In preparation of our 75th anniversary celebration, we spent the year meeting, reading, researching, and having discussions with those who possess years of institutional knowledge. I wrestled with many thoughts about accomplishment, change, science, technology, consistency, and legacy. In our early days we were a grass roots organization with a mission to conserve soil by promoting fundamental, low-cost conservation practices on the ground. All these years later, we continue many of those same fundamental practices, but now often applied in significantly more complicated situations. These projects often involve intensive engineering, design, and review of many structural practices that address water quality impacts from agriculture and development; these projects often have very high price tags. Over the past 75 years, we have grown as an organization to meet this increased demand, both from the needs of agricultural and development cooperators, as well as from the citizens of the county who expect clean water.

The leadership and consistency of the Board of Directors, experienced and devoted staff, and many of our conservation partners have been the backbone of our success these past 75 years and will continue to be moving forward. We’ve experienced so many advancements and accomplishments to date, but there remains much more to achieve on the horizon.
In the publication for our 75th Anniversary Celebration entitled “Chronology of Conservation,” the time line reports that the 1930s and early ‘40s became a time when America’s “land of opportunity had become a land of great depression.” The nation’s natural resources were overused, polluted, and barren. CCCD’s formation in 1947 was part of America’s growing conservation awareness that expanded into federal and state regulations and programs to protect soil conservation and encourage better farming practices. Over our 75-year existence, our role has evolved into educating, incentivizing, and encouraging landowners, farmers, and developers to embrace and adhere to those laws. Today, CCCD has a staff of 21, a budget of $2.7 million, and we have earned numerous awards and grants.

2022 also marked the last year at our old address of 688 Unionville Road, Suite 200, Kennett Square, PA 19348. We are going to miss being in our old yellow barn, but are excited to be relocating across the complex to 674 Unionville Road, Suite 105, Kennett Square, PA 19348.
CCCDS's
75th Anniversary
Celebration

The Chester County Conservation District celebrated its 75th Anniversary at a gala event at The Inn at Mendenhall Hotel and Conference Center on October 13, 2022. In addition to delicious hors d'oeuvres and beverages that were served, attendees were also treated to inspiring speeches by the District's Chairman of the Board, Thomas K. Brosius, and the District's Managing Director, Christian E. Strohmaier. Other dignitaries to speak included the Chester County Commissioners, Marian Moskowitz, Josh Maxwell, and Michelle Kichline; Pennsylvania State Senator, The Honorable Carolyn Comitta; executive secretary of the State Conservation Commission, Karl Brown; Southeast PA NRCS assistant state conservationist for operations, Charles Hanner; director of DEP's Regional Permit Coordination Office, Domenic Rocco; director of DEP's Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management, Jill Whitcomb; and the executive director of PACD, Brenda Shambaugh.

CCCDS board director, Robert Struble, Jr., also presented and narrated a slide show featuring 75 years of conservation efforts by the District. His before and after photos of sites often not seen by the public clearly showed amazing improvements and demonstrated the importance of the work that the District has done throughout its existence. His presentation confirmed in everyone's minds the significance of the work that has been done and that will continue to be done for at least another 75 years.
Our 75th year as a conservation district came with great milestones for the Urban Team. This marks the 34th year of an active level II delegation agreement with the PA DEP for the chapter 102 program. Since 1993 we have also been involved with administering the NPDES permit through our office. The requirements of this permit have also evolved with the changes at the district through the years. In 2015 the first professional engineer was hired to aid the Urban Team on reviewing the Post Construction Stormwater Management plans to fill the delegation agreement with DEP. This position put the district in a great place to offer technical assistance to staff and the regulated community when it comes to stormwater management design. Since 2015, the engineering team added two other team members - the agricultural engineer and the stormwater engineer, who has a joint responsibility with the Urban Team to assist with field work. Since the program was adopted there have been some additions and changes. 2022 had the addition of the PAG-01 permit. This is used for smaller, minimal disturbance type projects.
In 2022 the Urban Team worked on issuing 63 general permits and 58 individual permits. In addition, there have been 3 ESCGP permit applications and 69 non-permitted plans. The total earth disturbance for all projects in 2022 is 455 acres, coming in at the lowest since 2016.

**AGRICULTURAL TEAM**

**Ag Report: Looking Back and Ahead**

During a typical year, the ag staff at CCCD are focused on what’s next. After all, a lot of our work with producers involves planning, whether it’s paper plans such as conservation plans and manure management plans or technical planning, such as engineered designs. We spend our year preparing for what’s next. In the short term, this means preparing to work with cooperators to install planned BMPs. In the long term, it means developing new plans for future implementation and applying for grant programs to help provide financial assistance to make these projects feasible.

This work is a continual cycle – as one initiative ends, we aggressively search for what’s next. We know that many Chester County producers are interested in protecting water quality and understand the benefits of preserving their farm’s soil. We believe that it is our responsibility to provide the services, both technical and financial, to help producers meet their goals. Because of this cycle, we become very forward focused.

Recognizing this, we’ve taken steps over the past few years to improve our understanding of the results of our previous efforts. One example of this is the creation of the outreach coordinator position. Since it’s creation, 195 farms have received a visit, including 108 in 2022, to discuss the operation’s goals, to assess previous projects, and determine if we can provide further assistance. Another example is the ongoing grant we received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation focused on repairing previously installed BMPs. These projects further protect the investment made on the farm and made for water quality improvements.
Celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2022 gave us an opportunity to further reflect on how far we have come as an agricultural staff and how Chester County agriculture has changed. The core mission of CCCD remains the same but the methods for accomplishing those goals have changed. In 1948, a field demonstration day drew around 10,000 people; today we can reach thousands by publishing educational videos (found on the CCCD website) for farmers and the public. In 1985, CCCD entered the state’s Chesapeake Bay Program; today we are involved in six different initiatives focused on helping Chesapeake Bay watershed farms. In 1991, CCCD had a total of six employees; today we have eleven employees (out of 21 total) who provide assistance to our farmers. We have responded to the changes around us, such as heightened environmental awareness, the regulations that have followed, and the changes within Chester County itself (see first chart below). The core mission remains, but our cooperators can rest assured that we will continue to adapt so that we can best provide them with the assistance that they need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Chester Co. Population</th>
<th>Number of Farms</th>
<th>Farm Acreage</th>
<th>Harvested Acreage</th>
<th>Cows Milked</th>
<th>Farm Operators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>153,000</td>
<td>3,817</td>
<td>358,812</td>
<td>219,197</td>
<td>37,322</td>
<td>3,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>210,608</td>
<td>2,746</td>
<td>292,776</td>
<td>136,427</td>
<td>36,029</td>
<td>2,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>278,311</td>
<td>2,016</td>
<td>238,372</td>
<td>114,425</td>
<td>26,374</td>
<td>2,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>316,660</td>
<td>1,769</td>
<td>224,900</td>
<td>137,136</td>
<td>24,784</td>
<td>1,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>376,396</td>
<td>1,573</td>
<td>189,943</td>
<td>119,376</td>
<td>24,382</td>
<td>1,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>433,501</td>
<td>1,424</td>
<td>175,363</td>
<td>116,814</td>
<td>20,892</td>
<td>1,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>498,886</td>
<td>1,733</td>
<td>166,891</td>
<td>102,863</td>
<td>19,341</td>
<td>1,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>534,413</td>
<td>1,646</td>
<td>150,514</td>
<td>95,018</td>
<td>21,602</td>
<td>2,856</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Agricultural Team – A Snapshot of Work Accomplished in 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMPs Installed</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Visits Made</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Bay Phase 2 Inspections</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff written conservation plans</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushroom operations provided with technical assistance</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs utilized to provide assistance</td>
<td>14*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*EQIP, RCPP, Growing Greener, Chesapeake Bay Phase 2 Technical Assistance Funding, CAP Implementation Grants, NWF DRF, Upper Oxford Township Agreement Funding, ACT Program, Nutrient Management Program, Chesapeake Bay Program, REAP, NRCS PL-966, PACE Plan Reimbursement Program, NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program
Best Management Practices That Don’t Go Out of Style

It takes a team to get things done – our team here at CCCD is compiled of our staff, the many partners we work with, and the most important team members, the farmers and landowners we work with. Our partners strive to do the best thing possible for Chester County’s land and its water resources, and we at CCCD are here to help them accomplish their conservation goals.

The farmers and landowners we work with have done some great work in the last 75 years and continue to work with us to implement those needed BMPs. While we provide technical and financial assistance when needed to help farmers implement their BMP’s, the farmers and landowners are the ones who make the choice to be good conservationists on their land and put valuable BMPs on the ground.

There are many BMPs that continue to be implemented by farmers across the county because they continue to prove to be beneficial to our soil and water resources. See some great examples from around Chester County of BMPs that continue to be implemented after all these years!
The District is 75 Years Old, but We Still Act 38

Nutrient Management regulations in Pennsylvania are relatively young. In fact, most staff members at the Chester County Conservation District, even the younger ones, are older than the state’s nutrient management regulations.

In 1993, Pennsylvania passed Act 6, which required site specific nutrient management planning from operators. The legislation was a first in Pennsylvania, and one of the first in the nation, pioneering how we look at the relationship between land, nutrients, and water. While the legislation was passed in 1993, it did not go into effect until October of 1997. When it did go into effect, Chester County Conservation District’s very own current District Manager had already been certified.

In the early 2000s, Act 6 was reevaluated to consider scientific research and community concerns regarding odor management and setbacks from water sources. In July 2005, Act 38 was signed to replace Act 6 as part of the Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment (ACRE) Law. Act 38 was put into effect in 2006 and remains so to date.

Since the inception of Act 6 and the amendment to Act 38, CCCD has had 13 different employees occupy the nutrient management position. Additionally, other district agricultural employees that don’t actively have a role in the program are often certified and maintain their certification through trainings and continuing education credits to help staff keep a well-rounded knowledge base in order to help the producers in our county.

Here to start 2023, Chester County has 23 agricultural operations that sit under Act 38 jurisdiction and are required to have Act 38 NMPs. Of those 23 operation, twelve are CAFOs while the remaining eleven are CAOs.

**CCCD nutrient management program staff through the years:**

- Kathleen Woytovich (1997-2001)
- Scott Lackey (2001-2002)
- Sarah Holmes (2002)
- Bill Callahan (2004)
- Daniel Miller (2006-2008)
- Chadd Sober (2008-2010)
- Pam King (2010-2012)
- Mike Zuk (2013)
- Laurell Bostdorf (2018-2020)
- Benjamin Drover (2020-2021)
- Kara Schoch – (2021-Present)

Legacy of Nutrient Management

This year we celebrate 75 years of dedicated effort by CCCD in support of landowners in agricultural nutrient management. The nutrient management program was born from a widespread desire to conserve invaluable soil and freshwater resources and the cooperative efforts of operators across our county in response to national environmental decline. The first nutrient management plan was completed and implemented in 1985, 37 years after the founding of CCCD. Since then, operators and conservation district staff have contended with the challenging task of balancing the needs of business and conservation - a labor of love for our shared land.
Kennett Square: The Mushroom Capital of the World

Chester County’s first mushroom farm was founded in Kennett Square during the late 1800s by William Swayne, a local florist who began growing mushrooms beneath his greenhouse benches. Swayne later constructed the area’s first mushroom house and was eventually succeeded by his son J. Bancroft Swayne. The father and son duo were the beginning of booming business that would eventually lead to Kennett Square earning the moniker “Mushroom Capital of the World.”

Half a century after Swayne began growing mushrooms the Chester County Conservation District was founded, and after another 50 years the mushroom farm resource conservationist position was created. This position continues to be supported through PADEP’s Growing Greener program which allows the district to help the mushroom industry through on-site support/inspections, plan reviews, and outreach for local meetings and events. We are hopeful further funding opportunities for mushroom projects will be available in the future as progress continues to be made on the PL-566 watershed program project. The goal of this project is to ultimately provide funding to mushroom composting operations for BMPs to control stormwater and nutrient runoff impacts. CCCD and NRCS continue to work with North Wind Resource Partnership to compile a feasibility study for these operations in Southern Chester County.

Agricultural Engineer

Over the course of 2022, the 75th anniversary of CCCD, the agricultural engineer designed 24 approved BMPs, wrote an inventory & evaluation for 33 BMPs, and reviewed 13 BMPs designed by other team members. Out in the field, the agricultural engineer surveyed for 22 BMPs, attended and led 6 pre-construction meetings, and aided or led in the quality assurance for 33 BMPs implemented in 2022.

The Beaver Creek Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation Project provided an exciting and unique opportunity in late summer 2022. A new concrete riser structure was installed, among other improvement projects on site, as part of a USDA-NRCS PL-566 program. NRCS included the CCCD agricultural engineer to also provide on-site quality assurance support during construction.

2022 laid a great foundation for plenty of new BMPs to be planned and put in the ground in 2023!

Outreach Coordinator

Outreach - we all do it. The Chester County Conservation District has been reaching out for 75 years! That’s right! For 75 years, each of our resource conservationists have been bringing a message to our farmers, developers, partners and the people of Chester County. Our mission statement is what we represent – “Conserving Soil for Clean Water,” and that message is taken to every site that we visit.

In 2022, the outreach coordinator has visited over 200 farms to meet with the farmers to learn about their particular needs. She provided resources for much-needed funding through the various grants that CCCD has procured or she offered information and referrals to other organizations that can help the farmers address their concerns. Even though the outreach position is only four years old, the concept was part of the vision started back in 1947- when the CCCD was created as a result of those pioneers before us that wanted to improve all of our futures.
Grant & Program Updates: 2022 Accomplishments

Awarded: Chester County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)- CCCD received two awards totaling $332,674 for stormwater improvement projects in Tredyffrin and Penn Townships. Both projects will increase surface water infiltration and reduce localized flooding from residential areas.

Completed: PADEP Growing Greener Grant— ($46,200 award) implementation of a new manure storage facility on a dairy farm in Highland Township occurred in July, and associated practices (access road to scrape-in area) were completed in December. The 90 foot diameter by 12 foot depth storage will significantly reduce nitrogen, phosphorous, and pathogen runoff to the Knight Run Watershed, Octoraro Reservoir, and Chesapeake Bay.

Ongoing Projects:

- **CCCD Partnership for Chesapeake Bay Water Quality RCPP**— $325,772 was allocated in 2022 of the $2.5 million awarded by NRCS for BMP implementation; all project funds have now been allocated and this program will conclude in Summer 2023.

- **Chester County Agricultural Best Management Practice Operation and Maintenance Initiative**— to offer technical and financial assistance for previously installed BMPs within the Brandywine-Christina and Schuylkill Highlands areas; $36,000 of the $250,000 for projects was expended in 2022 with 17 BMPs implemented.

- **PL-566**— North Wind Resource Partnership continues to compile data for the Watershed Plan that will serve as a feasibility study to potentially fund mushroom composting BMPs in southern Chester County. The plan is slated for completion in 2023.

Keystone 10 Million Trees

Chester County Conservation District is Chester County’s local partner with the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership. In 2022, we helped provide over 7,500 trees and shrubs with their associated tubes, stakes, and bird nets to Chester County landowners with the goal of improving local water quality. The Brandywine Red Clay Alliance provided invaluable help by supplying a space to stage the orders for project managers to pick up.
Countywide Action Plan Funding

We are pleased to share that the CCCD was awarded $479,954.00 by the Pennsylvania DEP for the Chesapeake Bay Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator (CCWAP) and CAP Implementation Grant for 2022. Included in this total are $100,000.00 to continue work objectives, activities, and outputs for the CCWAP and $379,954.00 to be used towards the completion of a portion of the projects included in our application for implementation funds. The CCWAP funds will be divided between Berks Schuylkill, and Chester Counties to continue the coordination and planning of their Countywide Action Plans. The implementation funds will help us meet the goals we have outlined in the Chesco Chesapeake Communities Action Plan (C3AP), reducing pollutants entering the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Chester County.

Dirt & Gravel Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program

The DGLVR Program’s purpose is to provide funding to municipalities for the improvement and maintenance of unpaved roads and paved roads with traffic volume of 500 cars or less, with the goal of protecting water quality. The DGLVR program has been an integral factor in conservation since 1989. In 2022, we received six new grant applications for projects totaling $700,251.00:

- **Newlin Township** – Oak School Road: A dirt and gravel road along a tributary to the West Branch of the Brandywine that includes ditch improvements, road bank improvements, stormwater improvements, road base improvements, and new ditch outlets that will greatly benefit water quality and prevent future stream scour and bank erosion. Grant allowance- $23,844.00
- **Newlin Township** – Indian Hannah Road: A low volume road project along a tributary to the West Branch of the Brandywine that includes new cross pipes, road bank stabilization, road base improvement, drainage swales, new ditch outlets, and road stabilization. This project will improve water quality for the Brandywine. Grant allowance- $218,812.00
- **West Vincent Township** – Kimberton Road: A low volume road project along a tributary to Pickering and French Creeks that include new drainage swales, a plunge pool, road banks stabilized, stormwater improvements, and vegetative management. This project will alleviate severe flooding and pollution of Pickering Creek. Grant allowance- $100,000.00
- **East Marlborough Township** – Mill Road: A low volume road project along a tributary to Red Clay Creek that includes a new stream crossing and stream bed connectivity. This project will improve water quality to Red Clay Creek, as well as alleviate a road safety issue. Total grant allowance- $139,000.00
- **North Coventry Township** - Chestnut Hill Road: A low volume road project along a tributary to Pigeon Creek that includes a new stream crossing and stream bed connectivity. This project will improve water quality to Pigeon Creek. Total grant allowance- $128,595.00
- **Newlin Township** – Scott Road: A dirt and gravel Road project along a tributary to the West Branch of the Brandywine that includes road surface stabilization, ditch outlets, improved ditches, stormwater improvements, and improved road banks. This project will improve water quality to the Brandywine. Total grant allowance - $90,000.00
Envirothon

Congratulations go to the Avon Grove Charter B Team as the 2022 Champions of the Chester County Envirothon. This team represented Chester County and competed in the State Envirothon at Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg. Eleven teams representing seven Chester County schools participated in the senior event. In their Envirothon t-shirts made from recycled material, these students competed in stations focused on Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils, Forestry and the Current Issue- “Waste to Resources”.

After two years of going “virtual”, the two-day Envirothon was held in-person and was well attended. The elementary teams powered through a foggy day with 28 teams competing from eleven schools, while the middle school level featured 20 teams representing ten schools throughout the county.

The Chester County Conservation District partners with the Chester County Parks + Preservation and Chester County Facilities and wishes to thank our sponsors and all the volunteers that help to make this a fun and successful educational event.

Chester County Envirothon 2022
SPONSORS

Event Champions ~ $1,000 and above
- AAUW Chester County Harriet Jarosh Environmental Education Fund
- Cedar Knoll Builders
- DL Howell & Associates Inc/Howell Kline Surveying LLC
- Francis & Raymond Iacobucci Builders and Developers
- J Loew & Associates Inc/Southdown Homes LP
- Pennsylvania American Water

Partners ~ $500 - $999
- Chester County Water Resources Authority
- Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau
- Hankin Foundation
- Tom & Tammy Brosius

Friends ~ $1 - $499
- Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
- In Memory of Fish & Boat Officer Tom Benevento
- Della Penna Engineering Inc
- Friends of Hibernia
- Howell’s Custom Screen Printing Inc
- Kurtz Fish Hatchery
- Longwood Gardens
- Howery Environmental LLC
- Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection with Shell Oil and DCNR
- Wegmans Food Markets Inc
- Your Conservation Connection

Chester County Envirothon Results:

Seniors – Grade 9 – 12
Champion – Avon Grove Charter B
Second Place – Avon Grove High School A
Third Place – Avon Grove Charter A

Middle School – Grades 6 – 8
First Place – West Fallowfield Christian School A
Second Place – Hopewell B
Third Place – West Fallowfield Christian School B
Elementary – Grades 3 – 5: Station Winners
Wildlife – Nottingham D
Aquatics – Nottingham D
Forestry – Nottingham D
Current Issue – Nottingham D
Outdoor Safety – the French Creek B and Nottingham D

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