



## Dirt On the District

### Welcome 2021

#### Happy New Year!

We certainly hope your holidays were filled with love and joy and health.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is to look forward to a better tomorrow.

With that mindset we are very excited about 2021!

Due to the Courthouse being closed until February 8th, all staff technicians are primarily working from home. Each staff member is available by email and phone for all the county programs, grants and projects. (contact information on page 2)

We hope to see friendly faces this spring.



### Annual Nature Photo Contest

Deadline for **2020 Photo Contest** submissions is **January 15th, 2021!!**

To participate in the Annual Photo Contest you can find an entry form and contest rules on our website [www.lawrencecd.org](http://www.lawrencecd.org).

All entries can be mailed or personally delivered to the  
Lawrence County Conservation District Office.

Due to courthouse restrictions, call ahead if wanting to hand-deliver photos.

Please contact Jeannie Shay at 724-333-2817 or [jshay@lawrencecd.org](mailto:jshay@lawrencecd.org)



### Spring Tree Seedling Sale

2021 Tree Seedling Sale is right around the corner. Future details will be posted on our webpage and social media. If you have purchased in the past watch your mail come mid/late February. Order forms will also be posted on our website at [www.lawrencecd.org](http://www.lawrencecd.org).



### Lawrence County Conservation District

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@Lawrence County  
Conservation District



Instagram  
LCCD\_DOD

## Covid-19 Updated Staff Contact Information

Due to extended closure of the Courthouse and State recommendations, all District Staff are working remotely. Please see the list below of contacts available. Updates will be made on our webpage and social media as to when we will once again be available in the office.

**JoAnn McCready** – District Manager 724-656-1908  
[jmccready@lawrencecd.org](mailto:jmccready@lawrencecd.org)

**Becca Naber** – District Technician 724-656-2462  
[bnaber@lawrencecd.org](mailto:bnaber@lawrencecd.org)  
Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Programs

**Travis Gates** – Ag Conservation Technician 724-656-2473  
[tgates@lawrencecd.org](mailto:tgates@lawrencecd.org)  
Agriculture concerns / Best Management Projects

**Mary Burris** – Watershed Specialist 724 714-3276  
[mburris@lawrencecd.org](mailto:mburris@lawrencecd.org)  
Environmental Education Programs/County Watershed Concerns

**Jillian Court** – E & S Technician 724-714-3315  
[jcourt@lawrencecd.org](mailto:jcourt@lawrencecd.org)  
Chapter 102 / NPDES Permits

**Jeannie Shay** – Education / Outreach Technician 724-333-2817  
[jshay@lawrencecd.org](mailto:jshay@lawrencecd.org)  
Social Media / Education Programs/ Community Outreach

Please review our website for more information at [www.lawrencecd.org](http://www.lawrencecd.org)  
You can also follow us on Facebook.

## Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program

The District continued to work with our municipal partners to complete several projects during the summer and fall construction season of 2020 with funding from the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program.

Three local municipalities completed stormwater improvement projects.



***Chewton West Pittsburg Road, Shenango Township***

***DSA placement with a paver to achieve a consistent “lift” of new aggregate.***

### **Project 1. Chewton West Pittsburg Road, Shenango Township**

Started early in the summer and completed in fall, Becca Naber, District Technical Advisor, in cooperation with Shenango Township worked on the next section of Chewton West Pittsburg Road. Shenango Township municipal road crew installed new drainage cross pipes on the road. Additionally, working with local contractor Youngblood Paving other upgrades to the road were completed. These included a newly graded road cross section and installation of the program’s specialized aggregate blend called DSA. Pipe installation completed by the municipal forces provided better management of the stormwater on the road, discharging it in a stable fashion to the vegetation along the roadway. The new pipes helped to minimize the erosive force of the stormwater on the road surface and within the ditches. Correcting the road cross section allows for better “shedding” of water from the road’s surface and the DSA provided a better stabilized surface aggregate. All of this work resulted in a roadway that will need less maintenance in the future and will contribute less sediment to our watersheds.



***Lakewood Neshannock Falls Road, Hickory Township***

***Installation of the bottom less pipe on prefab footers in Hickory Township. Native materials were left in place to create the new stream bottom.***

### **Project 2. Lakewood Neshannock Falls Road, Hickory Township**

Summertime of 2020 brought the installation of a new in-stream structure in Hickory Township. Hickory Township approached the District in 2018 about the problems at the site. The 5 ft. round metal pipe backed up water flooding neighboring properties and caused constant erosion around the inlet and outlet of the pipe damaging the stream. In addition to the in-stream damage, neighboring properties had badly eroded stream banks. After consulting with Penn State’s Center for DGLVR, and Trout Unlimited, our office proposed the use a “bottom less” structure to work towards helping the problems at this location. Hickory Township in cooperation with Sonntag Excavating installed a 12 ft. 11 inch bankfull width arch pipe. Using a “bottom less” structure gave us the opportunity to create a natural stream bottom through the pipe. A significant increase in size and installation of the pipe with a better alignment and elevation allowed us the chance to provide the stream a more stable flow condition rather than squeezing it through the 5 ft. pipe. The DGLVR Program allows the District to address the damage to the up and down stream areas near the stream. Hickory Township municipal forces with the assistance of the District’s Technical Advisor worked with recommendations from Trout Unlimited to incorporate stream bank stabilization to the affected areas on both the upstream and downstream sections of the stream bank.



## Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program continued



*Evergreen Road, Mahoning Township*

### **Project 3. Evergreen Road, Mahoning Township**

Undersized cross pipes, a poor road cross section and lack of stable storm water outlets contributed to numerous problems on Evergreen Road. Stormwater weakened and damaged the asphalt surface because of saturation. Problems were worsened by the overtopping of the existing cross pipes creating safety problems and the flooding and erosion of private property during storm events. Pushing the construction season into the late fall, 2 failing undersized pipe crossings, road fill, adjustment of the road cross slope, a new catch basin and off right of way practices were completed.

The existing 16-inch galvanized cross pipes were replaced with 5 ft. wide 3.5 ft. high squash pipes. Newly created stream bottom and grade controls were included as a part of the pipe installation. Everything installed on the road will benefit both the residents of Mahoning Township and the environment, future erosion of the road surface, and impacts to private property have been minimized.

Despite various challenges several successful projects were completed in 2020 continuing our dedication to better roads and cleaner streams. More photographs of the projects before and after the projects are available on the District's web page.

Our office would like to encourage any and all municipalities who are interested in projects for the 2021 construction season to get in touch with Becca Naber, District Technician, at **724-656-2462** or [\*\*bnaber@lawrencecd.org\*\*](mailto:bnaber@lawrencecd.org)

## **Dirt, Gravel Road Training Opportunity Goes Virtual for 2021**

The DGLVR Program has always provided continual development of training opportunities to allow our municipal partners to participate in the Program through the years; however, 2020 made "in person" trainings challenging. Consequently, the usual 3 day in person training held by the Penn State Center Dirt and Gravel Roads had to evolve with the new normal.

In order to provide municipalities a way to stay eligible, or to participate in the program for the first time the Center is offering one day virtual trainings throughout the spring of 2021 starting in late January. Everyone who is interested in applying for funds and working on a project with the Conservation District is encouraged to attend a virtual training.

Dates and registration information can be found online at:

<https://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-and-training/esm-course/remote-online-esm-trainings>

Questions, or assistance?

Wonder if your road, or project idea may be a good fit for the DGLVR Program?

Please contact Becca Naber, District Technician at 724-652-4512.



*Installation of a bottom less culvert in Hickory Township.*

### Chapter 102

## Erosion and Sediment Control

Title 25, Chapter 102 of PA Code requires those conducting earth disturbance activities to develop, implement and maintain best management practices (BMPs) to minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation (E&S).

Erosion and sedimentation (E&S) can severely impact stream health. This is why regulations were put in place to require an erosion and sedimentation plan for earthmoving projects greater than or equal to 5,000 square feet and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for projects greater than or equal to 1 acre. Pollution is managed on construction sites through the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Here are several of the most common E&S BMPs found on sites during construction.

**Rock Construction Entrance:** A rock construction entrance should be installed when construction vehicles are anticipated to exit the project site onto any roadway. The rocks help remove sediment from vehicle tires which in turn reduces sedimentation on roadways.

**Sediment Barrier:** Two common sediment barriers implemented are compost filter socks and silt fence. These are placed at the bottom of slopes and around critical areas on site to prevent sediment runoff from entering roadways and waterways.

**Inlet Protection:** Inlet filter bags should be installed in all stormwater inlets on site as well as newly constructed inlets to prevent sediment from entering waterways.

**Pumped Water Filter Bag:** Filter bags are used to filter sediment-laden water pumped from disturbed areas prior to discharging to surface waters. These bags are placed in grassy areas in order for the water to infiltrate into the ground where it will eventually reach a waterway.

**Sediment Basin:** Sediment Basins are located below a disturbed area to collect the sedimentary runoff on site.

**Vegetative Stabilization:** The site must be stabilized as soon as final grade is reached. Areas where work has ceased for at least 4 days requires temporary stabilization. If the project is in a special protection watershed, the portion of the site tributary to the special protection waters must be immediately stabilized.

Visit our website [www.lawrencecd.org](http://www.lawrencecd.org) to download LCCD's E&S Pollution Control Plan Fee Schedule. For more information regarding the permitting process, visit the Department of Environmental Protection's website at [www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov).



## When Are E&S Plans Required?

Erosion and sedimentation (E&S) plans are required to be submitted:

- With NPDES and E&S Permit applications.
- For earth disturbance projects involving 5,000 square feet to 0.99 acres.
- When applying for a Ch.105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment General Permit.
- For timber harvest involving less than 25 acres.



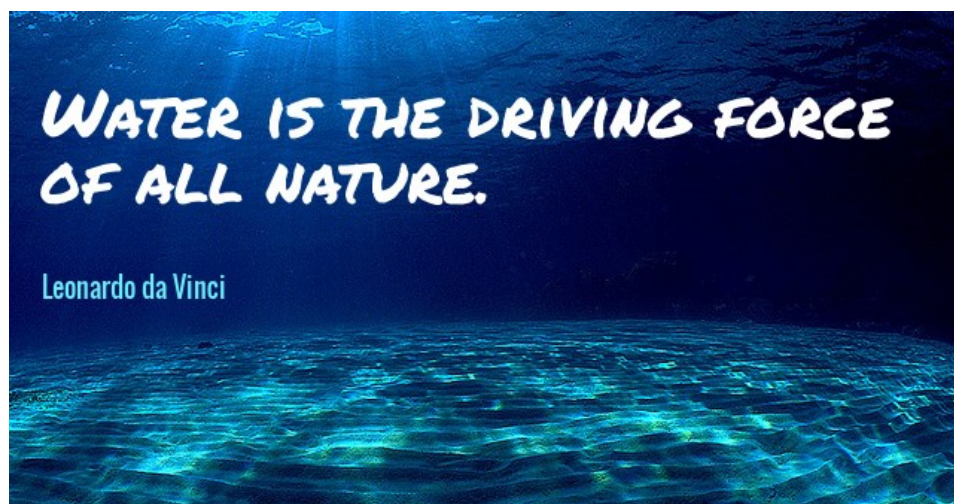
## Watershed Specialist

For the past year, The LCCD Watershed Specialist, Mary Burris, has served on the steering and working committees in two long term multi-agency initiatives. The first is **Shenango Climate and Rural Systems Partnership (CRSP)** which is a collaboration between Mercer County Conservation District, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH), Pitt University, and Powdermill Nature Reserve. The CRSP initiative arose as a rural complement to the Climate and Urban Systems Partnership (CUSP) that CMNH has been working on in the Pittsburgh area. The goal of both programs is to find effective ways to discuss our changing climate and the effects on local communities.

The CRSP storm water working group has been working on story boards for short but impactful video education segments related to the water cycle, heavy rainfall events, and storm water best management practices. We believe that this format will make these issues accessible and easy to understand as well as easy to disseminate on all of our respective websites and social media platforms.



The second initiative is the **Southwest Pennsylvania Water Network**. In late 2018, Heinz Endowments asked the Water Center at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) to explore challenges and opportunities related to the Three River Watershed Regions. After talking to many stakeholders and reviewing reports and prior efforts, The Water Center made a range of recommendations for a path forward including supporting the building of trust between diverse water stakeholders across the region to develop a shared, long term regional vision and plan for integrated water resource management and facilitating the development of a regional water network. The work of the past twelve months has been to gather a broad coalition of stakeholders and create a draft purpose statement and goals. The working groups have developed plans to reach out to four broad groups of stakeholders which include elected officials, municipal officials, business leaders, and underserved communities. The SWPA Water Network was also successful in gaining western PA representation on the Ohio River Basin Association (ORBA) board for the first time.



## Update on Ag Best Management

At last Camp Run Farms, in Perry township, has a completed Manure Storage tank. This tank can contain up to 6 months worth of liquid manure to be spread when the weather is appropriate for soil to absorb nutrients. Typically Pennsylvania winter manure spreading is frowned upon due to frozen ground. Proper application will result in less runoff of nutrients from the manure into local waterways.

The time being saved and financial benefits to the Sturgeons shall be significant.

This project was in cooperation with Travis Gates, Ag Technician, through the Growing Greener “Slippery Rock Watershed Grant”.

If you would be interested in Agriculture Best Management Practices for your farm, please contact Travis Gates at 724-656-2473 or [tgates@lawrencecd.org](mailto:tgates@lawrencecd.org)





## Looking to become a Sponsor this year?

Consider the **Lawrence County Conservation District Education Program** with a donation to our annual fundraising campaign. Each year the Conservation District works with the local community offering many Environmental Education programs for both adult and youth audiences. These programs include Summer Nature Camp, Rain Barrel Seminars, assistance with school programs such as Envirothon and Birth of a Tree, and participation at county events and festivals offering free education on various topics.

Donations make our efforts possible and help sustain our organization and benefit the community we serve. Our goal is to educate and promote interest in the conservation of our natural resources to all community members.

## Levels of Sponsorship

By donating funds, sponsors will gain recognition and advertisement.  
Level of representation is based on the amount of your donation:



### **Bald Eagle Sponsor - \$1,000**

- \* Social media "shout-out" on Facebook
- \* Recognition in Quarterly Newsletter and Annual Report
- \* Advertisement on Nature Camp T- shirts
- \* Free Advertisement in four Quarterly Newsletters



### **Red-Tailed Hawk Sponsor - \$500**

- \* Social media "shout-out" on Facebook
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- \* Advertisement on Nature Camp T-shirts
- \* Free Advertisement in two Quarterly Newsletters



### **Blue Heron Sponsor - \$250**

- \* Social media "shout-out" on Facebook
- \* Recognition in Quarterly Newsletter and Annual Report
- \* Advertisement on Nature Camp T-shirts



### **Robin Sponsor - \$100**

- \* Social media "shout-out" on Facebook and Instagram
- \* Recognition in Quarterly Newsletter and Annual Report

Please detach this bottom slip and mail in with your selected donation

#### **Donor Information:**

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name, First Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Donation Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount : ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100

Please make check payable to Lawrence County Conservation District  
For a tax deductible receipt please email [jshay@lawrencecd.org](mailto:jshay@lawrencecd.org)





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**Michael G. Joseph, Agent**  
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Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. —Albert Einstein

## 2021 - Board of Directors

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 Phil Dean - Ag Member  
 Gary McConnell - Ag Member  
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## Conservation District Staff

Joann McCready	District Manager
Becca Naber	District Technician
Travis Gates	Agriculture Technician
Mary Burris	Watershed Specialist
Jillian Court	E & S Technician
Jeannie Shay	Outreach/Education Technician

Would you like to see your business advertised in this email publication?

Contact us for rates!

[Jshay@lawrencecd.org](mailto:Jshay@lawrencecd.org)

The "Dirt on the District" is emailed quarterly to over 400 individuals and businesses in Lawrence County and is published on our Webpage and social media outlets.



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Invite your family and friends to "Like" our page as we strive for **1000 Followers before January 2022!!!**



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CONSERVATION DISTRICT**