

Clean Water for Franklin County (CWFC)

Project Spotlight: The CWFC Project List

PROJECTS & FUNDING: Throughout 2020, the Clean Water for Franklin County (CWFC) initiative has been awarded various grants to fund clean water projects. Within the Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) alone, approximately \$2.5 million dollars were awarded for agricultural/non-urban projects through various sources. Two of the largest sums were awarded by the State Conservation Commission (SCC) through the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) for ~\$1.15 million and the PA Environmental Stewardship Fund through their Block Implementation Grant program for ~\$900,000.

Before FCCD received these large sums of money, many local landowners approached FCCD needing solutions to problems on their agricultural/non-urban land. Most of these projects, their status, and their details (funds needed, best management practices requested, permits, designs, etc.) were maintained by individual employees, the project leader of each project. However, with more funding, the doors opened up for even more projects, and FCCD needed a more efficient way to track all of the Clean Water projects for both the CWFC initiative as well as for in-house functionality.

Another question arose for the CWFC team, “How do we best use these funds to make the most impact, ensure we are appealing candidates to receive future funds, and most importantly, help as many landowners as we possibly can?” These questions sparked the Clean Water Coordinator, housed at FCCD, to create a CWFC Projects List to maintain all inquiries about current projects, future potential projects, and all of their related details as well as current funding, future potential funding, and all of their related details.

The CWFC Project List allows the CWFC team to track both projects and funding, both current and future, as listed above, to best assist landowners, best allocate funds, and best impact water quality by creating an avenue for a proactive approach. CWFC described this active approach as this, “It allows us to align the right landowners with the right funds as soon as they become available, and also allows us to work in reverse, to apply for specific funds for specific landowners waiting to have their clean water projects funded.” - Caitlin Lucas, Franklin Co. Clean Water Coordinator. By knowing all the details of a project and all of the details of available funding sources, CWFC is able to match landowners with the appropriate funds in an appropriate time frame and to allow better planning for those projects and funding programs that are not such a quick turnaround. Using this system allows CWFC to be sure no landowner falls through the cracks and no funding opportunity is missed.

Though the system is not perfect - new funding sources become available that the team is not prepared for, nor experienced with that particular application process, and landowners may inquire about a clean water project after a perfect funding opportunity for them has passed. However, the Project List system certainly minimizes the guess-work and can be referred to and updated by anyone in the office at any time. To further ensure accuracy, the coordinator holds project briefing and funding meetings with the team to make any changes or updates that may not yet have been incorporated into the tracking sheet.

The aforementioned funding awarded in 2020 has been incorporated into the CWFC Project List. One of these projects has been funded and completed, The Lurgan Lions Club Non-Urban Stream Restoration (see “Stream Stories” below), and the team is in the process of obligating the remainder of the funds. For the CEG funds, FCCD received approximately 18 applications. These applications were scored based on the CEG application scoring sheet that considers both state and local conservation goals. A similar process is performed with funding from other sources, including the other large sum received in 2020 from the PA Environmental Stewardship Fund. The project allocation for the majority of this money has been determined, and the team is working on the process of obligating and contracting all of these funds, as mentioned above, for projects including, but not limited to, the following practices:

- Animal Waste Management Systems
- Barnyard Runoff Control & Loafing Lot Management
- Soil & Water Conservation Plans
- Nutrient Management
- Grass Buffers & Filter Strips

For more information on CWFC, how to get on the CWFC Project List, or to join the CWFC initiative, please contact the Clean Water Coordinator at the Franklin County Conservation District using the information below!

(717) 264-5499 ext. 110

CLucas@franklinccd.org

STREAM STORIES: A section of the Conodoguinet Creek flows through Lurgan Township (LT) Lions Club Park in northeastern Franklin County, PA and serves as a major water resource in our community. In 2016, LT Supervisor and Lions Club member, Chip Kolb, called Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) with concerns, awaited the preliminary processes of stream restoration permitting and design, and eventually received funding from the PA Environmental Stewardship Fund to execute construction in July 2020 with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (See before and after photos).

Since these projects can be lengthy as described above, the FCCD has been keeping record of clean water project inquiries, which allows them to ensure no landowners fall through the cracks and to align funding with a landowner as soon as the resource becomes available. To find out more or to be added to the “Clean Water for Franklin County” project list, contact FCCD and ask for the Clean Water Coordinator!



BEFORE: Active stream bank erosion of the Conodoguinet Creek in Lurgan Township, PA. **(Left)**.



AFTER: Mitigated stream bank (log vane) in the Conodoguinet Creek in Lurgan Township, PA **(Right)**.

Conodoguinet Creek Stream Restoration Project

The Lurgan Township (LT) Lions Club Park is home to a section of the Conodoguinet Creek, a major water resource in our community. In 2016, LT Supervisor and Lions Club member, Chip Kolb, called Franklin County Conservation District with concerns.

During each storm, large amounts of water flowing at high speeds were cutting into the sides of the creek, eroding tons of soil and carrying it downstream. This is known as sediment loading and can be devastating to aquatic habitats.

In 2020, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service installed several fish habitat structures, including log vanes and mud sills, to act as “armor” for the stream banks. This armor redirects the flow of water from the banks to the center of the stream and also provides cover for fish to hide from predators.

BEFORE

Active stream bank erosion

Photos courtesy of Franklin County Conservation District

AFTER

New log vane structure in place

Are you looking for a way to restore or protect your backyard stream? The Franklin County Conservation District can help! Please call us at 717-264-5499.

We are grateful for our project partners.

Franklin County Conservation District

Letterkenny Township
Lurgan Township
Lurgan Township Lions Club
Lurgan Township Recreation Center

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE: When the project was complete, educational signage was installed for visitors to learn about stream health and restoration **(Bottom Left)**.