

# WYOMING COUNTY

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

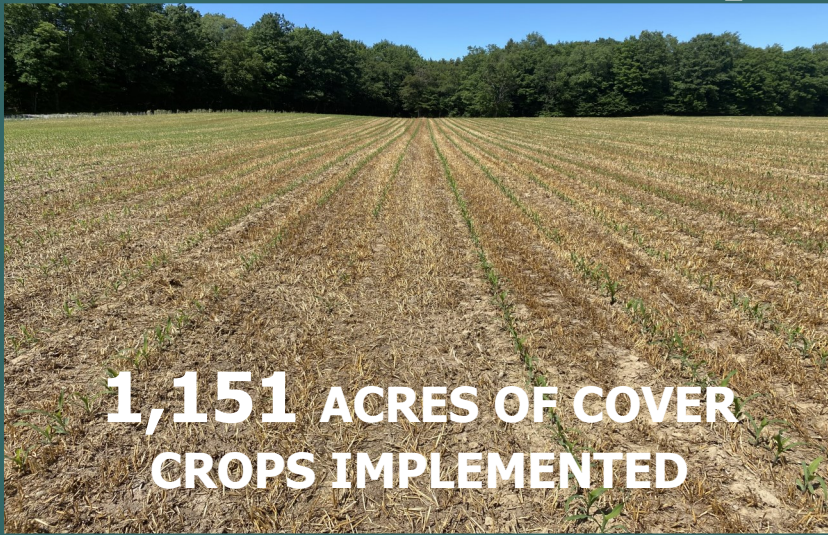


The Mission of the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote wise management of our natural resources through a wide variety of quality conservation and educational programs.

Wyoming County SWCD provides technical assistance on soil, water, and related natural resources to municipalities, farmers, and landowners who utilize the information to make sustainable land use decisions and protect water resources. The Wyoming County SWCD works with many stakeholders to secure cost share funding which is used to complete Best Management Practices on farms, water quality improvement projects, and stream channel restoration.



## 2021 Accomplishments



**1,151 ACRES OF COVER CROPS IMPLEMENTED**



**15 WATER QUALITY SAMPLES COLLECTED**



**5 HYDROSEEDING PROJECTS...COVERING 5.5 ACRES OF EXPOSED SOIL!**



**46 MUNICIPAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**



**71 AGRICULTURAL BMPs APPLIED**

## 2021 Accomplishments



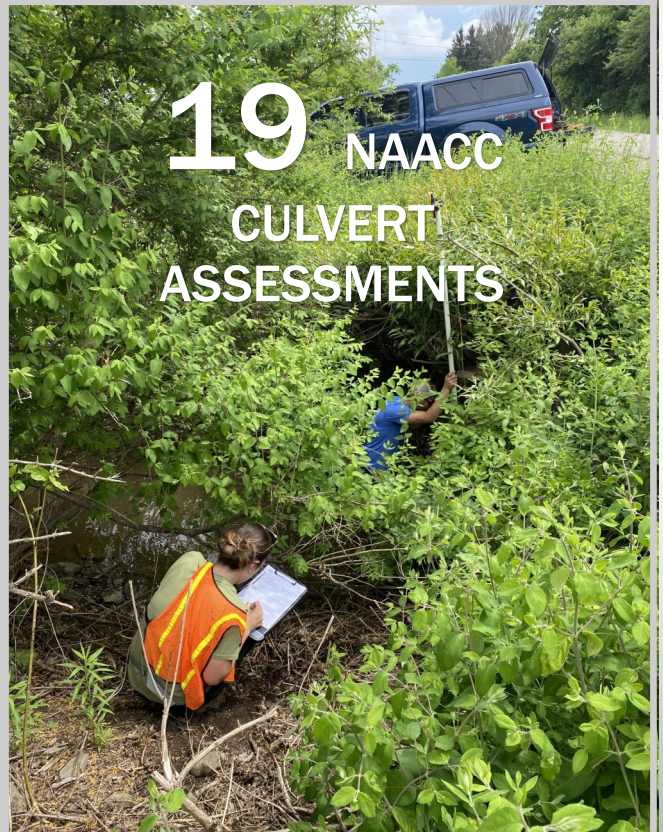
**5 ACRES OF INVASIVE SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT**



**1 Dam Removal  
Project**



***550' OF ROAD DITCH  
STABILIZATION***



**19 NAACC  
CULVERT  
ASSESSMENTS**



**250 LINEAR FEET OF  
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION**

## 2021 Accomplishments

*0.5 Acres of Riparian  
Buffers Installed*



**3 School Workshop Days**



**127 AGRICULTURAL VALUE  
ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED**



**10 MILLION  
GALLONS OF  
MANURE  
STORAGE  
CREATED**



**30,399 FEET OF LOG  
JAMS REMOVED**



**10 PERMIT ASSISTS**



**26,086 INDIVIDUALS REACHED  
THROUGH OUTREACH EVENTS**



# The Pike Mills Dam Removal

**History:** The Pike Dam was a structure dating back to at least the late 1800s and was listed on the NYSDEC Dam Safety Registry as being built in 1923. It is unknown when the dam in its current configuration was completed, but photos from 1954 show it looking much as it did structurally in 2021. By the early 2000s, the structure was beginning to show significant disrepair, with the only ongoing maintenance being the occasional replacement of the wooden boards on the spillway. In July 2018, the Town of Pike approached NYSDEC Fisheries with concerns over the state of the dam, especially from the standpoint of child safety with kids playing around potentially dangerous areas of the spillway.



Historic dam photograph, circa 1954, well known as a local fishing spot and swimming hole by the Pike community.



**July 2020:** Degradation of concrete and wooden planks is very apparent during times of low flow

**Feasibility:** In 2019, after many meetings of the minds, the partners set out to acquire a feasibility study and hydraulic analysis that could determine a solution while meeting the four following objectives:

1. *Remove or rehabilitate the existing structure so it would not require ongoing maintenance and could be removed from the NYSDEC Dam Safety Registry.*
2. *Maintain the stream grade control function of the current dam.*
3. *Allow for upstream fish passage at the site.*
4. *Maintain the quality fishing pool in front of the existing accessible fishing platform.*

LaBella Associates, out of Rochester, was awarded the contract to perform the feasibility study in which they provided three alternative solutions. Of the alternatives, the partners decided to proceed with the dam removal, and implement an Engineered Rock Riffle structure in its place. This option was projected to have the highest likelihood for surviving extreme storm events.

**The Partners:** In late 2018, a work group was formed including the Town of Pike, Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NYSDEC Fisheries and Dam Safety and the Western NY Chapter of Trout Unlimited (WNYTU) to determine a course of action.

**Funding:** The stakeholders researched grant opportunities to fund the estimated \$300,000 cost of construction and subsequently applied for several grants. In the meantime, USFWS & WCSWCD assisted in funding the feasibility study while awaiting grant award results. By late 2020, sufficient funding had been identified to proceed with final planning and contracting of the work for 2021 construction. Project funding for construction came from USFWS, the NYS Council of TU (\$9000), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Sustain Our Great Lakes Program (\$125,000). Not to mention the hundreds of in-kind service hours from the agencies.



## The Pike Mills Dam Removal Project - Construction Process



A temporary bypass channel was excavated adjacent to the dam to dewater the main stream prior to construction.



During the dewatering process, agency staff helped net and shock fish to relocate them downstream/



This picture depicts one side of the engineered rock riffle being completed in a staggered staircase formation.



The stream channel was re-aligned while the remainder of construction is being finished, thereby restoring the pool.

The adjacent photo shows the completed Engineered Rock Riffle now in place of the original dam at the Wyoming County Fairgrounds in Pike, NY. The overall project cost was around the estimated \$300,000 with funds to spare in the event some touch up work is needed in the spring. The partners plan to spend several days planting in the riparian zones adjacent to the creek to improve habitat and increase shaded areas. Increased shade will decrease water temperature and make water conditions of the Wiscoy Creek even more suitable for trout populations.

This project, and projects like this, allow WCSWCD to better relationships between federal and state partners. It was to everyone's benefit to have so many knowledgeable minds working towards a cause. Fostering the partnership between these organizations will open doors to many more projects in the future.



## 2021 AEM - Leopold Conservation Award



Farm owner Meghan Hauser and her late father, Willard De Golyer, began working with the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2003 to complete the first tiers of the AEM program. To improve water quality, a series of grass waterways and underground outlets have been installed to collect leachate from silage bunkers and divert runoff from the roofs of farm buildings. WCSWCD, on the farm's behalf, applied for funds through Climate Resilient Farming (Round 1) to implement a cover and flare system over their waste storage.

In 2021, Table Rock Farms was awarded the AEM-Leopold Conservation Award, presented by the Sand County Foundation in partnership with American Farmland Trust, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District to commend them on their efforts in improving conservation. When it comes to on-farm research, Table Rock Farm is at the head of it's class. It's owners and employees have long understood the importance of opening the dairy farm's barns and fields to researchers. Whether it's improving conservation, cows or crops, the results have a positive ripple effect throughout agriculture.



The completed cover and flare system prevents hundreds of gallons of rainwater from entering into the waste storage annually. This practice keeps the clean water clean.

The farm is best known for the innovative cover and flare system on its manure storage. To protect resources, reduce waste, and improve air quality, Table Rock Farm worked with a team of professionals, including New York's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program, to develop an intricate system that separates solids from liquids in cow manure, and prevents methane from being released into the atmosphere.

Separated manure solids are treated to reduce bacteria before being recycled into bedding. The clean and comfy product has resulted in better cow health and comfort. The manure system's cover keeps out rain, reduces odor, and allows spreading during optimum weather conditions. The entire project is the subject of a video used statewide to inform farmers, legislators and others about its benefits. To view the video, please visit: <https://sandcountyfoundation.org/our-work/leopold-conservation-award-program/table-rock-farm>

## District Board of Directors & Staff

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 County Supervisor - James Brick  
 County Supervisor - Joseph Gozelski  
 Farm Bureau Representative - Walt Faryna  
 Grange Representative - Ronald McCormick

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