
CONSERVATION COMMENTS

JANUARY - MARCH 2026

WYOMING COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

6052 SR 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

570-836-2589/info@wccdpa.org

MEETINGS, THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9:30AM, DISTRICT OFFICE.



DISTRICT STAFF:

Doug Deutsch - District Manager Ext. 404
Katie McClain - Admin. Assistant Ext. 406
Bernie Scalzo - Watershed Specialist Ext. 403
Dave Taylor - Resource Cons. Specialist Ext. 405
Chris Faux - Ag. Conservation Prog. Coord. Ext. 407
Laura Anderson - Enviro. Ed. Coord. Ext. 402

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Neil Tague - Chairman
Dorne White - Vice Chairman
Butch Sands - Secretary/Treasurer
Commissioner Tom Henry
Jill Tague
Walt Dana
Ken Harvey

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:

Dave McCoy

EVENTS:

2026 Fish Derby
Date & Time: TBD



LOCAL RESOURCES:

Bureau of Forestry: 570-945-7133
DEP: 570-826-2511
Game Commission: 570-675-1143
NRCS: 570-836-5111
PA Fish & Boat Commission: 570-477-5717

31st Annual Contractor's & Engineers Workshop

The Conservation District put on the 31st Annual Contractors & Engineers Workshop at Keystone College on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

We had a great line up of speakers including: Jeff Ritter, OSHA, Tim Ziegler, Center for DGLVR, Gary Wilding, SEO, Penn State Extension Energy Team, Brian Zeidner & Karen Evangelisti, Claverack, Mike Antonishak, DCNR, and Daryl Zeiner, H&K Group.

The workshop had about 225 people in attendance including, 27 vendors that had their informational displays & giveaways set up through the main hallway & the Fireplace Lounge. The vendors included: Advanced Drainage Systems, Barry Islett Assoc., Bradco Supply Co., Chemung Supply Corp., Community Bank, DCNR, Dennison Supply, DGK/Gannon Insurance, H&K Group, JHA Companies, KW Enterprises, Labella Assoc., LB Water, MCS Advertising, Medico Construction Equipment, Merut Construction, Milnes Engineering, NSI Keystone Fence, Northern Tier Hardwood Assoc., OSHA, PA 1 Call, Penn State Extension, Shalata's Land Clearing, LLC, Sherwood Freightliner, Sterling & Western Star, Tracey Road, Warner Tractor & Supply, Wiles Valley Weather, LLC, & Williams Co.

The sponsors this year included: Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., Barry Islett Assoc., Bradco Supply Co., Chemung Supply Corp., Community Bank, Dennison Supply, DGK/Gannon Insurance, JHA Companies, KW Enterprises, Labella Assoc., LB Water Services, Medico Construction Equip., Merut Construction, Milnes Engineering, NSI Keystone Fencing, Northern Tier Hardwood Assoc., PA 1 Call, Penn State Extension, Sherwood Freightliner, Sterling & Western Star, & Williams Co.

The attendees/vendors were able to enjoy the delicious lunch & dessert bar put on by Sodexo Dining Services. That's always a huge hit. The day concluded with the door prize giveaway that included: tools, various gift baskets, 32" TV, & other amazing items provided by the vendors & CWS Committee.

The WCCD & CWS Committee would like to thank everyone that sponsored, presented, exhibited, attended, & everyone else that helped make this another successful year.



Dirt & Gravel Roads Through the Years

This year marks the 29th year that the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads program has been in existence and Wyoming County has had a part of this great program. We have had projects since our very first DGR project back in 1999. In the beginning of the program an initial survey of the roads in our county was undertaken by Trout Unlimited and their partners around the state. This initial survey identified the worst of the worst sites around the state where sediments were entering the stream and causing unnecessary pollution every time it rained.

The original allocation of funds that came from the State Conservation Commission was for a total of \$68,300.00. These funds were allocated to the dirt and gravel part of the program as there was no low volume program at the initial outset. With a brand-new program like this we did not have a total buy in from all the counties throughout the state. That would come, but at that time there wasn't much direction on what we needed to do besides the overall goal of reducing sediment leaving the road for the streams.

During the first 17 years of the program, we maintained the same level of funding, and we made the most of the allocation that we received. We were able to do multiple projects and help as many eligible municipalities as possible. An administrative manual on how we run the program was developed and more staff was hired on at the DGR Center in State College to help us run our programs in the best way possible.

That all changed back in 2014 when the legislature opened the Transportation Funding Bill in Harrisburg. The legislators heard from many constituents and municipalities how much good that the program was doing and how much they would like to see the program increased. Wyoming county's allocation went from \$57,489.00 to \$339,932.00 and included the newly formed Low Volume Roads Program. This part of the program opened the door to many townships or boroughs with little to no dirt roads but there were still sediments coming from the paved roads that were falling apart and the sediments were getting into the streams.

Since our initial project in 1999, Wyoming County has completed 213 dirt and gravel roads projects in just about every municipality that we have. We have spent a total of \$4,167,687.10 over this time and we hope to continue this for a long time. The Low Volume Roads program has been able to complete a total of 27 projects since that first year back in 2014. We have spent \$421,685,64 so far and like the DGR program hope to continue this in the future.

DGR Through the Years Continued

The only drawback that we have seen with the program is the amount of funding that we have been receiving. Since our funding is tied to the Transportation Bill, there have been limited times when funding has been able to be addressed and added to our program. There is no doubt about any of the municipalities, counties or agencies such as DCNR or PA Fish and Boat, that we regularly work with the good work that we are doing and the number of projects that we can get on the ground. We encourage everyone to reach out to their legislators and let them know what a great job this program does and how much it is valued. Hopefully in the near future we can get our allocation increased again because right now our funding is not keeping up with the inflation that we are seeing.

This year we will be awarding our 2026 grants in June and hope to see some great projects come in from the Townships. Our allocation for this year is \$381,425.00 and we hope to spread that around to as many applications as possible and do the best work that we can to prevent any more of our roads from washing away into the streams.

Largest US Lakes

U H Q Z F E K A L T L A S T A E R G V L
 Y K S T R K I I M L A U C Y I L F D C R
 R D C G V E T Z P F K V J B V H K I P B
 N A G I H C I M Z B E Z S T C L A I R Q
 Y R O Z T P N P Y D O I W A Q Y W I I K
 N X F A H X I S G E F Q U E L P N L K V
 I K O V H G R A J R T S F S Z A B I O R
 A D R H D E E K K T H E O N X M C A A Z
 R S T M R G F A K C E L R O X Y W M R R
 T Z P L U N C K J N W A A T T C P N O P
 R A E Y E H P A G R O W H L M D Q A I A
 A J C E T N N W H N O I C A B L W I R Y
 H H K D B P I E W R D K E S S I Q O E V
 C L E G W O C A B B S T B E B D J O P I
 T H L X E Q H K L K W T J H G H P N U I
 N U C T M P M C U P Z A O T T S D T S Z
 O R J G E T L F E H M H U V U J X A W I
 P O I I L G Y J Y E B A O M V P L R B Q
 D N R Z X T R K J Q K H H V W C H I P F
 F E V V V R A A Z R Z O Q C H N U O N O

BECHAROF
 CHAMPLAIN
 ERIE
 FORT PECK
 GREAT SALT LAKE
 HURON
 ILIAMNA
 LAKE OF THE WOODS
 MICHIGAN
 OAHE
 OKEECHOBEE
 ONTARIO
 PONTCHARTRAIN
 RAINY
 RED
 SAKAKAWEA
 SELAWIK
 ST. CLAIR
 SUPERIOR
 THE SALTON SEA



LAKE SUPERIOR IS
 THE LARGEST LAKE
 IN THE US.

A Year in Beekeeping: Part 1

with Dave Taylor

We are going to kick off this series of newsletter articles about beekeeping here in the first newsletter of 2026. We will be looking into what goes on throughout the year in these articles for the newsletter and hopefully we can document another successful year in the apiary.

So far, this year has been nothing but cold, windy and snowy so you would think that this and a lot of the winter months is a stretch of down time for most keepers as they and their bees try to survive the winter months. Now is the time that there will be plenty of planning going on and hopefully coming up with a good program to get the most out of the bees that inhabit the hives and the yards that are out there.

First a little background on the hives that we try to keep. Each hive consists of one queen and in the height of summer a hive can hold between 50,000 and 60,000 bees. Approximately 15 to 20% of those bees will be male bees called drones and the rest will be made up of females known as the worker bees. These bees are the ones that do all the work and provide for all the needs of the hives throughout the year. Our hives are made up of hive bodies or supers where the bees live and usually every hive has two supers where the bees spend most of their time. At different times of the year, we can place more boxes on top of those hive bodies and that will be where the bees can store any excess honey that they may produce.

Late winter into very early spring are the months that beekeepers start putting their plans that they have for the coming year into action. Are we going to manage our hives for more honey and hive products such as wax or propolis or are we going to try and manage to increase the number of hives that we have in our apiary? That is the question that we need to ask first and decide on, so we know what we need to have ready for the coming year.

If we are looking to increase the number of hives, we need to decide whether we are going to make new hives from our existing hives or will we be purchasing new bees to add to our numbers. And do we have enough hardware made for this increase. This hardware would be the bee boxes that we use and the frames that are in those boxes that the bees live on. There are 10 frames in each box, so each hive usually consists of 20 frames. This can add up quickly when we are looking at costs.

If we are looking to increase our honey output, we need to see if we have enough hardware for this plan also. The honey supers that we use are smaller than the ones the bees will live in but still hold 10 frames but are just a smaller size.

Once your decisions have been made about how many hives you want to carry and how much honey you hope to make it's time to get the orders in for the boxes and frames. Usually if a beekeeper is handy with a table saw they can make plenty of the items that they may need for just the cost or some lumber rather than paying full price from a supplier.



Beehives with a deep coating of snow waiting out the winter.

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100 frames ready for assembly.



Assembled frame ready for foundation.



10 frames in a super ready for foundation and to go out in the yard.



Boxes ready for a fresh coat of paint. Ready to make new hives and more honey.

Once you get everything together, especially the boxes its time to get the paint out and protect the wood. And if you have some good artistic help you get some multicolored hives with some interesting artwork. All the hours that you put into the getting things ready will definitely pay off in the coming months. Things will be coming fast and furious starting in March and still your best plans are probably not what the bees have in mind. You definitely need to be ready to react and stay ahead of the bees especially in the spring months and March is one of the very important months that can define a season for the good or bad depending on if you are ready for it.

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March can be a long month. Its not quite winter but its not quite spring either. It teases with those nice warm days but there is still a chance of some blizzards that can drop plenty of snow. March is also the time of year that plenty of beehives die from starvation. At this time of year the bees are starting to lay eggs and are getting ready for the blooms that are about to appear. Bees take 24 days to go from eggs to emerged adult so the bees know that they need to start getting the bees ready a month before flowers start to bloom and they can start bringing in nectar and pollen that the colony needs to survive.

Hopefully the winter hasn't been too bad and there have been a couple of days through the winter that you were able to pop the top off the beehives and look at the amount of sugar left on top of the hive and where the bees are in the hive. Usually in January or February you can take a quick look and if the bees are into the sugar on the top of the hive you can dump in some more sugar to give the bees that last little bit of food that they will need to get them through the last of the cold days before things start blooming.

The other food supply that the bees will be looking for almost before nectar is pollen. A mixture of pollen and honey is what is called bee bread and that is fed to all the baby bees in a hive. So it's really important for the bees to pack away as much pollen as possible in the fall because they will need to start using it way before anything that produces it will be blooming in the spring. Over many years beekeepers have developed a pollen substitute that does fill in with all the nutrients that the bees are looking for and need to feed their babies. We try and get a feeder out to the bees as early as possible for the bees to start using whenever they need.



This has been a look into what has been going on for the first few months of the new year. In the coming newsletters we will be looking into what goes on through the other times of the year. There may be some down time and we can sit back and just let the bees go about their jobs but there is one thing for sure the spring is not that time. There will be plenty of activity inside and out of the hive in the next few months and hopefully we have everything already ready to react to whatever the bees might decide to throw at us.

Shapiro Administration Helps Pennsylvanians Replace Invasive Plants with Native Species for Free

Pennsylvanians can replace up to three invasive trees and shrubs with native species for free through the statewide Pennsylvania Invasive Replace-ive Program.

In 2025, Pennsylvanians replaced more than 1,300 invasive plants with native species.
March 19, 2026



Harrisburg, PA –The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) announced it will cover the costs for Pennsylvanians to remove invasive trees and shrubs and replace them with native species for the second year in a row. Through the Pennsylvania Invasive Replace-ive Program, Pennsylvania residents who remove up to three invasive plants can receive native replacements at designated events in May.

“Invasive plants disrupt natural habitats and make it harder for wildlife to flourish,” said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. “Last year’s program drew tremendous interest, and it is inspiring to see so many Pennsylvanians eager to plant native species. Replacing invasive trees and shrubs with native plants helps restore healthy landscapes and supports the birds, pollinators, and other wildlife that depend on them. With more than 2,000 native species in Pennsylvania, there are plenty of great options for yards and community spaces.”

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This initiative aims to curb the spread of invasive species, which threaten Pennsylvania’s farms, forests, and natural ecosystems. Events will take place across the state, with native trees and shrubs distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

“Invasive plants don’t stop at the edge of a backyard - they spread into farm fields and forests, pushing out native species and creating opportunities for pests like the spotted lanternfly,” said **Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding**. “Pennsylvanians can be part of the solution by choosing native plants that support pollinators and healthier ecosystems. At the same time, the Shapiro Administration is investing in research, agricultural innovation, and initiatives like the Center for Plant Excellence to give farmers and communities the tools they need to stay ahead of invasive threats.”

In 2025, the Invasive Replace-ive Program distributed 1,313 plants across the state. Past participants say the program has helped them better understand invasive species and take action at home.

How to Participate in Invasive Replace-ive

Any Pennsylvania resident can participate by attending an event in May:

- **Remove** an invasive tree or shrub from your property or with permission from a property owner (e.g., park, library, school).
- **Take a photo** of the removed plant and submit it via the pre-registration form. Photos from 2025 and 2026 will be accepted.
- **Attend an event** to receive a replacement tree or shrub, available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. If your preferred species is unavailable, an alternative will be provided. [Preregistration for your local event](#) will open **March 31 and is required.**

Local Event and Location

Bradford County Conservation District, Towanda, PA – Saturday, May 2, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The program aims to replace some of Pennsylvania’s most problematic invasive species, including:

- [Callery pear](#) (*Bradford pear*)
- [Tree-of-heaven](#)
- [Princess tree](#)
- [Norway maple](#)
- [Japanese barberry](#)
- [Butterfly bush](#)

(Full List Found on this Link) [Invasive Plant Fact Sheets | Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

If you think you have an invasive species on your property but are unsure of its identification, please contact your [local DCNR Service Forester](#) and send one or more photos of the species. Invasive species experts can review your photo(s) and respond with their thoughts.

The [2026 Pennsylvania Invasive Replace-ive Program](#) is made possible through partnerships with DCNR, PA Department of Agriculture, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Pennsylvania Sea Grant.

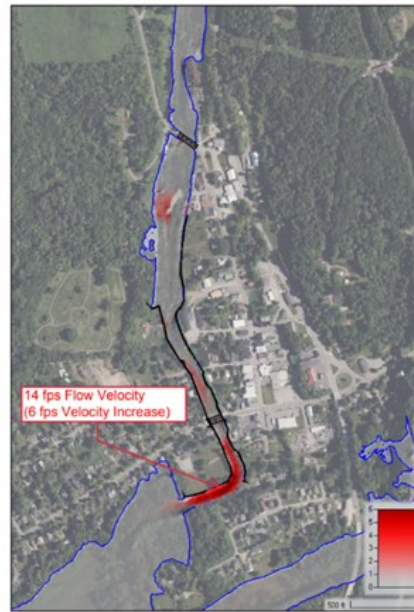
Nicholson Borough: Flood Mitigation Project Update

We are currently in the process of developing floodwall renderings to show theoretical views of the creek area with various types of floodwalls. The drawings show the 10-year and 100-year floodwalls within the borough. There will be a meeting held with the town council to discuss the floodwalls in more detail, with a focus on potential aesthetic impacts to the town. The meeting will occur prior to releasing any further photos or sketches of alternatives to the general public. It was agreed that the NRCS team will meet with the town council on April 6, 2026 after the regular monthly meeting at 6:00PM.

100-year Floodwalls



100-Year Storm Inundation Limits (No Floodwalls)

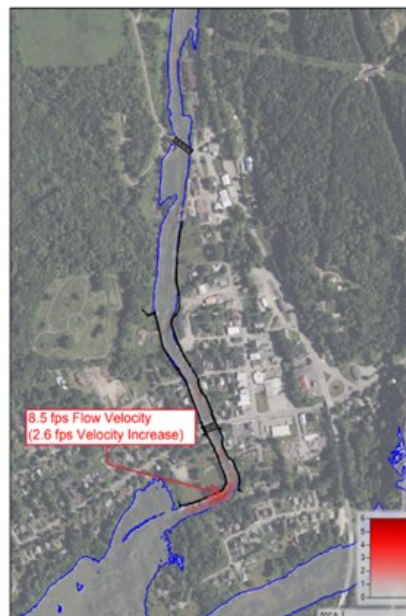


Velocity Increase (100-Year Floodwalls)

10-year Floodwalls



10-Year Storm Inundation Limits (No Floodwalls)



Velocity Increase (10-Year Floodwalls)

Environmental Education

Tunkhannock 4th grade students learned about the "Wonderful Wildlife of PA"

