



# Annual Report

## 2023



Crawford  
County  
Conservation  
District



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# Profile & Mission

## Profile

The Crawford County Conservation District was formed in 1956 as a local grass roots county organization dedicated to stewardship of soil and water resources in Crawford County. Today the District programming extends well beyond those initial goals.

## Mission

To protect, conserve, and restore the natural resources of the county for present and future generations by actively seeking resources and partnerships to achieve these goals through voluntary cooperation.





# Staff



Kathy Uglow

Shayla Deeter

Sydney Holler

Tracey Crawford

Jennifer Kellogg

Maille Larmon

Brian Pilarcik

Laura Dengler

Breann Dilley



# Board Members



## **Conservation District**

Robert Waddell

Richard Muir

Amber Heil

Chris Seeley

George Greig

Wendy Kedzierski

Scott Preston

## **Ag Land Preservation**

Robert Hopkins

John Tautin

Richard Deiss

Scott Preston

Rich Ferguson

Richard Rendulic

Dennis Hindman

## **Agricultural Conservation Committee**

Doug Torok

Robert Waddell

Francis Weiderspahn

Sydney Holler

## **Quality Assurance Board**

Jody Lasko, Doug Torok

Wendy Kedzierski, Richard Muir

Ricardo Gilson, Noah Grice

# Environmental Education



## 44 Nature Center Events

- Envirothon
- Birth of a Tree
- Mural Kits
- Field Trips
- Weekly Programs

## Community Outreach Events

- Creek Connections
- Senior Centers
- Garden Clubs
- Consortium
- Fish Hatchery Open House
- Walk in Penn's Woods





# Watershed Programs



## **Allegheny College Watershed Conservation Research Center:**

The District partnered with the WCRC to complete a project on a UNT to Woodcock Creek. The project was designed and implemented by PA Fish and Boat Commission Stream Habitat Section. The purpose of the project was to protect an eroded bank on a utility crossing from scouring. Log frame deflectors and modified moundsills were installed to protect the banks from erosion.

## **Lake Habitat Improvement:**

### **Pymatuning Reservoir:**

The Watershed Specialist assisted Pa Fish and Boat Commission Reservoir Habitat Section with coordination of volunteers, construction, and installation of Porcupine Crib Structures on Pymatuning Reservoir. Volunteers and agency staff constructed and installed over 100 structures.



# Invasive Species Management



## **Pymatuning Reservoir Hydrilla:**

The Watershed Specialist assisted with 2023 hydrilla management activities at Pymatuning Reservoir. Approximately of 400 acres of Hydrilla was treated three times in 2023. Two vegetation surveys were conducted on the reservoir to assess effectiveness of the project, and identify newly infested areas.

## **Pymatuning Reservoir European Frogbit:**

The District assisted Pymatuning State Park with a Rapid Response hand pulling event for European Frogbit in Red Cross Bay.

## **Plant Camp:**

The District worked with partners to host a second year of Aquatic Plant Camp at Pymatuning State Park. A dozen teachers from all over Pennsylvania were immersed in aquatic plants for a week. Participants visited sites in Crawford, Erie, and Mercer counties to learn ID and management techniques.



# Planting Projects

## **UNT to Cussewago Creek**

A riparian area along an unnamed tributary of Cussewago Creek on the Katz Natural Area was planted by Titusville and Cambridge Springs high schools. The project involved coordinating with Western Pa Conservancy to plant native tree and shrub species along the tributary.

## **UNT to Sugar Creek**

A riparian area along an unnamed tributary of Sugar Creek was planted by Maplewood Highschool. The students planted in a habitat improvement project at the Black Ash Sportsman Club. The Club had harvested trees from an aged out and degraded spruce stand. Native trees and shrubs were planted in the timbered area to help boost regeneration as well as protect the UNT to Sugar Creek.

## **French Creek:**

Cochranton High School worked on a Western PA Conservancy easement along French Creek near Cochranton. The students repaired tree shelters and replanted damaged trees and shrubs.

## **UNT to Conneaut Creek:**

Saegertown High School and Conneaut Lake Middle School students planted a riparian buffer along a recently restored section of a UNT to Conneaut Creek in Dicksonburg.

## **Riparian Outreach Event**

The District worked with partners to host a workshop on riparian restoration for agency and NGO staff. Over 30 partners attended the event.

# Erosion Control Chapter 102

The Crawford County Conservation District maintains a Level 2 delegation agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to assume responsibilities in the Erosion and Sediment Control Program and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program. The purpose of the E&S and NPDES Programs is to minimize erosion and sedimentation in order to protect, maintain, reclaim, and restore water quality and existing and designated uses of waters of the Commonwealth and to provide for the conservation of soil, water, and related resources. A 2023 summary of this program is as follows:



Compost filter sock providing sedimentation control on McAlister's project site

In 2023, the District continued to work on obtaining Notice of Termination Forms from project sites with expired and expiring permits. In 2024, the District hopes to continue this process in anticipation of the December 2024 NPDES PAG-02 Renewal.

## NPDES PAG-02 Permits:

- 8 New NOIs Received
- 10 Permits Authorized
- 6 Amendments Recvd & Approved
- 1 Renewal Approved

## NPDES Individual Permits:

- 3 Applications Received
- 1 Permits Authorized by DEP
- 1 Amendment Recvd & Approved
- 1 Renewal Approved

\$11,500 in NPDES Base Fees

\$35,020 in E&S Review Fees

11 Standalone E&S Plans Approved

142 Technical Assistance Contacts

9 Complaints Investigated

25 Site Inspections Conducted

11 Notice of Terminations Processed

12 Trainings Attended

# Water Obstructions

## Chapter 105

The Crawford County Conservation District maintains a Level 2 delegation agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to be the Department's designee for the administration and enforcement functions of the Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permitting Program (WOEP Program) within the political boundaries of Crawford County. This delegation is intended to maximize the available resources and eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and delays in the administration of the WOEP Program under the Dam Safety and Encroachment Act as well as to provide the District with one or more of the Department's regulatory functions including enforcement and the power to permit, inspect, and monitor specified categories of water obstructions and encroachments. A 2023 summary of this program is as follows

\$8,175 in Permit Fees Collected  
32 General Permits Issued  
4 General Permits Transferred  
126 Technical Assistance Contacts  
15 Complaints Investigated  
6 Trainings Attended



In 2023, the District continued to implement the Canadohta Lake Dock Marker Project installing dock marker medallions on permitted docks. As of 2023, 117 markers have been installed at Canadohta Lake, and we hope to install at least 10 additional markers in 2024!





# Nutrient and Manure Management



22 Nutrient Management Plans Reviewed and Approved.

3 Annual Status Reviews Completed.

2 Manure Management Plans Developed.

1 Agricultural E&S Plan Developed.

Secured \$32,892.88 of PACD's Ag Plan Reimbursement Plan funds for 15 farms.



# Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Road

## Dirt and Gravel

Bloomfield Township – Athens Road (2021 Contract)

Stream Crossing Replacement

DGR Funds Spent: \$204,423.95

Municipal In-Kind: \$10,752.12

Total Project Value: \$215,176.07

Hayfield Township – Lynn Road (2021 Contract)

Stream Crossing Replacements and Road Drainage

DGR Funds spent: \$177,695.42

Municipal In-kind: \$26,766.67

Total Project Value: \$204,462.09

Linesville Boro/Pine Twp – S. Chestnut St (2023 Contract)

Road Drainage

DGR Funds spent: \$148,208.99

Municipal In-kind: \$2,670.00

Total Project Value: \$150,878.99

Oil Creek Township – McKinney Road (2023 Contract)

Road Drainage

DGR Funds spent: \$154,666.85

Municipal In-kind: \$15,850.93

Total Project Value: \$170,517.78

Randolph Township – Carpenter Road (2023 Contract)

Road Drainage

DGR Funds spent: \$35,853.95

Municipal In-kind: \$6,034.05

Total Project Value: \$41,888.00

Rome Township – Cloverdale Road (2023 Contract)

Road Drainage

DGR Funds spent: \$101,683.02

Municipal In-kind: \$11,413.50

Total Project Value: \$113,096.52

Summit Township – Porter Road: Phase I (2023 Contract)

Road Drainage

DGR Funds spent: \$7,007.92

Municipal In-kind: \$6,254.35

Total Project Value: \$13,262.27

Woodcock Township – Stoltz Road (2022 Contract)

Stream Crossing Replacement and Road Drainage

DGR Funds spent: \$139,810.81

## Low Volume

Summit Township – Agnew Road (2023 Contract)

Road Drainage

LVR Funds spent: \$4,756.49

Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$3,881.15

Total Project Value: \$8,637.64

Woodcock Township – Fisher Road (2022 Contract)

Stream Crossing Replacement and Road Drainage

LVR Funds spent: \$142,541.69

Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$7,678.65

Total Project Value: \$150,220.34

Woodcock Township – Kyla Drive (2023 Contract)

Road Drainage

LVR Funds spent: \$

Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$

Total Project Value: \$



# Agricultural Programs



## 1 ACAP



The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created through the Clean Streams Fund established by the FY2022-2023 Pennsylvania State Budget. ACAP provides financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations within the Commonwealth. In 2023, the District began working with producers on plans for future practice installation.

## 2 REAP

REAP is a first-come, first-served program that enables farmers, businesses, and landowners to earn PA income tax credits to offset the cost of implementing conservation practices. Tax credits provided by the REAP program helps farmers off-set the costs of implementing best management practices (BMPs) that benefit their farms and work to protect water quality at the same time.

7 Crawford County farms participated in REAP in the 2022-2023 with \$75,428 in tax credits.



# Agricultural Land Preservation



## Mission Statement

The preservation of quality farmland and way of life based upon the family farm as the foundation, in a vital industry for the citizens of Crawford County past, present and future.

Two farm easements were purchased in 2023 totaling 313 acres. This brings the total preserved acreage in Crawford County to 2,049. An additional 461 acres are in process.



# Community Services

**Plat Book** The 2020 version of the Crawford County plat book continued to be available in 2023.

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## 44th Annual Tree Sale

Pre-orders are taken each February and March with seedling distribution in April. In 2023, the District sold 4,273 trees which included: White Spruce, Douglas Fir, White Pine, Red Oak, American Hybrid Chestnut, American Plum, Paw Paw, and Sugar maple as well as 4 seed mixes.

## Topographic Maps

A wide selection of Crawford and surrounding county topographic maps are available year round at the Conservation District office

# Rental Opportunities



## NoTill Drill

The District offers a Great Plains 1006 No Till Drill to area producers for use to increase acres of cover crops

## Leaf Blower

Municipalities who participate in the Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads Program are able to rent our Buffalo Turbine to reduce leaf debris in roadside ditches.



Other equipment offered to municipalities include:

Traffic Counters

Survey Equipment

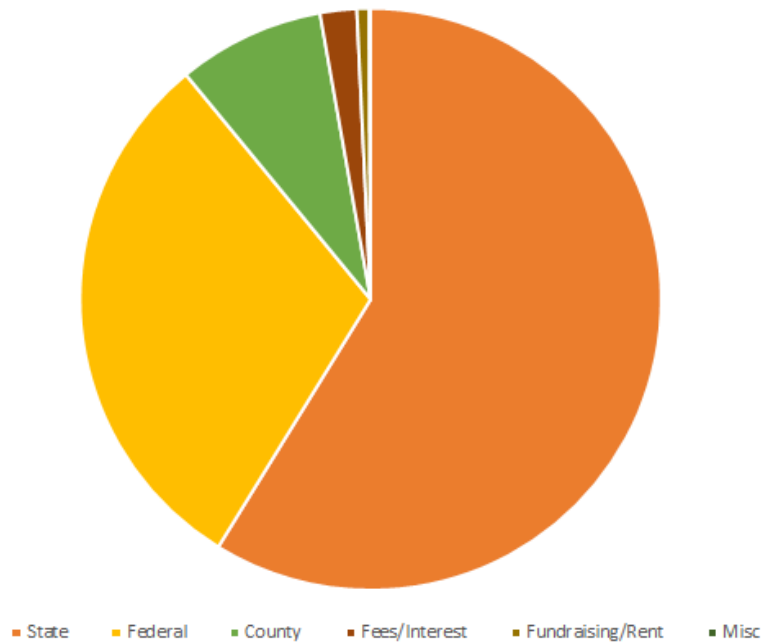
Impact Wrenches



# Financial Report



2023 INCOME \$2,856,751



2023 EXPENSES \$2,623,113

