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# CONSERVATION COMMENTS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

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## 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  
(OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, 10/13/26.)

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### 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:

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

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:

Dave McCoy

### EVENTS:

2026 Contractor's  
Workshop  
Wed. 3/11/26  
(Brochure on page 6)

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### LOCAL RESOURCES:

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Bureau of Forestry: 570-945-7133  
DEP: 570-826-2511  
Game Commission: 570-675-1143  
NRCS: 570-836-2490 Ext. 108  
PA Fish & Boat Commission: 570-477-5717



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# Nicholson Borough: Flood Mitigation Project

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We are nearing the end of our project performance period of May 2026. We hope to complete the environmental document and soon move onto the next phase. The following information pertains to the most recent meeting regarding project progress.

Mike Ward (DDK Engineering) presented updated inundation mapping that was added to the induced flooding summary discussed during the last monthly meeting. In general, the mapping shows flooding impacts around Nicholson for various storm events and alternative configurations. The Brecht Hill Road bridge is not inundated for up to the 100-year storm for all alternatives. State Street Bridge is not impacted for the 10-year storm, but is overtopped during the 100-year storm. The Route 11 bridge over Tunkhannock Creek is not impacted for up to the 100-year storm event, considering all of the alternatives. The access to the Bailey Road Apartment Complex is not impacted for up to the 100-year storm, considering all of the alternatives.

Heather Smeltz (NRCS) suggested that it might be worthwhile adding additional flood protection along Bailey Road to preserve access to the apartment complex. Although this road is not anticipated to be flooded, the peak water level during the 100-year storm is relatively close to the road surface. If flood protection is already being installed around the garage and parking lot at the apartment complex, then it might be practical to also implement flood protection along the access road, given its critical nature in providing emergency egress if needed.

Heather indicated that costs for a flood warning system should be included when comparing the 100-year storm alternatives. She also indicated that NRCS mitigation projects with a budget exceeding \$25 million have historically required congressional approval, but new federal guidance will only require notification.

Since the performance period is coming to an end, the team acknowledged the need to complete outstanding work tasks. The DDK team agreed to meet internally to discuss the progress of the EA document and next tasks.

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## DGLVR: Changing the Program

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Over the past 20 years, I have seen some dramatic changes that have taken place with the DGLVR program. Some for the better but mostly it was always a little tighter control of what the individual Districts could do and not do. We have gone from a program with a budget that was under \$60,000 to one now that is close to \$400,000. And hopefully that will increase soon.

Back in 2024 a workgroup was created from the existing groups that were originally created to help in the planning and policy of the DGLVR program. This workgroup was given the task of looking at the existing administrative manual and rewriting it for better clarity and for ease of administration for the Districts that were overseeing the program at the local level. That is where the District felt control was being lost from local control to the state level and asking permission for most projects, even though the local program heads knew what worked and what didn't especially locally.

Our workgroup is made up of managers and technicians from around the state representing all the different regions that we cover. We are also the ones that work, day to day with the program and understand the local needs of our municipalities.

During the late winter, spring and summer of 2025 our workgroup went through the manual chapter by chapter and line by line eliminating, adding or rewording many parts of the administrative manual. Many of the changes that were made took place involved several meetings and discussions and disagreements between the members of the workgroup before we could settle on what the policy meant and the original intent.

After months of meeting and discussion, our workgroup presented our new administrative manual back to the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads and the State Conservation Committee. We had a couple of in person meeting to finalize the changes and to include things that the Center and SCC would like to see. We all seemed to be on the same page with the changes, and a final draft was sent out to the entire state conservation Districts for their comments.

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All other Districts were encouraged to give their feedback on the new draft and to offer any other suggestions that they would like to see in the manual. This period just recently ended, and our workgroup was given comments from the other Districts. We received a total of 7 comments during this period where the majority wasn't any additions but just thanking the Center, SCC and the workgroup for doing this work and returning local control. There were only 2 real comments that will be discussed and looked at to possibly add to the manual. We will be holding one more in-person meeting to finalize our new manual and prepare for it to go live. We will be looking for SCC approval at their spring meeting this year with the new changes going into effect on July first this coming year. It has been a privilege to serve on this workgroup for the past year and look forward to working with this program for many more. I do feel that these changes that we are making will improve the program and make things easier for us to run here at the District. Hopefully our next big change will be coming sooner than later, and our program will receive more funding so that we can continue to aid our municipalities with as much support as we can offer.

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## FARMLAND PRESERVATION

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As of January 2026, Pennsylvania has cemented its status as a national leader in agricultural preservation by officially surpassing 6,600 farms and over 650,000 acres of prime farmland permanently protected from development.

**Why this is interesting today:**

**Top in the Nation:** According to updates from the Shapiro administration during the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show, the Commonwealth has preserved more farms than any other state in the nation, ensuring that productive land stays in agriculture for future generations.

**Combatting Sprawl:** This initiative acts as a bulwark against the conversion of farmland into warehouses or housing developments, with over \$1.78 billion invested since the program's inception in 1988.

**Direct Impact:** This preservation effort directly supports the state's massive \$132 billion agriculture industry, which supports nearly 600,000 jobs.

This milestone is particularly relevant in 2025-2026 as Pennsylvania continues to invest millions in expanding its agricultural innovation grants and safeguarding against threats to farmland.

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# 2025 ANNUAL BANQUET

The District held their 76th Annual Banquet on 11/14/25. The event took place at the Player's Pub. We started the evening with the welcoming comments. Followed by a delightful buffet style dinner & desserts.

During dinner, Ken Layaou made a slide show of old lumber & mail trains traveling throughout the area with other neat photos of the days past.

We were delighted to have Kenneth (Ken) Layaou, Writer & Historian from the Wyoming County Historical Society present. The topic was on "Manufacturing & Land Acquisition History in Wyoming County". The program was very informative with many visual aids. Ken also brought many treasurers from the historical society for attendees to look at.

The staff also presented a "What We've Been Up To" segment to highlight what new things the District had been working on over the past year. The evening wrapped up after this.

Special thanks to the District staff for all the help they provide to make this event happen.



## FURNITURE STYLES

### JACOBEAN FURNITURE

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

ADAM  
ART DECO  
ASIAN  
BAROQUE  
COLONIAL  
DE STIJL  
EARLY AMERICAN  
ELIZABETHAN  
EMPIRE  
FEDERAL  
GEORGIAN  
HEPPELWHITE  
JACOBEAN  
MIDDLE AGES  
MODERN  
NEO GOTHIC  
QUEEN ANNE  
RIETVELD  
RETRO  
RUSSIAN  
SHAKER  
TRADITIONAL  
VICTORIAN  
WINDSOR





# 2026 CONTRACTOR'S WORKSHOP

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This workshop is specifically designed for contractors, engineers, excavators, municipal officials, designers, land developers, loggers, surveyors, & landscapers.

**ATTENDEE REGISTRATION: \$15.00 per person.** Lunch reservations cannot be guaranteed unless registration is received by **March 4, 2026.** After March 4, 2026 or walk-ins are \$20.00.

**EXHIBITOR SPACE: \$200.00 per** 6 ft. table for those wishing to exhibit product lines. This price includes all costs for one person. Please indicate on the form the amount of space to be reserved by **February 11, 2026.**

**\*\*\*Exhibitors are REQUIRED to provide a quality door prize of a \$25 value, which may include their company logo or trademark.**

All payments can be mailed to:  
Wyoming County  
Conservation District (WCCD)  
6052 SR 6  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

**QUESTIONS:**  
Call Katie McClain at (570) 240-4661 or  
kmcclain@wyomingcountypa.gov  
**\*\*Facility Delays/Closings, due to inclement weather, also contact Katie.**

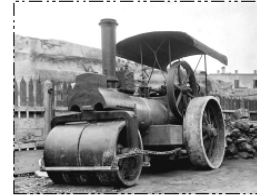
**Disclaimer:** The agencies hosting this workshop are committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance or qualifications as determined by state or federal authorities. They do not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status.



## Sponsored By:



31th Annual  
Northeast Regional  
Contractors & Engineers  
Workshop  
March 11, 2026



Keystone College  
Hibbard Campus Center  
1 College Rd.



## MORNING AGENDA

8:00 - 8:50: REGISTRATION, EXHIBITS & COFFEE

8:50 - 9:00: WELCOME

9:00 - 9:45:

**OPENING SESSION - EVANS HALL**  
"OSHA Work Zone Safety Requirements"  
Jeff Ritter, Comp. Assist. Specialist, OSHA

9:45 - 10:05: COFFEE & EXHIBITS

10:05 - 10:40: BREAKOUT SESSIONS #1

**SESSION A - EVANS HALL**

"Hate Big Roads & I Can Not Lie"

Tim Ziegler, Field Ops. Spec., Center for DGLVR

**SESSION B - GIANT'S DEN: 1ST FLOOR**

"Sewage Enforcement Regulations"

Gary Wilding, Sewage Enforcement Officer

**SESSION C - HOWELL ACTIVITY HALL:**

**1ST FLOOR**

"AI Data Centers: What We Know So Far"

Penn State Extension Energy Team

10:45 - 11:20: BREAKOUT SESSIONS #2

**SESSION A - EVANS HALL**

"Hate Big Roads & I Can Not Lie"

Tim Ziegler, Field Ops. Spec., Center for DGLVR

**SESSION B - GIANT'S DEN: 1ST FLOOR**

"Sewage Enforcement Regulations"

Gary Wilding, Sewage Enforcement Officer

**SESSION C - HOWELL ACTIVITY HALL:**

**1ST FLOOR**

"AI Data Centers: What We Know So Far"

Penn State Extension Energy Team

## LUNCH SCHEDULE

11:25 - 12:25

**BLUE TICKET: LUNCH FOR EVERYONE**

\*0.5 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ATTENDING THE SESSIONS.\*  
\*SPEAKERS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.\*

## AFTERNOON AGENDA

12:30 - 1:05: BREAKOUT SESSIONS #3

**SESSION D - EVANS HALL**

"Power Up Safely: Electrical Risk

Awareness for the Trades"

Brian Zeidner, Dir. of Member Serv., Claverack &

Karen Evangelisti, Manager of Comm., Claverack

**SESSION E - GIANT'S DEN: 1ST FLOOR**

"DCNR Bureau of Forestry:

Assistance We Provide"

Mike Antonishak, Serv. Forester & Julian Maza,

Serv. Forester, DCNR

**SESSION F - HOWELL ACTIVITY HALL:**

**1ST FLOOR**

"Aggregates & Uses"

Daryl Zeiner, Group Sales Coord.,

H&K Group Inc.

1:10 - 1:45: BREAKOUT SESSIONS #4

**SESSION D - EVANS HALL**

"Power Up Safely: Electrical Risk

Awareness for the Trades"

Brian Zeidner, Dir. of Member Serv., Claverack &

Karen Evangelisti, Manager of Comm., Claverack

**SESSION E - GIANT'S DEN: 1ST FLOOR**

"DCNR Bureau of Forestry:

Assistance We Provide"

Mike Antonishak, Serv. Forester & Julian Maza,

Serv. Forester, DCNR

**SESSION F - HOWELL ACTIVITY HALL:**

**1ST FLOOR**

"Aggregates & Uses"

Daryl Zeiner, Group Sales Coord.,

H&K Group Inc.

1:50 - 2:35:

**CLOSING SESSION - EVANS HALL**

"Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania"

Nicole Chinnici, Lab Director

2:40 - 3:00: DOOR PRIZES & CLOSING

**(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!)**

31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL NORTHEAST REGIONAL  
CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS  
WORKSHOP

MARCH 11, 2026

Exhibitor Registration Due - Feb. 11, 2026

Attendee Registration Due - March 4, 2026

**SPACE IS LIMITED-REGISTER NOW!  
PLEASE PRINT**

(COMPANY/BUSINESS NAME)

(NAME)

(ADDRESS)

(CITY, STATE, ZIP)

(PHONE AND/OR EMAIL)

**REGISTRATION: \$15.00/PERSON\*** \$  
Includes all costs.  
\$20.00 After 3/4/2026.

**EXHIBITOR - \$200.00\*** \$  
Includes all costs.  
Exhibitors may setup  
Tues. 3/10/2026, after 3pm.

**TOTAL REMITTANCE\*** \$  
\*Non-refundable.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ADDRESS:**  
Wyoming County Conservation District  
(WCCD)  
6052 SR 6  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

**QUESTIONS:**  
Call Katie McClain at  
(570) 240-4661 or  
kmcclain@wyomingcountypa.gov



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# SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO, ANIMAL KEEPER, MATT NEFF'S 6 FAVORITE SALAMANDER FACTS

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Article: National Zoo News, May 2019 Issue

## **1. Salamanders have super-sensitive skin—and many breathe through it.**

Two-thirds of all salamander species are lungless; instead, they breathe through their skin. A salamander's body absorbs oxygen, but it can also absorb other elements, too. Because of this, they are very susceptible to pollution and toxins in the environment. Typically, salamanders will disappear from an ecosystem before small mammals or birds will. This is why some scientists compare them to a canary in a coal mine—salamander health often reflects the overall health of their environment. However, these species are masters at hiding, so if you are in their natural habitat and don't see them right away—they may just be doing what they do best.

## **2. Salamanders can give you a hand—and grow theirs back.**

One of the coolest things about salamanders is that most of them have the ability to regenerate body parts—including limbs, tails, eye tissue and even brain tissue. By studying how the salamanders' macrophages are able to repair and regenerate so effectively, scientists can take what they learn and apply it to human medicine. In future, what we learn could help those who have lost limbs or are battling Alzheimer's disease.

## **3. They have a wicked-fast tongue.**

Many salamanders are ambush predators. The bigger, bulkier species tend to lunge at prey. Smaller species—including long-tailed salamanders and cave salamanders—have a different strategy. With prey in its sights, a salamander quickly contracts its muscles, causing the hyoid bone in its mouth to protrude. In the blink of an eye, the salamander's elongated, sticky tongue has secured its meal. The speed with which they capture their prey is amazing. The northern red salamander can extend and withdraw its tongue in just 11 milliseconds!

## **4. Salamanders live in the Zoo's backyard.**

Part of what makes salamanders so cool is that they are as American as apple pie. The Appalachian ecosystem is home to more salamander species than any other region on the planet. Of the estimated 600 salamander species in the world, one-third are found in the United States—half of which live in Appalachia.

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In Virginia, there are 54 species alone! One of the rarest species is the Shenandoah salamander, which is only found on three mountain peaks in Shenandoah National Park—located within an hour's drive of the Zoo.

The biomass of all the red-backed salamanders alone would outweigh all of the deer in Appalachian forests. This abundance of salamanders means that they are helping to keep invertebrate populations in check. Their waste, too, helps contribute nutrients to the soil.

### **5. Looking for salamanders at the Reptile Discovery Center? Be Patient.**

Because salamanders are nocturnal, the best time to see them up and about is early in the morning and around dusk. Generally-speaking, our salamanders tend to hide in the dark crevices of their exhibit. Be patient, and look closely at areas that are mossy and damp—those are the salamanders' favorite spots.

### **6. Everyone can do their part to help salamanders!**

The health of a salamander population in an area says a lot about the health of the whole ecosystem. The best things folks at home can do for salamanders are to refrain from polluting; be mindful of the pesticides you use in your yard, as these run into storm drains and out to waterways; and, disinfect your footwear before entering salamander habitat to avoid tracking bacteria and fungi that could be harmful to these and other amphibians. Website: [Nationalzoo.si.edu](http://Nationalzoo.si.edu)



Long Tailed Salamander



Northern Red Salamander



Cave Salamander



Shenandoah Salamander

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# Environmental Education

"Bats" Program with 5th Grade students at the Tunkhannock Intermediate Center.

