



PACD

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.

STATEWIDE NPS 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 nonpoint source (NPS) pollution prevention educational efforts through the Statewide NPS Education Office:

I. NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION EDUCATIONAL MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

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

Att 1 2008-09 NPS Educational Mini-grant Projects.pdf, Att 2 08-09 NPS 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 319 NPS 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	32
People reached in target audience	3,509
Educational materials produced	3,621
Educational materials (brochures, presentations, displays, etc.) distributed	7,200
Educational tools (rain barrels, test kits, grazing sticks, etc.) distributed	1,126
Workshops/educational meetings held	55
Field days/tours conducted	18
People expressing intention to install SWBMPs as a result of project	807
People expressing intention to adopt Ag BMPs as a result of project	793
People expressing intention to implement E&S Controls as a result of project	536
People surveyed who demonstrated an increase in knowledge of focus topic	98%
People surveyed who demonstrated an increase in knowledge of NPS pollution	91%
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: Watershed Specialist Meeting

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

A. Watershed Specialist Meeting Activities:

The PACD coordinated the eighth annual state-wide meeting of the Conservation District Watershed Specialists (CDWS) held October 14-16, 2008 in State College, PA. In attendance at this year's meeting were sixty-one Watershed Specialists representing fifty-nine conservation districts. The meeting offered 21 educational sessions. Through this annual meeting, Watershed Specialists have a unique opportunity to network with each other, problem solve, and share resources.

B. Watershed Specialist Meeting Event Feedback:

Workshop	Attendee Satisfaction Level
Citizens Volunteer Monitoring Update	87%
Forested Riparian Buffer Guidance	87%
Watershed Impacts of Marcellus Shale Drilling	88%
Diversifying Funding for Watershed Projects	83%
Developments in Prevailing Wage	85%
Limestone Sand Dosing of Acidic Streams	76%
Building Stronger Community Watershed Associations	76%
Water Resource Priorities for Pennsylvania	98%
Tips for Building Cooperation and Credibility with Local Officials	66%
Techniques to Promote Streambank Protection to the Plain Sect Community	97%
Conservation Activities of Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited	84%
Suggestions for Working with Consultants and Contractors	100%
Using "AMD Treat" in Stream Restoration Planning	93%
Stream Visual Assessments in Watershed Planning	97%
PACD Engineering Assistance Program Update	90%
Stormwater Retrofits	95%
Veteran's Roundtable Discussion	88%
Developing Effective Educational Presentations (New WSs)	95%
Assessing Stream Health Using Aquatic Macroinvertebrates (New WSs)	100%
Navigating DEP and Its Watershed Programs (New WSs)	85%
Questions You've Been Wanting to Ask (New WSs)	93%

C. Watershed Specialist Meeting Project Timeline:

Prepare for 2008 Watershed Specialist meeting: **Completed**

Host 2008 Watershed Specialist meeting: October 14-16, 2008 **Completed**

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

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

III. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

*The following attachments address Information Dissemination section of the final report:
Att 8 Press Releases, Att 9 PACD Articles on Projects, Att 10 PACD Resources*

A. Front Page: NPS 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 NPS educational information and resources. PACD uses district feedback gathered via the list serves to identify needed NPS 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. NPS Exhibits and Audio Visual: PACD maintains a lending library of exhibits and audio visual NPS-related materials.

E. NPS Print Materials: The PACD makes available to conservation districts NPS 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 an NPS Education Office on its website. The site was posted on the PACD's homepage at "We All Live Downstream." The NPS Education Office site provides general and Pennsylvania-specific information about 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 NPS pollution education and reduction/prevention strategies.

G. Other: The PACD staff attends local, state, and regional meetings addressing NPS education activities and issues. PACD participates in Department sponsored and other NPS 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.