**Our Team:**

**2021 Board of Directors:**
- Timothy Ference, Chair
- John J. Wilkes, Jr., Vice-Chair
- Tracey Chonko, Secretary-Treasurer
- Leonard J. Burger, Jr.
- Walter Griffith, Jr.
- John P. Hanish, Jr.
- Gary Moyer, Sr.

**Associate Directors:**
- Timothy J. Connolly, Jr.
- Chris Maylath
- Thomas Herbert

**2021 Staff:**
- Hunter Bednarczyk, E&S Conservation Specialist
- Heather Graham, E&S Program Coordinator
- George Jones, MDC Program Technician
- Deborah Josuweit, Office Administrator
- Jen Lauri, Agricultural Conservation Specialist
- John Levitsky, Watershed Specialist
- Joshua Longmore, Executive Director
- Mike Schlauch, Ag & Roads Conservation Specialist
- Frank Semanski, Building & Grounds Keeper
- Owen Sprau, MDC Program Technician

**Our Programs:**

- **Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control** – provides review, permitting, inspections, and voluntary compliance technical services for earth disturbance activities
- **Agricultural Conservation** – provides technical support to plan and implement conservation practices on agricultural lands, including farmland preservation through conservation easements
- **Watershed Stewardship** – provides technical support to plan and implement watershed conservation efforts
- **Dirt, Gravel, & Low-volume Road Environmental Improvement** – provides technical support & grant funding to aid public road owners in implementing environmental improvement projects
- **Mosquito-borne Disease Control** – conducts surveillance and control activities to reduce the threat of mosquito-borne diseases
- **Conservation Education & Outreach** – Each of the district’s programs seeks not only “put conservation on the ground”, but they also have a component of education and outreach with the goal of establishing a conservation ethic among the citizens of Luzerne County.

**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 Kearse, District Conservationist, USDA NRCS
- Shane Kleiner, Watershed Manager, 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
- PA 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 Programs:**

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

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

Photo: Bowman’s Creek in Ross Township, Luzerne County. Credit: John Levitsky
In 2021, the Luzerne Conservation District, along with its consultant Larson Design Group and multiple local partners, undertook the extensive effort of developing the Countywide Action Plan for Clean Water in Luzerne County.

The plan established a blueprint to help reach local clean water goals within Luzerne County over the next few years. This voluntary planning effort gathered the input of local, state, and federal partners to identify priorities and initiatives to benefit water quality within Luzerne County. The initiatives and recommendations outlined within this Plan will benefit local communities while also assisting Pennsylvania in meeting its Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals.

In fact, the work and data outlined in the plan indicate that the goals set for Luzerne County will be exceeded by an astonishing 755% for nitrogen pollution reduction and 217% for phosphorus pollution reduction.