

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1974 ANNUAL REPORT

74 Review 75 Preview

CLEAN STREAMS LAW

The Westmoreland Conservation District was the first District within the Commonwealth to be granted authority to inspect earthmoving projects to insure compliance with the state's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program. The program is part of the "Clean Streams Law" which says that anyone involved in earthmoving must have a plan that will state how he intends to control the site to prevent accelerated erosion and sedimentation.

Erosion and Sediment Control was one of the top priority projects for 1974 as it will continue to be for 1975. As stated by J. Roy Houston, District Chairman, "Since the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been one of the pioneer states to recognize environmental problems through the amendment of the Clean Streams Law, this throws the responsibility for sediment and erosion control directly on the shoulders of Conservation Districts throughout the State." The District works with state, federal, county and civic agencies in conservation promotion and provides assistance to all municipalities in the county.

DIRECTORS REAPPOINTED

Two leaders in the field of conservation were reappointed as directors of the Westmoreland Conservation District by the County Board of Commissioners. J. Roy Houston, Murrysville, and Gilbert J. Hutter, R.D. No. 5, Mount Pleasant, were administered the Oath of Office by Chairman of the Board Dorothy Shope at a ceremony held in the courthouse.

Roy Houston, who has served as chairman of the board since 1970, was first appointed by the County Commissioners in 1968. He is Central Division Marketing Supervisor for the Peoples Natural Gas Company, Vice President, Chamber Operations, Central Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, and president of the Murrysville Volunteer Fire Company.

DIRECTORS REAPPOINTED (Continued)

Gilbert Hutter, owner of the Hutter Farm Dairy, Mt. Pleasant, has served with the District since 1967.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS BY HOUSTON

Frank Skacel, owner and operator of a dairy farm operation in Derry, was appointed Vice Chairman and Treasurer of the District. Alex Smith, Vocational Agriculture Teacher at Central Westmoreland Vo-Tech, was appointed State Executive Council Member and Elwood Leslie, Executive Assistant, was appointed legislative contact.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

William W. Buttermore, R.D. No. 3, Mount Pleasant, has been appointed by the County Commissioners to serve a four-year term as District Director. Robert G. Shirey will serve his second term as the Commissioner Director on the Conservation District Board.



Pictured above left to right: County Commissioner Chairman Dorothy Shope, William Buttermore, Commissioner Robert Shirey and Commissioner Ted Simon.

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The basic policy of the Westmoreland Conservation District reaffirms an old tradition, that is, to advocate service and assistance to landowners in order to prevent accelerated erosion from occurring. Development of conservation and/or erosion control plans for landowners remains a high priority in our District's program. There are now 1,300 cooperators and many more are expected to ask assistance, since farmers will be responsible for the prevention of accelerated erosion due to agricultural operations by 1977.

The State Conservation Commission continues to provide financial assistance in watershed development. Westmoreland County has three active Watershed Associations—Jacobs Creek, Loyalhanna, and Turtle Creek.

CONCERNING FARMS

Farmers are required to have an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan for their farming operations developed and implemented by July 1, 1977. No acreage limits and no permits are required for a farming operation. A Farm Conservation Plan is acceptable.

Conservation Districts can provide a Farm Conservation Plan for farmers at no cost to the farmer. The Service is made available through the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, U.S.D.A.

Financial assistance is available for certain long-term conservation practices through Federal Cost-Sharing Programs administered by the Agriculture Stabilization Service and should be explored by the farmer.

INVOLVEMENT IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Number of Farms	1,500
Number of Cooperators	1,300
Number with Farm Plans	963
Number to be Planned — direct	537
Number requiring plans — approximate	200
Time remaining to plan (months)	27
Plans per year — work requirement	87

YOUR CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District meetings, held the fourth Wednesday of each month, are open to the public on a come as you are basis. The Board of Directors is comprised of seven Directors consisting of four Farm Directors, two Urban Directors, and one County Commissioner Director.



Conservation District Directors above, left to right are: County Commissioner Robert Shirey, District Chairman J. Roy Houston, Alex Smith, Frank Skacel, Gilbert Hutter, Bill Buttermore and Boyd Wolff.



ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS APPOINTED

Dr. William D. Shea of the Westmoreland County Community College and Paul A. Heyworth, Feature Writer for the Tribune Review, were appointed Associate Directors.

Mr. Heyworth served as Vice Chairman prior to moving to Massachusetts and was Chairman of the Public Relations Committee for the State Association. Welcome back Paul, your outstanding conservation services will continue to be appreciated.

Dr. Shea designed a mobile conservation laboratory for on-the-spot analysis of air and water. The mobile lab has been approved and will soon be available for use in the county.

FFA HONORS DISTRICT AND DIRECTOR

The Westmoreland Conservation District and Executive Director Elwood Leslie were honored for outstanding contributions to the Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Leslie was presented the 1975 Honorary Keystone Farmer Award during the FFA's State Convention in Harrisburg. He also accepted the Citation Award on behalf of the District.

Among the contributions cited was the availability of agriculture-oriented material at the Environmental Information Center and the establishment of a Junior Board of Directors comprised mainly of FFA members.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

- Erosion and Sedimentation Plan Reviews
- Erosion and Sedimentation Inspections
- Erosion and Sedimentation Control Assistance to developers, contractors, municipalities and landowners
- Cooperator Assistance to Landowners
- P.L. 566 Assistance
Sewickley Creek and Jacks Run
Jacobs Creek
- Seminars
Erosion and Sedimentation Control (4)
- Directory of Environmental Information
- Environmental Information Center
- Flash Flood Early Warning System
- Junior Board of District Directors
- Coordination with all Cooperating Agencies
- Erosion and Sedimentation Control Permit Recommendations
- Coordinated one week Conservation Show at Greengate Mall - 29 State, Federal, County Agencies, private organizations and individuals participated.
- Boy Scouts of America, Exploring Division Post 772
- Conservation Programs for municipalities, schools, civic organizations
- Resource Conservation Development

FERTILE FARMLAND & CLEAN WATER

Farmlands lose their fertility as erosion sweeps soil away and into our streams. It destroys the land:

- farmlands lose their fertility
- urban areas lose their topsoil
- downstream landowners are inundated with mud
- eroded soil becomes sediment in streams,
- sediment chokes streams, fills lakes, and carries toxic chemicals and plant nutrients into the waters
- sediment is our greatest stream pollutant
- Pennsylvania's waterways carry off over 4.5 million tons of sediment every year.

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

There is a law to control man-made erosion. It is easier and less time consuming to be part of the solution than the pollution. Basically, the law says that anyone who moves earth must have a plan that will prevent erosion.

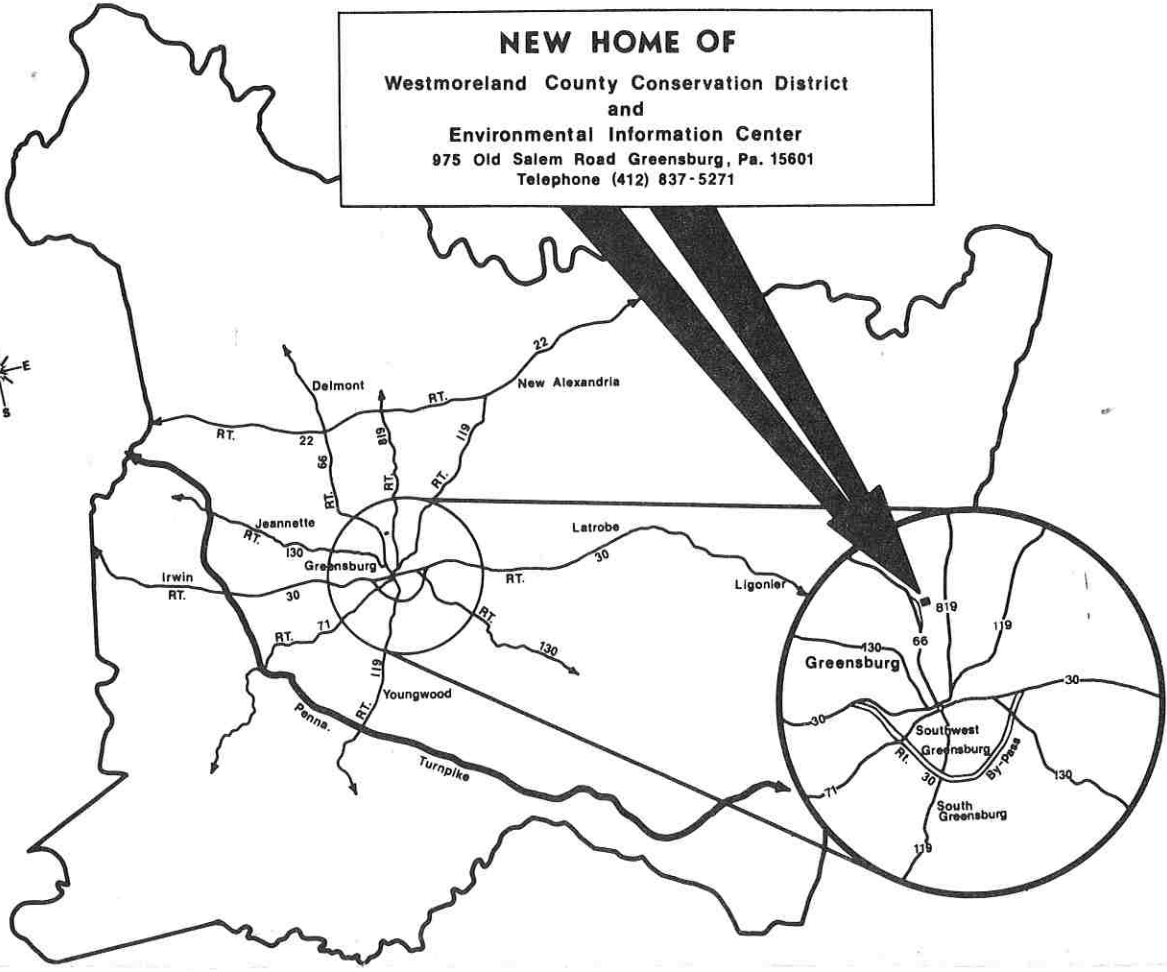
If 25 acres are disturbed a permit must be approved prior to earthmoving. In the Turtle Creek Watershed a permit is required for disturbance of 12 acres. To save time and money obtaining a permit it may be feasible to work in phases which would mean working on less than 25 acres and revegetating before going on to the next phase.

The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Requirement applies to everyone engaged in construction or any other operation which disturbs the earth. Some examples are:

- subdivision development activities
- logging and mining operations
- utility line installation
- shopping center construction
- apartment and house construction

Bare soil is eroded up to 2,000 times faster than grasslands or woodlands, and it's worse on steep or long slopes.

NEW HOME OF
Westmoreland County Conservation District
and
Environmental Information Center
 975 Old Salem Road Greensburg, Pa. 15601
 Telephone (412) 837-5271



**WESTMORELAND
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

STAFF

- Elwood J. Leslie Executive Assistant & Office Manager
- Edward G. Kontor Environmental Control Officer
- Marge A. Copeman Administrative Secretary
- Debbie A. Garrett Environmental Secretary
- Nancy L. Light Environmental Secretary
- Kathy G. Shale Environmental Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- J. Roy Houston Chairman
- Frank E. Skacel Treasurer and Vice Chairman
- Robert G. Shirey County Commissioner Director
- William G. Buttermore Director
- Gilbert Hutter Director
- Alex J. Smith Director
- Boyd E. Wolff Director

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Father Firmin Beyer | Mr. John L. Pollock | Mrs. George Shupe |
| Charles DeNunzio | Mrs. Harry S. Saxman | Mrs. John Turnage |
| Milan Martinisko | Dr. Wm. D. Shea | Wm. H. Walker, Jr. |
| | Paul A. Heyworth | |

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources: State Conservation Commission, Bureaus of Water Quality Management, Community Environmental Control, Forestry; Pennsylvania: Dept. of Transportation, Fish Commission, Game Commission; U.S. Dept. of the Interior; U.S.D.A.: Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service; Westmoreland County: Cooperative Extension Service, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Dept. of Planning, Vocational Agricultural Schools.

**WESTMORELAND
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
 975 Old Salem Road
 Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
P A I D
 Permit No. 570
 Greensburg, Pennsylvania
 15601