

CRAWFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

21742 German Road

Meadville PA 16335

814 763 5269

www.crawfordconservation.com

FB Crawford-County-Conservation-District

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

Tracey Crawford
Laura Dengler
Breann Dilley
Ossian Glenn
Sydney Holler
Jennifer Kellogg

Maille Larmon
Hanna McGil
Brian Pilarcik
Hayden Reitz
Kathy Uglow

Conservation District Board of Directors

George Greig
Amber Heil
Wendy Kedzierski
Richard Muir

Scott Preston
Chris Seeley
Robert Waddell

Agricultural Land Preservation Board of Directors

Robert Hopkins
John Tautin
Richard Deiss
Scott Preston

Rich Ferguson
Richard Rendulic
Dennis Hindman

Agricultural Conservation Committee

Sydney Holler
Doug Torok

Robert Waddell
Francis Weiderspahn

Quality Assurance Board

Ricardo Gilson
Noah Grice
Wendy Kedzierski

Jody Lasko
Richard Muir
Doug Torok

Content

ACAP/REAP	2
Agricultural Land Preservation	3
Community Services	4
Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Roads	5
Environmental Education	7
Erosion Control	8
Financial Report	9
Invasive Species Management	10
Nutrient Management	11
Planting Projects	12
Rental Opportunities	13
Watershed Activities	14
Water Obstruction	15

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program

Best Management Practices

By administering the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program, the Crawford County Conservation District was able to assist in the construction of 13 best management practices on 9 different farms in 2024. Examples of best management practices that were installed include access road, fence for grazing, animal trails and walkways, concrete heavy use area protection, manure storages, and many more! These best management practices effectively reduced erosion and improved nutrient uptake on these farms.

Conservation Practice	Number Completed
Waste Storage 313	4 System
Access Road 560	349 Feet
Structure for Water Control 587	2 Each
Underground Outlet 357	2,145 Feet
Heavy Use Area Protection 561	4,132 Square Feet
Livestock Pipeline 516	2,969 Feet
Stream Crossing 578	912 Square Feet
Trails and Walkways 575	131 Feet
Fence 382	15,371 Feet
Roof Runoff Management 558	1 System

Technical Assistance ACAP

Through outreach efforts and by administering the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program the Crawford County Conservation District was able to provide funding for the development of 2 engineered plans for construction of best management practices on farms. Reaching a total of 2 farms through these efforts.

REAP

A total of 5 REAP applications were completed in 2024 with the assistance of the District to help with farmers conservation efforts. REAP applications include assistance with the purchase of equipment and construction of best management practices.

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.

Summary

The board closed on one farm in 2023 for 224 acres. This brings the total preserved acreage in Crawford County to 2,273. Additional farms are in process.

Community Services

Tree Seedling Sale

The 45th District Seedling Sale received orders February thru March and the pick-up date was April 26. We sold 5,945 trees which included, Norway Spruce, White Spruce, Fraser Fir, Eastern White Pine, White Oak, Sugar Maple, Paw Paw, American Common Persimmon, American Hazelnut, Eastern Redbud, Old Fashioned Lilac, American Elderberry as well as 4 seed mixes.

Plat Book

The 2020 version of the county plat book continued to be available in 2024

Topographic Maps

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

Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Roads

Pennsylvania's Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program provides funding to eliminate stream pollution caused by runoff and sediment from the State's comprehensive network of unpaved and low volume public roads. The Program, enacted into law in 1997 as an annual \$5 million program, has grown to an annual \$28 million program for environmentally sensitive road maintenance. The goal of the Program is to create an environmentally and economically sustainable road network through education, outreach and project funding.

During the 2024 construction season, five Dirt & Gravel Road projects were completed (1 contracted in 2024, 3 contracted in 2023, and 1 contracted in 2021). Three additional Dirt & Gravel projects and one Low Volume project, all contracted in 2023, are expected to be completed in 2025. The total construction disbursement (advances and final payments) for 2024 was \$306,224.07.

To date, the Dirt and Gravel Roads program has expenditures of \$10,371,927.85 and the Low Volume Roads program has expenditures of \$1,068,779.31. This year, we placed 12,075 tons of road fill, installed 18 cross pipes and 1,290 feet of underdrain, reconstructed 460 feet of stream channels, and replaced 4 undersized stream culverts with appropriately sized aluminum structures.

Athens Township – Ongley Road (2021 Contract)

Worksite #Z321, Stream Crossing Replacement & Road Drainage Project.

DGR Funds Spent: \$242,826.69 Municipal In-Kind Contribution: \$1,302.50

Total Project Value: \$244,129.19

Oil Creek Township – Donovan Road (2023 Contract)

Worksite #Z340, Road Drainage Project.

DGR Funds spent: \$100,924.47 Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$28,045.38

Total Project Value: \$128,969.85

Rockdale Township – Wise Road (2023 Contract)

Worksite #Z338, Road Drainage Project.

DGR Funds spent: \$117,517.22 Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$1,974.53

Total Project Value: \$119,491.75

Wayne Township – Rynd Road (2024 Contract)

Worksite #Z346, Road Drainage Project.

DGR Funds spent: \$68,360.98 Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$32,058.92

Total Project Value: \$100,419.90

Summit Township – Porter Road (2023 Contract)

Worksite #Z332, Stream Crossing Replacement Project.

DGR Funds spent: \$343,534.41 Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$27,792.01

Total Project Value: \$371,326.42



Rynd Road, Wayne Township

Ongley Road, Athens Township



Donovan Road, Oil Creek Township

Wise Road, Rockdale Township

Environmental Education

School activities/Field Trips/ programs Audience

Girl Scouts	18
Birth of a Tree	177
4th graders as scientists, Allegheny College	54
Crawford Christian Academy, 4th grade tree id field trip	28
Creek Connections symposium middle school focus group	17
Union City 2nd grade field trip	85
TOTAL	379

Envirothon (students) TOTAL 55

Regular Public Programming

NATURE CENTER/PARK PUBLIC PROGRAMS (39)	330
---	-----

Community Outreach

Master Watershed Stewards/Kiwanis meeting	8
Meadville Public Library - Butterflies	25
Meadville Public Library - Beavers	20
Stone Memorial Library - Trash to Treasure	10
Stone Memorial Library - Worms!	6
Saegertown Public Library - Water Cycle	20
Warren County CCC Event	23
South Shenango Flower Club	23
French Creek Consortium	30
Fish Hatchery open house*	
Creek Connections symposium in campus center with display Large Event	
TOTAL	165

TOTAL 929

Online Outreach:

Facebook reach	28.7 K
----------------	--------

Erosion Control

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.

NPDES PAG-02 Permits:

15 New NOIs Received
26 Permits Authorized
9 Amendments Received & Approved
15 Renewals Approved
28 Notice of Terminations Processed

NPDES Individual Permits:

2 Applications Received
1 Permits Authorized by DEP
1 Amendment Recvd & Approved
0 Renewal Approved

\$17,500 in NPDES Base Fees
\$34,850 in E&S Review Fees
123 Technical Assistance Contacts
4 Complaints Investigated
16 Site Inspections Conducted
26 Trainings Attended

Financial Report

Revenue	3,647,924
Payroll contributions from Crawford County	142,484
Crawford County - Ag. Land Preservation	9,500
State grants	1,245,182
Federal grants	2,142,690
Rental	6,565
Fundraising	16,301
Erosion and soil review fees	36,538
Interest earnings	1,456
NPDES and 105 permit fees	26,845
Miscellaneous	19,733
Expenditures	2,508,643
Wages, benefits and taxes	142,484
(total paid by Crawford County \$494,845, net of reimbursement by District of \$352,361)	
Crawford County reimbursement - wages, benefits and taxes	352,361
Travel	5,588
Building	34,056
Office	15,828
Fundraising	11,558
Postage, copying and printing	3,319
Computer	4,992
Telephone and internet	4,546
Meetings and workshops	5,168
Dues	3,915
Insurance	6,195
Miscellaneous	1,261
Education and training	500
Professional fees	5,950
Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program	1,353,849
Dirt and gravel projects	397,915
Low volume road projects	26,493
Farmland preservation	13,854
Other grant expenditures	118,811

Invasive Species Management

Pymatuning Reservoir Hydrilla:

The Watershed Specialist assisted with 2024 hydrilla management activities at Pymatuning Reservoir. Approximately of 400 acres of Hydrilla was treated three times in 2024. 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 Alcatraz Bay.

Plant Camp:

The District worked with partners to host a general public Aquatic Plant Camp at Pymatuning State Park. Residents were immersed in aquatic plants for two sessions at the Pymatuning Environmental Education Center,

Nutrient & Manure Management

In Pennsylvania, operations that produce or apply manure to fields & pastures must have a plan in place to reduce runoff & manage the nutrients in this natural fertilizer. These plans can increase farm profitability by determining the most efficient use of manure & other fertilizers, in addition to reducing erosion & the risk of surface & groundwater pollution.



AGRICULTURAL PLANNING

- 3** Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) Reviewed & Approved
- 3** Annual NMP Status Reviews Completed
- 2** Agricultural E&S Plan Developed
- 6** Manure Management Plans (MMPs) Developed
- \$1,488** of PACD's Ag Plan Reimbursement Plan funds secured

OUTREACH EFFORTS

- 2** Facebook Posts on MMP Requirements
- 1** Workshop – NMP 101: Understanding Your Plan
- 1** Presentation on NMP & MMP Record Keeping Requirements
- 1** Press Release to Advertise Funding for NMPs
- 1** Display at Lineville Fish Hatchery Open House - Biosecurity
- 1** Display at Crawford Co. Fair – Get a High Score When You Manage Manure



Planting Projects

Crawford County Forest:

Titusville High School: assisted with a reforestation project on the Crawford County Forest near Hydetown, PA. The project was led by DCNR, Bureau of Forestry and the Crawford County Planning Commission to plant trees and shrubs in a recently timbered site location.

French Creek:

Saegertown and Cambridge Springs High Schools worked on a Western PA Conservancy easement along French Creek on Mystic Road. The students planted approximately 300 trees and shrubs as well as removed invasive shrubs from the property.

UNT to Conneaut Outlet

Maplewood, Cochrannton, and Conneaut Area Senior High planted a riparian buffer along the Erie Canal on a French Creek Valley Conservancy easement. FCVC followed up with a volunteer planting event on the same site.

Rental Opportunities

No Till 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

Watershed Activities

Allegheny College Watershed Conservation Research Center

The District partnered with the WCRC to complete a project on the main stem of 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 and provide instream habitat. Log frame deflectors and modified mounds 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.

Water Obstruction

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

\$9,125 in Permit Fees Collected

36 General Permits Issued

9 General Permits Transferred

99 Technical Assistance Contacts

16 Complaints Investigated

12 Trainings Attended

In 2024, the District continued to implement the Canadohta Lake Dock Marker Project installing over 117 dock marker medallions on permitted docks. This project includes the development of a new database system to enable better service to the public.



21742 German Road

Meadville PA 16335

814 763 5269