



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1035 E Michigan Ave. Ste. A | Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-4030x5 | info@vanburencd.org



DEAR RESIDENTS AND PARTNERS

At the beginning of 2020, we surely didn't anticipate what the year would bring. Less than a week before the world went on lockdown, we held our large farmer event - Farming for the Future. Little did we know, it would be over a year before we gathered with our community in person again.

Throughout the uncertainty of 2020, we adapted to provide resources, education, and points of connection to Van Buren County through social media, webinars, and phone calls.

Thankfully, with so much of our work being conducted outdoors, we were able to see residents, partners, and landowners more than many.

We offered recycling services at our year-round sites and collection events with extra precautions in place. We held outdoor events on a smaller scale, and we cancelled events without stopping the work. Our board and staff never wavered in our commitment to conserving all of the wonderful natural resources we share in Van Buren County.

Looking back, we're even more grateful for the determination and support in the Van Buren community. Together, we adapted and weathered the storm. Even in the midst of loss and change, we found new ways to connect and revisited old ways of valuing the land and water we share. Thank you for your support and strength.

~ Van Buren Conservation District Staff and Board



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2. Dear Residents and Partners
- 4. Staff and Board
- 6. Partners
- 8. Conservation Tax Dollars at Work
- 9. Accomplishments

OUR STAFF

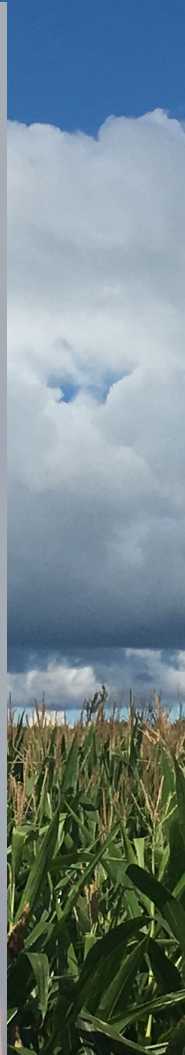


AJ Brucks, Executive Director
Kimberly Sinclair, Administrator
Erin Fuller, Watershed Coordinator
Colleen Forestieri, Conservation Technician
Kyle Mead, MAEAP Technician
Nor Serocki, CISMA Coordinator
Emilly Hickmott, Recycling Coordinator
Lucas Hartman, Conservation Technician

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Carl Druskovich, Treasurer



Bill VanTassel, Member

Bryan Cronenwett, Chairperson
Jan Petersen, Secretary
Carl Druskovich, Treasurer
Paulette Rybarski, Member
Bill VanTassel, Member



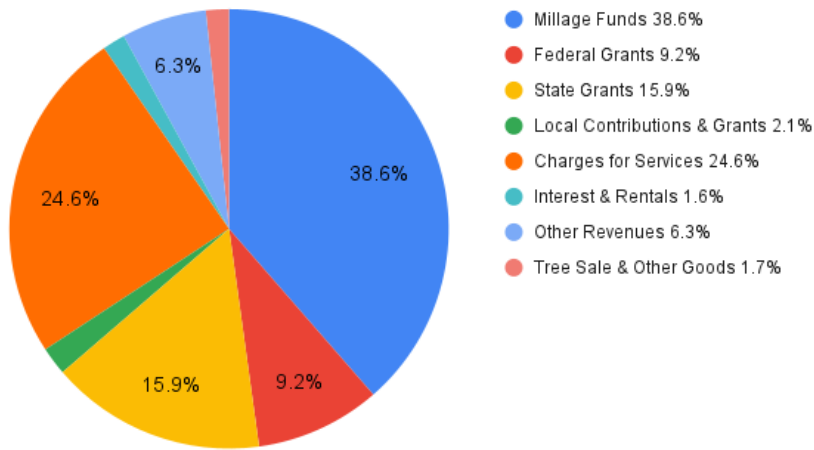
OUR PARTNERS

We work with a number of partners who helps us in innumerable ways. The Van Buren Conservation District thanks all of you.

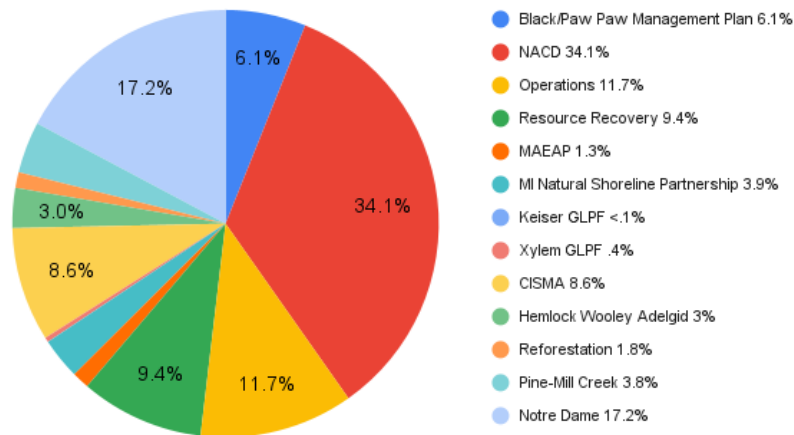


2020 CONSERVATION TAX DOLLARS AT WORK: FISCAL YEAR OCT. 1, 2019 - SEPT. 30, 2020

Revenue Total: \$689,225.12



Expenditures Total: \$799,104.46



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Resource Recovery

- 5 days of collections
- 6 categories of service
- 5,664 passenger tire equivalents (PTEs)
- 7,300 lbs. of household hazardous waste (chemicals + pesticides)
- 10,805 lbs. of paint
- 37,464 lbs. of electronics (accepted at collections and year-round site)

CISMA

- People educated: 15,628
 - Passive outreach: 15,416
 - Active outreach: 212

Reforestation

- 8,491 tree seedlings sold

MAEAP/Water Screening/Equipment Rentals

- 785 acres planted with conservation equipment
- 6 new MAEAP verifications
- 11 MAEAP reverifications
- 46 in-process verifications

Ag Conservation/Water Quality Program

- # water samples: 61
- \$ spent to incentivize conservation improvements on farms: \$54,415.00
- Tons of sediment runoff reduction to due BMP conservation on farms: 388.7 tons
- Acres of cover crop installed through VBCD programs: 2,333.3

NACD

Technical and Financial Assistance Programs:

EQIP = Environmental Quality Incentives Program

CSP = Conservation Stewardship Program

- # of contracts signed: EQIP = 13 CSP = 4
- Total \$ allocated to both programs in VB and Cass = \$204,664.05
- Total acres committed to both programs = 2,285.1 acres
- \$89.56 spent per acre enrolled in the program

Operations

- 28,794 tax bill inserts mailed out
- X billboards posted
- Twice-monthly Conservation Corners posted in local newspapers
- Facebook reach: 22,522
- Facebook posts: 313
- Healthy Home Fair in Hartford



1035 E Michigan Ave. Ste. A | Paw Paw, MI 49079 | 269-657-4030x5 | info@vanburencd.org



@vbcDMI



@VanBurenCD



@VanBurenCD



@Van Buren Conservation District