

# FY12

## West Virginia Conservation Agency



**WEST VIRGINIA CONSERVATION  
AGENCY 2012 Statewide NPS  
Program For NPS Categories of  
Agriculture and Construction**

FY12



**WEST VIRGINIA CONSERVATION AGENCY  
WVCA 2011 – 2012 GOALS AND MILESTONES  
FOR THE NPS CATEGORIES OF  
AGRICULTURE AND CONSTRUCTION  
OCTOBER 1, 2011 – MARCH 31, 2012**

***\*All BMP and load reduction reporting will be geo-located to the smallest scale possible, but at a scale no greater than the smaller of either the TMDL load allocation, 12-digit HUC or watershed based plan.***

*Goal 2-1*

*Objective 1*

**TASK: Ensure that the WVCA 319 Staff is coordinated and focused on statewide coordination for the NPS program for agriculture and construction.**

**MILESTONE 1:** Provide statewide coordination, ensuring implementation of base and incremental projects.

DUE DATE: Ongoing

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

**MILESTONE 2:** Supply proof of performance to DEP: Coordinate the submittal of uniform semi-annual reports.

DUE DATE: Every six months

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

**MILESTONE 3:** Process funding for Incremental grants and invoices submitted by the Conservation Districts.

DUE DATE: As needed.

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

**MILESTONE 4:** Represent the WVCA Nonpoint Source Program on the West Virginia Watershed Network.

DUE DATE: Quarterly

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

*Goal 3-2*

*Objective 1 2, 3, and 4*

**TASK: Develop, implement, and assist with 319 Water Quality Projects.**

**MILESTONE 5:** Function as Mill Creek Incremental Project Manager and participate with priority Watershed Project Teams as identified in WV through the **Chesapeake Bay Program**.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

**MILESTONE 6:** Function as Second Creek, Muddy Creek, Indian Creek, and Meadow River, and Milligan Creek, South Fork of Potts Creek and Sweet Springs Creek of the James River Incremental Project Manager.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

- Function as the Muddy Creek Incremental Manager: Replace failing septic system in Blue Sulphur Springs. Had numerous farm visits with landowners to discuss possible Ag BMP projects. Most of these projects are slated to begin sometime around May 2012. Had numerous visits and phone conversations with landowners regarding Muddy Creek Septic Replacement/Pumping Program. Landowners are in the process of acquiring 3 written quotes for their projects. Collect WQ samples on 1 farm to demonstrate fecal coliform loading from site.
- Function as the South Fork of Potts Creek and Sweet Springs Creek of the James River Incremental Project Manager: Survey pipeline and trough locations for Furrow project, develop conservation plan for Furrow project. Beginning cooperative Furrow project with US Fish and Wildlife Service providing the funding source to install 3,200' of pipeline, install 1,200 gallon reservoir tank and 6 tire troughs.

**MILESTONE 7:** Function as Fourpole Creek, and Campbell's Creek Incremental Project Manager.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

**MILESTONE 8:** Assist 4 landowners, watershed associations and/or partnering agencies with stream monitoring.

**DUE DATE:** Semi-annually

**DATE COMPLETED:** 3/31/12

<b>Stream Monitored</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Type (Landowner, WSA, or partnering agency)</b>	<b># Stations Monitored</b>
<i>Elks Run</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Harpers Ferry Middle School</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Fourpole Creek</i>	<i>Fecal Coliform</i>	<i>Partnering Agency: CCHD</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Muddy Creek</i>	<i>Pre-Project Monitoring</i>	<i>WSA</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Little Grave Creek</i>	<i>Completed Monitoring Project</i>	<i>Landowner / Association</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Hillview Run</i>	<i>Project Determination</i>	<i>Landowner / Association</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Mill Creek Hampshire Co.</i>	<i>Routine Water Quality Monitoring</i>	<i>Assistance to WVDA</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Lost River in Hardy Co.</i>	<i>Routine Water Quality Monitoring</i>	<i>Assistance to WVDA</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Cow Creek</i>	<i>Sediment Reduction</i>	<i>Landowner (SPRP)</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Proctor</i>	<i>Sediment Reduction</i>	<i>Landowner (SPRP)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Elks Run</i>	<i>ERWWQIP/Education</i>	<i>Project Partner (HFMS)</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Indian Creek</i>	<i>Sediment Reduction</i>	<i>Landowner (SPRP)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Morris Creek</i>	<i>BEHI Survey</i>	<i>Morris Creek WSA</i>	<i>6</i>

**Total Streams Monitored:** 12

**Total # Stations Monitored:** 69



**BEHI Survey on Morris Creek**

*Goal 4-10*

*Objective 1 and 3*

**TASK:** Provide educational and technical assistance on sediment and erosion control from land disturbance activities.

**MILESTONE 9:** Provide technical assistance and/or information to 500 attendees at the Contractor's EXPO.

**DUE DATE:** March 2012

**DATE COMPLETED:** 3/21/12



A total of 6 WVCA Conservation Specialists (CS) attended the EXPO this year to provide educational information and technical advice on sediment and erosion control to approximately 1,500 attendees at the WVCA WRC display booth. Information provided included: Ag BMPs books, Water Conservation books, Cost Share programs available, upcoming workshop announcements, WaterNet newsletters and Conservation District contact information. WV Wildflower seeds were distributed to attendees along with riparian buffer information.



**MILESTONE 10:** Review and/or provide advice with writing 8 construction erosion and sediment control plans.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

Sediment & Erosion Control Plans	# Reviewed / Assisted	Estimate Amount of Soil Saved
Cash Lane (.33 acre)	1	1.15 tn/ac/yr
Bayliss Law Office (.08 acre)	1 reviewed	1.68 tn/ac/yr
Modular Building Consultants	1 reviewed	1.85 tn/ac/yr
Lett Creek Community Church	1 reviewed	1.19 tn/ac/yr
Kanawha Stone Office Building	1 reviewed	1.71 tn/ac/yr

**Total S&E Plans Reviewed / Assisted: 5**

**Total Estimated Soil Saved: 7.58**

**MILESTONE 11:** Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Play: Provide information and assistance in selection of BMPs available, technical advice with water and land management schemes for landowners, agencies and development companies in order to protect the natural resources of the state while helping provide for the energy needs of our country.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Play	# Clients Assisted	BMPs Recommended
WVDEP and Landowner	2	Vegetation types, fertility needs, establishment & maintenance of vegetation
Provided information & Assistance	2	Nutrient management, common seed rates, mulching
Aurora Community Marcellus Meeting	37	Vegetation Establishment
Visited 2 well sites with WVDEP, soil sampling and erosion control inspection	3	Nutrient management, vegetation species selection, new planting management
Landowner	1	Reseeding Recommendation
Provided Information & Assistance	3	Common seeding rates, nutrient management, mulching

**Total Clients Assisted: 48**

**Total BMPs Recommended: 14**

**MILESTONE 12:** Provide technical advice regarding stormwater management quality and/or quantity issues to 4 clients.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: 3/31/12

Stormwater Management	# Clients Assisted	BMPs Recommended
VA Hospital in Martinsburg	1	Grass seed mixes for wetland
Pre-construction home site	1	Diversion ditch, culvert outlet protection, temporary vegetative cover, silt fence, permanent vegetation, culvert inlet protection, BMP maintenance, grading plan
Post-construction problem assessment on neighboring land	1	Diversion ditches, soil sampling and vegetation establishment, soil compaction remediation, grading slopes, check dams in ditches
Stormwater management – Hillview Run WSA	30 residents / watershed association	Road drain needs cleaned out and referred to the WV DOH
Coordinated presentation for South Branch WSA to discuss potential sites	14 attendees	Bioretention area located within the town of Romney

for stormwater management		
Assessment of stormwater runoff and wetland creation with WVDEP	1 – WV School for Deaf and Blind	Native wetland plants
Rain Barrel Workshop as a conservation practice for stormwater runoff	17	Rain barrels along with information on rain gardens
Rain Barrel Demonstration at Huntington Home Show	20 participants	Rain water harvesting; infiltration/retention
Stormwater Display at Huntington Home Show	400+ contacts at the display	Provided with water conservation information & technical advice

**Total # Clients Assisted:** 485

**Total BMPs Recommended:** 22



***Rain Barrel Workshop – Potomac Valley Conservation District***

**Goal 3-3**

**Objective 2**

**TASK: Provide information and technical assistance to agriculture operators on the benefits of alternative water, stabilized stream crossings, riparian buffers, manure and litter management, nutrient management, and other best management practices.**

**MILESTONE 13:** Provide technical assistance to 5 agricultural producers with the development, protection, stabilization and/or maintenance of riparian areas or with resource management advice that protects surface water.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

Riparian Area	Linear ft. of Stream Protected	Sediment Reduction Estimates (pounds/tons)	BMPs Recommended / Provided
Hurricane Creek			Riparian Buffer 350 linear ft., introduced landowner to CREP Program

**MILESTONE 14:** Develop conservation plans for 2 farms under Farm Bill Programs.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: 3/31/12

# Conservation Plans	Practice	Planned BMPs
3	Grassland Management, Pasture	Division fencing: 3,200 ft

	Renovation	Exclusion fencing: 5,100 ft Spring Development: 2 Pipeline: 800 ft Watering troughs: 2 Pasture and Hayland planting: 42 acres; Nutrient Management: 70 acres Prescribed grazing: 110 acres
2	Pasture management, nutrient management, hayland management, invasive species management	Brush management: 26.5 acres Fencing: 7,025 ft. Harvest Management: 12.6 acres Nutrient management: 38.8 acres Pasture & Hayland Planting: 35.9 acre Pipeline: 1,600 ft. Prescribed grazing: 31.3 acres Spring developments: 4 Watering facilities: 4 Waste storage facility: 1 Roof runoff structure: 1 Comprehensive nutrient management plans: 1 Access control: 33.6 acres

# Conservation Plans 5

# Practices 6

# Planned BMPs 21

**MILESTONE 15:** Write or review and revise as needed, at least 3 nutrient management plans for farmers.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: 3/31/12

# Nutrient Management Plans	BMPs in Plans	# N Managed	#P Managed	Acres
2 being developed*				350.7
1 being amended*				80.2
1	Nutrient management, pasture and hayland planting, fencing, spring developments, prescribed grazing	3,500	6,086	70
5	Nutrient management & prescribed grazing	1,600	3,840	109
1	Fertilizer application	5,960	4,310	109.5
1	Nutrient Management, Species Selection, establishment procedure	850	1,275	17
2		Plans in progress		112
2	Nutrient management, pasture and hay planting, pasture, prescribed grazing	3,725	2,980	74.5

12	Nutrient management, Prescribed grazing	19,460	43,944	389
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**#NM Plans** 27 **#BMPs** 17 **# N Managed** 35,095 **#P Managed** 62,435 **# Acres** 1,311.9

- *Sample results were received in December and plans will be developed as time allows this winter.*
- **Perk Farm Organic Dairy:** WVCA began working with WVDA and a Grass Tech, GVCD to update/rewrite the nutrient management plan for this farm. We're still in the process of writing the plan and should be complete by fall.

Goal 3-22

Objective 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

**TASK: Educate the public on nonpoint source pollution and/or best management practices to increase awareness and gain support of the nonpoint source program in West Virginia.**

**MILESTONE 16:** Provide 14 educational programs to schools, community groups, and others on nonpoint source and water quality issues.

DUE DATE: As requested

DATE COMPLETED: 3/31/12

Educational Program Provided	Audience	# of Attendees
Aquatics & Water Quality Envirothon Workshop	H.S. Envirothon Teams & Teachers	32 students & 4 teachers
Braxton Co. 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Day	Students / Teachers	165
Rain barrel Workshop Fourpole Creek WSA	Residents of the Huntington Area	5
"Hands on Nonpoint Source Pollution"	Barboursville Girl Scout Troup	25
Rainfall Simulator	Northern Panhandle Conservation District Fair Attendees	400
Public Meeting: Water Quality of the South Branch to start a watershed group in Hampshire Co.	Community members, including streamside landowners, farmers	13
Public Meeting: Water Quality of the South Branch to start a watershed group in Hampshire Co. / Topics: Stormwater Retrofitting, Tree Plantings, WVCA Stream Restorations, WVDEP Save Our Streams, Water Quality Monitoring	Community members, including streamside landowners, farmers	15
Coordinated Field trip for East Hardy of the WVCA and WVDA Office in Moorefield and Chesapeake Bay Initiative water quality and monitoring	East Hardy Middle School FFA Class	40
Streambank Stabilization	Tyler County Consolidated FFA Chapter	23
Assessment of Potential Tree Planting areas and education re:	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade students from East Hardy Middle School	20

How it Helps Nonpoint Source Pollution for East Hardy School grounds & nearby Baker Run Stream		
Presentation & Discussion on Community Project Ideas for Improvement of Water Quality	South Branch Watershed Partnership (New Watershed Group)	11
Presentation on Potential Community Project in Romney involving: CommuniTree Planting, Wetland Creation, and Water Quality Monitoring	Board of Education for Hampshire County and attending audience (parents, students, teachers)	50
Information on Chesapeake Bay Tree Plantings and Romney Community Project for Improvement of Water Quality	South Branch Watershed Partnership	9
Partnering with WVDEP, and WVDOF for Presentation for CommuniTree on “How Trees Help Water Quality”	Romney Elementary – all 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Students	75
Stakeholder information meeting for Anderson Run Watershed Assessment of Water Quality and BMPs for potential Watershed Based Plan	Local Stakeholders of Anderson Run Watershed in Hardy County	13
Presented on the South Branch Watershed Partnership and Goals for Hampshire County	Participants of Eastern Panhandle’s Watershed Group Gathering	28
Envirothon training on Wildlife, Aquatics, Forestry and Soils	All High School Students and teachers involved with Envirothon teams in PVCD	33
Envirothon Aquatics training and LID	Elk CD High School Students	38 students / 4 teachers
Envirothon Aquatics training and LID	Preston County HS Students	4 students / 1 teacher
Homeowners Conservation Workshop EPCD	Community Members	42
Streambank Stabilization	Landowners	18
Sanitarian Workshop	Presentation on Sediment & Erosion Control	40
Rain garden technical meeting; As part of the AGO grant outreach, CS organized a meeting at the future rain garden site in Huntington with area stormwater officials. USDA soil scientist drilled for soil samples at the site while discussing soil types conducive to rain garden construction as well as design alternatives to employ when soil conditions are not ideal.	Stormwater Professionals from the City of Huntington, Marshall University, and the City of Milton	6
Instructional class on Aquatics	High School Students & Teachers	50



and water quality at the WCD Training	involved in the Envirothon Competition	
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***Aquatics & Water Quality Envirothon Workshop***



***Romney Elementary Tree Planting Lesson***



***Stormwater Display  
Half Shed / Rain Barrel***



***Cabell Midland FFA Envirothon Training  
Aquatics***



***Storm Drain Stencil Judging  
Fourpole Creek and HARC Groups***

**MILESTONE 17:** Assist with and organize 4 agriculture educational field days.

DUE DATE: Annually

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

<b>Agriculture Educational Field Day</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b># of Attendees</b>
UOCD Calibration of No-Till Drill, Improved Forages Varieties	Friendly, WV / Cooperator	32 adults
Nutrient Management	New Martinsville, WV – Northern Community College	21 adults
Pasture Management	Middlebourne, WV	28 adults
<b># Field Days</b> <u>3</u>		<b># Attendees</b> <u>81</u>

## WATERSHED RESOURCE CENTER

### Goal 5-1

#### Objective 1, 2, 3 and 4

#### **TASK: Supporting efforts of WV watershed based management efforts.**

**MILESTONE 18:** Provide & maintain a transfer of information useful to watershed groups, agencies, and public on water quality related issues on the WRC website and relevant mailings.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

- All relevant announcements on funding opportunities, upcoming trainings and workshops, cost share opportunities available publications, etc. sent to WV Watersheds list serve, posted to the WVVWRC web page, and WVVWRC facebook page on a daily / weekly basis.

WVVWRC web page: <http://www.wvca.us/wvwrc/>

WVVWRC facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wvwrc>

**MILESTONE 19:** Distribute nonpoint source educational material for outreach and educational purposes as requested.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

- Conservation District's educational information provided for distribution through field offices: Water Conservation Ideas, Agriculture Best Management Practices of Conservation Standards, Rain barrel brochures, rain garden brochures, and winter and spring WaterNet newsletters.

### Goal 5-2

#### Objective 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

**MILESTONE 20:** Exhibit at activities, conferences, and water quality related events.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

Event	Location	# of Attendees / Exhibit
Greenbrier Valley NRCS Public Outreach Event	WV State Fair grounds, Fairlea, WV	10
WV Contractors EXPO	Charleston, WV	1,500 / Sediment & Erosion Control BMPs

**MILESTONE 21:** Provide desktop publishing for the development of forms, graphs, brochures, power points, and special reports related to 319 water quality work and agriculture educational field days.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

Developed (By all staff):	Designed by / for:	Dispersal
Updated Riparian Buffer Brochure	WRC Buchanan River WSA	300 by Watershed Group at fairs and festivals
Outreach packets containing rain garden, rain barrels, solutions to nonpoint source pollution, and water conservation ideas packets	Assembled by WRC CS in EPCD	Earth Day Event
Muddy Creek Cost Share Announcement	CS in GVCD	Muddy Creek WSA area and GVCD
Farm Field Day & Tour Announcement	CS in GVCD	GVCD and those needing Continuing Education Credits for: Pesticide License Recertification 6 credits, Conservation Planning 3 credits, Nutrient Management credits pending

Envirothon training worksheets on soils information	High school students participating on Envirothon teams in the NPCD	Distributed to 2 area High Schools in NPCD who are planning on having teams participate in the Envirothon Competition
Rain Barrel PowerPoint	CS PVCD / Workshop & Opequon Creek Project Team	Used at workshop & Opequon Creek Project Team Trainings

**MILESTONE 22:** Coordinate training and exhibit for the WV Equipment and Technology Design Exposition (Contractor's EXPO).

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: 3/22/12



The WVCA Watershed Resource Center hosted a workshop at the 2012 WV Construction & Design Exposition in Charleston, WV on Marcy 22<sup>nd</sup>. The session was presented by Brian Free, Pennington Seed, LLC and sponsored by the Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) and the WV American Society of Landscape Architects (WVASLA).

A total of **65 attendees** were educated on "How to Specify and Establish Sustainable Vegetation from Seed". Participants learned how to write or improve existing vegetation establishment plans. Topics covered were related to soils, seed bed preparation, analyzing soil tests, seed specification, participants should be able to greatly increase successful seeding projects the first time and eliminate costly reapplication and potential violations through the information provided in the workshop.

Goal 5-4

Objective 1 and 2

**MILESTONE 23:** Provide support to the WV Watershed Network.

DUE DATE: Semi-annually

DATE COMPLETED: On Task 3/31/12

- Stream Partners Program – Reviewed / Attended Decision Matrix Meeting
- WVWN Website – Updates made as needed / WCD Online Nomination Site Open
- Watershed Celebration Day:
  - ❖ Nominations sent out
  - ❖ Announcements made
  - ❖ Chesapeake Grant submitted & received
  - ❖ Sponsorship letters sent out to Conservation District (13 CD Sponsored to date)
  - ❖ Dominion Grant submitted
    - WV WaterNet Newsletter – 2011 Winter WaterNet & 2012 Spring WaterNet
- WVCA Conservation Specialist provided support to the Stream Partners Program and assisted Fourpole Creek Watershed Association in coordinating a storm drain stencil program with local elementary and middle school through the use of their Stream Partners Grant.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

- Attended Potomac Watershed Partnership Information Exchange.
- Participated in conference call regarding status of Phase II WIP.
- Represented the WVCA at the fall meeting of the WV Nutrient Management Advisory Committee.
- Attended an informational meeting on Marcellus Shale Development sponsored by WVU Extension.
- Started work to develop a better working relationship with WVDEP office of Oil and Gas to work with them to help protect water resources with technical assistance to landowners and drillers regarding BMPs and the establishment of vegetation due to the emerging issue of Marcellus Shale gas work.
- Working on a state funded stream stabilization project at the Harrisville City Park to address undercutting, bank erosion and sediment deposition by removing excess sediment repairing slips by grading and filling then stabilizing the denuded banks with “soft” armoring and vegetation. The project is being applied to nearly 1600 feet of banks on both sides of the stream with approximately 1500 feet addressed but the project completion had to be delayed until Spring. The completion will consist of the application of more “soft” armor, articulated block, grass and woody vegetation plantings.
- Drafted AGO proposal for Fourpole Creek Watershed Association.
- Stream Cross Section Survey on Roberts Farm in Lincoln County.
- Assisted farmer in the GVCD with NRCS cover crop application process.
- Assisted farmer in the GVCD with collecting and submitting silage samples. Results will be used to develop Nutrient Management Plan by WVDA.
- Assisted the WVDEP Watershed Basin Coordinator with Golf Course Nutrient Management Survey to be used in the Chesapeake Bay WIP for WV.
- Attended Envirothon Teacher Training to learn more on assisting teams in the PVCD area.
- Attended conference call on the Soil and Water Conservation Society Leadership Committee as “at large” member.
- Assisted Tanner Haid, Urban Tree Coordinator, on identifying and GPS mapping of tree planting sites on Corridor H.
- Worked with WVU Extension to locate a farm with a liquid manure system to serve as a demonstration project for a Conservation Innovation Grant to deal with nutrient capture and better distribution of the nutrients; visited 2 farms and one was selected to participate in the research.
- Participated as the WVCA representative on visits to 2 farms for CREP determination.
- Provided the Kingwood Waste Water Treatment Plant with information on soils where they are applying biosolids.
- 13 farmers were provided advice and information on soil sampling, programs available to assist them with their operations and developing farm plans. Soil samples and forage testing were done.
- 1 farmer was provided extensive information about establishing a productive pasture on a former strip mine and managing the pasture for long term sustainability.
- WVCA has co-organized an Earth Day 5K/1mile Fun Walk in cooperation with the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District. Event will take place in April and results reported in next Semi-Annual report.
- Worked with WVDEP Special Reclamation at a strip mine bond forfeiture site providing technical advice in regard to the establishment of a good cover of vegetation, soil sampling and general growing conditions assessment.



### WVDEP Special Reclamation Bond Forfeiture Site



- Worked with USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center obtaining and planting Red Osier Dogwood, Dwarf Sand Cherry and Dwarf Willows on a streambank stabilization project at Harrisville; approximately 1,240 feet of bank length planted.

### Streambank Stabilization Project in Harrisville, WV



- Working with the TVCD developing a series of educational programs for landowners and farmers who are or may be dealing with horizontal drilling activities; WVCA is slated to make a presentation about the farm adjustments and planning needed to continue to operate during and after the well pads and/or pipelines are active on the farm.



### Well Pad sites visited in the Monongahela Conservation District



- **EPCD Watershed Group Gathering:** This half day event featured presentation by WVDEP on the Phase II WIP, WVDA on Water Quality Monitoring, WVCA/EPCD on District and Agency involvement in watershed projects, and watershed group representatives from Sleepy Creek WSA, Warm Springs WSA, South Branch Watershed Partnership, South Branch Watershed Consortium, Opequon Creek Project Team, and Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition. Watershed groups had the opportunity to share their current activities with each other and with agency representatives and highlight their completed and ongoing projects. Other speakers included Brent Walls, Potomac Riverkeeper and Amy Owen, Eastern WV Community Foundation.

### EPCD Watershed Group Gathering



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#### **Presentations by: Suzy Lucas, WVCA & Ashby Ruddie, WVDA**

- WVCA was the project leader for a CommuniTree grant awarded to the Opequon Creek Project Team for the spring of 2012. Duties included obtaining necessary permits from WVDOH, contacting Miss Utility, and coordinating OCPT, WVDOF, WVDOH, and the CI Urban Forestry Coordinator. Holes were augered and 150 trees were planted between the intersection of Rt. 9 and Douglas Grove Road and Opequon Creek.



**Before Planting**



**Augering Holes**



**After Planting**

- WVCA Conservation Specialist in the Potomac Valley Conservation District has been assisting with the formation of a new Watershed Group in Hampshire County. Citizens of Hampshire County have been gathering since November 2011 to discuss how to involve their local community in the concerns of the South Branch of the Potomac River's watershed. One of the primary goals of the group was to reach out to the local schools to teach children about water quality. From that concern grew the idea for a project to involve the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class of Romney Elementary in a multi-year, three part water quality project. This project involves a tree planting, thanks to a CommuniTree grant for the Potomac Center – a local home for children and adults with disabilities, a water quality monitoring of a tributary of the South Branch, and a wetland planting at the WV School for the Deaf and Blind, all within the town of Romney. Not only will this project address the goal of providing education to students about their watershed, but also allow these students to work with others for the benefit of their community.





***Conservation Specialist, in the Potomac Valley Conservation District, addresses volunteers on their watershed, issues they face, and assists with the formation of their group.***



- WVCA CS assisted with the assessment of potential tree planting areas for East Hardy. Two class periods of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in the agriculture class were taken on a short field trip of the grounds to assess potential areas where trees could be planted and how they could be beneficial for the area. The students had previously been working on a nature walk area on campus for the community on the edge of the campus next to the Baker Run Stream. After a discussion on the benefits of trees on water quality, it was decided that the banks below the recreational fields next to the nature walk would be the best place to plant due to their proximity to the stream. The project has since evolved to include funding from not only the Chesapeake Bay for over 200 tree whips, but also through a grant from CommuniTree to plant 12 large balled and burlap trees.

#### **Elks Run Activities:**

- Attended Elks Run Study Committee Meeting and spoke to group about Elks Run 319 Incremental Project.
- Developed prioritization criteria for streambank stabilization project in cooperation with ERSC.
- Started outreach to citizens in Elks Run watershed in order to identify streambanks that meet criteria for stabilization projects and prepared maps to pinpoint potential project sites within watershed.
- Started researching septic systems and septic maintenance to prepare for outreach for ERWWQIP septic pumping and Incremental project septic upgrades.

#### **Back Creek Activities:**

- Organized and facilitated meeting with WVDEP, BHEN, and VA DEQ representatives to discuss Back Creek Protection Plan, efforts in VA headwaters of Back Creek, and next steps for Back Creek Protection Plan.
- Met with and distributed applications/information handouts to the Jefferson County Health Department Sanitarian, who has expressed interest in the septic pumping (ERWWQIP) and upgrade (Incremental) programs. The Sanitarian team will be distributing information on both programs throughout the watershed.
- A 319 Incremental "Handbook" is in the developmental stage for this project.

#### **Sleepy Creek Activities:**

- Attended and participated in Sleepy Creek Watershed Association Board meeting.
- Meeting with Jim Michael, SCWA Board Member & EPCD Supervisor to discuss concerns for Sleepy Creek and possibility to pursue another 319 Incremental Grant.

- Project team formed and meeting coordinated to move forward with this project. Phase I Incremental Project Proposal reviewed and areas highlighted to change for Phase II. The goal for proposal submittal is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Anderson Run Activities:**

- Stakeholder meeting for proposed Anderson Run Watershed Based Plan:  
*Anderson Run is a small tributary to the South Branch of the Potomac River with a watershed that has undergone significant land use changes within the past five years and a large body of water quality data collected for more than a decade. These characteristics make the Anderson Run Watershed a very distinctive candidate for a Watershed Based plan. On March 13, the WVCA held a stakeholder meeting involving NRCS, WVDOH, WV Dept. of Ag, a local business owner, and two large farm owners within the watershed, to discuss the direction of a future watershed based plan once funding was secured. A discussion followed, with a focus on agricultural best management practices that would benefit the water quality of Anderson Run.*