**Proclamation**

**Conservation District Week 2020**

**Whereas,** conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs.

**Whereas,** conservation districts work with landowners and local governments to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands.

**Whereas,** Conservation districts were created in PA in 1945 in response to the dust bowl of the 1930’s to improve soil and water conservation.

**Whereas,** each county in PA has a conservation district except for Philadelphia.

**Whereas,** local municipalities rely on conservation district staff to plan development in a way that conserves and protects the local environment.

**Whereas,** districts also work with many partner*s* includinggovernment agencies, private organizations, businesses, and others – to accomplish their mission of supporting and helping landowners to conserve natural resources.

**Whereas,** the districts are each led by a volunteer board of directors with farmers, public members, and a member of county government.   The board identifies local conservation needs, decides which programs and services to offer, and develops a strategic plan.

**Now Therefore, the Commissioners do hereby proclaim, May 3-9, 2020 as Conservation District Week commemorating the great work accomplished by PA’s 66 Conservation Districts.**