

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE

Winter 2019

www.bluemountainwildlife.com

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE  
P.O. BOX 389  
Hamburg, PA 19526

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**ANNUAL BANQUET**

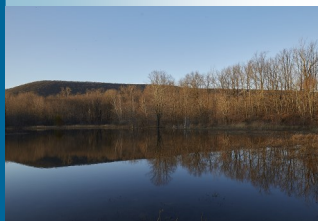
**WETLANDS MITIGATION PROJECT**

**REMOVAL OF THE NEW KERNSVILLE DAM**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

OUR MISSION

THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE WILDLIFE AND WETLANDS ALONG THE SCENIC SCHUYLKILL RIVER IN NORTHERN BERKS AND SOUTHERN SCHUYLKILL COUNTIES.



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## AND SO IT BEGINS...

The winter of 2019 is over and another spring has arrived at the Kerny. For Blue Mountain Wildlife, this heralds the arrival of “event season.” Races, clean-ups, projects and hikes of all kinds. This spring is no different, at least in that respect. But this spring is different in a much more significant way. This year may be the last spring for the Kernsville Dam.



The Kernsville Dam, or more correctly New Kernsville Dam, is scheduled to be removed sometime this year. Built in 1948 and ‘49, the dam has been a fixture of the Hamburg area for several generations. Most of us cannot remember a time when it wasn’t there, silently collecting silt and maintaining a great pool of



water used by so many people in so many ways. But by next spring, the great concrete dam may be gone, replaced by a Schuylkill River which hasn’t been seen in that location in over 150 years. A Schuylkill River free of pools, locks and dams. Read more about this project, beginning on page 8.

Should you become fixated on that major change, a visit to the Kerny will swiftly remind you that there is another, more visible project in the works. The I-78 Wetlands Mitigation project has started. If you visit the Kerny any time in the next six to eight months, chances are you will be impacted by this project. Check page 3 to learn more about this project.

For now, the events and clean-ups must go on. And so it goes...

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—SPRING 2019

- Thursday April 11, 2019...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Saturday April 13, 2019...BMW Trail Race Series Bartram Breeze 9:00 am Kernsville Dam Recreation Area
- Saturday April 20, 2019...Earth Day Clean-Up 8 am to 4 pm Kernsville Dam Recreation Area
- Thursday May 9, 2019...BMW Monthly Business Meeting 6:00 pm Hamburg Library
- Saturday May 18, 2019...BMW Trail Race Series Mad Dash 9:00 am Hamburg Reservoir
- Sunday June 2, 2019...Bear Creek Festival 12 noon Schuylkill County Fairgrounds
- Saturday June 15, 2019...Get Outdoors Day 10 am Blue March Dry Brooks Day Use Area
- Saturday June 22, 2019...BMW Trail Race Series Run To The Rock 9 am Hamburg Community Park

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BANQUET**

**GREGG ADAMS**

For the fifteenth time, the Blue Mountain Wildlife officers, directors and members gathered to review the year past, elect officers and look to the new year ahead. This year's gathering was again at The Loft at C.J. Hummel's in Lenhartsville on Friday January 25th. About thirty people gathered to renew old friendships and create new ones.

The meeting opened with President Don Waldron welcoming the attendees and leading the introductions. Treasurer Sue Fisher gave the financial report, noting that BMW started 2018 with \$11,995 in the bank, took in \$10,401 in revenue, had \$12,223 in expenses and ended 2018 with \$10,173 in the bank. Gregg Adams gave the membership, communications and programs reports for 2018, noting that BMW started the year with 134 members and ended with 125 members. He stated that the BMW website had 4,233 unique visitors in 2018 with 10,200 page views. He stated that \$3,445 in sales were processed through the website. He noted that the BMW Facebook page picked up an additional 109 "Likes" in 2018. He then reported that BMW held 3 trail races, the Annual Earth Day Clean-Up, the Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race at Taste of Hamburger Festival, two bird walks, an invasive species hike and a history hike in 2018. BMW also attended Bear Creek Festival and Get Outdoors Day. The Kerny hosted a dragonfly walk, a star watch, and an Indian campfire stories gathering. Jim Turner then reported on the maintenance efforts in 2018, including the repair of the Information Kiosk roof and the work on the Native Plant Butterfly Garden.

After Don Waldron's closing remarks, the election of Officers and Directors was held. Donald Waldron was elected to the office of President, Neven Dries to the office of Vice-President, Gregg Adams to the office of Secretary and Sue Fisher to the office of Treasurer. Neven Dries, Kerry Grim and Joe Swider were re-elected for three-year terms as Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife.

After the elections, Blue Mountain Wildlife recognized those who had a great impact on the organization and the Kerny over the past year. Don Waldron presented a Certificate of Appreciation to McKenzie Greenawalt for her work on her Girl Scout Gold Medal Project Native Plant Butterfly Garden. Don Waldron presented a Certificate of Appreciation to James Turner for his work supporting the Native Plant Butterfly Garden project.

After the buffet dinner was served, Richard Gardner presented an update to his 2018 Annual Banquet lecture on the Green Lanternfly, its spread as an invasive species, the futility of the controls proposed and possible natural controls. Shane Erdman and Mark Malach of PA DEP presented a program on the proposed removal of the New Kernsville Dam and answered a number of questions related to the topic. To finish the evening's presentations, Gregg Adams presented an update of the Wetlands Mitigation Project with plans and tentative milestone dates.

For those interested in the Wetlands Mitigation Project or the removal of the New Kernsville Dam, the next two articles cover much of the information presented at the Annual Banquet.

## **WETLANDS MITIGATION PROJECT BEGINS**

**PICTURES BY KERRY GRIM**



# WETLANDS MITIGATION PROJECT

GREGG ADAMS

The long-awaited I-78 Wetlands Mitigation Project is upon us. Blue Mountain Wildlife became aware of the project in early 2017 and has been in touch with PennDOT and other agencies throughout the process, learning the issues, providing feedback and advocating for the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area and its users.

As parts of the basin trail system will be closed to the public during the construction of the new wetlands, compensation to the area are required and will be made in the form of improvements. BMW and Tilden Township have been working with PennDOT to secure useful and acceptable improvements to the area. The graphic below details the improvements that are proposed to the Monument Parking Lot. The maps on the following pages are taken from the approved plan set and show most of the work proposed for the area. Besides the improvements to the parking lot, new wetlands will be constructed and the Cut-Off Trail through the basin will be moved and improved. Kernsville Dam Road is proposed to be reconstructed as well.

As for the details of when the construction is to occur, in late January Joshua Golomb, Consultant Project Manager at PennDOT, wrote, "As for a timeline of construction, the contractor

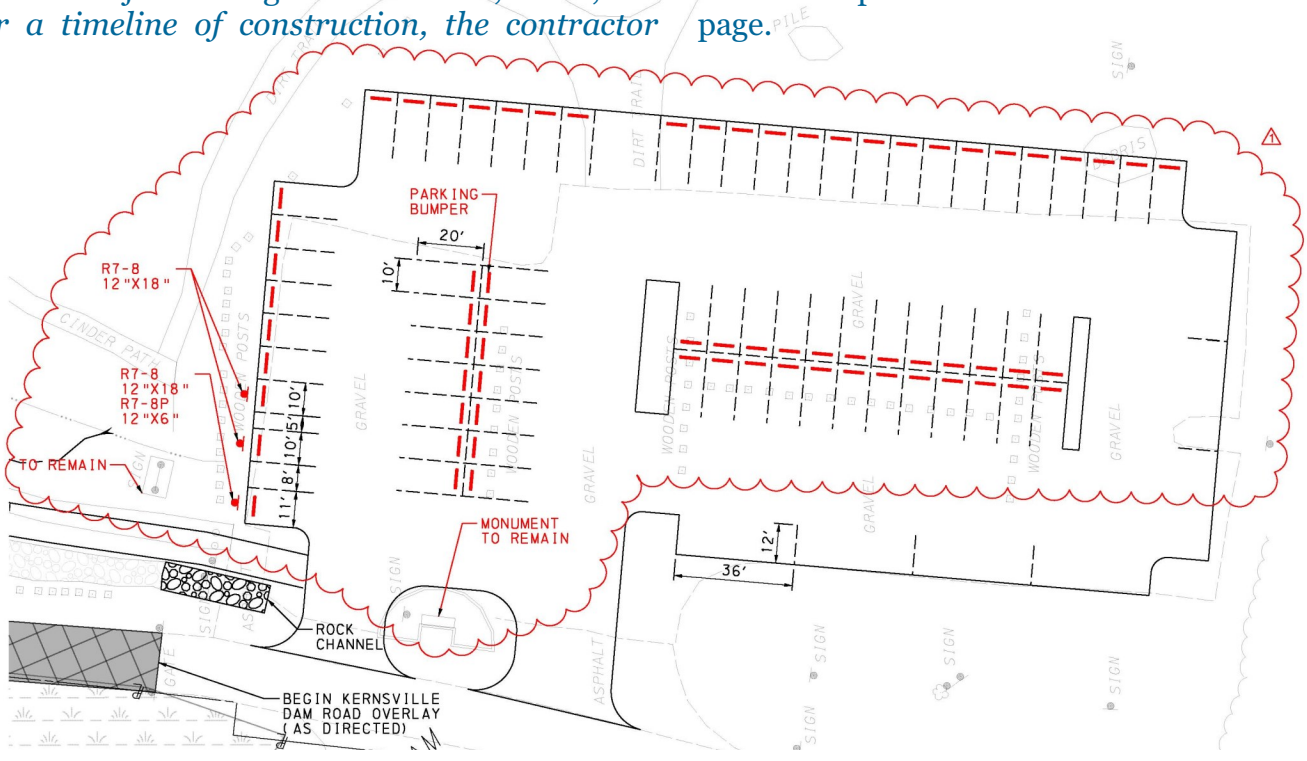
will ultimately develop a schedule, but the designers have developed one for bidding purposes. The current schedule is as follows:

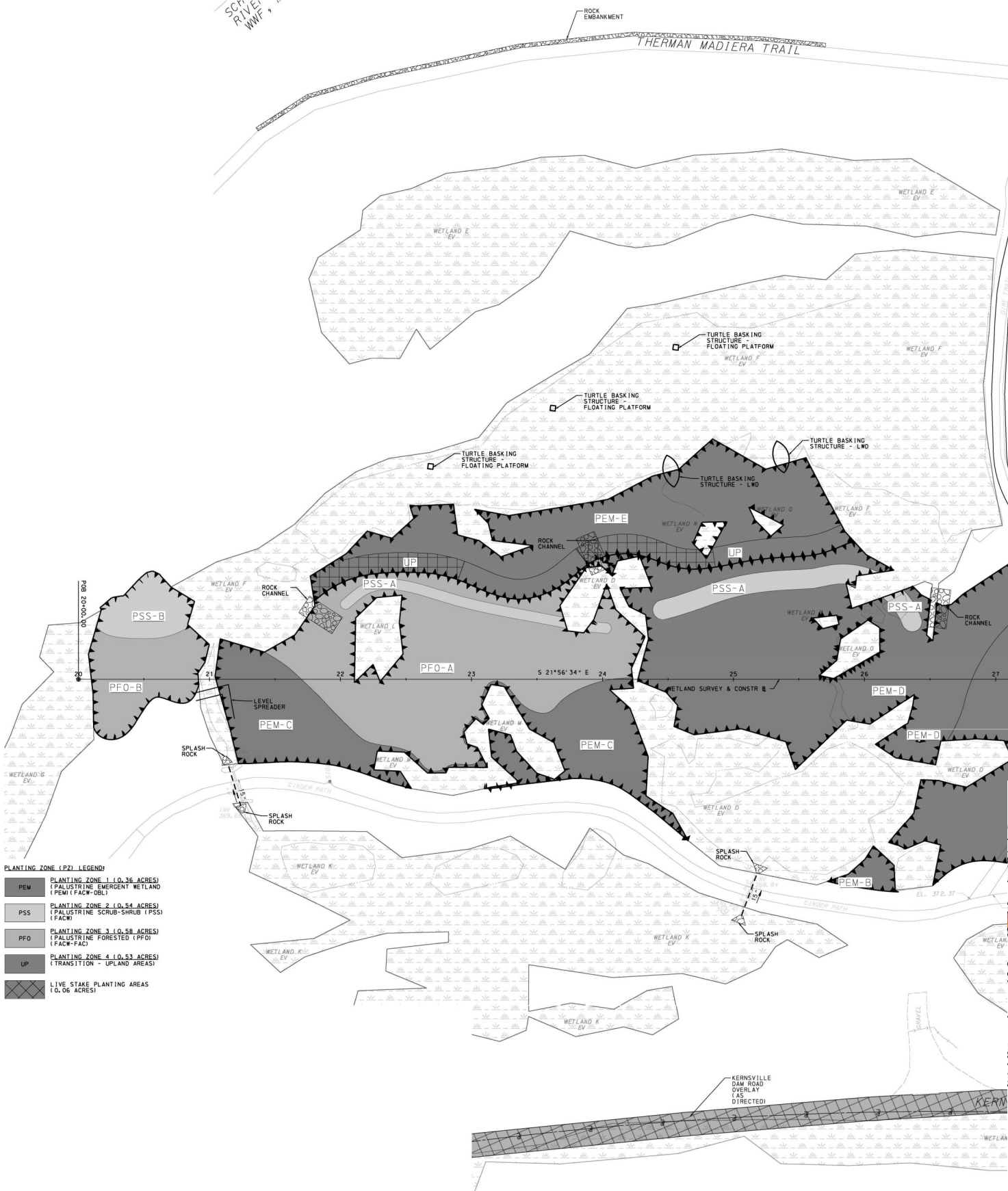
- 1) Mobilization at the site March 4-15, 2019
- 2) Clearing of proposed wetland area March 18-29, 2019
- 3) Wetland construction will occur between April 8-July 17, 2019
- 4) Parking lot reconstruction July 18-August 27. Please note that during this time parking will be limited at the site. The contractor will maintain 12 parking spaces throughout the duration of parking lot reconstruction.
- 5) Kernsville Dam Road pavement overlay August 21-September 11, 2019.

There will be some final punchlist items occurring at the end of September and into October, but the project will be substantially complete by this time. As I said, the contractor will come up with their own schedule so this may change.

During construction of the wetlands, any sections of the trail network within the construction area will not be accessible to the public."

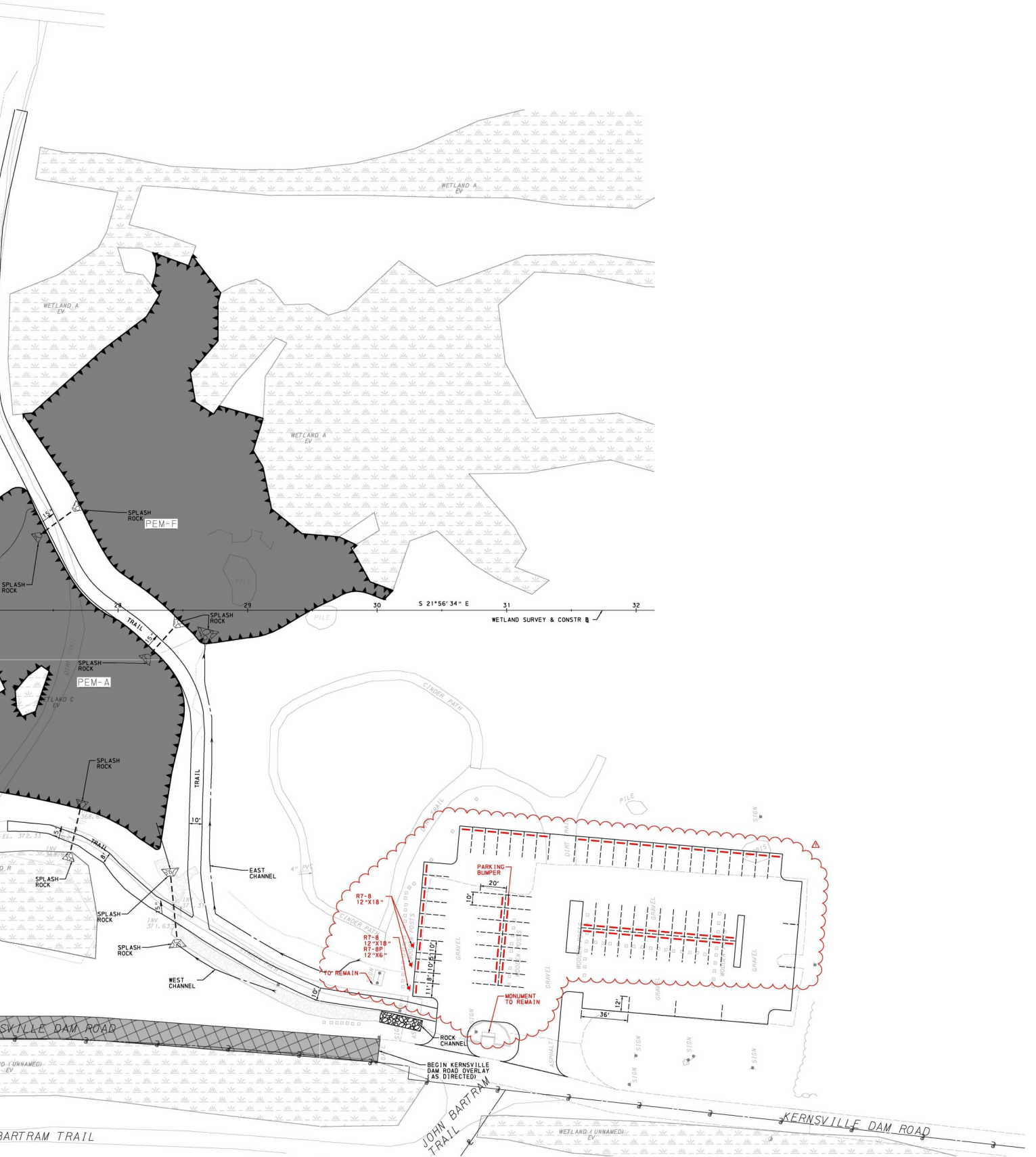
When an approved schedule is available, BMW will post it to our website and Facebook page.

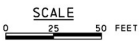
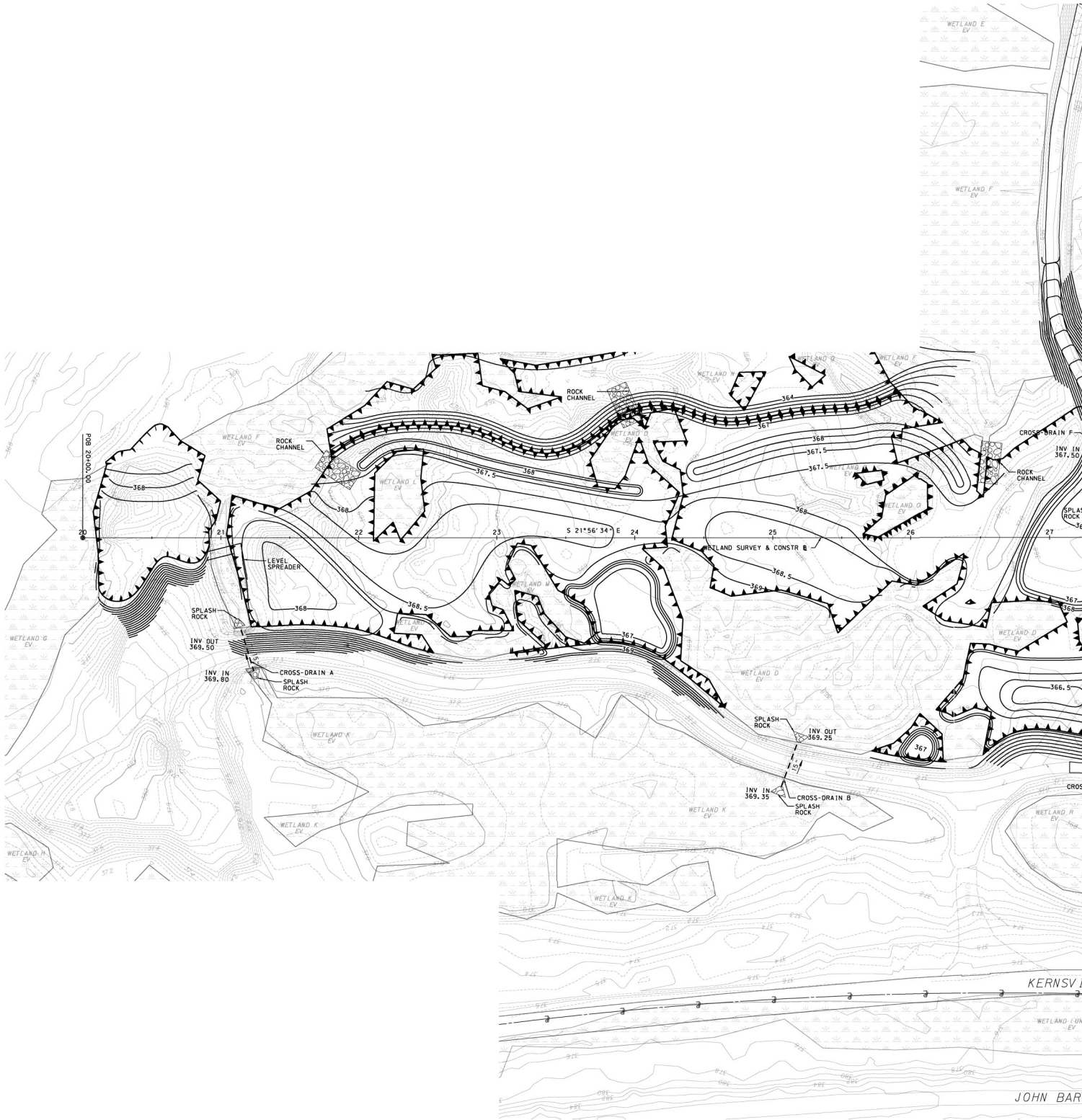




**PLANTING ZONE (PZ) LEGEND:**

PEM	PLANTING ZONE 1 (0.36 ACRES) (PALUSTRINE EMERGENT WETLAND (PEM) (FACW-OBL))
PSS	PLANTING ZONE 2 (0.54 ACRES) (PALUSTRINE SCRUB-SHRUB (PSS) (FACW))
PFO	PLANTING ZONE 3 (0.58 ACRES) (PALUSTRINE FORESTED (PFO) (FACW-FAC))
UP	PLANTING ZONE 4 (0.53 ACRES) (TRANSITION - UPLAND AREAS)
[Cross-hatched]	LIVE STAKE PLANTING AREAS (0.66 ACRES)







**WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN  
CONTOUR GRADING AND DRAINAGE**

## THE REMOVAL OF THE NEW KERNSVILLE DAM

**GREGG ADAMS**

At the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet on January 25th, Mark Malach and Shane Erdman of PA DEP presented information regarding the removal of the New Kernsville Dam. The presentation is being presented here in almost its entirety. The slides have been cropped to remove “dead” space so that they may be displayed at the largest size possible. Two of the slides have been repeated, but cropped and the remaining portions enlarged to show the pertinent portions in greater detail.

During the question and answer period, Mark and Shane explained that the contract to remove the dam has not yet been awarded. This means that, while the method shown in the presentation is a typical method of removing dams similar in size and construction to that of the New Kernsville Dam, the actual method of removing the dam has not yet been reviewed and approved. They opined that the contract could be awarded in the next few months and that work could begin as early as April, with the bulk of the

work to remove the dam completed this year. They suggested that those interested in the removal process should search the internet for the removal of the Ballville Dam in Fremont, Ohio. They stated that the Ballville Dam removal was extensively documented in video and is available for viewing for free on YouTube. They also explained that a number of approvals must be secured before the work can commence.

More recently, Blue Mountain Wildlife has learned that the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission issued a negative review for the plan, due to concerns with the removal of many historic features as proposed by the project. As a result, the Army Corps of Engineers is meeting on April 9th with at least fourteen local organizations, including BMW, to ascertain their views of the features impacted by the project.

As the project proceeds and more is learned, Blue Mountain Wildlife will post news-worthy items on our website and Facebook page, as well as provide articles in future newsletters.



## New Kernsville Dam Removal

Tilden and Windsor Townships  
Berks County, PA

January 25, 2019



## Background

- Trespassing and inappropriate activities in the area have occurred resulting in numerous fatalities.
- New Kernsville Dam is no longer needed due to mine reclamation activities that have been completed over the past 30 years.
- DEP – Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) currently operates and maintains dam.
- DEP – Bureau of Waterways Engineering & Wetlands (BWEW) will develop plans, obtain permits, and oversee removal of the dam.
- Once removed, the dam property will be transferred to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR - Bureau of Forestry).
- DCNR ultimately would like to return the area to public use in the future.

## Dam History

- Dam was built as part of the Schuylkill River Desilting Project.
- Purpose was to create an impounding reservoir to capture and prevent the downstream advancement of coal-rich silt.
- Construction started in June of 1948.
- Completed in November of 1949.

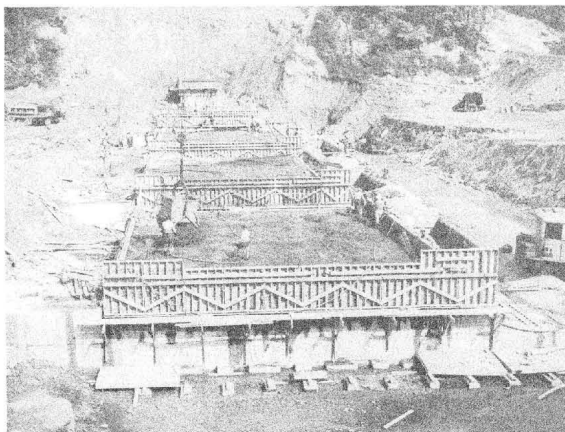


PLATE 14—NEW KERNSVILLE DAM DURING CONSTRUCTION

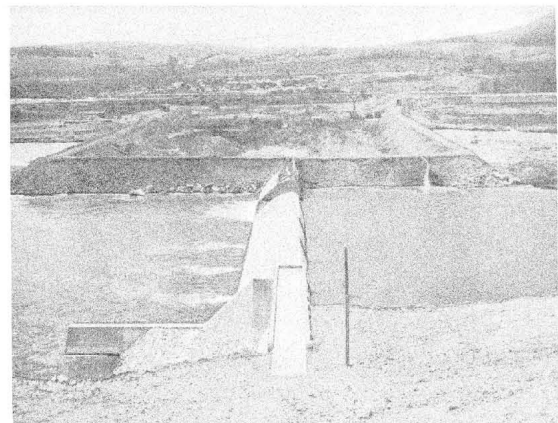
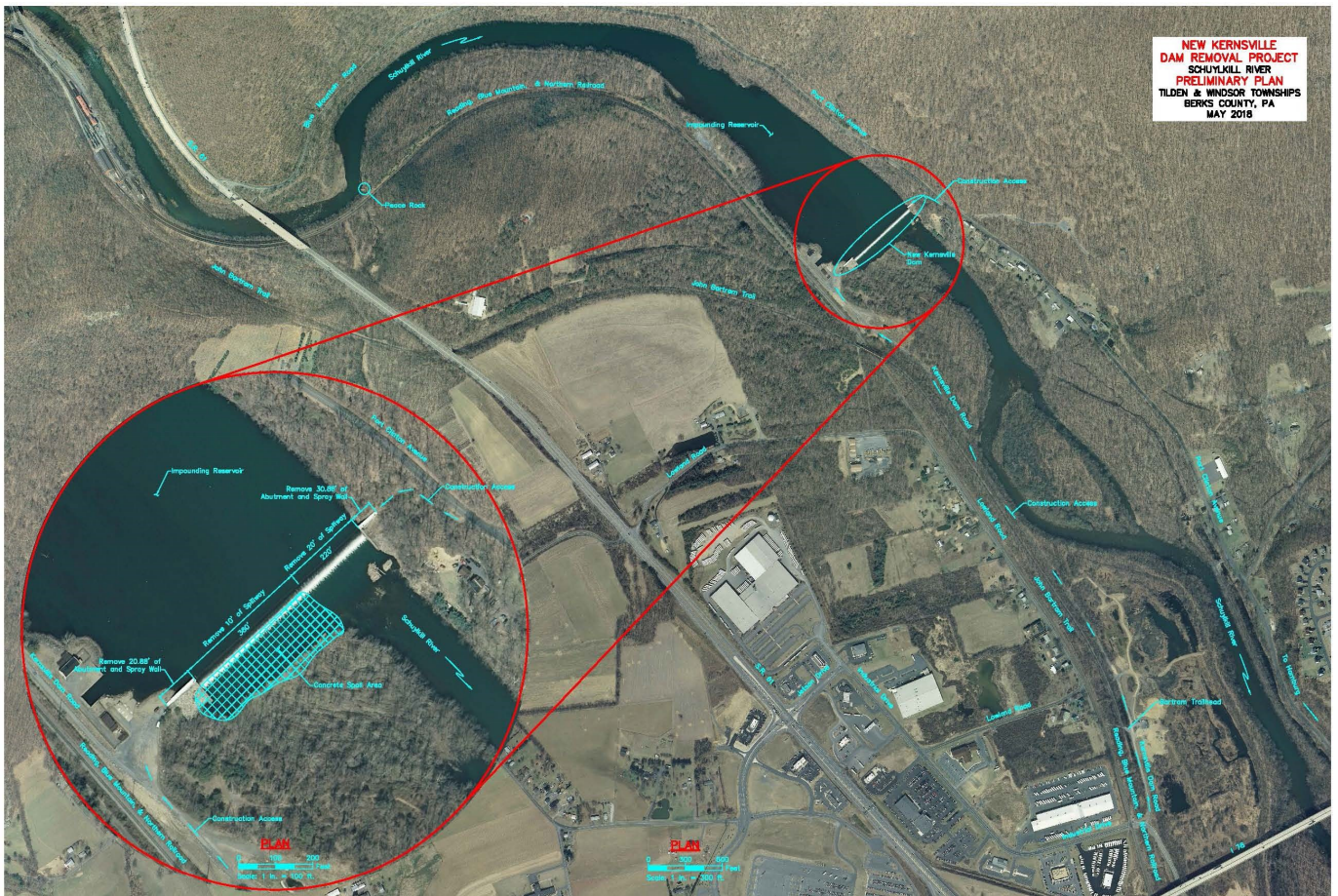
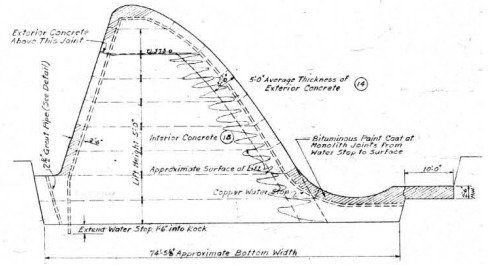


PLATE 15—NEW KERNSVILLE DAM SHOWING COMPLETION OF FIRST STAGE AND CONSTRUCTED COFFER DAM FOR SECOND STAGE

# Dam Features

- Spillway Length = 600'
- Founded on Shale and Limestone
- Max. Height of Dam = 45' (28' below riverbed)
- Spillway base width = 58'-7"
- Concrete gravity walls at both ends of spillway

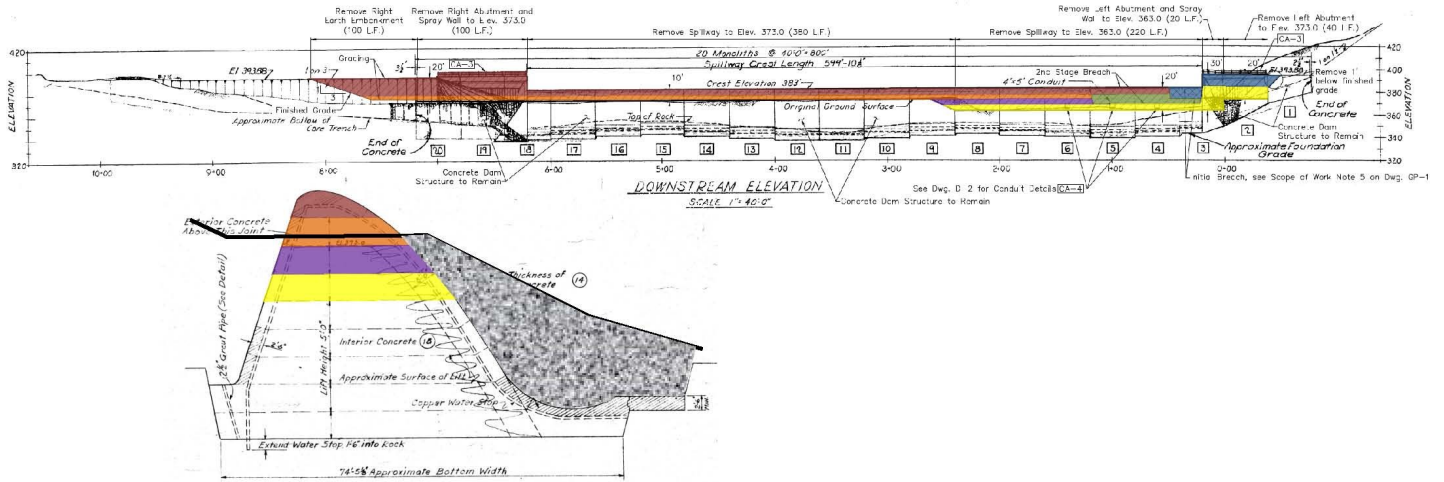




The image above is a portion of the graphic to the left, enlarged to show more detail.

# Removal of the Dam

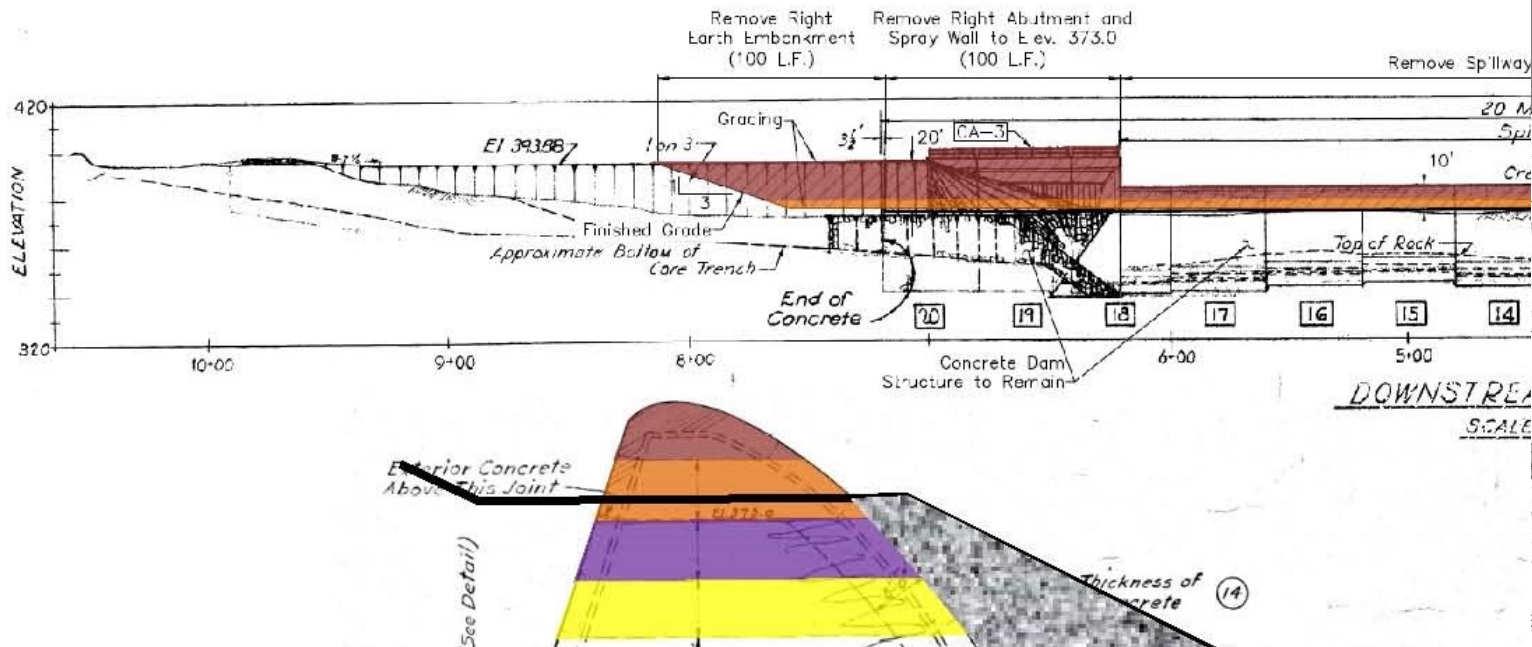
- Plan is to partially remove dam and spoil concrete material below dam.
- Completely cover spoiled concrete.



Contractor may submit a different method of removal for approval by the Department.



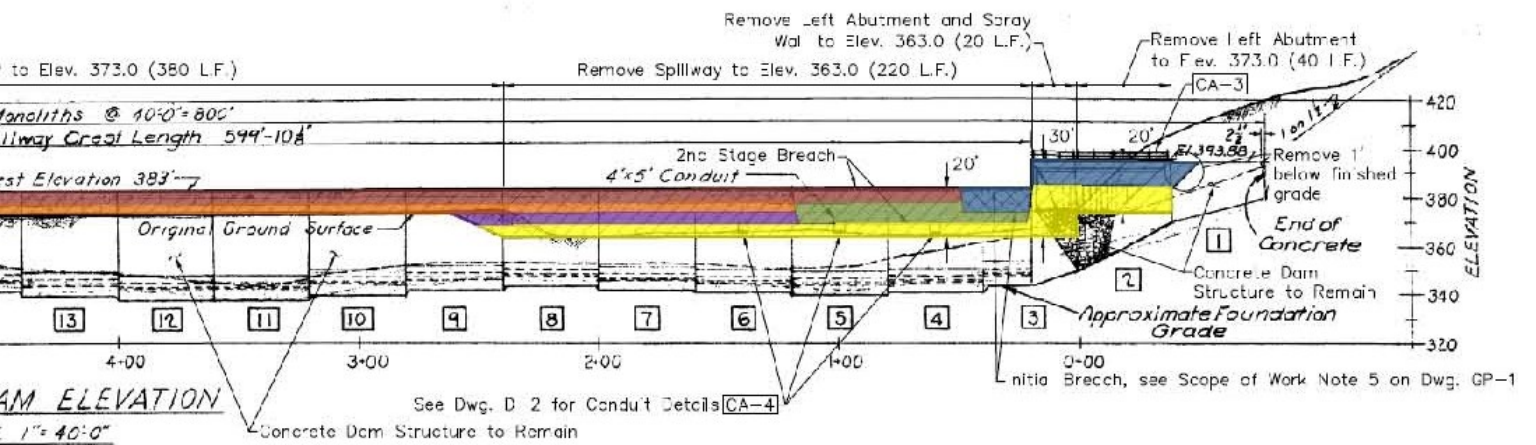
The image below is a portion of the graphic above, enlarged to show more detail.





## Creating Initial Notch in Dam (Ballville Dam, Fremont, OH)

7



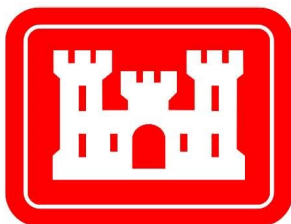


Removal of Spillway  
(Ballville Dam, Fremont, OH)

8

## Regulations

- Removal of dam requires:
  - Federal Authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - DEP Dam Safety Permit Waiver
  - Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission Review
  - An approved Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan must be implemented



## UPCOMING EVENTS

GREGG ADAMS

**BMW Trail Race Series Bartram  
Breeze 10K, 5K or 2K Trail Races  
Saturday April 13th 9 AM  
Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

Blue Mountain Wildlife's calendar of events kicks off with the 2019 Trail Races Series Bartram Breeze 10K, 5K or 2K Trail Races. The TRS is the main fundraiser for Blue Mountain Wildlife and highlights some of the great recreational opportunities here in northern Berks. The TRS is a series of three events, each with a long, intermediate and short distance. Try one or do them all, starting with the Bartram Breeze! Registration opens at 8 and all three races start at 9. Plenty of snacks and refreshments will be on hand, DJ Brett will be spinning the hits, and Louee's Pizza will be catering a hot lunch for all participants after the races. Online pre-registration will be open until Thursday April 11th. And volunteers that help out with the races will get free t-shirts and breakfast! Check out [www.BlueMountainWildlifeStore.com](http://www.BlueMountainWildlifeStore.com) and BMW's Facebook page for all the details.

**Earth Day Clean-Up  
Saturday April 20th 8 AM  
Kernsville Dam Recreation Area**

Celebrate Earth Day 2019 by doing a little spring cleaning at the Kerny! Blue Mountain Wildlife will be hosting the annual Earth Day Clean-Up. Clean-Up Projects for Groups and Walk-Ins. All Equipment Provided. FREE Coffee and Pastries For Participants. FREE Hot Dogs and Soda Lunch For Participants. Find the "Trash Easter Eggs" for Free Prizes. JUST SHOW UP AND HELP OUT!

**BMW Trail Race Series Mad Dash  
5-Mile, 5K or 2.5K Trail Races  
Saturday May 18th 9 AM  
Hamburg Reservoir**

Join BMW at the Hamburg Reservoir for the second event of the 2019 Trail Race Series, the Mad Dash! While the 5K and 2.5K courses are challenging in their own right, the real challenge is the monster 5-Mile course straight up the Kitatinny Ridge. Of course, the last two miles are all down hill! The same good things at the Bartram Breeze will be at the Mad Dash, except that

Red Robin will be catering brunch. Bring the whole family for a fun morning on the mountain.

**Bear Creek Festival  
Sunday June 2nd 12 Noon  
Schuylkill County Fairgrounds**

Join Blue Mountain Wildlife at the Bear Creek Festival! The Bear Creek Festival is a family-oriented event that offers visitors many fun educational activities related to our environment. This event is free and open to the public. There are FREE events and activities for all ages!

**Get Outdoors Day  
Saturday June 15th 10 AM  
Dry Brooks Day Use Area, Blue Marsh**

Join Blue Mountain Wildlife at Get Outdoors Day! Celebrate the annual National Get Outdoors Day! There will be a variety of displays and activities to help you learn about the different ways you can recreate outdoors.

**BMW Trail Race Series Run To The  
Rock 10K, 5K or 2.5K Trail Races  
Saturday June 22nd 9 AM  
Hamburg Community Park**

Finish up the 2019 BMW Trail Race Series with the Run To The Rock, the only legal way to get to Kernsville Dam and "The Rock" this year. All courses start at the Hamburg Park. The 2.5K and 5K courses cross the river to the Kernsville Dam Rec Area, but the 10K course runs on every trail at the Kerny and ends up on top of "The Rock" itself before heading back to the Park. Once again DJ Brett and BMW Volunteers will be waiting there with music and a free lunch.

**Taste of Hamburg-er Festival  
Dine & Dash Burgers & Trail Race  
Saturday August 31st 10:30 AM  
2nd & State Streets, Hamburg**

Mixing the spirit of an active outdoor lifestyle with that of ground beef indulgence may sound impossible, but Blue Mountain Wildlife is giving it a try. Work up an appetite for Taste of Hamburg-er Festival by running the Dine & Dash. Start by downing a burger. Then run a mile. Then down another burger. Then finish it off with another mile run. What could be better!



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