



## REPORT ON MCCD

November 2022

# District staff seeding reconfigured banks of Sand Spring Run

MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting

Oct. 20, 2022

It's fall, when technicians at the Monroe County Conservation District urge contractors to secure any construction or site preparation that involves earth disturbance.

"At this time of year we are really encouraging people to stabilize their projects," district Watershed Specialist David Hooker told the board during its October meeting.

District staff themselves are setting an example, seeding reconfigured banks of Sand Spring Run. Staff also plan to add plants this fall to the Sand Spring Run stream banks to protect them from potential erosion during high-water periods.

Some years ago along the site of a rail bed, the Sand Spring arch culvert failed. Technicians have reestablished the stream grade and installed control structures as well as stabilized about 200 feet of streambank on both sides of the run by seeding and planting native species. The goal is to create a stable stream channel that will allow fish to migrate upstream. Already workers have seen brown trout using the stream within the site.

The district hopes to have the project complete by spring and use it as a demonstration project on stream stabilization. District Manager Kristina Heaney said the project might be eligible for an environmental project excellence award.

Environmental Education Coordinator Roger Spotts reported that orders were slightly down for the annual bird seed sale, which he attributed to price hikes.

The Kettle Creek Fund dinner raised more than \$19,000, Spotts said. Use of social media is helping get the word out about camps, bus trips and other district activities, many of which are at capacity. Spotts said building-based programs are drawing the highest number of participants in 30 years.

Spotts said programs are getting news coverage, too. He spent a recent morning with a crew for WNEP television for a home and backyard program that will air next Sunday.

Heaney added that the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau will do a promotional segment in November. Heaney reported that the state Agriculture Assistance Program has created a clean streams fund, using money from the American Rescue Plan, to help farmers combat nonpoint source pollution and improve soil health.

Monroe County has 255 farms, Heaney said, adding, "This is a really great application to start implementing best farm practices and this is the money to do it."

Hooker will be certified to be a conservation planner with training in conservation and nutrient management planning. He and Heaney will create an assessment sheet that farmers would submit with applications for funds. Funding is supposed to start retroactively in July 2025, and funds need to be spent by 2026.

"Our job is to provide the financial and technical assistance to farmers that they have so needed," Heaney said.

In other business, the board:

- \* Moved to start the process of replacing former board member Chuck Gould, who resigned.

- \* Noted that the district is using grant money to buy 12 kayaks. The kayaks will help with education and outreach.

- \* Heard from Fish and Boat Commission's Alec DeLong that he would be stocking the Brodhead Creek today, and Tobyhanna Lake on Nov. 15.

The next meeting will be at 8 a.m. Thursday, 16 at the district offices in Bartonsville.