

Conservation District Directors

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Sharon Hull—Administrative Assistant 345
Brian Sneeringer—ACT Technician 306
Tyler Echard —Chesapeake Bay Tech. 304
Adam McClain—Watershed Specialist 344
Russell Ryan—Resource Conservationist 303
Debra Musselman—Resource Conservation Technician 342
Vy Trinh —Nutrient Man. Technician 305
Matt Stough—West Nile/Cons. Tech. 341

E-mail: 1st letter of 1st name, last name, plus @adamscounty.us

Cooperating Agencies

USDA Farm Service Agency Adams County
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
State Conservation Commission
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Department of Agriculture
PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
PA Fish and Boat Commission
PA Game Commission
PA Department of Transportation
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Adams Cty. Office of Planning and Development



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(Administrative→
Conservation District)**

***District Board Meetings are held the
fourth Thursday of most months, 7:30 PM
at the Agricultural Resources Center.
Any meetings held at a different time
or location will be announced.
The public is encouraged to attend.***

Revised 8/2016

We are a legal subdivision of state government that works closely with federal, state, and local agencies and we are responsible under state law for the coordination of conservation activities within Adams County. The Adams County Conservation District (ACCD) was established by the County Commissioners on November 14, 1947 under the provisions of Act 217, “State Soil and Water Conservation District Law” by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. A volunteer Board of Directors comprised of four agricultural, two urban representatives, and the County Commissioner governs our activities.

Our **Mission** is to promote voluntary conservation and good stewardship of Adams County’s natural resources.

Our **Vision** is to be recognized, respected and trusted as the conservation leader of Adams County, enabling the people to sustain, use and conserve our natural resources through the 21st century, thus maintaining a balance and harmony between a profitable agricultural economy and other land uses for a quality of life that everyone can enjoy.

Some of our **Critical Natural Resources** are: water quality and quantity, soils, forests, wetlands, stormwater, agricultural lands, riparian buffers, the Fruit Belt, outdoor recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat.

As professionals, we strive to achieve community satisfaction by providing technical excellence, a positive attitude, consistency, cooperation, and good judgment in program administration.

Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)

This voluntary program requires the landowner to (1) implement a Nutrient Management Plan and (2) maintain the installed Best Management Practices or BMPs. The plan is a written, site-specific one that indicates how the major plant nutrients are to be managed annually for expected crop production and for water quality protection. The BMPs are designed to aid the management of nutrients from animal manures, sludge, seepage, chemical fertilizers, and others.

The purpose of the CBP is to decrease pollutants in the Chesapeake Bay; develop complete Nutrient Management and Erosion Control Plans using BMPs; test soil and manure to prevent nutrient pollution; use of proper manure storage and application; explore alternative manure management techniques; install cropland terraces, diversions, and waterways to control water runoff; and apply contour strip cropping and proper crop rotation to naturally increase soil productivity.

To apply for Bay cost sharing, contact the Conservation District to set up an appointment for technical assistance and preparation.

Nutrient Management Program

This program was created to reduce the amount of nutrients leaving livestock operations while improving farm economy and local water quality. We try to encourage participation and provide information, assist operators with program implementation according to the provisions and regulations of the Act, and provide technical assistance.

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads Program

The Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program provides funding to local municipalities to address water quality problems on dirt, gravel and low volume roads (less than 500 vehicles per day). Stream crossings are necessary to allow for vehicle travel and the intersection of these roads and streams is something that can and does create water quality problems. The goal of this program is to help provide the resources to local municipalities to maintain the roads that intersect streams and other water bodies in an environmental sensitive way that can improve and protect our local water quality.

Earthmoving Activities

An earthmoving activity is any project, large or small, which involves removing vegetation and exposing the bare soil to the forces of nature. Sediment is the number one pollutant by volume to the waters of Pennsylvania.

Chapter 102 Erosion Control Program

The purpose of this program is to minimize accelerated erosion from earthmoving activities by establishing a strategy for erosion and sediment control within a particular project. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan is required for earthmoving activity, such as home construction, land development, and stream bank improvement. At a minimum it

should contain provisions to: (1) Limit the amount of grading (2) minimize the length of time the earth is exposed, and (3) trap any sediment on the site. The District is responsible for reviewing E&S Plans, performing routine inspections, conducting workshops, and investigating complaints.

NPDES Program

For earthmoving activities in Adams County we administer portions of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). **Most earthmoving activity disturbing more than one (1) acre must have a NPDES permit.** The District will receive, review, and acknowledge portions of the permit.

Floodplain Monitoring Program

The primary activity of conservation districts under the program is to visit municipal officials and review the administration/enforcement of their ordinance. All municipalities are required to have, enact, and enforce an ordinance to meet the requirements of the PA Floodplain Management Act and National Flood Insurance Program. Districts also become involved in establishing a library, conducting workshops, training, ordinance work, and various assistance.

Chapter 105 Stream & Wetland Encroachments

Many projects in or near streams, lakes/ponds, and wetlands require a General Permit. The District will assist only with questions, and minor information/ technical assistance for required permits, if needed; call DEP/SCRO Permitting Section at 717-705-4802. For complaints, call the DEP Regional Office at 717 705-4709.

Watershed Specialist

This program was established to provide assistance which will directly and indirectly lead to the improvement of Adams County's surface and groundwater resources in the watersheds of Adams County. The focus of the work is related to watershed assessments, procurement of funding, implementation and administration of grants relating to assessments and restoration projects, educational outreach efforts, the development and coordination of watershed management plans to reduce or prevent non-point source (NPS) pollution to Adams County's surface and ground water resources.

The Watershed Specialist coordinates countywide water quality monitoring through the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI), as well as watershed specific projects to document current stream conditions to identify and prioritize restoration and protection efforts. The program supports public and private entities involved in numerous county and regional plans or studies through identifying local issues and concerns, and facilitating the transfer of information as it relates to water resources. Through the program, the Adams County Conservation District has

partnered with countless other local organizations for the protection of groundwater and surface water resources county-wide.

Education and Outreach

Many educational and pollution preventative programs are developed and carried out by the District. The High School and Middle School Envirothons, Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Program, Trout Release event, Rain Barrel Program, scholarships, water testing, environmental/educational workshops, news releases on relevant topics, educational displays and talks are accessible to the people of Adams County as well as useful printed materials and information.

West Nile Virus Surveillance Program

The primary goal of this program is to mitigate the risk of West Nile Virus transmission from mosquitoes to humans. To accomplish this, the Department of Environmental Protection, and Adams County have established a comprehensive surveillance and control plan. The surveillance involves identifying areas within the County that contain mosquito breeding habitat and collecting samples for viral testing.

Once mosquito populations are found to be infected with the virus, that population is reduced using an integrated pest management approach. This approach utilizes one or more treatment techniques that are determined to be the most effective on a case by case basis. These techniques include habitat reduction, larval pesticide application, and adult mosquito spraying.