



Partner Programs: Overview & Relationships: SCC & Conservation Districts

PA State Conservation Commission

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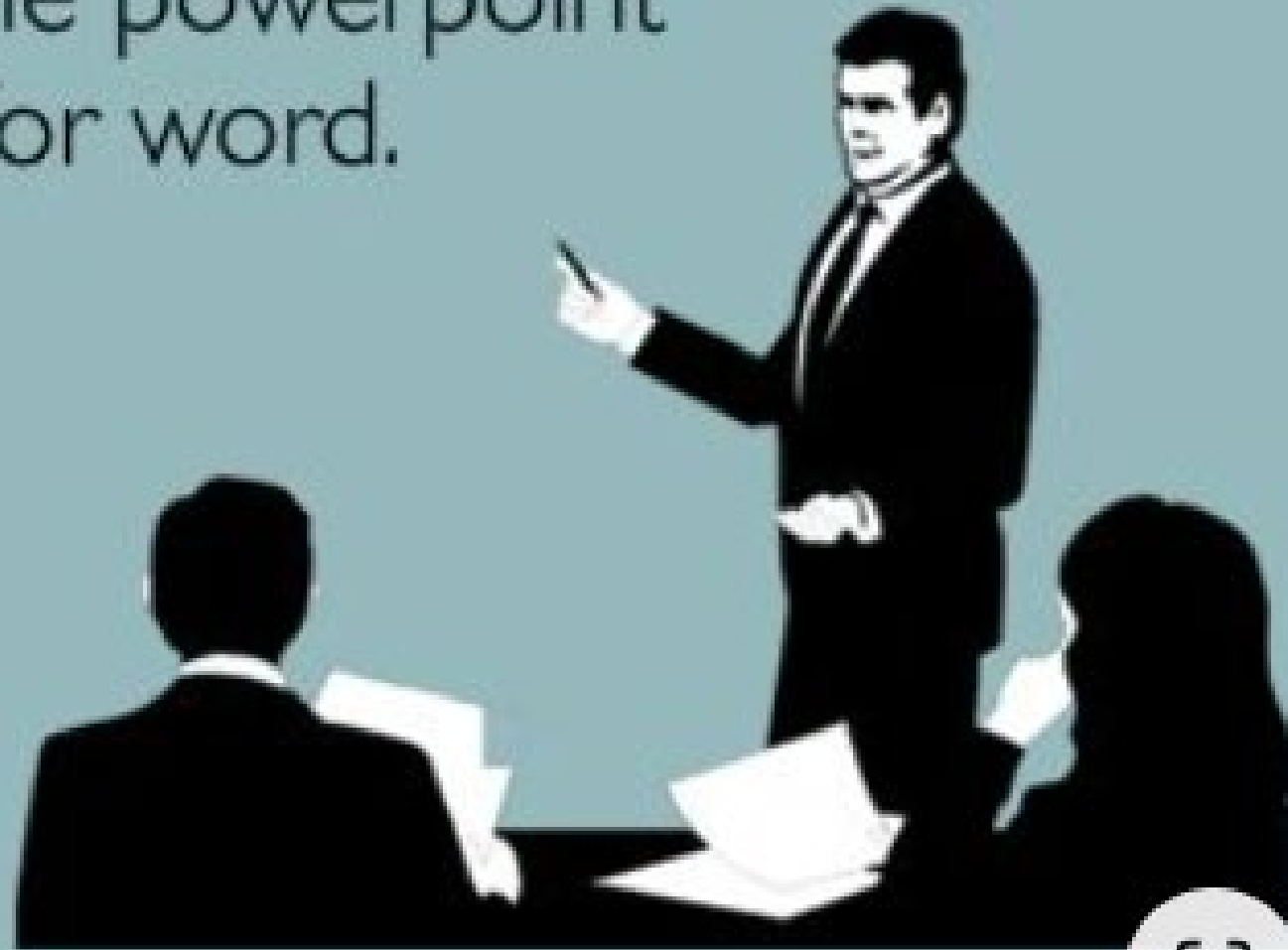
Justin Challenger, Director of Financial & Technical Assistance Programs

SCC Programs



- Act 38 Nutrient Management Program
- Act 38 Odor Management Program
- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
- Conservation Excellence Grant Program
- Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program
- Conservation District Fund Allocation Program
 - Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance
 - Special Projects
 - Leadership Development Program
- Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program

For my presentation today, I'll
be reading the powerpoint
slides word for word.



SCC Programs



- **Act 38 Nutrient Management Program**
- *Act 38 Odor Management Program*
- *Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)*
- *Conservation Excellence Grant Program*
- *Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program*
- *Conservation District Fund Allocation Program*
 - *Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance*
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 - *Leadership Development Program*
- *Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program*

Nutrient Management Program



- Enabling legislation & purpose

- Act 38 of 2005 (origin - Act 6 of 1993)
- Requires ag operations of certain animal density to develop a nutrient management plan for water quality protection according to criteria established by the State Conservation Commission

- Funding :

- Annual appropriation to the Nutrient Management Fund. (~\$11.2M)
- Supports SCC and conservation district activities and funding to farmers

- Active partners:

- State Conservation Commission (SCC)
- Conservation District (District),
- Pa Department of Agriculture (PDA)
- Pa Department on Environmental Protection (DEP),
- Penn State Extension,
- USDA NRCS.

Nutrient Management Program



- 'Partner' Program Responsibilities:
 - **SCC** – establish program regulations, policies & planning standards for NMPs; annual allocation of funds; conduct program evaluations.
 - **PDA** – implementation of education and certification programs for commercial plan writers and conservation district plan reviewers.
 - **DEP** – assists the SCC in delegation agreement admin – reporting – data collection & management.
 - **PS Extension & NRCS**: provide educational & technical assistance.

Nutrient Management Program



- **Conservation District:**
 - Primary roles:
 - Education of regulated (CAO) & volunteer agricultural operations
 - Review of NMPs submitted by Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) for action.
 - Provide technical assistance to farmers in NMP implementation.
 - Conduct annual status reviews and compliance activities of CAOs.

Nutrient Management Program



- Partnership vehicle
 - Multi-year (5) delegation agreement between SCC & Conservation District
 - Conveys authority for local program implementation on behalf of the Commission.
 - Establishes Required Output Measures (deliverables) for completion.
 - Encourage participation of regulated agricultural operations in their county
 - Provide the lead role in evaluating NMPs
 - Assist farm operators with implementing NMPs
 - Assist PDA in the review of Nutrient Balance Sheets submitted by commercial manure brokers.

Nutrient Management Program



- Partnership vehicle (cont.)
 - Provides funding through an annual allocation at levels established by the SCC.
 - Covers cost to employ a technician
 - Covers a portion of administrative costs
 - Establishes reporting requirements (quarterly)
 - Reimbursement request of expenditures
 - Report of Activities – consistent with ROMs defined in the delegation agreement.
 - Data collection and reporting - Practice Keeper

SCC Programs



- ~~Act 38 Nutrient Management Program~~
- **Act 38 Odor Management Program**
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Odor Management Program



- Enabling legislation & purpose
 - Act 38 of 2005
 - Requires ag operations of certain animal density to develop an odor management plan to mitigate transfer of odors from animal housing or waste management systems according to criteria established by the SCC.
- Funding:
 - Included in 'Nutrient Management Program' appropriation
 - Supports SCC activities
- Active partners:
 - SCC
 - PDA
 - Penn State Extension
 - Conservation Districts (limited)

Odor Management Program



- Program responsibilities:
 - **SCC** – establish program regulations, policies & planning standards for OMPs; review & approval of OMPs; implementation compliance.
 - **PDA** – implementation of education and certification programs for commercial plan writers.
 - **PS Extension:** provides technical assistance for planning standards.
 - **Conservation District:** local education.
 - Education of regulated agricultural operations (CAOs & CAFOs) in odor management planning regulatory requirements

Odor Management Program



- Partnership vehicle:
 - Limited role described in the Act 38 NM delegation agreement between SCC & conservation district
 - Establishes Education Required Output Measures (deliverables).
E.g. - The District will provide information on the Odor Management Program to all identified CAOs and CAFOs, on the requirement for an Odor Management Plan for the new or expanded construction of animal housing or manure storage facilities.

SCC Programs



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BRACE YOURSELF

**BORING POWERPOINT SLIDES ARE
COMING**

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Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)



- Enabling legislation & purpose

- Act 55 of 2007 (amendment to the Tax Reform Code)
- Provides for the distribution of tax credits to farms and businesses in exchange for the implementation of Best Management Practices and certain equipment purchases on agricultural operations to enhance farm production and protect natural resources.

- Resources:

- Annual appropriation under the state Revenue Code
 - \$13.0 million in tax credits
- Distributed by the Pa Department of Revenue in cooperation with the SCC.

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)



- Active Partners:
 - SCC
 - Pa Department of Revenue
 - Conservation district
- 'Partner' Program responsibilities
 - **SCC** – establishes policies and program parameters for program implementation.
 - **Pa Department of Revenue** – issuance of approved tax credits as determined by the SCC.
 - **Conservation District** – assistance in the verification of portions of a REAP application submitted by an agricultural producer.
 - E.g. – existence and implementation status of an Ag E & S Plan, a nutrient management plan
- Partnership vehicle
 - None

SCC Programs



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Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG)



- Enabling legislation & purpose
 - Act 49 of 2019 (part of the Pa Farm Bill initiative)
 - Provides financial and technical assistance to eligible farms for the implementation of Best Management Practices on agricultural operations in high-priority locations in the Commonwealth
- Resources:
 - Annual appropriation to the Nutrient Management Fund and other funding sources (~\$2.0M).
 - Supports delegated conservation district activities and funding to farmers

Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG)



- Active Partners:
 - State Conservation Commission (SCC)
 - Conservation District (District),
 - USDA NRCS.
 - Private Sector AG Consultants
- 'Partner' Program responsibilities
 - **SCC** – establishes policies and program parameters for program implementation; annual allocation of funds; conduct program evaluations.
 - NRCS & Ag Consultants: provide technical assistance.

Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG)



- 'Partner' Program responsibilities.
 - **Conservation District:**
 - Primary roles:
 - Provide information on the CEG program, REAP tax credit program and the AgriLink low-interest loan program.
 - Accept/Review CEG applications for eligibility and funding for BMP projects.
 - Assist applicants with REAP and/or AgriLink Program applications
 - Provide technical assistance to farmers in BMP implementation where CEG funding is provided, as resources allow.
 - Provide necessary program progress reports to the SCC
 - .

Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG)



- 'Partnership vehicle'
 - Multi-year (5) delegation agreement between SCC & Conservation District
 - Conveys authority for local program implementation on behalf of the Commission.
 - Establishes Required Output Measures (deliverables) for completion.
[Note: See previous slide on Conservation District 'Primary Roles'](#)
 - Provides funding through an annual allocation at levels established by the SCC.
 - Funding for grants for eligible projects
 - Covers a portion of administrative costs (including staff)
 - Establishes reporting requirements (quarterly)
 - Reimbursement request of expenditures & Report of Activities
 - Data collection and reporting - Practice Keeper

SCC Programs



- ~~Act 38 Nutrient Management Program~~
- ~~Act 38 Odor Management Program~~
- ~~Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)~~
- ~~Conservation Excellence Grant Program~~
- **Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program**
- *Conservation District Fund Allocation Program*
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- *Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program*

Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)



- Enabling legislation & purpose
 - 1929 Act 176 Article XVI-R (part of the FY22-23 Pa Fiscal Code)
 - Provides financial and technical assistance to eligible farms for the implementation of Best Management Practices on agricultural operations across Pennsylvania
- Resources:
 - Initial investment of \$154M of Federal ARPA Funds
 - Interest from the federal funds
 - Annual appropriation to the SCC from a state dedicated funding source(\$37.75M).
 - Supports delegated conservation district activities and funding to farmers

Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)



- Active Partners:
 - State Conservation Commission (SCC)
 - Conservation District (District),
 - PSU Center for Agriculture Conservation Assistance Training (CACAT)
 - USDA NRCS
 - Private Sector AG Consultants
- 'Partner' Program responsibilities
 - **SCC** – establishes policies and program parameters for program implementation; annual allocation of funds; conduct program evaluations.
 - PSU, NRCS & Ag Consultants: provide technical assistance, training, etc.

Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)



- 'Partner' Program responsibilities.
 - **Conservation District:**
 - Primary roles:
 - Provide information on the ACAP program, REAP tax credit program
 - Accept/Review ACAP applications for eligibility and funding for BMP projects.
 - Assist applicants with ACAP Program applications
 - Provide technical assistance to farmers in BMP implementation where ACAP funding is provided, as resources allow.
 - Provide necessary program progress reports to the SCC

Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)



- 'Partnership vehicle'
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 - Covers a portion of administrative costs (including staff)
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 - Reimbursement request of expenditures & Report of Activities
 - Data collection and reporting - ACAP GIS System & Practice Keeper

Me: I'm always really friendly and approachable at work.

Also me at work:



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 - *Agricultural Conservation Technical Assistance*
 - *Special Projects*
 - *Other CDFAP Programs*
- *Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program*

CD Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)



- Enabling legislation, policy & purpose
 - Conservation District Law – Act 217 of 1945 (Amended Act 75 of 2005)
 - Conservation District Fund Allocation Program Statement of Policy (Amended Nov. 2014)
 - Provides for the receipt and distribution of funds dedicated to conservation districts for support of:
 - General district programs & operations (Administrative Assistance)
 - Staff employment costs (District Management, Technicians)
 - Special Projects, Reserve Accounts
- Funding:
 - Annual appropriation to the Conservation District Fund (~ \$3.375)
 - Annual transfer of funds dedicated in the Unconventional Gas Well Fund. (~ \$3.948M – FY2020)

CD Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)



- Active Partners:
 - SCC
 - DEP & PDA
 - Conservation Districts
- 'Partner' Program responsibilities
 - **SCC** - establishes program policies and parameters for district oversight and support (financial & policy/administrative), annual allocations and distribution of funds.
 - **DEP & PDA** – administrative management of fund distribution and reporting.

CD Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)



- 'Partner' Program responsibilities (cont.)
 - **Conservation District** - implementation of SCC supported program activities and fund management of allocations at the local level.
 - Agricultural Conservation Technicians (PDA) – local implementation of agricultural support programs.
 - (E.g.. – Agricultural Preservation, general technical assistance)
 - Special projects (PDA & DEP) – implementation of projects meeting CDFAP parameters and guidelines.
 - E.g. – education projects; BMP implementation projects
 - Reserve Accounts – long term management of dedicated funds for admin or program functions of the district.
 - E.g. - employee separation costs, building/capital improvement projects/scholarship programs

CD Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)



- Partnership vehicle:
 - ACT Program - multi-year (5) agreement between SCC & conservation district.
 - Provides conduit for the distribution of program funds
E.g.. – ACT funding covers salary & salary related costs of the technician.
 - Special Projects – annual agreement between SCC & Conservation District.
 - Provides funding for approved project activities performed by the conservation district.
 - Establishes reporting requirements (quarterly)
 - Reimbursement request of expenditures.
 - Report of Activities – consistent with guidelines and approved activities in the agreement.

CD Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)



- Partnership vehicle:
 - ACT Program - multi-year (5) agreement between SCC & conservation district.
 - Provides conduit for the distribution of program funds
E.g.. – ACT funding covers salary & salary related costs of the technician.
 - Special Projects – annual agreement between SCC & Conservation District.
 - Provides funding for approved project activities performed by the conservation district.
 - Establishes reporting requirements (quarterly)
 - Reimbursement request of expenditures.
 - Report of Activities – consistent with guidelines and approved activities in the agreement.

CD Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP)



- CDFAP Programs:

- Leadership Development
 - “Building for Tomorrow” professional development for district directors and staff
- Envirothon
 - Combination of in-class curriculum and outdoor training to help student learn more about Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soil & Land Uses, Wildlife, and Current Issues.
- CD Funding Spreadsheet
- Boot Camp
 - Funding utilized for NRCS boot camp administrative needs

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 - ~~Other CDFAP Programs~~
- **Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program**

Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Roads (DGLVR)



- Enabling legislation & purpose
 - Section 9106 of the PA Motor Vehicle Code
 - Provides financial and technical assistance to eligible public road owners for the implementation of Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Practices on State and Municipal owned roads on identified worksites in the Commonwealth
- Resources:
 - Annual appropriation to the SCC from the Motor Vehicle License Fund (\$28M).
 - Supports delegated conservation district activities and funding to State and Municipal owned road owners

Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Roads (DGLVR)



- Active Partners:
 - State Conservation Commission (SCC)
 - Conservation District (District),
 - PSU Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies (CDGRS)
 - Private Sector Consultants
- 'Partner' Program responsibilities
 - **SCC** – establishes policies and program parameters for program implementation; annual allocation of funds; conduct program evaluations.
 - PSU CDGRS and Private Sector Consultants: provide technical assistance.

Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Roads (DGLVR)



- 'Partner' Program responsibilities.
 - **Conservation District:**
 - Primary roles:
 - Provide information on the DGLVR program
 - Accept/Review DGLVR applications for eligibility and funding for projects.
 - Assist applicants with DGLVR Program applications
 - Provide technical assistance to potential and current applicants for ESM Practice where DGLVR funding is provided, as resources allow.
 - Provide necessary program progress reports to the SCC

Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Roads (DGLVR)



- 'Partnership vehicle'
 - Multi-year (5) contract between SCC & Conservation District
 - Conveys authority for local program implementation on behalf of the Commission.
 - Establishes Required Output Measures (deliverables) for completion.
[Note: See previous slide on Conservation District 'Primary Roles'](#)
 - Provides funding through an annual allocation at levels established by the SCC.
 - Funding for grants for eligible projects
 - Covers a portion of administrative and education costs (including staff)
 - Establishes reporting requirements (quarterly)
 - Reimbursement request of expenditures & Report of Activities
 - Data collection and reporting - CDGRS online GIS system

SCC Programs

