

Penobscot County Soil & Water Conservation District



2015 Annual Report

Message from our Chair



This was another great year for the district. The district tries it's best to have programs that will interest the residents of Penobscot county. I feel we did just that this year. We held an Invasive Forest Pest workshop that was attended to capacity, put on well attended cover crop field days, and our plant sale this year was even bigger than last year. I feel one of our largest accomplishments this

year was holding our very first Kids Conservation Field Day.

In the past many of the districts workshops and activities have been geared toward adults and this past year we wanted to incorporate a program that would engage young people. The day was for kids ages 6-12 and they got to learn about our Maine forests, wildlife, soils, and aquatic life in our ponds, lakes, and streams. We had Dan Kusneirz a Water Quality Specialist with Penobscot Indian Nation, Ben Naumann a fish biologist with NRCS, Nick Butler from the NRCS Soil Science Division, and District Forester Terri Coolong as our presenters. It was nice to see so many different agencies' coming together for this field day. The Maine Forest & Logging Museum was so generous in letting us hold the day at their facility. We had a great turnout and I cannot wait for the district to hold this field day again next summer.

The district is always looking for new workshops and activities to help continue engaging and educating the general public about the conservation district's mission. We have appreciated all the continued support we receive from individuals, local businesses, and other agencies. It is all of you that help our district survive and be successful. I look forward to another year representing Penobscot county as a district supervisor.

I hope you enjoy our annual report,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Fogler".

Robert Fogler

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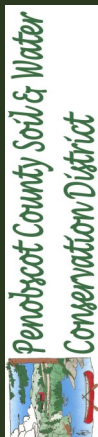
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Meet the Board of Supervisors



Robert Fogler,
Chair



Mary Wilson,
Vice Chair



John Simon,
Supervisor



Ryan Crane,
Supervisor



Amy Polyot,
District Manager



Dan Kusnierz,
Treasurer

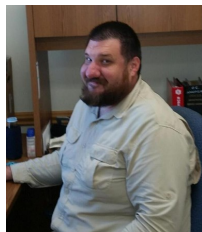
Meet Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff



Dan Schmidt,
District
Conservationist



Eric Giberson,
Soil
Conservationist



Scott Carter
Ag Engineer



Misha Vargas
Soil
Conservationist

2015 Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE

Income

Contributed Support	
Federal Grants	\$5,076.86
State Grants	25,000.00
Total Contributed Support	<u>\$30,076.86</u>
Earned Revenue	\$16,690.87
Reimbursed Expenses	15.30
Total Income	<u>\$46,783.03</u>

Expenses

Total Business Expenses	\$25.00
Total Grant & Contract Expense	500.00
Total Miscellaneous Expenses	3,492.01
Total Non-personnel Expenses	22,619.60
Total Salaries & Related Expenses	\$15,451.13
Total Travel & Meetings Expenses	176.43
Total Expenses	<u>\$42,272.84</u>
Net Income	<u>\$4,510.19</u>

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Checking/Savings Accounts	\$237,146.74
Restricted Checking/Savings	77,472.20
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Fixed Assets	190.12
Total Assets	<u>\$322,262.99</u>

Liabilities & Equity

Current Liabilities	\$73,427.56
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Unrestricted (Retained Earnings)	223,919.45
Net Income	4,510.19
Total Equity	<u>\$241,998.19</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$22,262.99</u>

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2015 Annual Banquet

The 2015 Annual Banquet was a great success this year! The banquet is to promote and showcase all of the projects that the district and the Natural Resources Conservation Service worked on for the year. The banquet was held at the Penobscot County Conservation Association clubhouse in



Brewer. The clubhouse is the perfect setting for this event and the association is so accommodating! Tables were decorated with birch tree inspired centerpieces, a logger's favorite black and red checked pattern table cloth, and topped off with chocolate leaf party favors. Don't worry, No trees

were harmed to make the birch tree centerpieces. The dinner was catered by Stage Coach Catering and guests enjoyed turkey, lasagna, all the fixings, and a variety of pies. The food was delicious and there was plenty to go around.

Supervisor Robert Fogler kicked off the evening by welcoming everyone and Supervisor Mary Wilson introduced staff and special guests. This year we were

pleased to have Penobscot County Commissioner Tom Davis and his family with us. The conservation slide show had many great slides showing activities from the district sales, kids' conservation camp, and our various workshops. Slides were shown from several NRCS projects this year as well. There were pictures of watering facilities, bird box placements, cover crop seeding, forest management projects, bridges being built, and so many more awesome projects!

After the slide show, supervisors and NRCS staff presented the 2015 Conservation award to Treeline Inc. Treeline Inc. is a forest management company from Lincoln, Maine. They have worked with NRCS and the district for many years taking advantage of our programs to improve the health of their woodlands.

Continued on page 7.



2015 Annual Banquet continued...



The audience was entertained by John Ford, Sr. a retired Maine Warden and Mark Nickerson, a retired Maine State Trooper. Both men are published authors who have written about their years in law enforcement. John is a native Mainer and came from a long line of Maine Game Wardens. He was sworn into the

Maine Warden Service shortly after finishing up a four-year stint in the U.S. Air Force. He had a twenty-year warden career in Waldo County. After retiring in 1990, he was elected as county sheriff and re-elected in 1994. He has written a local newspaper column and is a regular contributor to the Northwoods Sporting Journal. John has written the books **SUDDENLY THE CIDER DIDN'T TASTE SO GOOD**, and **THIS CIDER STILL TASTES FUNNY!** And his newest book called *Deer Diaries*. Mark Nickerson joined the Maine State Police in 1977. Mark first served in Troop C-Skowhegan and later in Troop D-Thomaston during his 28-year career with the Maine State Police. After retiring, Mark wrote columns about police work for "The Citizen" in Belfast, Maine and later for the "Republican Journal" and his stories were later compiled into his book "Blue Lights in the Night". The 2 men were very entertaining and played off one another like pros. Everyone enjoyed their tales so much and we wish they could have told stories half the night!



To close out the evening the district board and staff had a special presentation to thank two very important people who have dedicated time and energy to the Penobscot County district. John Simon decided at the end of 2015 he would step down as district supervisor. John had a 34 year career with NRCS as an engineer and after his retirement he was a supervisor at the district for 12 years. We have appreciated John's expertise and knowledge. This fall, Dan Schmidt took a position at the NRCS State Office as the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. He was the Penobscot County District Conservationist for 23 years of his 33 year career. Thank you so much for your service to the district. Both gentlemen were presented with a wildlife print by John Ford Sr.. It was a fantastic evening and the district staff and board would like to thank everyone who attended the event, donated



items for door prizes, and to everyone who made the night possible. Your continued support is very much appreciated!

2015 Conservation Award Winner

The 2015
Conservation Award
winner is

Treeline Inc.

Article by: Eric Giberson



Treeline, Inc. is a diversified forestry business located in Lincoln, Maine. Brian Souers, the president of Treeline, moved to Maine in 1978 from New York State. Brian had worked as a forester for International Paper for approximately three years and then decided to go out on his own. Brian purchased a 35 acre woodlot in the early eighties and started cutting wood under sustainable forestry practices, focusing on sensitive cuts and thinnings.

Brian started Treeline in 1984 and has gradually built the business over the last 30+ years. Treeline currently manages 18,000-20,000 acres of forestland, 15,000 of which is owned by Treeline. The business currently employs 65 people. Brian and his daughter Whitney are the family members directly involved in the business.

Treeline began working with NRCS under EQIP in 2010. The initial focus was on the development of full inventory forest management plans on the land owned by Treeline. 29 forest management plan contracts have been completed by Treeline in the five year period they have worked with NRCS, covering 14,520 acres of forestland.



By 2012, Treeline began to focus on thinning and competition control on their highly productive woodlots. 840 acres of forest stand improvement have been implemented on Treeline's woodlots under EQIP over the past 3 years. Early successional habitat development for wildlife and

access control have also been important to the company.

Continued on Page 9.

2015 Conservation Award Winner continued...

Approximately 20 acres of small patch cuts have been implemented. Treeline has also installed 8 permanent gates to limit vehicle access to approximately 4,060 acres of forestland.

Treeline is very pro-active in its approach to building the business in the future. The goal is to be able to actively manage approximately 50,000 acres sustainably. The business is very well diversified within the forest products industry. Business lines in addition to forest management include: round wood transportation, wood purchasing, road construction, powerline maintenance, culvert and skidder bridge sales, truck parts and service, firewood sales, wood pellet sales and a U-haul franchise for the Lincoln area. The Penobscot County SWCD congratulates Treeline, Inc. for being the recipient of the 2015 cooperator of the year for their commitment to sustainable forestry and soil and water conservation.



Brian Souers, President of Treeline Inc. giving the district board and NRCS employees a tour of various forest management sites.



Thank you Brian for an awesome tour!

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2015 Conservation Highlights

Sales

This year the district held it's yearly plant, fish, and bulb sales. The plant sale has grown so much in only a year with the district taking almost twice as many pre orders as 2014. Plants are an essential resource for sustaining human life. Not

only are plants food, they also help regulate our water cycle, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife. They also can add to the beauty of your yard and gardens! We had great traffic come through the plant sale with customers buying up most of the extra trees and plants. This year we also incorporated a Kid's Crafting Corner where children could decorate a flower pot and plant a flower for



their moms for Mother's Day. This was a great "Dad and the Kids Day Out" activity while shopping for the holiday. We hope to have an even bigger event in 2016! The fish and bulb sales were well received again this year. The district will continue to hold these sales in the future and we are always interested to hear your thoughts and ideas for new sales or how to improve our existing ones. Please give Amy a call if you have any suggestions.



Workshops and Education activities

2015 kicked off with the district hosting an Invasive Forest Insect Outreach Volunteer Training at the Baxter State Park headquarters. The workshop was well attended with us having to cut enrollment off at 25 people.



2015 Conservation Highlights

The training was put on by Lorraine Taft & Karen Coluzzi from the Maine Department of Agriculture Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project.

The workshop was to help increase awareness of invasive forest pests, mostly concentrating on the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) and the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). To detect ALB & EAB early, it is best accomplished through outreach and education efforts. Early detection will help to reduce the costs and resources needed for a management response and will help to increase our chances of eradication success.



Above: Richard Perkins and Robert Fogler

This year the district hosted 3 cover crop field days. During the three field days several area producers meet up to tour fields operated by Robert Fogler of Stonyvale Farms and Roger Whitney. Both producers discussed cover crop treatments used on the different fields. They discussed tests and trials, what worked and what didn't. Broadcast and aerial seeding was used to plant the cover crops. Producers were able to discuss different methods of applications and ask questions to other producers about their experiences. With so many cover cropping options, it takes lots of trial and error to find out what works. They described the soil quality



of the land before they started incorporating cover crops. It was interesting to hear that before incorporating cover crops, each producer had a hard time finding worms in the soil. At each field the group would shovel a spades worth of dirt and count the worms.

Continued on page 12

2015 Conservation Highlights

At one field 17 worms were counted. It was so interesting to hear that before the use of cover crops it was hard to find a worm. The field days were held at different times in the growing season. They were held in May, July, and September. All three events were well attended.



This past summer the district adopted a new program that will hopefully become a staple program for the district. This was the first year for our Kids Conservation Field Day. The youngsters enjoyed learning in both indoor and outdoor setting while doing hands on activities. The kids got to dig in a

soils pit, pull aquatic insects and plants out of the river for identification, go on nature walks to identify trees with a forester, and so much more! The field day was for 6-12 year olds. Presenters were Nick Butler: NRCS Soils Division, Terri Coolong: district forester with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry, Ben Naumann: fish biologist NRCS, and Dan Kusnierz and Haley Francis from Penobscot Indian Nation Water Quality Department. 2016's field day is already in the works and will be held on July 20, 2016. The field day will run from 9AM-3PM and be held at the Maine Forest & Logging Museum. To make the field day as affordable as possible for area residents the charge is only \$5.00 for this event. **If you would like to register your child for this event, please give Amy a call at the district: 947-6622 Ext.3. Spots are limited.**

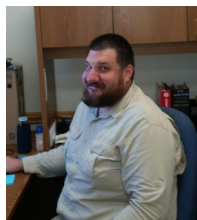


We have new faces at the district and NRCS office!

Carol Weymouth has become an Associate Supervisor for the conservation district. Carol resides in Stetson, ME with her family, along with multiple pets. She is the former Executive Director of Somerset County SWCD, Carol understands the broad scope of work SWCDs provide and is proud to be an associate supervisor on the PCSWCD Board. We are so pleased that she had agreed to join us. Welcome Carol!



Scott Carter has joined the team in Bangor Maine. From a busy Field Office in the Piedmont (middle) of North Carolina, Scott Carter spend 5 years as a Civil Engineer with the North Carolina NRCS. He was hired in the fall after graduating with honors from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NCATSU) where he earned a degree in Biological Engineering with a focus on Natural Resources. Now he is excited to be in Maine and help out with the various Conservation and Engineering challenges of the great North East.



Jaime Sandoval is the newest member of the USDA-NRCS staff in Penobscot. He is a Soil Conservationist joining us from southwest Iowa; the land of corn, soybeans, and beef cattle. Jaime is a 2013 Iowa State University graduate; he studied Animal Ecology and Agronomy. He grew up in central Iowa, the oldest of three children. Spare time is devoted to his 5 year old son, 3 year old daughter, and 8 month old son which they love to read, rough house, and explore the outdoors. He enjoys working with producers on their individual farming operations and looks forward to working with Penobscot County producers.



2015 Conservation Highlights

Corinna Caron owns a farm in Corinna, Maine. She raises 12 Belted Galloway cattle and around 4-6 calves. Corinna came to NRCS with several resource concerns. She needed a better solution to provide water to her livestock because she was hauling water to her cattle with a tractor. A better pasture management solution was needed so that the cattle could be rotationally grazed when pastures were too wet. Help with manure management was needed in the walkway from the pasture to the barn. The manure pile needed relocating because of its close



proximity to a well and to help prevent manure runoff in the walk way. Corinna applied through the NRCS EQIP program for help with these resource concerns. She was funded for a pipeline, watering facility, woven wire fencing, and laying of gravel and geotextile on walk ways and trails. The pipeline was buried 4 feet deep

and ran over 400 feet from the family's well to a 150 gallon watering trough. 781 feet of fencing was erected, and then geotextile fabric was laid on walkway from the barn to the pasture with a gravel on top.

Jack Dickson lives in Brooks, Maine, and along with his wife Jessica, they own 400 acres. Jack and Jessica have a forest management plan on their forest land. They have a goal to manage their woodland property to protect the forest health, provide a diverse wildlife habitat, and to maintain and protect the soil and water resources.



Continued on page 13

2015 Conservation Highlights



Over the years they have done many practices to help maintain their forestland's health. Through EQIP, they did a practice to help remove some of the invasive species. The goal of this practice was to eradicate infestations of non-natives like Asian bush honeysuckle and common buckthorn. Both of these invasives can take over

completely and eventually displace many native plant species. This can reduce biodiversity and wildlife habitats. To control the Asian bush honeysuckle and the common buckthorn, the Dickson's used a cut-stump herbicide treatment. Any present small plants were pulled by hand.

The Dickson's were sure to get all roots because if any root fragments still existed the plants could easily sprout and regrow. By controlling these invasives and future planned silvicultural activities, the Dickson's will continue to help promote a healthy and diverse forest ecosystem.

Helping Soil & Water Quality

By: Misha Vargas

Clovercrest Farm, owned by Stephen Morrison, is an organic dairy located at 159 Atkiston Rd. in Charleston, ME. Currently this farm milks 85 Jersey cows, with a total population of 140 on the farm. Steve came to us with several concerns which he hoped to address. Manure management and runoff were the primary concerns. A pole barn is used for younger animals, but the area along the laneway is rutted and runoff is a concern.



Continued on page 15

2015 Conservation Highlights



Above: is a before photo.

Below: is a after photo with the new heavy use area



diversion. The purpose of the diversion is to divert water from it's natural flow. Diversion was located south of the VTA to change its flow from getting into Steve's neighbor's property. After the completion of this project we inspected the finished job very carefully and were satisfied to tell Steve that he is going to be able to run his farm with no concerns.



Pictures show the rock transition into the vegetated treatment area.



There was no water management in the area and this was causing the water flow to go down the hill into the compost pad and then directly into a neighbor's property. An undersized manure compost is what Steve had. "The maple trees from my neighbor's property were dying from the excess of nutrients" Steve said.

To address these issues, we built a 23,640 SqFt composting facility design by Mark Roskos (NRCS Engineer) along with a Heavy Use Area to allow water to flow east and Vegetated Treatment Area to keep the dirty water from trespassing on the neighbor's property.

To make this all work, we had to combine practices and establish permanent vegetation on eroding areas associated with the construction of a 390 LnFt

Rubber Razor Bars for Driveways

by John J Simon

by John J Simon

Having trouble with erosion on your gravel driveway? Have you noticed neighborhood gravel driveways with chronic erosion problem? If you answered yes then this article is for you.

Many gravel driveways are long, steep, and/or have water running onto them from adjacent land. If the driveway receives runoff from adjacent land it is important to divert this water using a diversion over to a safe outlet if at all possible. If not sure how to do this contact your local SWCD for technical help. This should be your first step. Driveways should not be considered a waterway.

If your gravel driveway is long, sloped, and experiencing erosion, then you might consider installing one or more rubber razor bars along its length. The erosion obviously transports soil material to adjacent road ditches, water bodies, or streams, plus periodic maintenance is needed and costly to avoid a safety hazard. The installation cost is relatively low and the practice is quite efficient.

These Rubber Razor Bars are also called Rubber Razor Blades, Rubber Blades, or Rubber Waterbars.

This BMP (best management practice) has been used successfully in many areas of the state on gravel roads and driveways for many years. PCSWCD had made use of them on many of its own 319 projects. Neil Crane is quite familiar with their use as he installed many of them on projects in the Neighborhood of his camp. The recommendations in the DEP manual recommend caution on use if the road / driveway is plowed but the author is aware of good results on plowed driveways / roads if the speed of the plow is kept low and the locations are marked.

The spacing along the driveway/road if as follows:

Road grade	water bar spacing
2%	250 ft
5%	135 ft
10%	80 ft
15%	60 ft
20%	45 ft
30%	35 ft

Once installed you will be pleased with the lack of erosion on your road / driveway and the ease of navigation over this type of BMP (best management practice).

On the next page, a fact sheet gives information for installation.

Rubber Razor Bars for Driveways continued.. by John J Simon



RUBBER RAZORS

~managing runoff on gravel roads and driveways~



Before



After



Also Called: Rubber Razor Blades, Rubber Blades, Rubber Waterbars

Purpose: Rubber Razors divert water off gravel driveways and camp roads into stable vegetated areas.

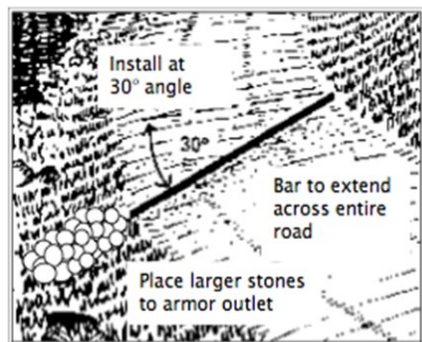
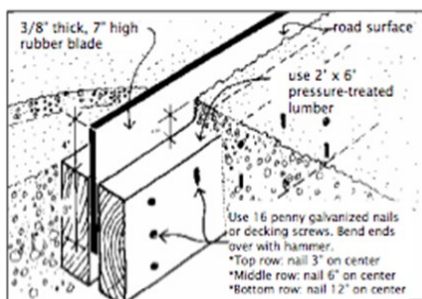
These structures are well suited for seasonal roads that are not plowed. They can be plowed over if the location is clearly marked and the plow operator lifts the plow blade slightly.

Installation: Install the rubber razor at a 30 degree angle to the road edge and point the outlet toward a stable vegetated area.

Pack gravel around the rubber razor to make sure it is securely installed.

Armor the outlet with a flared grouping of stones to slow down the water before it enters the buffer.

Materials: Rubber razors are constructed using new or used conveyor belts. These may be obtained at no or low cost from industrial sources. Contact your Soil and Water Conservation District for additional sources. Lumber can be purchased at any local hardware store.



Maintenance: To maintain these structures, periodically remove accumulated debris from behind the razor.

Part of the **Conservation Practices for Homeowners** Factsheet Series, available at:
Maine DEP (800.452.1942); <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/materials.htm>
Portland Water District (207.774.5961); <http://www.pwd.org/news/publications.php>

May 2006 DEPLW0785

Do It Yourself Root Cellar

By: Chuck Penney—Acting District Conservationist for Penobscot County

Very simple do it yourself root cellar!



Preserving the harvest

Backyard gardening can be a very rewarding experience and a way we grow food for a long Maine winter. Preserving the harvest can be a big challenge if we don't have proper storage. I hope this article gives you some insight and ideas for a very simple and affordable root cellar. It concerns me to think of the amount of food we let go to waste annually by not having these skills. Root cellaring is a low impact way to store food. It uses the earth to maintain the

freshness of the crops stored within. Below is a diagram of a basic root cellar using a galvanized trash can that's very inexpensive and works very well. A plastic 55 gallon drum will work as well. I have attached a link (YouTube) that demonstrates installing a plastic root cellar: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LQ6HgCwm2M>. With the harvest season upon us I hope this simple method of root

cellaring is something that you can install and enjoy till next spring!

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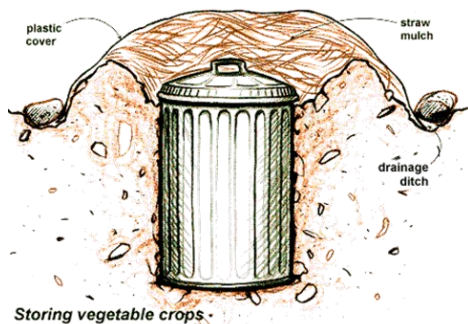
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Keep a look out for our spring newsletter!

Plant & Fish Sale order forms will be included in it.





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