation.
- ◆ Will have more than 5,000 square feet of earth disturbance, a **written E&S plan is required** to be on site and implemented.
- ◆ Will have more than 1 acre of earth disturbance and is not in a special protection (Exceptional Value, High Quality) watershed, a **General NPDES Permit is required** to be submitted for approval to the District. Before any earth disturbance activity can occur the plan must be approved. A copy of the approved stamped, signed, and dated plan must be kept on site.
- ◆ Will have more than 1 acre of earth disturbance and is in a special protection watershed, an **Individual NPDES Permit is required** to be submitted for approval to the District. Before any earth disturbance activity can occur the plan must be approved. A copy of the approved stamped, signed, and dated plan must be kept on site.
- ◆ Is timber harvesting or road maintenance activity involving 25 acres (10 hectares) or more of earth disturbance, an **E&S Permit is required to be submitted for approval** to the District. Before any earth disturbance activity can occur the plan must be approved. A copy of the approved stamped, signed, and dated plan must be kept on site. Timber harvests with less than 25 acres of earth disturbance are required to have a **written E&S plan posted** on site and implemented.

Please feel free to contact the McKean County Conservation District at 814-887-4008 or mjsiszka@mckeancountypa.org or visit www.mckeanconservation.com for more information. The District is here to provide educational and technical assistance to help landowners.

2023 DGLVR ESM Trainings

The Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road 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. The course is free to municipal, county, and state agencies involved with PA's Dirt and Gravel Road Program. This course provides Continuing Education Units through the PSU College of Engineering. Course certification is required in order to be eligible to apply for PA Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program

grant funds. Cutoff date for registration will be Monday of the week of the training. For more information please visit dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/esm-course/in-person-esm-trainings/. If you have any questions, please call Amy Pifer at 814-865-5355 for registration information and fees



2023 In-Person ESM Training Dates and Locations

April 12 & 13 (Somerset County) – Wednesday/ Thursday

Location: Seven Springs, 777 Water Wheel Drive, Champion, PA 15622

May 2 & 3 (Erie County) – Tuesday/ Wednesday

Location: Courtyard Marriot and Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509

May 16 & 17 (Butler County) – Tuesday/ Wednesday

Location: Pittsburgh Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry PA 16066

June 13 & 14 (Blair County) – Tuesday/ Wednesday

Location: Altoona Grand Hotel, 1 Sheraton Drive, Altoona, PA 16601

July 12 & 13 (Northampton County) – Wednesday/ Thursday

Location: Lehigh Valley Hotel and Conference Center, 300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017

August 16 & 17 (Washington County) – Wednesday/ Thursday

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Meadow Lands, 340 Racetrack Road, Washington, PA 15301

September 6 & 7 (Tioga County) – Wednesday/ Thursday

Location: TBD

October 10 & 11 (Warren County) – Tuesday/ Wednesday

Location: Warren County Conservation District Office, 4000 Conewango Avenue, Warren PA 16365

October 25 & 26 (Montour County) – Wednesday/ Thursday

Location: Pine Barn Inn, 43 Pine Barn Place, Danville, PA 17821

November 15 & 16 (Jefferson County) – Wednesday/ Thursday

Location: Bellamauro Social Banquet Hall, 1017 Reynoldsville-Falls Creek Road, Reynoldsville, PA 15851

NCDEA Elects New Leadership



Pictured (l-r) back row: Tami Moore, SD, Michael Henn, WY, Kayleigh Evans, KY, Mandy Parkes, CA, Eric Shideler, IN, Sandy Thompson, PA, Jeff Parker, NY. Front Row: Kelly Snoddy, VA, Gretchen Rank, CO, Melissa Higbee, MI, Tim Riley, NCDEA Executive Director, Sarah Tunge, ND.

As a Northeast Alternate Region Director, our District Manager, Sandy Thompson attended the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) meeting during the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, February 11-15.

At the meeting, the NCDEA Board of Directors elected a new slate of officers for 2023. Newly elected officers include President, Melissa Higbee, Michigan; Vice President, Sarah Tunge, North Dakota; Secretary, Eric Shideler, Indiana; Treasurer, Gretchen Rank, Colorado and Member at Large, Mandy Parkes, California.

Newly installed Region Directors include Tami Moore, Northern Plains Director, South Dakota; Tanya Fell, Southwest Director, Colorado; Michael Henn, Southwest Alternate, Wyoming; Jeff Parker, North East Director, New York; Sandy Thompson, Northeast Alternate, Pennsylvania; Eric Shideler, North Central Director, Indiana; Angela Warren, North Central Alternate, Michigan; Kayleigh Evans, Southeast Director, Kentucky; Kelly Snoddy, Southeast Alternate, Virginia; Mandy Parkes, Pacific Director, California; Vicki Carter, Pacific Alternate, Washington.

NCDEA Professional Development Committee hosted an event for employees attending the NACD Annual Meeting featuring four states that provide leadership training to supervisors and staff. Each of the represented states highlighted their programs, discussed how they are funded and reviewed the criteria for admittance into the specific program. Attendees were able to ask the panel questions, and a lively discussion ensued.

The National Conservation District Employees Association was conceived in February 1984 and established in February 1992 by district employees with a passion for the local conservation delivery system. They recognized that district employees across the nation, at the direction of their local boards, are primarily responsible for the grassroots local delivery of conservation. NCDEA builds bridges to assist 7000+ district professionals in implementing conservation programs in their local communities. To learn more about NCDEA, visit www.ncdea.us

Project Spotlight

Streambank Stabilization/Fish Habitat Project

The project, pictured here was along Potato Creek in Norwich Township. The soils along the streambank here are very sandy which lead to a high amount of erosion. This was leading to high sedimentation loads into the stream, and large amounts of property belong lost as well.

The project was designed here to minimize both the sedimentation loading and the streambank erosion as well as maximize the fish habitat. A 100' modified mud sill was installed to eliminate the erosion and maximize fish habitat. The total project cost was \$6,590.00

This project was designed in a manner to work with the stream and what it is trying to do, if possible instead of working “against the flow.” It was also important to increase the value of the habitat and utilize more natural techniques. The foundation of these projects were to utilize logs that average 6 to 12” in diameter of either larch or hemlock species. Rebar rods are used to pin the logs together and to secure the logs to the stream bottom.

The type of structure will vary depending on what the stream is trying to do. Mud sills provide excellent overhead cover best suited for lower gradient streams with steep, eroded banks. They provide stream bank stability and create a stable undercut bank effect for fish cover.



For more information or for technical assistance contact Adam Causer, Watershed Specialist at 814-887-4003 accouser@mckeancountypa.org. For more information on the structures for habitat improvement go to PA Fish & Boat Commission’s “Habitat Improvement for Trout Streams” publication https://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/Documents/habitat_improve_trout.pdf.

Comments Open for Proposed PCSM Manual



The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) has proposed a number of significant changes to its Post-Construction Stormwater Management (“PCSM”) Manual. PCSM requirements potentially impact construction projects across the Commonwealth, especially those involving land disturbances of greater than one acre. To download a copy of the draft, [click here](#).

The substantial revisions that are proposed by DEP in the draft Pennsylvania PCSM Manual are summarized as follows:

- New interpretive guidance on the PCSM regulations (25 Pa. Code § 102.8 (relating to PCSM requirements)).
- A proposed hierarchy of stormwater management objectives.
- Additional detailed information on the performance of the stormwater analysis that is required for PCSM at 25 Pa. Code § 102.8(g), including the addition of new methodologies for the analysis of volume, water quality and rate management.
- Proposed criteria for the protection of wetlands.
- New best management practices—which are referred to in the draft Pennsylvania PCSM Manual as stormwater control measures (SCM)—including, but not limited to, managed release concept SCMs.
- New incentives for the protection of natural open spaces and natural stormwater features.
- New methods for the completion of the pre-development site characterization required by the regulations, including infiltration testing.
- Introduction of methods for adjusting precipitation depths for stormwater analysis based on the known effects of climate change.
- New guidance regarding: antidegradation requirements; the determination of discharge points and points of analysis; analyses of stream stability and erosion potential; off-site stormwater management; the evaluation of thermal impacts; and the assessment of projects located in areas of karst geology.

Interested persons may submit written comments on this draft document through Friday, April 28, 2023. Commentators are encouraged to submit comments using the Department’s online comment tool at www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment. Written comments can also be submitted by e-mail to ecomment@pa.gov or by mail to the Technical Guidance Coordinator, Department of Environmental Protection, Policy Office, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063.

Directors

Jeff Larson - Chairman
Chase Miles - Vice-Chairman
Cliff Lane-Commissioner-Secretary/Treasurer
Kerry Fetter - Public
Blaine Puller - Farmer
Ken Kane - Public
Greg Bell - Public

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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.

