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# CRAWFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Annual Report



DECEMBER 31, 2022

21742 GERMAN ROAD  
Meadville PA 16335

### **Conservation District Staff**

Tracey Crawford  
Brian Pilarcik  
Jennifer Kellogg  
Breann Curry  
Laura Dengler  
Kathy Uglow  
Sydney Holler  
Maille Larmon  
Shayla Deeter

### **Conservation District Board of Directors**

Robert Waddell  
Richard Muir  
George Greig  
Amber Heil  
Wendy Kedzierski  
Scott Preston  
Francis Weiderspahn Jr.

### **Agricultural Land Preservation Board of Directors**

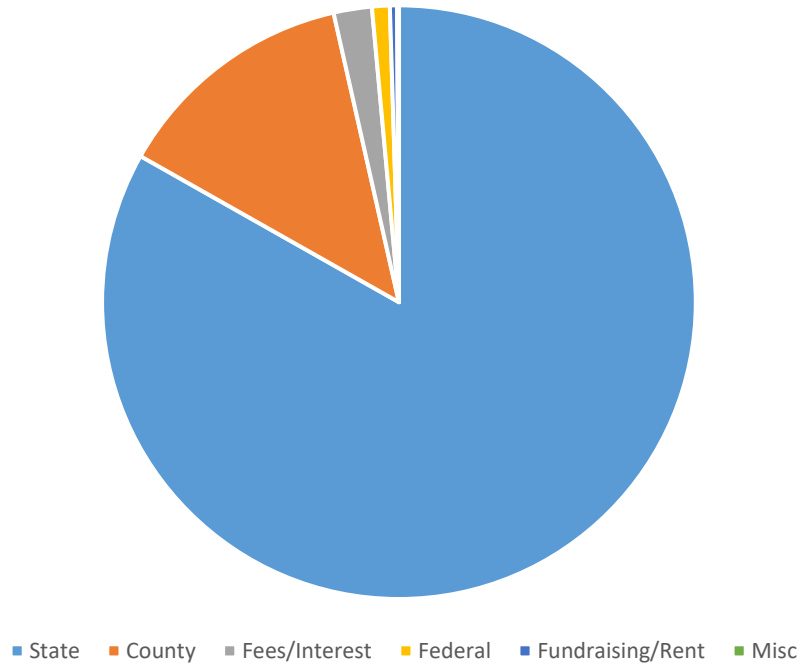
Robert Hopkins  
Richard Deiss  
John Tautin  
Dennis Hindman  
Rick Rendulic  
Richard Ferguson  
Scott Preston

### **Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Road Quality Assurance Board**

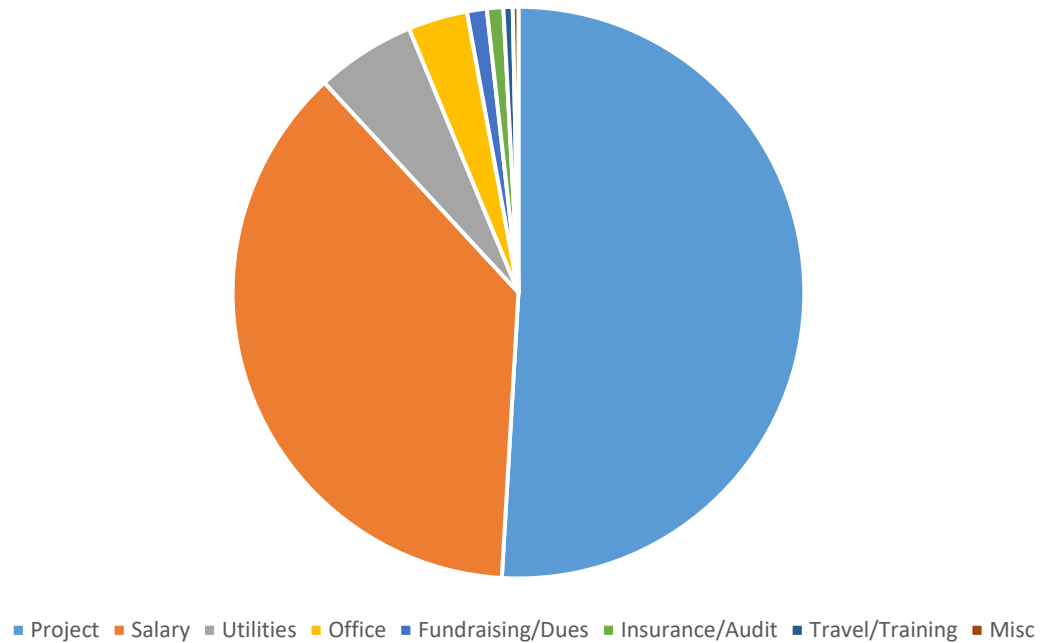
Tracey Crawford (non-voting)  
Wendy Kedzierski (CCCD)  
Jody Lasko (NRCS)  
Rick Gilson (TU)  
Richard Muir (Alt CCCD)  
Doug Torok (Alt NRCS)  
(Alt PAFBC)

## Financial

2022 INCOME 1,796,889



2022 EXPENSES 1,202,276



## Environmental Education Program



### Events Totaling Over 800 Attendees

School activities & programs (200)  
Saegertown Elementary mural kits  
Birth of a Tree  
Envirothon (40)  
Field Trips/Class/Group visits to Nature Center (76)  
Early Connections  
Crawford County Care Center picnic/butterfly program  
Active Aging Tree ID  
Girl Scouts

Calvary Baptist 4th grade tree identification  
Regular Public Programming  
32 Nature Center Public Programs (320)  
Community Outreach (158)  
Meadville Public Library  
Crawford Co. Care Center, beavers  
Crawford Co. Care Center, rock storytelling  
Warren County CCC Event  
Titusville Farmer Market, rain barrels  
South Shenango Flower Club  
Juniper Village, beavers

### Online Outreach:

2 new education videos produced and posted on YouTube, Webpage and Facebook:  
"Blue Herons at Woodcock Creek": 257 Facebook views (at present, 1/18)  
"Upcycled Milk Jug Bird Feeders": 188 Facebook views (at present, 1/18)  
2 Online photo contests with 38 total participants entering pictures.

## *Agricultural Land Preservation*

The Crawford County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved 1735 acres of Crawford County Farmland and currently has 4 additional farms in process.

## *Nutrient Management Planning*

Through outreach efforts the Crawford County Conservation District was able to review and approve 1 Nutrient Management Plans and verify 1 non Act 38 plans while assisting in the completion of 2 non Act 38 plans. An important role in providing the best technical assistance possible include the Districts outreach activities and trainings. In 2022 the District conducted 7 outreach activities, 2 Manure Management Plan training activities, and 1 farms receiving planning assistance. Reaching a total of 10 farms through these efforts. In 2022, the District received 0 complaints to gain compliance. The District assisted in the completion of 1 Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control plan this year. As a portion of the Nutrient Management Program the District completed 3 Annual Status Reviews on farm. With the assistance of a Growing Greener Grant the District has successfully planned 29 Nutrient Management Plans to be developed in the following year.

## *Agricultural Best Management Practices*

By administering a Growing Greener Grant the Crawford County Conservation District was able to assist in the construction of 5 best management practices on 4 different farms in 2022. Examples of best management practices that were installed include grassed waterway, access road, fence for grazing, animal trails and walkways, concrete heavy use area protection, and many more! These best management practices effectively reduced erosion and improved nutrient uptake on these farms.

## *REAP*

A total of 2 REAP applications were completed in 2022 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.

## *Watershed Activities*

*Watershed Based Grants* The District continued to administer 4 grants from the DEP Growing Greener program and Greenways program in 2022. Highlights from some of those programs are as follows.

### *Crawford County Streambank Stabilization Program*

A streambank stabilization project was completed on a UNT to Conneaut Creek. The project included 195 feet of mudsill, 25 rock cross vanes, 78 feet of rock toe, 2 channel blocks, and 2,368 feet of bank grading. The restored channel will be fenced off and then serve as a riparian planting location for our student riparian restoration program.

### *Planting Projects*

#### **UNT to Cussewago Creek**

A riparian area along an unnamed tributary of Cussewago Creek on the Katz Natural Area was planted by Cochranon, Maplewood, 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 Conneaut Outlet**

A riparian area along an unnamed tributary of Conneaut Outlet on the Conneaut Marsh Natural Area was planted by Conneaut Lake Middle School students. The project involved coordinating with Western Pa Conservancy to plant native tree and shrub species along the tributary.

#### **Oil Creek**

Titusville High School planted a riparian buffer along Oil Creek in Riceville. The project site was a restoration that was completed in October of 2021 with assistance from Trout Unlimited. The students planted trees and cut live stakes on the property.

#### **UNT to French Creek**

Saegertown High School students completed a multi-year project at Jordan Park. The students planted native trees and shrubs along the tributary. The park is operated by Saegertown Borough, and was the site of a previous streambank restoration.

### *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 2022 hydrilla management activities at Pymatuning Reservoir. A total of 435 acres of Hydrilla was treated three times in 2022. 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 to an early detection of European Frogbit in Red Cross Bay.

### *Lake Mapping*

#### **Sugar Lake**

The watershed Specialist mapped Sugar Lake in 2022. The mapping project was to assist with round goby surveys later in the summer. In addition to producing a bathymetric map the project also produced a vegetation density map and a bottom hardness map that would help structure the round goby survey efforts. The bathymetric (depth) map is accessible to the public at: <https://www.genesismaps.com/socialmap/>



## *Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Road Program*

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 2022 construction season 2 DGR (1 from 2021 and 1 from 2022) and no LVR projects were completed. \$387,940.64 (\$387,940.64 DGR & \$79,650.70 LVR) was the total construction disbursements (advances and final payments) for 2022.

To date the Dirt and Gravel Roads program has expenditures of \$7,651,449.65 and the Low Volume Roads program has expenditures of \$721,780.62.

### Oil Creek Township – McKinney Road (2022 Contract)

Worksite #Z328, Road drainage project.

DGR Funds Spent: \$63,474.77

Municipal In-Kind Contribution: \$15,012.80

Total Project Value: \$78,487.57

### Sadsbury Township – Canal Road (2021 Contract)

Worksite #Z324, Stream Crossing Replacement and Road drainage project.

DGR Funds spent: \$200,983.59

Municipal In-kind Contribution: \$7,393.69

Total Project Value: \$208,377.28



### **Stainbrook Park Rentals**

49 Rentals totaling \$2,365.00

### **Plat Books**

53 plat books were sold

### **Tree Sale**

1,180 Norway Spruce

1,100 Eastern White Pine

360 Eastern Red Cedar

65 Potted Canadian Hemlock

530 White Oak

700 Persimmon

500 American Hazelnut

360 Red Maple

600 American Elderberry

Total of 5,395 tree seedlings sold

## Chapter 105: Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permitting Program

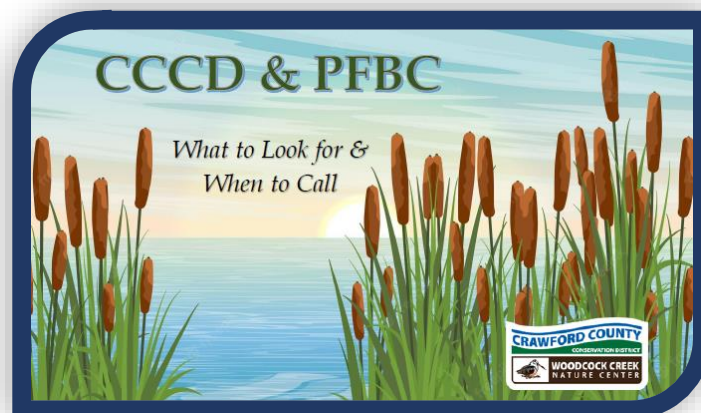
The Crawford County Conservation District maintains a Level 2 delegation agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to be the Department's designee for the

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 2022 summary of this program is as follows:



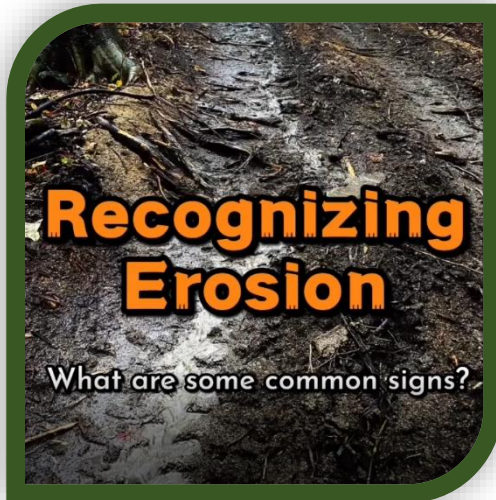
*One of the District's 2023 Outreach Posts*

- **\$4,635** in General Permit Fees Collected
- **32** General Permits Issued
- **4** General Permits Transferred
- **152** Technical Assistance Contacts
- **16** Complaints Investigated
- **12** Trainings Attended
- Presented for Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, "CCCD & PFBC: What to Look For & When to Call"



*From "CCCD & PFBC: What to Look for & When to Call"*

## Chapter 102: Erosion and Sediment Control/NPDES Permitting



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 2022 summary of this program is as follows:

### *One of the District's 2023 Outreach Posts*

- **\$7,500** in NPDES Base Fees Collected
- **\$12,630** in E&S Review Fees Collected
- NPDES Permits
  - **13** General permits were received
  - **2** Individual permits were received
  - **12** General permits were approved
  - **3** permit amendments were received & approved
- **5** Standalone E&S Plans Approved
- **103** Technical Assistance Contacts
- **6** Complaints Investigated
- **8** Site Inspections
- **4** Notice of Terminations Processed
- **12** Trainings Attended



*Tension Crack in Crimped Soil*

