

2025 Annual Report

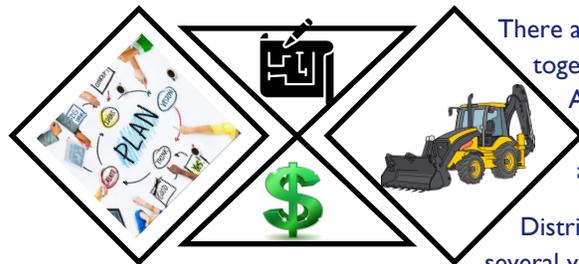
SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Implementation Projects Abound
- Hoop House completion at NWP
- John Morrow Remembered

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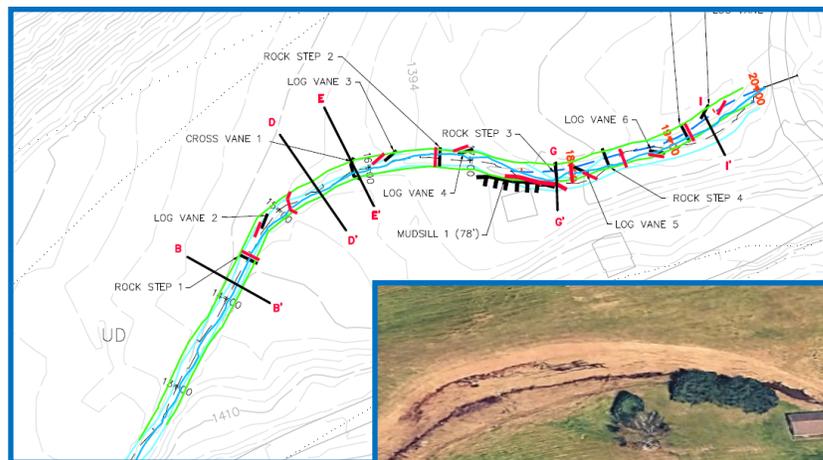
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A Banner Year for Implementation

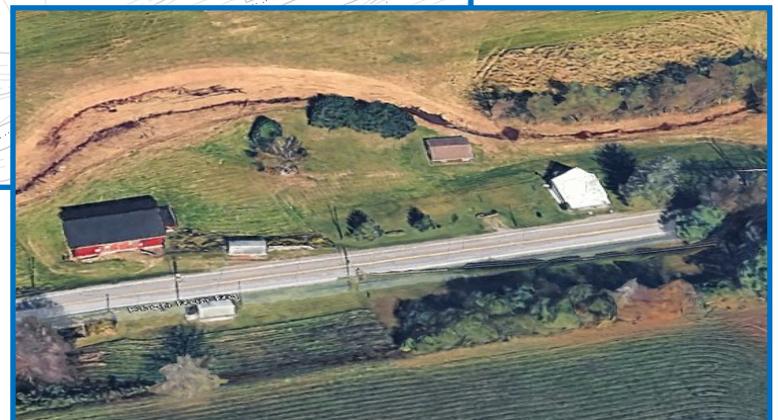


There are a lot of moving pieces that need to come together for a good implementation project. Assessment and Planning, Project Identification, Landowner Participation, Design, Permitting and Funding are all critical stages.

District staff have worked diligently over the last several years to put the process in motion on a number of projects with the hopes of funding. As you may be aware, funding through both the Countywide Action Plan and the Ag Conservation Assistance Program, along with our traditional funding sources such as the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program, has now made funding available for implementation on a wide variety of projects. The Blair County Conservation District was ready for action and are now full swing into the construction phase on a multitude of projects across the county!



As Builts and GoogleEarth Image of Blue Knob Run Floodplain Reconnect and Stream Stabilization Project



In the following pages you will learn about the many initiatives undertaken by the Conservation District. **We truly are a one stop shop for your natural resource needs!** Whether you are seeking an NPDES Permit or Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Review for construction activities, a manure management plan developed, best management practice inventory and evaluation for your farmstead or cropland, stream assessment and design for stabilization, review of a municipal road for environmentally sensitive maintenance, to preserve farmland or educational opportunities for all groups and ages—the District is often the first stop!

Plans for Compliance and Funding



Planning continues to be the first step for farm compliance and funding programs on all agricultural operations.

The District again participated in the PA Assoc. of Conservation Districts Plan Reimbursement Program in 2025, providing **seven landowners with a total of \$4,982 toward plan preparation.** PACD was allocated additional funds for the continuation of the program on a first come, first served basis. Funds are available for both new plans and the renewal of plans if required.

The District continues to write plans

on a limited basis for a fee and supports landowners preparing their own plans using the PA OneStop Program and the Manure Management Manual as the need arises. **During 2025, the District prepared 5 Manure Management Plans** representing 278 acres and **6 Ag Erosion and Sediment Control Plans** for 316 acres.

The District's delegation to review and approve Nutrient Management Plans (required for operations which meet thresholds related to the number of animal units per acre of ground available for manure application) resulted in

9 plans and/or amendments reviewed and approved. No **nutrient balance sheets** were reviewed for manure being imported to any farms in 2025.

The final and perhaps key component of planning and implementation is reporting. Staff continue to input plans into the state based PracticeKeeper System, and are now verifying existing and functioning practices with the end goal of calculating sediment and nutrient reductions.

Contact us if you would like more information about our agricultural planning programs and funding.

Region Leader in Farms Preserved

Blair County continues to be a leader in the Central PA Region with 63 easements and 9,554 acres permanently preserved for Agriculture.....

Blair County's Conservation Easement Purchase Program was approved in 1991 and was recertified in 2025. The Conservation District facilitates the program for the County of Blair.

In 2025 the program preserved two farms totaling 360 acres, one of which is a 240 acre tract in Woodbury Township. Blair continues to be one of the leaders in the Central PA Region with **65 farms and 9,554 acres preserved!** To date, over **11.2 million dollars** has been provided to Blair landowners interested in ensuring that their farmland remains in agricultural use for perpetuity.

Blair County Commissioners allocated \$159,659 for preservation efforts in 2025, the largest annual allocation in program history and also the highest in our region. The State threshold

was maintained at 43 million, with the resulting State funds available to Blair County listed as \$383,071. County funds continue to be matched at an average of 2.5 to 1. Blair County received 0.89% of the total State funds.

The average easement value (the difference between the development value and the farmland value as determined by an appraisal) for Blair County stands at \$1,178 per acre. However, the average easement

value of current purchases is closer to \$2,200 per acre.

The success of the program is a tribute to the commitment of the County Board and the relationship with the County Commissioners.

Applications received by October 15th of each year are ranked to be considered for funding in the following year. There is no cost or obligation for landowners to complete an application. For an application, visit the District website or call Donna or Rich at 814-696-0877 ext. 5.

County	# of Easements	Acres	Avg \$/Ac	Co Allocation
Blair	65 Farms	9,554 Ac	\$1,178	\$159,659
Centre	68 Farms	9,559 Ac	\$2,439	\$107,099
Bedford	18 Farms	3,855 Ac	\$ 555	\$ 23,163
Cambria	25 Farms	3,751Ac	\$1,057	\$ 10,000
Huntingdon	12 Farms	1,616 Ac	\$1,256	\$ 10,325

Blair ACAP Funds Allocated & Distributed

Agriculture is the Number One industry in Blair County and now the availability of project funds match the importance of agriculture to Blair County! The **Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)** legislation was passed in July 2022 committing funds statewide for agricultural best management practices along with the addition of dedicated funding through the PA Clean Streams Fund in 2024. Through the end of 2025, Blair County received a total of 2.87 million dollars for the administration, design and implementation of BMP's. The District worked diligently to develop policies to effectively manage the program in Blair County. In order to allow a diverse distribution of funds, we have chosen to institute a cap of \$250,000 annually to a landowner and/or ag operation, as well as a maximum of 90% payment of any proposed project. We have instituted quarterly application rounds to solicit interest in the program and applicants are ranked within their round for funding consideration.

Construction was in full swing in 2025 with the completion of four manure stacking sheds (three for dairy and one for poultry), a portion of a grazing project and again, the District committed \$95,000 toward our Cover Crop Incentive Program whereby we reward good conservation practices with an incentive payment. The District also utilized a portion of their allocation to provide planning/technical assistance on two farms to start the implementation process. **By the end of 2025, we had committed a total of \$2,126,967 (about 75% of our total funds) with payments of \$1,511,142 made for 11 projects. Another \$32,500 was committed or spent for technical assistance and just over \$16,000 has been claimed for administration.**

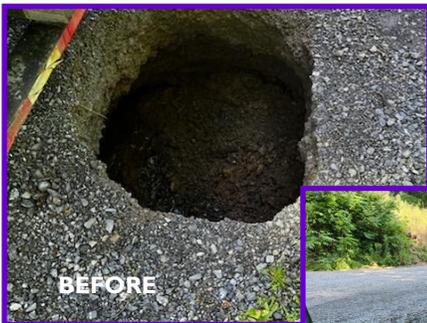
It is apparent that the PA State Conservation Commission (facilitator of the program at the state level), Conservation Districts and Pennsylvania's Farmers are efficiently and effectively utilizing these funds for the installation of Best Management Practices with the ultimate goals of reducing pollution and maintaining the long term viability of our farms and farmland. We continue to do our part in Blair County! If you are interested in more information about the Blair County ACAP Program, contact Rich Huether at 814-696-0877 ext. 5 or rhuethe@blairconservationdistrict.org.



One of four Manure Stacking Sheds constructed in 2025



Waterline and Stream Crossing for Grazing System



DG&LVR Funds Allocated

To the left you see before and after photos from a Dirt and Gravel Road Project where a collapsed culvert was causing a serious safety concern for Woodbury Township. A new culvert replacement and top dressing the road surface was an efficient fix! Blair County continues to allocate approximately \$180,000 annually to local municipalities for road projects to minimize sediment pollution with environmentally sensitive practices. Other projects completed in 2025 included two road/stream stabilization projects, one in Freedom and one in Snyder Township, as well as a ditch line improvement and inlet/culvert crossing in Allegheny Township.

Erosion Control and NPDES Permitting



The Blair County Conservation District is delegated duties related to public information, plan review, permit issuance, complaint handling and inspections associated with earth disturbance activities in Blair County.

Compost Filter Sock properly placed and staked downslope of an earthmoving activity is a best management practice used to limit erosion and resulting sedimentation on an Earth Disturbance Site and should be maintained until the site is fully stabilized.

Did you know....All earthmoving activities over 5,000 square feet are required to have a written Erosion Control Plan. Cropland requires an E&S or Conservation Plan as do Timber Harvesting sites. Written plans are to be maintained on site and implemented. It is also important to note that many local municipalities have within their ordinances, the requirement of plan review and approval as part of their final land development authorizations.

Sites involving a disturbance of 1 (one) acre or more are required to

obtain an NPDES permit prior to commencement of the project. NPDES permits are authorized and/or processed by the District.

There was no shortage of workload related to development projects coupled with the completion of the NPDES PAG-02 (General Permit) renewal from December 2024 which rolled into the beginning of calendar year 2025.

In addition, **16 General and 11 Individual** (located in High Quality Watersheds or with discharges to Special Protection Waters) **Permits and Permit Amendments** were processed and/or approved. In association with those permits and including projects of less than 1 acre, a total of **101 Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Control Plans** were reviewed and approved based on the State's Chapter 92 and 102 Regulations.

Processing times in Blair County average **73 calendar days** for General NPDES Permits and **37 calendar days** for E&S Plan reviews. Processing times are impacted by the response times of the applicants to deficiencies.

Forty-two complaints were logged and **96 inspections** were conducted at earthmoving sites. Over 100 technical assistance contacts were provided to individuals, municipalities, consultants, developers and contractors.

Remember, planning and permitting should be done prior to the commencement of the earthmoving activity. Contact Devon Weyant or Nicole Matish at 814-696-0877 ext. 5 if you are planning an earth disturbance project or observe sediment issues related to construction sites.



Since 2012, the Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee (ISC) of Blair County has been collaboratively combining resources regarding the MS4 Program. This past year the ISC continued implementing the Blair County Collaborative TMDL and Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP). This Plan encompasses a series of projects that will **reduce a total of 1.4 million lbs./yr. of sediment** within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed over the course of 5 years.



Construction of Brush Run Floodplain Restoration Project at Sylvan Hills Golf Course

To date the ISC has completed a total of 34 projects that are reducing 1,044,594.60 lbs./yr. of sediment within Beaverdam Branch, Frankstown Branch, and Little Juniata Watersheds. This year the ISC began implementation on the Beaverdam Branch Floodplain Restoration Project along with the Brush Run Streambank Stabilization/Floodplain Restoration Project. Through these two remaining projects, the ISC will achieve their sediment reduction requirement as well as laying the groundwork for future reduction goals.



The creation of Local and State Partnerships with the ISC has led to **new and innovative ideas/projects, developed educational platforms, enhanced recreational and habitat opportunities, and ultimately is improving the health of Blair County's and the Chesapeake Bay Watersheds.** For more information contact Chelsey Weyant at 814-696-0877 ext. 5.

Municipalities by the Numbers.....

Plan and permit numbers are tracked by the County as well as by the Municipality. Complaints and inspections are also identified by municipality, with copies of all correspondence provided to the specific municipality where the issue has occurred. The District appreciates the close working relationship that we have with our Blair County municipalities and we strive to keep them informed of our activities. As you can see in the table below, the workload is spread across the county with some obvious higher density townships in 2025. There were several large projects in Greenfield Township (two commercial and one solar), a solar project in Antis Township and two larger agricultural projects in North Woodbury Township proposed in 2025. We also saw multiple plans and permits for infrastructure improvements and waste sites across the county. Inspections are conducted in response to complaints or as routine inspections on permitted or active earth disturbance sites.

Municipality	# Plan Reviews	Individual NPDES	General NPDES	Total Disturbed Acres	Complaints	Inspections
Allegheny	10	0	3	55.02	12	18
Antis	11	1	2	60.74	2	3
Blair	5	0	0	5.11	1	9
Catharine	1	0	0	0.72	0	0
Frankstown	5	1	2	19.55	0	13
Freedom	3	0	0	2.08	2	1
Greenfield	5	4	0	237.27	0	23
Huston	1	0	0	0.80	0	0
Juniata	1	0	0	0.95	1	0
Logan	8	0	1	18.72	5	10
North Woodbury	7	3	1	100.97	1	3
Snyder	11	1	3	23.55	4	4
Taylor	6	0	0	29.05	3	1
Tyrone	0	0	0	0	4	0
Woodbury	2	0	0	1.12	3	2
City of Altoona	12	0	1	8.86	2	1
Bellwood Borough	1	0	0	0.45	1	0
Duncansville Borough	1	0	0	0.93	0	0
Hollidaysburg Borough	7	0	3	31.63	0	9
Martinsburg Borough	2	1	0	6.02	0	0
Newry Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roaring Spring Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyrone Borough	2	0	0	0.93	1	0
Williamsburg Borough	0	0	0	0	0	0

Spotlight on the CAP Program



\$386,598 State and Federal Funds allocated to the Blair District for use in 2025



\$308,095 received for use in 2026 for projects to include a Heavy Use Area, Roof Water Management and a possible Rain Garden for Stormwater Control. Stay Tuned!!

The fourth round of **Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Funds** were received in Blair County in 2025 totaling **\$386,598**, almost double the 2024 allocation. The District was poised to utilize the majority of these funds for 7 stream restoration projects. The district had designs and permits on the shelf for 4 of the projects and worked to secure the remaining designs and permits during 2025.

The **Blue Knob Run Project** not only entailed streambank stabilization but also floodplain reconnection which is vital for both habitat and stormwater control. The photos to the right show the minimal floodplain width before the project as compared to the excavated floodplain area which will now provide a stabilized area to increase infiltration and minimize damage in high water events. The dry summer would seem to make stream projects easier; however, as you see in the photo at the bottom left, not having a normal water level to observe made setting the mudsill logs tricky at the **Poplar Run Project**. We also completed natural stream design bank stabilization projects on **Blair Gap Run, Spencer Run** and on **UNT's to the Little Juniata River and to Sugar Run**. One final project on **Blair Gap Run** will be completed in 2026.

Funds were also allocated to both our Cover Crop Incentive Program (\$39,000 allocated to 12 farms and 3,300 acres) and for the continuation of our Riparian Buffer Incentive Program (\$20,000). To date approximately \$5,000 of the Buffer funds have been spent on the establishment of 0.8 acres of buffers at 2 sites across the county with at least 2 more proposed before June 30, 2026.



**Blue Knob Run
Floodplain Reconnection**



Poplar Run Project



Spencer Run Project

2025 Conservation Award



(L to R) Shelly Davis and
Beth Futrick, Ag Ombudsman

Annually the District recognizes an Individual, Organization, and/or Farm for service and achievements that support the District Mission to protect, preserve and enhance our natural resources through technical assistance and education. **In 2025, we chose Shelly Davis, a teacher at Grier School working in their Academic Support Program.**

For the past 6–7 years, she has organized a group of students each year to help maintain the Tyrone Raingarden. She partners with Tyrone Borough and the Blair Conservation District to coordinate tools and materials so the students can weed, replant, and mulch—keeping the garden both beautiful and functional.

The rain garden sits along the Little Juniata River at the confluence of the Bald Eagle Creek. This area is a popular stream access point used by anglers and paddlers, so it's a highly visible location. Shelly's efforts make sure people accessing the stream get to see a thriving raingarden and an educational sign that explains its purpose and benefits.

It was our honor and privilege to recognize Shelly for her service to northern Blair County and beyond!



Senator Judy Ward presents a Proclamation
to Blaine Smith

Blaine Smith Honored

Outgoing Board Vice-Chair Blaine Smith was honored with a PA Senate proclamation from Senator Judy Ward during the 2025 District Banquet. Blaine relocated and is no longer a resident of Blair County and as such he did not seek another term.

Blaine began his service with the Blair District taking over an unexpired term of a Public Director in January 1995 and then continuing his service for 31 consecutive years through the end of his 7th term in 2025. Blaine was elected Vice-Chair in 2006, a position which he carried through the rest of his tenure.

Blaine's background in both agriculture and fiscal management made him a valuable member of the board. Blaine also served as Blair's primary voting delegate to the PA Association of Conservation Districts for the last 20 years and was awarded the PACD President's Special Service Award in 2011.

Thank you Blaine for your dedicated service and Best Wishes for your future endeavors.

Education and Outreach 2025

Lisa Haas, the Conservation Education Specialist, is on a mission to make eco-friendly connections with students of all ages across Blair County!

Lisa, with the help of fellow conservation associates, engaged with numerous local elementary, middle and high school students through various outreach programs. Just to name a few, at Bellwood, we facilitated fish printing and turtle talks during a water festival at the school. At Tyrone Christian Academy, we offered fish printing and bat education at Shaver's Creek for their outdoor festival. In Williamsburg, we presented an "Animals of Halloween" program. The educator also provided the Ag Literacy book of the year to eight 2nd grade classrooms and gave turtle talks at numerous schools.

Additionally, we visited all the local libraries, providing container gardening, an insect color preference activity, wreath workshops, and turtle talks. Our outreach extended to several scout troops and local Senior Services centers. Furthermore, we continued our tradition of



conducting a bio survey of Spring Run with the Ag students at PSU Altoona and offered assistance to students at both Mt. Aloysius and Juniata College in creating station activities for water festivals.

With gratitude to the Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Education Grant, we were able to provide 5 bioblitzes to local high schools including Central, Claysburg, Altoona and Tyrone (2x). These bioblitzes were geared toward, but not exclusively to Envirothon students and included stations on wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, mapping and the current issue for the year. A second part of the grant allowed us to provide a Project WET workshop to local educators and Lisa became a Project WET facilitator through the process.



Blair County Envirothon



First Place Winner – Hollidaysburg HS “Team 1”

Hosted on an cold and rainy April day at Canoe Creek State Park, fifteen teams from six school districts competed in the annual event.

The local event was sponsored by: Altoona Kiwanis, ISC, Keller Engineers, Leighty's Boot Warehouse, Stiffler McGraw, Sheetz and the Blair Conservation District.



Above - Second Place Winner - Central HS “Team 2”



Left - Third Place Winner - Hollidaysburg HS “Team 2”

2025 Land Judging Contest

The annual Land Judging Competition aimed at FFA students saw participation from the Central Cove and Williamsburg Chapters from Blair County and the Northern Bedford Chapter from Bedford County. The event was held at the Dave and Kathy Culp Farm west of Hollidaysburg and included a field trip to and lunch at NatureWorksPark. We had a strong contest with over 60 students participating. **First place was taken by Ty Uplinger representing the Williamsburg Chapter, Second Place by Cameron Bailey and Third Place by Addison Long both representing the Central Cove FFA.** The top finisher from **Northern Bedford was Adin Byler placing 30th.** The top three places will receive a plaque and each school will also have the opportunity to send their top students to the state contest in the Summer of 2026 if they desire.

Congratulations All!



2025 Land Judging Competition at Dave and Kathy Culp's Farm

October 8, 2025

Annual Poster Contest

The Blair County Conservation District again sponsored and facilitated the Annual Poster Contest. The theme for 2025 was "Home is where the Habitat is." Entries were received in the following judging categories K-1, 2-3, 4-6 and 10-12 and cash prizes were awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries in each grade category. We also provide the teachers of the winners with a monetary prize, since we realize that often teachers go above and beyond for their students! Winners were recognized at the District's Earth Day Event held at the Hollidaysburg Jr. High in April 2025.

Winners were: Olive Volpe, Michael Nagy, Isaac Zajac, Emiley Helsel, Carly Moyer, Gia Cohen, Zelma Mazzei, Kate Moyer, Finley Strunk, Nora Hoy and Frances Weaver. Teachers recognized were: Kristie Putt, Ricci Michelone and Tiffany Hoy.

Winning posters at the local level are submitted to the PA Association of Conservation Districts with the possibility of reaching a national event. We are extremely excited to announce that our K-1 category winner **Olive Volpe won at the State Level in 2025!**



State Contest Winner Olive Volpe poses with Lisa Haas

What's Happening at Bedford Street

Prepping the Tea Garden,
Coppicing Workshop,
Covering the Greenhouse,
First Workshop in the
Greenhouse!



2025 at NatureWorksPark was a year of improvements, workshops and education initiatives.

Improvements

The Blair County Conservation District is dedicated to connecting community members with the natural world. To advance this mission, in 2025 we made some key improvements to the park.

Step one on our upgrade adventure: cover the hoop house so it's like a toasty burrito inside and hook up a water line! Now, it's a jack-of-all-trades. We can start plants for our container gardening program, turn it into a rainy-day workshop paradise, and educate the community in extending the growing season and irrigation methods.

With a grant from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, we were also able to install a new teaching garden, called the Healing Tea Garden. This garden is located adjacent to the pollinator garden. Picture a giant wheel surrounded by perfect sitting rocks, ready to host water festivals and workshops galore! This outdoor classroom features native plants perfect for whipping up some delightful teas. It will also double as a children's garden with sensory plants.

Workshops

We hosted ten well attended educational workshops for both children and adults at NatureWorksPark. They included walnut tapping, a willow series



NatureWorksPark®



Planting the tea garden. Left to right: Lisa Haas (BCCD), Theresa McKeegan (Master Gardener), Jordan Sesame-Wild (Ecotopian EarthCare), AJ Kurtz (I.R.C.) and Katrina Weakland (Common Origin)

featuring planting willows, coppicing willows and creating art and baskets with native willows and dogwoods. Lastly, we also provided a workshop on using native plants for tea and a bat count.

NWP also hosted the 2nd annual fall plant sale and fall wreath workshop with over 150 attendees.

Education

We forged a partnership with Grier School for their Earth Day outreach program. On Earth day, we taught the students how to build a garden from scratch using the Lasagna garden technique. They were instrumental in helping us prepare the new tea garden for planting in the fall. We also partnered with the Hollidaysburg Senior High School Community Days. 5 students fought back invasives, mulched and planted seeds for the new tea garden. Along the way, they learned

about invasives management, how to properly plant trees and giving back to the community by providing fresh, organic vegetables.

Lastly, we hosted 2 water festivals with 3rd grade students and a summer STEM camp. We rotated them through stations highlighting birds of the wetland, turtles, food webs, stormwater runoff, and recycling.

Special Shout Out to the NatureWorks Stewards and P.S. Ext. Master Gardeners for weeding, planting and general cleanup at the Park.

Stay in touch by visiting [Natureworkspark.org](https://www.natureworkspark.org) or following us on Facebook or contacting Lisa Haas, Conservation Education Specialist at 814-696-0877 ext. 5 or email lhaas@blairconservationdistrict.org.

District Staff - Celebrates Years of Service



Donna Fisher—40 Years of Service

Two staff anniversaries were recognized in 2025. **Donna Fisher, District Manager** has been with the **Blair Conservation District for 40 years, starting in July 1985**. Donna started as an Ag Technician and was hired as the first full time manager in 1987. During Donna's tenure the district has grown from 1.5 staff to 9 staff with a budget from \$73,000 in 1985 to now a million dollars annually. Under her tenure, program involvement and project completion has expanded exponentially and has covered all segments of the County's Natural Resources!

Donna received a 40 years of service lapel pin from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and recognition at the PACD Joint Annual Conference last July.

Rich Huether, Ag Conservation Specialist celebrated **25 years of service in 2025**. Rich was hired in June 2000 to serve as the Chesapeake Bay Technician. His program duties have increased with the addition of the Bay Farm Inspections, the Nutrient Management Program and more recently the CAP and ACAP Programs. Rich is also instrumental in the facilitation of the very successful Farmland Preservation Program in Blair County. Rich received his 25 year pin also from PACD and recognized at the District Banquet last October.

It is invaluable to have tenured employees and the Blair District has benefited from the institutional knowledge of many!



Rich Huether—25 Years of Service

Meet the Rest of the Team

Beth Futrick, Ag Ombudsman and Resource Coordinator started for the second time in 2008.

Chelsey Weyant, Stormwater Coordinator/Watershed Specialist started in August 2017.

Bonnie Young, Administrative Coordinator started in March 2018.

Devon Weyant, Resource Conservation Technician started in May 2022.

Lisa Haas, Conservation Education Specialist started in February 2023.

Sarah Oreskovich, Resource Conservation Technician serving both the Ag and Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Programs started in June 2023.

Nicole Matish, Resource Conservation Technician/Watershed Specialist started in August 2024.

Beyond the County Border

BCCD staff continue to support statewide and regional initiatives and programs. **Rich Huether** serves on the State Conservation Commission Nutrient Management Advisory Board. **Lisa Haas** continues to serve on the State Envirothon Board and **Beth Futrick** is the local contact for the developing Southern Allegheny Food System.

Great Work All!



In Honor & Memory

It was a shock to all to learn of the unexpected passing of John Morrow in August 2025. John served continuously on the District Board as a Farmer Director from Sinking Valley since January of 1999. John was a faithful participant and a valued member of the Board.

John was a man of few words, but when spoken he presented thoughtful and precise opinions regarding the operation of the District and the development of programs and policies.

We appreciate all that John contributed to the Blair County Conservation District over the last 26 years and to Blair County Agriculture. Well done good and faithful servant.



Resource Conservation Since 1966

1407 Blair Street

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Phone: 814-696-0877 ext. 5

E-mail: bcd@blairconservationdistrict.org

www.blairconservationdistrict.org

www.natureworkspark.org



2025 Conservation District Board

Jim Biddle, Chairman
 Blaine Smith, Vice-Chairman
 Gary Long, Secretary/Treasurer
 John Morrow
 Alan Gearhart
 Tom Gearhart
 Maverick Fleck
 Commissioner Amy Webster

2025 Conservation District Staff

Donna Fisher, District Manager
 Bonnie Young, Administrative Coordinator
 Rich Huether, Ag Conservation Specialist
 Beth Futrick, Ombudsman/Resource Coordinator
 Chelsey Weyant, Stormwater Coordinator/WS
 Devon Weyant, Resource Conservation Technician
 Lisa Haas, Conservation Education Specialist
 Sarah Oreskovich, Resource Conservation Technician
 Nicole Matish, Resource Conservation Technician/WS

Conservation District Funding

The Blair County Conservation District receives funding from several sources to include: Local, State and Federal dollars through grants and contracts.

Annual allocations are received from the Blair County Commissioners through the General Fund and the PA Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

Conservation Districts across the Commonwealth continue to receive funds via Act 13 Legislation related to the Marcellus Shale Development in Pennsylvania. Impact fees are collected from the industry and a portion of those funds are distributed to the Conservation Districts through both the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the State Conservation Commission (SCC).

PUC funds in 2025 were received as a block grant in the amount of \$75,281 per conservation district across the Commonwealth. The PUC funds in Blair County continue to be allocated by the District Board for the development of the District Property on Bedford Street and NatureWorksPark.

The SCC funds are distributed in base amounts plus a calculated portion of Unconventional Well Counts per county. Fund are received from the Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, as line items in their annual state budget. Blair County was allocated \$205,523 to be utilized to cost share salaries (for 6 staff positions) and administrative expenses (both for the District and Farmland Preservation Program). State program specific contracts are also utilized in the amount of \$203,250 for staff salaries and expenses.

Continuing in 2025, the District holds an agreement with the Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee (ISC) to employ a Coordinator and facilitate the operation of the committee. Nine municipalities and the County of Blair make up the ISC. The agreement with the ISC outlines their contribution of up to \$120,000 annually for staff salary and administration along with a fiscal management fee of 1% of account balances not to exceed \$3,000/quarter. The District budgeted \$78,000 toward staff, administration and fiscal support in 2025.

Overall, the County of Blair contributes 17.7% of District revenues, the State 38%, the ISC 7.2% and District Fees, Reserves and Miscellaneous 9.2% of the operating budget. Grants are budgeted at \$300,000 or 27.9% but often exceed budgeted amounts.

2025 General Fund Budget

Expenses:

Salaries/Benefits	\$583,170
Rent/Insurances/Audit	\$ 47,800
Operating Expenses	\$ 64,800
Property Expenses	\$ 47,000
Payment to County	\$ 33,000
Project Grants	\$300,000
Total Expenses	\$1,075,770

Revenues:

Beginning Balance	\$ 35,000
County Commissioners	\$190,255
E&S/NPDES Fees	\$ 24,000
State Program Funds	\$408,773
Grants	\$300,000
ISC Staff & Fiscal Mgmt.	\$ 78,000
Blair CWF/Reserve	\$ 16,342
Misc. Revenue Sources	\$ 23,400
Total Revenues	\$1,075,770