



## REPORT ON MCCD

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# Wednesday's roundtable focuses on MCCD

What does Monroe County Conservation District do, and why, and how?

You can find out this Wednesday at a roundtable meeting the district will host, featuring staff along with representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the State Conservation Commission. The meeting will run 10 a.m. to noon at the East Stroudsburg University Innovation Center, just off Route 209 North on Route 447.

Postponed from last October, the meeting aims to outline what the district staff's responsibilities are and how the DEP works with the professional staff and the board. Sharing that information could clarify many of the questions that crop up from developers, project designers, farmers and others. The meeting will also provide a forum for participants to air specific concerns, including state roads' impact on streams, to DEP.

Pennsylvania Conservation District law calls on districts to help their communities protect natural resources by addressing everything from preserving farmland to curtailing fertilizer and pesticide runoff, managing dirt and gravel roads and monitoring construction sites to reduce runoff, which can carry damaging pollutants into nearby waterways.

Conservation district law gives every county board latitude to address questions it deems of primary concern. Soil erosion and stream protection have been priorities in recent decades as the county has grown rapidly. District staffers have worked closely with designers, engineers and developers during project conception and the construction process. The county continues to enjoy clean streams, even though its population has doubled — with thousands of new houses and hundreds of new commercial structures — since 1980.

Every county is unique, and every district board addresses challenges in its own way. Members of the Monroe County board have a sworn duty to continue protecting the soil and waterways within Monroe County's boundaries as best accomplished under conservation district law. Attending Wednesday's meeting will give a better perspective on the role the district staff plays and how it works with state agencies to protect natural resources for Monroe County residents and all Pennsylvanians — now and into the future, as the state Constitution states.

See the roundtable meeting agenda here: <http://files.constantcontact.com/d73dab67401/2bd494eb-6d7a-4629-8d50-d422f8081657.pdf>