

Our Partners:

Cooperating Agencies and Personnel:

Partnerships are an extremely important part of successful natural resource stewardship. The district worked with many individuals and organizations to accomplish our shared conservation goals. The following individuals worked closely with the district staff and board:

Andrew Kears, *District Conservationist, USDA NRCS*
Shane Kleiner, *Watershed Manager, PA DEP*
Peter Tarby, *Chesapeake Bay Field Representative, PA DEP*

We also have numerous partners within the following agencies:

PA Association of Conservation Districts
PA Department of Agriculture
PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Fish & Boat Commission
PA State Conservation Commission
Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads Studies
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation & Development Council
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Nominating Organizations:

The following organizations have been approved by the State Conservation Commission to nominate people to serve on the Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors. Nominations are given to the Luzerne County Council, and council appoints district directors from the names provided:

Anthracite Scenic Trails Association
Bloomingdale Grange #536
Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society
League of Women Voters, Luzerne County Chapter
Luzerne County Farm Bureau
Luzerne County Federation of Sportsmen
Northeastern Pennsylvania Herpetological Society
PA Environmental Council, North East Office
Penn State Cooperative Extension, Luzerne County Board
North Branch Land Trust
Western Pocono Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Luzerne County Historical Society
USDA Farm Service Agency, Luzerne County Committee

Our Team:

2019 Board of Directors:

Timothy Ference, *Chair*
John J. Wilkes, Jr., *Vice-Chair*
Timothy J. Connolly, Jr., *Treasurer*
Tracey Stevens, *Secretary*
Leonard J. Burger, Jr.
John P. Hanish
Chris Maylath
Gary Moyer, Sr.
Matthew Vough

The Luzerne Conservation District Board of Directors holds monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at the district's office. The public is welcome to attend.

2019 Staff:

Hunter Bednarczyk, *E&S Program Technician*
Heather Graham, *E&S Program Coordinator*
Ron Jesse, *Building & Grounds Keeper*
Deborah Josuweit, *Office Administrator*
Jen Lauri, *Agricultural Conservation Specialist*
John Levitsky, *Watershed Specialist*
Joshua Longmore, *Executive Director*
Amber Martin, *MDC Program Conservation Specialist*
Mike Schlauch, *Ag & Roads Conservation Specialist*
Ryan Sotelo, *MDC Program Technician*



LUZERNE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2019 Annual Report

Our Mission

Conserving land and water resources in Luzerne County by promoting public awareness, providing technical assistance, and encouraging regulatory compliance.

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Contact Information:

325 Smiths Pond Road
Shavertown, PA 18708
570-674-7991
www.luzcd.org

Photo: Riparian restoration planting at the former Mountain Springs Lake site in Fairmount Township, Luzerne County. Credit: John Levitsky.

About Us

We are a local agency responsible for soil and water conservation programs within Luzerne County. Our primary types of activities include implementing conservation projects, providing technical assistance, conducting education/outreach, and encouraging voluntary compliance with environmental regulations.

We accomplish our mission through cooperation with landowners and land users and by working with other public and private organizations to increase citizen awareness of the responsibility to be good stewards of our natural resources.

As one of the sixty-six county conservation districts in Pennsylvania, we are involved in developing local programs and implementing on-the-ground practices to protect the soil and water resources of Luzerne County. The district is led by a seven-member board consisting of community volunteers and a member of Luzerne County Council. Currently, the district has ten staff members who carry out the agency's day-to-day operations. It is the goal of the board and staff to implement programs that best serve the specific needs of the natural resources and people of Luzerne County.

Funding delivered within the county for direct conservation efforts in 2019: \$1,281,361

More Work to Do

- Provide ongoing natural resource conservation assistance to state and federal partners and Luzerne County municipalities, landowners, & land users
- Implement ongoing and new conservation projects on farms and along streams, wetlands, and lakes
- Coordinate the preservation of more Luzerne County farms through the Farmland Preservation Program
- Provide multiple educational opportunities to promote the stewardship of our natural resources

2019 Featured Project:

Glen Oaks Streambank Stabilization Project Dennison Township, Luzerne County



This project included **300 feet of streambank stabilization** approximately **40 feet high** and the **removal of 160 feet of gravel bar**, restoring a section of upper Nescopeck Creek to a clean, free flowing, Class A wild brook trout stream through a residential neighborhood. It is estimated the stream will be spared from 92 lbs. of Nitrogen, 31.3 lbs. Phosphorus and 142,600 lbs. of Sediment each year. Besides the direct benefits to water quality, the project will help alleviate the threat of catastrophic bank failure and future flooding impacts for local residents. The **\$237,368** project was funded through a PA DEP Growing Greener grant. The district's partners on the project included USDA NRCS, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, PS Extension Watershed Stewards, and Dennison Township.

Program Accomplishments

- Authorized **56 NPDES Permits** for construction activities, with an **average approval time of 117 business days** (including time waiting for responses from applicants/consultants)
- Responded to **72 complaints** related to soil and water issues
- **240 Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Reviews** and **223 site inspections** for earth disturbance activities in Luzerne County
- Provided over **\$293,000 for 8 projects** to reduce sediment pollution from municipal **dirt & gravel roads**
- Provided over **\$372,000 for 6 low-volume paved road projects** to improve storm water management, drainage, & road base/surfaces
- Preservation of **2 farms** totaling **142 acres** through administration of the Luzerne County Farmland Preservation Program
- Provided conservation planning and federal Farm Bill Program contract coordination and agricultural conservation projects on more than **2,200 acres** of farmland within Luzerne County, in partnership with USDA NRCS, PA DEP, & PACD



- Held the **40th Annual Luzerne County Envirothon** at the county fairgrounds near Dallas. Nearly **140 high school students** representing **28 teams** from **5** different high schools competed
- Held **Spotted Lanternfly informational meeting** at Butler Twp. Municipal Building in partnership with Pocono Northeast RC&D
- Mosquito-borne Disease Control/Surveillance: over **71 treatments**, responded to **11 citizen complaints**, set **807 traps** and collected over **38,000 samples** (mosquitoes) for testing
- Planted **1.25 miles of riparian restoration**, which included **3,985 seedlings and shrubs planted** in 3 different watersheds, equaling nearly **10 acres**

