**Proclamation**

**Conservation District Week 2023**

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

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

**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; and

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

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

**Whereas,** districts also work with many partners,includinggovernment agencies, private organizations, businesses, and others, to accomplish their mission of helping landowners to conserve natural resources; and

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

**Therefore, be it resolved that we, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 23-29, 2023, as Conservation District Week to commemorate the great work accomplished by Pennsylvania’s 66 Conservation Districts.**