

Pike County Conservation District

2020 Strategic Plan

Mission Statement

Pike County Conservation District is committed to the long-term protection and sustainable use of Pike County's natural resources.

We accomplish this through partnership, education, technical assistance, planning, enforcement, and leadership.

In 2019 the Pike County Conservation District surveyed our community asking what natural resource concerns they have and how the District can help address those concerns. The following Strategic Plan identifies priorities, goals and objectives to address those many concerns. This fluid plan is reviewed on a regular basis by the District Board and staff to provide direction for accomplishing our mission.

Below are the critical natural resource issues identified by Pike County residents in order of priority. The District's goals set forth in the 2020 Strategic Plan are listed on the next few pages, as well as identified key actions for 2020. Please note this list of actions does not include the on-going work of the District such as Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 delegations, surface and ground water monitoring, education programs and similar programs.

We can't do this alone! As a community member you play an integral role in the conservation efforts of Pike County. Turn the page and see what is in store for the next few years and think about ways you can join us in our conservation efforts.

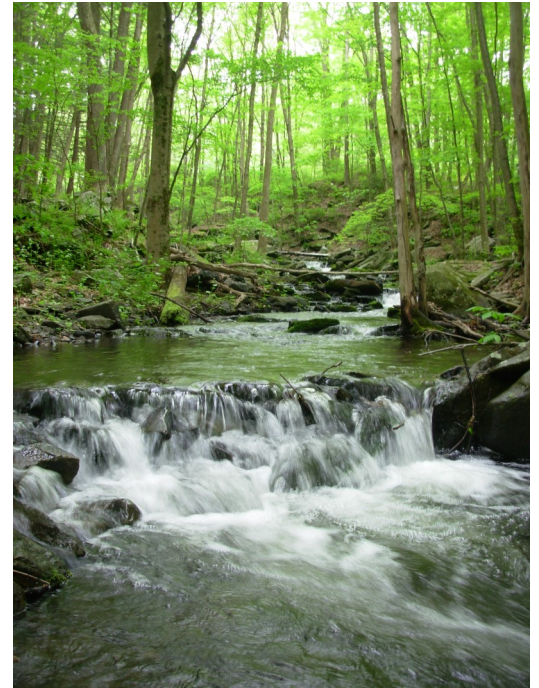
Top 10 Critical Natural Resource issues identified by Pike County Residents

- Surface water quality and quantity
- Safe drinking water
- Soil health
- Lack of understanding of personal role in land use protection
- Conservation of large tract forestland
- Land development pressures
- Communications regarding natural resource issues
- Infrastructure improvements – roads and bridges
- Stormwater management
- Wetlands
- Wastewater management

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Provide advocacy for Pike County's natural resource assets – protecting sensitive natural environments, conserving the quality and quantity of soil and groundwater resources and Pike County's special protection surface water resources.

- Continue to implement, refine, and strengthen the District's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program producing and disseminating scientific data on County surface water resources; work with partners to make data more accessible and user friendly; utilize the District's data to support justifiable stream upgrades.
- Ensure long-term viability of Pike County's groundwater quality/quantity and associated stream base flows by continuing to implement, refine, and strengthen the District's Groundwater Monitoring and Testing Program.
- Continue to accept delegation for the implementation of PA Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control regulations which minimize the potential for accelerated erosion and sedimentation and manage stormwater which are both critical to water resource protection.
- Continue to accept delegation for the implementation of PA Chapter 105 Waterway Management regulations which are critical to the protection of water quality.
- Protect the natural regime and carrying capacity of streams, rivers and watercourses, the flood-carrying capacity of floodways and floodplains, and infiltration areas for groundwater.
- Work with partners to provide technical assistance, education and funding for forest resource conservation and stewardship highlighting the connection between forest management and water resource conservation.
- Conserve and raise awareness of the functions and values of wetlands through our delegated programs and education and outreach.
- Continue to provide technical assistance and funding as available for environmentally sensitive road maintenance practices for Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads in the County.
- Work with partners on providing technical assistance and education to lake communities on water quality concerns and invasive species.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Expand conservation education, integrating it as a component of all District conservation programs. Market the District as a recognized leader in natural resource protection in Pike County by utilizing branding techniques in promotion of the District to all audiences.

- Create a rebranding of the District's image establishing the District as a recognized leader in natural resource protection in Pike County.
- Develop an annual education and outreach campaign for explaining the District's role and the benefits of implementing Chapter 102 and Chapter 105.
- Develop an annual multi-faceted education campaign for targeted audiences highlighting the value of natural resource management. Foster stewardship with a better understanding of the links between conservation, community well-being and economic benefits of ecosystem services.
- Support and partner with organizations to provide educational outreach on land use best management practices, growth and sustainable development.
- Develop and provide educational outreach on promoting best management practices which help reduce flooding, manage stormwater, and promote water quality protection to all audiences.
- Enhance opportunities for promotion of District programming and natural resource issues of concern through multimedia platforms with a focus on practical information the general public can utilize.
- Work with Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership and other partners to maximize education and outreach opportunities, to avoid duplication of efforts, and to better coordinate delivery of conservation services.
- Expand the District's working relationships with cooperating agencies and organizations as well as with groups outside the *environmental* realm (businesses, tourism) to promote the District's mission.
- Facilitate the formation and goals of sustainable Source Water Protection Groups by providing support and training to enable these groups to effectively work with local officials on issues of land use planning and the importance of long-term groundwater quality and quantity protection.
- Work with watershed organizations by providing support and training to enable water quality monitoring and develop assessments.



GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT and FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Support the District's Mission through responsible governance, financial management, capital resource management and continued professional development of staff and board.

- Develop an annual work plan to implement identified priorities in the Strategic Plan to include needed District resources and timelines.
- Actively pursue grant funding opportunities to support District program priorities and supplement operations and staffing.
- Review Committee structure and objectives based on District needs.
- Using existing resources from Partners, develop an orientation and training program for District Directors and Associate Directors which can be assessed annually.
- Provide strong leadership and professional well-trained management and staff through training and educational opportunities, recruitment, and retention incentives in order to implement programs and strategies reflected in the District's strategic plan.
- Evaluate staffing needs as necessary to maximize implementation of goals and objectives.
- Identify the strengths of Board members to assist in Board development.
- Work to recruit Associate Directors/Directors in order to assist with strengthening Board composition and expertise.
- Provide management and staff with the physical work environment, equipment and technological resources necessary to meet District goals and objectives.
- Update District's fund reserve analysis and five-year financial plan to include adequate funding to support capital improvement projects as identified.
- Continue to survey the public and partners for input on critical natural resource issues.
- Work to expand the number of participating nominating organizations and to improve nominating organizations' understanding of their role in shaping the depth, diversity and effectiveness of the District Board.



LAND USE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

Provide leadership by promoting conservation of natural resources for land use and sustainable development in accord with the integrity of our natural resource base. Promote a collaborative relationship with stakeholders involved with economic development and resource management for sustainable growth.

- Set up a system for regular and ongoing communications between the District, the Pike County Office of Community Planning, the Pike County Economic Development Authority, the Pike County Commissioners and Municipal officials.
- Discuss and implement land use tools that promote natural resource conservation, green building technologies and conservation design while accommodating growth.
- Work to improve communication and coordination of the permitting & review process with municipalities, Department of Environmental Protection and other cooperating agencies.
- Actively monitor the legislative process, particularly at the State level, for proposed rulemaking or regulatory changes and environmental legislation to ensure Pike County's natural resource conservation interests are represented and regularly communicate with local, state and federal legislators to provide assistance and guidance on natural resource issues of concern.
- Provide proactive assistance to landowners helping to nurture a better understanding of their personal role in land use protection.
- Develop a natural resource guide for community associations and lake communities which highlight the connections between land use, soil conservation and health, groundwater and surface water protection, and an understanding of watersheds.
- Consider natural resource needs not just within Pike County, but across watershed boundaries and seek opportunities to work with regional partners addressing these needs particularly as they relate to the District's mission.
- Support Pike County's Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program, Agricultural Land Preservation Program and other efforts to protect open space and sensitive natural resource areas.
- Develop and provide opportunities for public input on conservation issues of concern.





2019/2020 Pike County Conservation District Directors

From left to right front row: Carol Linkiewicz, Scott Savini, Board Chairman, Kelly Stagen, Paul Ranello
From left to right back row: Mike Spencer, JoAnn Rose, Bob Engvaldsen, Ken Coutts, Jay Morrow, Treasurer, Commissioner Ron Schmalzle, John Milliken, Vice-Chairman

As indicated inside our strategic plan report, there are many ways you as community member can do your part to protect the resources of Pike County. As an engaged community member you can gain a better understanding of how your actions can impact our larger community. If you are interested in finding out more about our organization, the programs and services that we offer please contact the District staff by visiting or calling our office, visiting our website, or follow us on our many social media platforms. The District Board and staff would also like to thank all of those who have assisted in the development of our 2020 Strategic Plan. Thank you!



2020 District Staff

From left to right front row: Devan George, Communications Coordinator, Rachel Posavetz, Watershed Specialist, Jeremy Oettinger, Resource Conservationist
From left to right back row: Chris Ingulli, Administrative Manager, Kelly Rodemich, Program Assistant, Ellen Enslin, CPESC, Senior Resource Conservationist, Michele Long, Executive Director and Marianna Quartararo, Resource Conservationist



**Pike County
 Conservation District**

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