

Indiana County Conservation District

2006 Annual Report

Permit activity associated with the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program increased in 2006 as residential development continued to expand and improvements to the SR 119 and SR22 moved forward. The inclusion of post-construction storm water reviews in the NPDES Construction Permit resulted in an increase in review time by the District. This, along with increased operational costs, resulted in the need to raise review fees in 2007.

Two Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grants will remediate the impacts of abandoned mine drainage in the Bear Run and Two Lick Creek watersheds. The Two Lick treatment system will employ the power of falling water to add incremental doses of lime to an acid mine discharge. A Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant at the same location will assist in the creation of a conservation park with a wetland trail, fishing and canoe access, and mine drainage educational opportunities.

The Agricultural Communities and Rural Environment initiative grant (ACRE) received by the District will be used for four publications entitled *Agriculture in Today's Environment*. The first publication, distributed this winter to 1200 households and farms, explored the erosion control regulations and the importance of conservation planning.

The county also hosted the Department of Environmental Protection's Citizen Advisory Council. The Council toured the county's first manure digester that utilizes methane bacteria to convert the manure into methane gas. The gas is used to power a generator to meet the farm's electrical needs. The Council learned of some of the environmental benefits associated with digested dairy manure and some of the hurdles encountered when wishing to interconnect with the power grid.

The District also partnered with Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Small Business Development Center to conduct a feasibility study on the economics of turning waste cooking oils into biodiesel for mass transit and agricultural operations. The study was then made available to the RC&D Council and local entrepreneurs.

This was the first year that the District sponsored a bus tour for county residents to visit some of the conservation efforts implemented by the District. While attendance was not what we anticipated all those involved were impressed with the efforts put forth by the District.

A new team participated in our Senior Envirothon this year and proceeded to finish first in the competition. The Indiana County Home Schoolers then went on to compete in the state-wide Envirothon.

Don Bothell was appointed as a new farmer director replacing Bob Lockhart who had stepped down after 21 years on the District board.

Respectfully,

Jim Resh
District Manager

David Orr
Chairman

2006 IN REVIEW

Dirt and Gravel Road Contracts Awarded

Municipality/Agency	Amount	Municipality/Agency	Amount
Armstrong Twp.	\$3,855.00	East Mahoning Twp.	\$5,131.60
Banks Twp.	\$11,309.00	East Wheatfield Twp.	\$5,119.00
Blacklick Twp.	\$7,112.00	Grant Twp.	\$10,000.00
Brush Valley Twp.	\$11,592.50	Washington Twp.	\$943.00
Canoe Twp.	\$5,901.16	Young Twp.	\$15,130.64
Conemaugh Twp.	\$10,455.99	Total Grants	\$86,549.89

Erosion Control

NPDES Permits	17
Plans Reviewed	121
Disturbed Acres	177
Site Inspections	104
Customers Assisted	88
General Permits Issued	96

Nutrient Management

Farms visited	120
Nutrient Management Plans Approved	3
Nutrient Management Plans updated	3
Status Reviews	8
Biosolids Sites inspected	25

Financial Summary

Revenues	
Indiana County	\$84,274.00
DEP/Delegated Programs	\$111,937.00
Fees and Permits	\$0.00
Grants	\$369,547.00
Other Revenue	\$12,967.00
Total Revenue:	\$578,725.00

Expenses	
Management/Administration	\$231,914.00
Grants	\$334,258.00
Program Services	\$3,088.00
Education/Agency Cooperation	\$11,826.00
Total Expenses:	\$581,086.00

Additional Activities

Newsletters published	2
Articles printed in the newspaper	9
Student attendance at the Envirothon	60
Student attendance at the Jr. Envirothon	60
Acres enrolled in the Farmland	
Easement Program	121
Dry Hydrants designed	12

Staff

District Manager— Jim Resh
Nutrient Management Technician— Jason McGinnis
Chesapeake Bay Technician (Shared)— Mark Stockley
Resource Conservation Technician— Joe Yackuboskey
District Secretary/Envirothon Coordinator— Tammie Robinson
District Clerk— Diane Darr