

2018
FOREST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Robert J. Snyder, Jr – Chairman
Basil D. Huffman
Norman J Wimer

**FOREST COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT &
CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEMBERS**

Donna Lynn Zofcin – Executive Director	Todd Huth
Robert Summers – Chairman	Elton Kline
Jeffrey Arnold – Vice Chairman	Leonard Hetrick
Basil D. Huffman – County Commissioner	Robert Wagner
James Bailey – Director Emeritus	M. Curt Kiefer – Resource Technician

**FOREST COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT &
CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF**

Donna Lynn Zofcin – Executive Director	M. Curt Kiefer – Resource Technician
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Rob Fallon – District Ranger – Marienville, US National Forest Service
Ty Ryen – Service Forester – Bureau of Forestry, PA DCNR
Greg Cain - NRCS
Scott Weikert, PSU Forest Resources Educator

DEP REGIONAL FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

John Green

**DIRT & GRAVEL ROAD PROGRAM QUALITY ASSURANCE
BOARD MEMBERS**

Donna Lynn Zofcin
Robert Summers
Erik Shellgren
Greg Cain
Brian Ensign
Shaun Wessell

The Forest County Conservation District & Planning Department is unique in the Commonwealth because Forest County has combined both Conservation and planning duties under one office. With a very small staff, of just two persons, a resource technician and an executive director, we perform the duties and responsibilities assigned us. Our District Board is extremely vital and dynamic, representing a cross section of citizens within Forest County. Our Chairman, Robert Summers is a Howe Township Supervisor, the Vice-Chairman, Jeffrey Arnold, is a local surveyor. Also on the Board are Robert Wagner, a Township Supervisor, and farmer; Todd Huth, a forester; Basil Huffman, Forest County Commissioner; Elton Kline, and Leonard Hetrick.

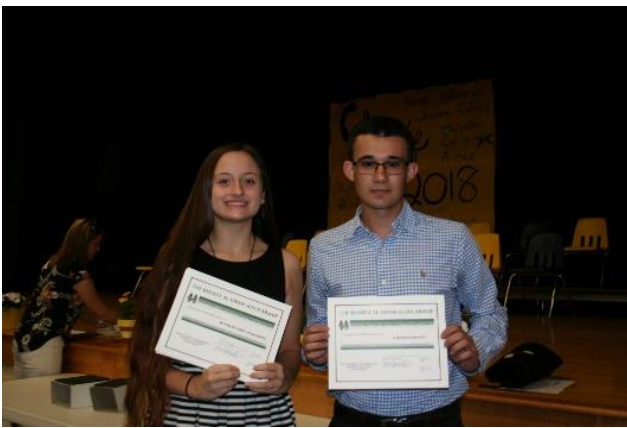
As a Level One Conservation District, our duties do not include onsite inspections of E & S activities; however, our District does administer the Dirt & Gravel Road program as well as perform educational programs for both students and adults. The cross-over of interests between Planning and Conservation is our true strength. Being a small county that comprises of half government owned and half private owned property, our challenges in regards to conservation and planning are akin to a balancing act. In fact over the past two decades, the two functions in Forest County have always remained connected. With a single manager/administrator over both functions, the citizens of Forest County receive service that is really a two-for-one kind of deal.

An Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan and Ordinance was adopted within the County. Forest County is unique in that the Conservation District & Planning Office has accepted the responsibility of enforcing and managing the ordinance, rather than the municipalities having this responsibility. This Ordinance was revised in 2014, and an amended Ordinance was adopted in 2015. All 9 Townships have signed a MOU with the Conservation District & Planning Department to administer the Ordinance. This MOU is signed on a yearly basis. The Townships have the option to adopt and administer their own ordinance at any time.

With the additional funding we get for Dirt & Gravel Road, we completed three projects this year with two different townships.

- Kingsley Township – Completed Ross Run Road Project (Low Volume
Completed Jug Handle Phase Phase 3
- Jenks Township – Completed Duhring Road Phase 1

Another annual project of the District is the RUSSELL M SMITH SCHOLARSHIP. The Board was proud to present to three Forest County students the Annual Scholarship. Andrew Schwab was awarded the Scholarship for the second time. Danielle J West-Habjanetz and Steven S Barnett were awarded the scholarship for the first time. This scholarship is given to students pursuing careers relating to the science of forestry and related natural science fields. The Board was very pleased to give these students help towards their education.



Daniell J West-Habjanetz and Steven S Barnett



Andrew Schwab and Commisioner Basil Huffman

The Forest County Conservation District & Planning Department is also very active in the planning and administration for Forest County's Youth Field Day. This is an annual event that occurs the first Saturday in August in Buzzards Swamp located in Marienville. Through Youth Field Day, children are exposed to firearms and firearm safety with a chance to actually shoot a .22, shotgun, muzzle loader and air rifles. Children learn about fishing, tying flies, archery, canoeing, and are able to fish with equipment provided. The day is spent out in the open air traveling to the many stations provided for the event.



2018 TRI-COUNTY ENVIROTHON CLARION-FOREST-JEFFERSON

The Tri-County Envirothon was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017. This annual event was held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Brookville and sponsored by the Clarion County Conservation District (CCCD), Forest County Conservation District (FCCD) and Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD).

Presenters at this year's event were:

Forestry Station – John Brundege – DCNR - Bureau of Forestry

Aquatics Station – Dana Grabowski, JCCD

Wildlife Station – Roger Hartless, Jesse Bish, Mike Girosky. and Jonathan Smith - PA Game Commission

Soils Station – Suzanne Klinger, NRCS, and Megan Whitlatch, JCCD

Benefits of Grassland and Pasture Management – Shaun Wessell, JCCD

Melissa Buck, JCCD, plans this event each year for students in grade 9-12. Donna Zofcin, FCCD, and Trudy Alexander, CCCD, also assisted at the event. Students use study materials provided by the Pennsylvania Envirothon to prepare for the event as well as the "PAEnvirothon2" App. Students can download the app to their smart phones or tablets. This enables them to study for the Envirothon on the go!

The day of the event, tests were completed and scored at each of the 5 stations listed above. At the Forestry station, they identified and measured different kinds of trees and shrubs and answered various questions relating to our forests. The soils station required the students to use a Soil Survey and the ability to identify different kinds of soil. The students were quizzed in the Aquatics station on their knowledge of fish and aquatic life. The Wildlife Station tested the students on identifying wildlife and bird calls. Benefits of Grassland and Pasture Management was the special station for this year's Envirothon. This station tested a student's knowledge of handling grazing and browsing animals to manage grasses and forbs on pastures and other crop fields.

The overall winner of this year's Envirothon was Clarion-Limestone – Team A with a score of 335. Team members received a gold medallion as well as the traveling trophy. The team included: Samurah Curry, Charisma Ferringer, Ian McNaughton, Sierra Brown and Holden Linnan. Advisor - Chris Linnan

West Forest - Team A was second place with a score of 297. They received Silver medallions. Team members include: Chris Pederson, Bryant Niederriter, Steven Barnett, Stephen Culver and Daniel Schwab. Advisor - Valerie Watson

Keystone - Team A was third place with a score of 284. They received Bronze medallions. Members include: Hunter Fescenmyer, Conrad Lloyd, Elijah Williams, Abbey Henry and Corinne Lloyd. Advisor - Pam Warner

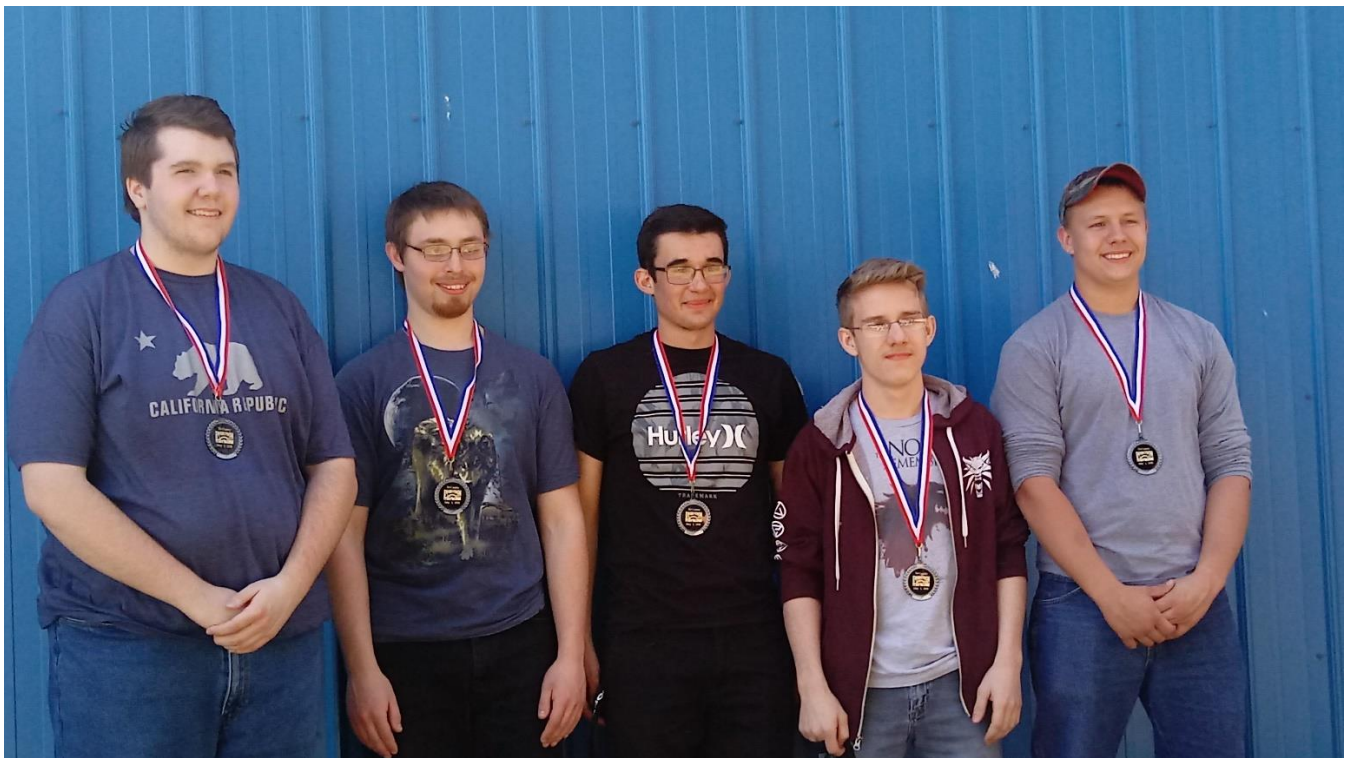
The highest scoring team in the **Aquatics** Station for each county received a subscription to Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Magazine. Clarion-Limestone Team A was the top team for Clarion County, West Forest Team A was the top team for Forest County and Brookville Team A was the top for Jefferson County.

In the **Wildlife** Station, the highest scoring team for each county received patches from the PA Game Commission. Keystone Team A was the top team for Clarion County, West Forest Team B was the top team for Forest County and Brockway Team B was the top team for Jefferson County.

Top overall team in Forestry was West Forest Team A. Top overall team in Soils was Keystone Team A. Top overall team in Benefits of Grassland and Pasture Management was Keystone Team A.

The top team in each county is eligible to attend the Pennsylvania Envirothon on May 22 & 23 at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther. The top team from Clarion County was Team A from Clarion-Limestone High School. The top team from Forest County was Team A from West Forest High School. The top team from Jefferson County was Team A from Brockway High School.

It is the goal of the Conservation District to keep the Envirothon active in Forest County and send a team to the State Event every year.



Chris Pederson, Bryant Neiderriter, Steven Barnett, Stephen Culver and Daniel Schwab

The District also provides administration of the Forest County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. In 2018, 10 subdivisions were processed through the office. In addition, many telephone inquiries were responded to over the course of the year. The District also administers the Forest County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Although the Plan does not have policing powers that need attended to, the Plan does provide guidance to decision makers in the County.

In conclusion, the District continues to be a clearing house of information, a unique agency that is able to react with flexibility in response to requests and concerns brought to light by the citizens of Forest County, the County Commissioners, and the Board. No District is typical, so we recognize that Forest County is different. If our mission could be summed up in a single statement it would be that we serve the citizens of Forest County in regards to conservation and land use issues. Considering that our county is the natural wonderland it is, we can't be doing too bad a job of it!

Municipality	Number of Subdivisions
Barnett	1
Green	2
Harmony	0
Hickory	0
Howe	6
Jenks	0
Kingsley	0
Tionesta	1
Tionesta Borough	0

Municipality	Number of Stormwater Applications
Barnett Township	17
Green Township	19
Harmony Township	23
Hickory Township	17
Howe Township	18
Jenks Township	58
Kingsley Township	17
Tionesta Borough	13
Tionesta Township	24