



PACD

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.

CHESAPEAKE BAY EDUCATION OFFICE 2008-09 FINAL REPORT

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. performed the following activities designed to enhance and support conservation district educational efforts through the Chesapeake Bay Education Office:

I. CHESAPEAKE BAY EDUCATIONAL MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The following attachments address the Mini-grant Program section of the final report:

Att 1 2008-09 BAY Educational Mini-grant Projects.pdf, Att 2 08-09 BAY Projects Map.pdf, Att 3 Sample Event Materials, Att 4 Sample Presentations, Att 5 Sample Project Evaluations, Att 6 Slideshow - images of Projects

A. Mini-grant Project Activities:

During the 2008-2009 Education Grant cycle, the PACD offered conservation districts up to \$2,500 for projects to implement educational activities that support the Chesapeake Bay Program. In addition to financial support, the following material support was provided:

- Identified educational priorities in response to local water pollution reduction/prevention issues;
- Strategized educationally focused responses to these priorities;
- Supported the development of educational projects for targeted audiences;
- Supported the development of evaluation tools to determine effectiveness of programs;
- Strategized methods for overcoming roadblocks to program success and facilitated networking between districts to avoid duplication of efforts and model successful projects;
- Collected, analyzed, and utilized data;
- Compiled quarterly and annual reports detailing project activities and outcomes; and
- Made direct electronic communications, mini-grant products, and other educational resources available through the PACD website.

B. Mini-grant Project Outcomes:

Measurements	Outcomes
Projects conducted	30
People reached in target audience	3,976
Educational materials produced	2,959
Educational materials (brochures, presentations, displays, etc.) distributed	7,000
Educational tools (rain barrels, test kits, grazing sticks, etc.) distributed	1,074
Workshops/educational meetings held	73
Field days/tours conducted	10
People expressing intention to install SWBMPs as a result of project	1,198
People expressing intention to adopt Ag BMPs as a result of project	724
People expressing intention to implement E&S Controls as a result of project	405
People surveyed who demonstrated an increase in knowledge of focus topic	99%
People surveyed who demonstrated an increase in knowledge of NPS pollution	93%
People surveyed who demonstrated an increase in knowledge of local watersheds	92%

C. Mini-grant Project Timeline:

Notify recipients of awarded 2008-2009 mini-grants: June 2008 **Completed**

Announce awarded 2008-2009 mini-grants: July 2008 **Completed**

Review Midterm reports and evaluation tools: December, 2008 **Completed**

Announce 2009-2010 grant round: March, 2009 **Completed**

Deadline for submitting 2009-2010 mini-grant applications: May 2009 **Completed**

Deadline for final 2008-2009 reports: May 2009 **Completed**

Review development of mini-grant related products: Ongoing through May 2009 **Completed**

II. WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS: All Bay Meeting

*The following attachments address the Workshops and Trainings section of the final report:
Att 7 All Bay Meeting*

A. All Bay Meeting Activities:

The PACD coordinated the annual All Bay Meeting held on December 9, 2008 in Grantville, PA. In attendance at this year's meeting were 112 conservation district technicians, managers, and agency staff representing twenty-nine conservation districts. PACD Education Specialist, Hannah Smith, provided a grant writing workshop titled, "Show Me the Money." Hannah covered keys to success in grant writing and provided handouts highlighting useful grant foundation resources. Through this annual meeting, attendees have a unique opportunity to network with each other, problem solve, and share resources.

B. All Bay Meeting Event Feedback:

Workshop	Attendee Satisfaction Level
Rate the 2008 All Bay Meeting	84%
Keynote Speaker (EPA)	60%
Information Sharing	96%
Chesapeake Bay Program Update (DEP)	55%
NRCS Update	36%
Show Me the Money	66%
Summary of Morning Information Sharing	87%
How would you rate the facility?	81%
Rate your interest in attending an All Bay Meeting that is 1 ½ days long	26%
Rate your interest in attending the All Bay Meeting scheduled in conjunction with another training session	55%

C. All Bay Meeting Project Timeline:

Prepare for 2008 All Bay meeting: **Completed**

Host 2008 All Bay meeting: December 9, 2008 **Completed**

Summarize and distribute meeting evaluations: December 2008 **Completed**

Participate in Committee Wrap-up session: January 2009 **Completed**

III. CLEAN WATER FARM AWARDS

*The following attachments address the Clean Water Farm Awards section of the final report:
Att 8 Clean Water Farm Awards*

The PACD coordinated the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award Program to recognize Pennsylvania farmers who operate within the Susquehanna and Potomac River Basins and whose exemplary farm management practices result in improved local and downstream water quality.

IV. FACT SHEETS

*The following attachments address the Fact Sheets section of the final report:
Att 9 Fact Sheets*

The PACD created 3 Chesapeake Bay fact sheets that promote BMP implementation success stories: Nutrient Management, No-till and Streambank Stabilization

V. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

*The following attachments address Information Dissemination section of the final report:
Att 10 Press Releases, Att 11 PACD Articles on Projects, Att 12 PACD Resources*

- A. Front Page:** Bay grant-related information is distributed weekly in the PACD's electronic update.
- B. List Serves:** The PACD administers several list serves for conservation district staff (managers, EE coordinators and watershed specialists), directors and associate directors. This highly rated district tool is useful for exchanging educational information and resources. PACD uses district feedback gathered via the list serves to identify needed education activities (such as trainings and exhibits).
- C. News & Notes:** grant- related activities are featured in the PACD's monthly newsletter, News & Notes.

July 2009	"2007-08 Mini-grants Wrap Up"
December 2009	"Annual Conservation Tours: Westmoreland, Warren and Wyoming"
February 2009	"Lancaster County Conservation District Produces Impressive Outcomes"
March 2009	"Chesapeake Bay and NPS Section 319 Mini-grant Projects Focus on Rotational Grazing as Strategy for Reducing Water Pollution and Improving Local Watersheds"
May 2009	"Conservation Districts Achieve Broad Success with Mini-grant Projects"

News & Notes has been printed as a hard copy document. With the launch of the new website, News & Notes will be discontinued. Front Page, which is an electronic document, will be expanded to incorporate much of the information previously available through News & Notes and be made available online and via email.

- D. Exhibits and Audio Visual:** PACD maintains a lending library of exhibits and audio visual materials.
- E. Print Materials:** The PACD makes available to conservation districts print materials for various circumstances including one-on-one farm visits, district-sponsored workshops, and while exhibiting at county and statewide events.
- F. Website Activities:** The PACD maintained Chesapeake Bay Education Office on its website. The site was posted on the PACD's homepage at "We All Live Downstream." The Chesapeake Bay Education Office site provides general and Pennsylvania-specific information about the Chesapeake Bay and NPS pollution.

In 2009, the PACD website was completely redesigned (at no additional cost to this program). The new "Education" section of the website, which will be unveiled in October 2009, will provide easy access to general and Pennsylvania-specific educational information on pollution education and reduction/prevention strategies.

- G. Other:** The PACD staff attends local, state, and regional meetings addressing education activities and issues. PACD participates in Department sponsored and other related meetings to provide conservation district information and perspectives. Examples of PACD participation include PACD Education and Outreach committee activities, PA Environmental Education Advisory Council, and State Conservation Commission meetings.