REGULAR MEETING DATES FOR 2018
2nd Monday of Month – 8:30 a.m. (January-September; December)
3rd Monday of Month – 8:30 a.m. (October),
1st Monday of Month – 8:30 a.m. (November)

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTORS

Evan Burkholder, Chairman,
Farmer Director
580 Wilkson Lane,
Fayetteville, PA 17222
717-352-7014
12/31/2018

Barry Best, Vice Chairman,
Public Director
402 Bear Valley Road,
Fort Loudon, PA 17224
717-369-2249
12/31/2021

Robert Thomas,
County Commissioner Director
171 Lincoln Road,
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-267-3540
12/31/2018

Nelson Egolf, Farmer Director
5929 Wayne Road,
Chambersburg, PA 17202
717-263-8599
12/31/2020

Paul Witter, Farmer Director
1503 Roxbury Road,
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-729-0754
12/31/2019

Dennis Musser, Farmer Director
255 Pattison Circle,
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-477-0203
12/31/2021

Samuel Worley, Public Director
55 Sanibel Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-263-2651
12/31/2019

Board of Directors left to right
Dennis Musser, Nelson Egolf, Evan Burkholder, Samuel Worley, Robert Thomas, Barry Best, Paul Witter
DISTRIBUT STAFF

David Stoner
Manager

Scott Metzger
Assistant Manager/
Ag Resource Specialist

Alan Royek
E&S Technician

Danae Forney
Administrative Assistant/
Secretary-Treasurer

Tammy Piper
Watershed Specialist
Act 38 Technician

Mary Ann Naugle
Resource Conservationist

Vince Untied
Agriculture Conservation
Technician

Jennifer Bratthauar
Agriculture Conservation
Technician
FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COOPERATING AGENCIES

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Sharon Weigle, County Executive Director
185 Franklin Farm Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17202
717-446-8565

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
Justin Atkins, District Conservationist
185 Franklin Farm Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-446-8566

PENN STATE EXTENSION SERVICE
Nina Redding, Business Operation Manager
Samantha Robison, Client Relations Manager
181 Franklin Farms Lane, Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-263-9226

FRANKLIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Philip Tarquino, County Planning Director
Administrative Annex
218 North Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-261-3855

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Rob Bingaman, Area Superintendent
619 North Franklin Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-264-4171

DCNR, BUREAU OF FORESTRY
Roy Brubaker, District Forester
John Schwartz, Service Forester
10099 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA 17222
717-352-2211

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION
Eric Horsh, Land Management Group Supervisor
8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652
814-643-1831

PENNSYLVANIA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION
1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241
717-486-7087
Manager’s Report

Four words come to mind when I look back on 2017 at the Conservation District.

Frustration
Once again the state legislators had a difficult time passing the state budget in a timely manner. For a while it looked like we were going to lose a significant portion of our funding as it was deemed by some as unspent “surplus”. In the end most of the funding was restored but the reimbursements were delayed. In fact, we are still waiting on some funds well into 2018.

Recognition
The Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) recognized Justin and Doreen Geisinger, Air Hill Acres, Greene Twp., as the 2017 Conservation Farmer of the Year for their conservation work on their farm over the last several years. Pictures and a more detailed article are found elsewhere in this report.

Mark and Beth Steck, Green Valley Farm owners and 2016 Conservation Farmer of the Year winners, were nominated for PACD’s 2017 Clean Water Farm Award. The Stecks were awarded the honor at the 2017 PACD/SCC Joint Annual Meeting in Harrisburg this past July. The award recognizes their efforts to protect the water by implementing good conservation practices on their farm.

Sam Worley, FCCD Public director, was nominated for and won PACD’s Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation Director Excellence Award for 2017. Sam was honored with this award at the 2017 PACD/SCC Awards Luncheon in Harrisburg. The award is given to a director for his or her volunteer efforts that have furthered activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis.

Celebration
The FCCD Board of Directors honored Sam Worley with a watch and plaque for 25 years of service as a volunteer conservation district board member. A time of celebration following the June Bd. meeting included a luncheon and special remarks from the county commissioners.

Education
Education is always a part of the FCCD’s role. It ranges from a field day at Caledonia State Park for 700 Chambersburg area 1st graders to the Envirothon event at Cowan’s Gap State Park for high school students to the 7 scholarships awarded to college students and finally to the county’s farmers, engineers and surveyors attending our workshops.
District Director Celebrates PACD Award & 25 Years

Our Conservation District was honored to have one of our district directors chosen for the Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award. This award is given to either a district director or an associate director for their outstanding volunteer efforts that have advanced the activities and accomplishments of Conservation Districts on a statewide basis. Sam Worley is active at both the state and local levels. He has served on many committees at both levels. He actively engages in local & state legislators in supporting their conservation districts.

Director Worley was also honored by the County Commissioners for his 25 years of service. The District also presented him with a watch and certificate of appreciation for his years of service. Director Worley attended his first board meeting in January 1992.
2017 Tree Sale

One of the outreach events that we do for the community each year is our annual tree sale. The District offers a variety of trees for the public to purchase. Some of the species that were available to purchase were Firs, Spruces, Pines, Oaks, White Flowering Dogwoods, Chinese Chestnut, Riverbirch, Sycamore and more.

This year we had a slight decrease in sales. We still had some new customers from the radio advertisement on 103.7 FM. We once again partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to help them provide trees for their local tree planting program. In total, we sold 6,250 seedlings in 2017.

The money that we raise from the tree sale helps defray operating cost. Orders are accepted from January till the middle of March each year. Order forms are mailed out each year with our Fall newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Sale Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Fir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concolor Fir</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Arborvitae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway Spruce</td>
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<td>Eastern White Pine</td>
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<td>Austrian Pine</td>
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<td>Saw tooth Oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Flowering Dogwood</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbud</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverbirch</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Chestnut</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Bay Foundation</td>
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</table>
2017 was once again a year of change for our Environmental Education Program. We once again added onto existing programs, while other programs were changed.

We partnered with Bruce B. Gamble & Sons to offer farmers in the Path Valley Area their annual workshop. Farmers received information and updates on the Nutrient Management Program and Ag E&S plan requirements. The annual meeting also provides farmers an opportunity to earn pesticide credits.

Due to state testing requirements and when the school year ends; the streamside Eco days for Chambersburg was not held. We are hoping that the program will be held again in the near future.

For the fourth year in a row, the Conservation District hosted the first graders from Chambersburg School District for a day in the park. The first grade field trip was held at Caledonia State Park and was an all day event. For four days students rotated through eight stations such as wildlife, agriculture, water quality, and recycling. Over seven hundred students were able to enjoy the outdoors and nature. We are looking forward to providing the same program for students in 2018.
Environmental Education

The biggest Environmental Education event of the year is Envirothon. We once again partnered with the Fulton County Conservation District to hold the one day event, which was held at Cowans State Park. The topic for this year’s event was Agricultural Soil & Water Conservation Stewardship.

Students were given study materials in advance to help with preparing for the competition in the months leading up to the event. This year we also had a spring study day for the students. This was a time where students could meet with agency personnel and ask questions. The study day was held at the Charles E Brightbill Education Center (TWEP).

The winner of the county event advances to the state competition to compete against teams from all over the state. For the third year in a row Chambersburg School District represented Franklin County at the state level. Another team from Chambersburg finished in second place with Waynesboro finishing in third.

This year we tried something new with the Envirothon program. In the fall we added an extra study day for the students. We reduced the number of stations to allow the students more time with the agency personnel and staff for those stations. The rest of the stations will be covered in the next spring study day.

We also started working on resource study bins. These study bins have materials from each of the stations that the students are studying. Once the bins are completed, the students will be able to borrow them to help with their studying.

This year was a very exciting year for the environmental education program. We are looking forward to what 2018 has in store. We hope to be able to provide the public with the same education programs.

2017 Franklin County Envirothon Winners
Erosion & Sedimentation Control Program

The Franklin County Conservation District is delegated to administer PA DEP’s Chapter 102 rules and regulations as well as the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for stormwater associated with construction activities. The goal of the erosion and sedimentation pollution control program is to protect water resources from the impacts of accelerated erosion and sedimentation that results during an earthmoving activity. Farm tillage activities requires the development of an Ag erosion and sediment control plan and the implementation of Ag Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit soil erosion.

The District administers these programs including the review of permit applications, land development plan reviews, site inspections, complaint investigations and referral of construction sites for enforcement when necessary.

During 2017 we held two workshops, one focused on erosion and sediment control, post construction Stormwater for 90 contractors; and the second workshop was for 21 municipal officials that focused on the District's programs.

The District provided assistance to over 2000 engineers, contractors, developers and individual home owners.

2017 Program Accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E&amp;S plan Reviews</td>
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<td>Project Acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disturbed Acres</td>
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<td>Inspections</td>
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<td>General NPDES issued</td>
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<td>Ind. NPDES forwarded to DEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complaints</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enforcement Referral</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Rain Garden – PCSW BMP

Silt soc – E&S BMP
The Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) held its second annual Summer Conservation Farm Tour on August 1, 2017, which was made possible through a PACD Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Grant Project. In addition to recognizing the FCCD’s Conservation Farmer of the Year, this tour also provides attendees with a first-hand look at Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce soil and nutrient runoff leaving the farm. This year’s Conservation Farmer of the Year was Air Hill Acres Farm (Justin and Doreen Geisinger) in Chambersburg.

Air Hill Acres Farm is a smaller, 100% grazing organic dairy and also custom raises steers. The Best Management Practices that have been installed include, but are not limited to, a concrete circular manure storage, concrete barnyard with runoff controls, a grassed waterway, rotational grazing, livestock fencing, waterers, stream crossings and conversion to all pasture and grass hay.

The farm tour began after the FCCD Chairman, Evan Burkholder, presented the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to the Geisinger's. Attendees were able to see “before” pictures of all the areas which had BMPs installed, including the Animal Concentration Areas (ACAs) that are now in permanent vegetation. The crowd was free to ask questions as the tour moved along and Justin covered topics such as soil testing, manure management, preventing ACAs, rotational grazing and weed management in organic pastures/hay. The FCCD asked that Justin share his real-life experiences with implementing and maintaining his BMPs. These experiences included topics such as converting to 100% grass hay and pasture, surprises during construction, what he would change about the BMPs and how the BMPs are currently working.

There were over 70 people in attendance, including other farmers, the general public, agency staff and legislative aides for Senator Alloway and Representative Kauffman. County Commissioners Keller, Thomas and Ziobrowski were in attendance as well and congratulated the Geisinger’s. The FCCD thanks Justin and Doreen Geisinger (and the rest of their family) for all of their hard work that allowed this tour to take place.

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
2017 Clean Water Farm Award

Franklin County was honored to have a local farmer chosen for the Clean Water Farm Award at the PACD Awards luncheon this summer. Mark and Beth Steck and their family own Green Valley Farm in Dry Run, PA and were chosen as this year’s South Central region recipient. They have 230 dairy cows, 200 acres of cropland, and 27 acres of pasture. Best management practices include a stacking pad, manure storage, strip-cropping, and a rotational grazing system. The Steck’s practice 100% no-till and grow cover crops on all of their fields. Neighboring farmers regularly stop by his operation to see the practices that were installed and to ask Mark about his experience.
Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Program

In 2017 the Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) had 3 staff members who worked part time with farmers to develop agricultural erosion & sediment plans (Ag E&S Plans). Ag E&S Plans are required for any operation plowing or tilling more than 5,000 square feet. DEP’s Chesapeake Bay farm inspections have been a major component to encourage farmers to work on getting these plans completed. The list of farmers requesting the services of the FCCD continues to grow but the dedicated employees are working hard to eliminate the backlog. In 2017, 14 plans were completed totaling 1,920 acres. There are about 140 farmers on the waiting list or have a plan in progress.

The staff of the Franklin County Conservation District is dedicated to supporting our local farmers. Each plan is tailored to the specific farm and best management practices are encouraged by the district to be included in every plan. While many farmers in the area are already using valuable conservation practices (i.e. no-till), there are always areas that can be improved.
In addition to the Act 38 Nutrient Management Program and Manure Management Manual Programs keeping the District very busy, 2017 was the year in which our Act 49 responsibilities expanded. Here is what we accomplished:

**Nutrient Management Program**
- Six new Act 38 operations (covering approximately 940 acres) submitted nutrient management plans (NMPs) for review and approval.
- A total of 20 NMP updates and/or amendments encompassing more than 3,500 acres were reviewed and approved. (Act 38 NMPs are required to be amended every 3 years, so even though the 2017 NMP acreage was 4,440 acres, the total acreage covered by Act 38 NMPs in Franklin County is approximately 18,700+ acres.)
- Completed 51 on-site Act 38 annual status reviews.

**Manure Management Manual Program**
- Held two Manure Management Plan (MMP) Writing Workshops which resulted in 29 operations leaving with completed MMPs.
- Sent outreach letters offering assistance to operations (including numerous Amish operations) that were instructed to complete a MMP as a result of a DEP farm inspection.

**Act 49 Commercial Manure Hauler and Broker Certification Program**
Under Act 49, Districts have always administered Manure Hauler 2 exams and acknowledged Nutrient Balance Sheets (NBSs) from certified manure brokers when they were submitted to the District. In 2017, it became a requirement for Districts to perform thorough technical reviews of at least 10% of the NBSs submitted by Act 49 certified manure brokers.
- Administered 9 Manure Hauler 2 exams.
- Performed technical reviews of 4 sets of Nutrient Balance Sheets submitted by certified manure brokers which covered approximately 655 acres.
Watershed Specialist

A variety of projects and programs were led by the Franklin County Conservation District's (FCCD) Watershed Specialist in 2017. In April, eight students from the Chambersburg Area Senior High School aquatics class participated in a stream study along the Falling Spring near Montgomery Avenue. The group talked about factors that could impact stream health and the benefits of water quality monitoring. They also discussed how macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects) can be indicators of water quality as each species can only tolerate a certain amount of pollution. After the discussion, the students worked in groups to collect, sort, and identify macroinvertebrates. They also completed biotic index worksheets, which indicated that the stream was in fair-good condition. The stream study was led by the FCCD and the Falling Spring Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Over the summer, all of the farms within our focus subwatershed of Muddy Run were visited to offer assistance and to find out if there was interest in obtaining Agricultural Erosion & Sedimentation Plans and/or Manure Management Plans with the FCCD’s Growing Greener Grant funding. The FCCD stopped at a total of 32 sites to explain the importance of having current and implemented agricultural plans in place. Several landowners decided to develop plans on their own, while 2 farmers are currently considering utilizing grant money to have their plans written by a certified plan writer. Both farmers have also expressed interest in working with NRCS to install conservation practices.
Additionally, a $5,545 South Mountain Partnership Grant was awarded to the Franklin County Planning Commission and the Franklin County Watershed Association to make improvements to the County Eco Park. The funding will allow for the installation of new educational signage, removal of invasive plant species, planting of additional native seedlings, hosting two educational events, and extension of an existing walking trail. The Franklin County Eco Park is an 8-acre area owned by the county and located on Franklin Farm Lane that features a warm season grass field and a forested riparian buffer.

The construction of the West Branch Antietam Stream Restoration project was delayed as bidding revealed a financial shortfall to complete the work. The FCCD is currently working with DEP and EPA to secure additional Section 319 grant funding for this site. Currently, the plan is to install the stream improvement practices in 2018 and carry out the riparian buffer planting in 2019. The Great Commission Deliverance Ministries owns the church property in Waynesboro where the work will take place. This project will be funded by a Section 319 grant award and mitigation funds.
Agricultural Resources Specialist Report

The Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) was able to continue the strong outreach and assistance it has become known for in the agricultural community in 2017. Through multiple funding sources, the FCCD helped implement best management practices (BMP’s), design bmp’s, assist with manure management plan guidance, and give technical assistance to possible future projects whether or not they are cost-shared.

Through funding provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), there were many operations given technical assistance and project oversight through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Seven operations received project oversight to implement 3 manure stack pads, 2 circular liquid manure storages, 3 concrete barnyards, a little over 2,000 feet of animal trail, 3 stream crossings and 250 feet of roof gutter. These projects were all made possible by the contribution agreement that the FCCD has with NRCS.

As part of the Nutrient Management Program, there were multiple manure management workshops held by the FCCD and I was able to help many farmers write a manure management plan. I was also able to make site visits on 12 farms and offer technical assistance for manure storage and barnyard runoff bmp’s as well as complete a Chesapeake Bay Special Project for trench leachate runoff, driveway sediment reduction and a stream crossing.
Animal stream crossing completed

**Low Volume, Dirt and Gravel Roads Program**

The Low Volume, Dirt and Gravel Road Program has really taken off over the last few years with the input of money by the transportation bill that was passed in 2013/14. In 2017, there were 3 dirt and gravel road projects and 3 low volume road projects completed.

**Lurgan Township, Oakdale Road**

Soil nailing to prevent the road base from failing
Lurgan Township, Park Road

New culvert pipe installation to replace undersized pipe
2017 was another great year for the Annual Golf Scramble at Whitetail Golf Resort.

The 11th annual Franklin County Conservation District Golf Tournament was held at Whitetail Golf Resort on June 2, 2017. There were 17 teams and the winning team with a score of 63, was Nelson Raines, Darrell Lawson, Bill Boyer along with an associate. All proceeds from the tournament supports the District’s environmental education and scholarship programs. To date, we have issued over 32 scholarships and donations to local charities totaling over $28,000.

The tournament had several prize holes. This year, Keystone Ford stepped up and provided 4 hole in one prizes. A 2 year car lease, a $500 gift certificate for golf items, 2 airline tickets with the US, and a set of Callaway Irons. However, no golfer was lucky enough to make a hole in one.

The Franklin County Conservation District Board of Directors and Staff extend our thanks to those who chose to participate in our annual golf tournament including our sponsors who supported and donated to the District’s environmental programs. Also, we would like to thank the Whitetail Golf Resort and their staff for hosting the tournament and Kevin Knouse of The BBQ Beef & Pig Rig for providing the evening meal.
The District’s scholarship program is made possible by proceeds from the District’s annual golf tournament. Each year on the first Friday after Memorial Day, the District holds an annual tournament at Whitetail Golf Resort. The scholarship funding is available to Franklin County residents who are attending college and majoring in courses relating to Agriculture, Animals, Soil, Water, Environmental Science, Land Management, etc. For more information on the District’s Scholarship program please go to www.franklinccd.org. Deadline for 2018 Scholarship Applications is June 1, 2018.

Rebekah Byers is majoring in Animal Science and Business Management at Penn State University
Patrick Doyle is majoring in Civil Engineering at Penn State University
Ryan Hege is attending Penn State Mont Alto majoring in Landscaping
Emily Metcalfe is attending Wilson College majoring in Biology and Veterinary Technician
Megan Aines is attending Penn State University and majoring in Plant Science
Zoe Cross is majoring in Marine Biology while attending Texas A&M
Michaela Suders is currently attending Delaware Valley majoring in Sustainable Agriculture.

Scholarship recipients were presented with their checks by Dave Stoner, District Manager and Vince Untied, Ag Conservation Technician.