

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1975 ANNUAL REPORT

'75 Review '76 Preview

YOUR CONSERVATION DISTRICT

According to statistics, Westmoreland Conservation District is the leading District in the State. The most notable advancement occurred in 1975 with the delegation of inspection duties under Chapter 102, "Sedimentation and Soil Erosion Control Rules and Regulations."

Here, the District hinges success on voluntary compliance, patience and persistent work with developers. The District staff works with the earth-movers in preventing erosion and stream destruction rather than permitting them, through ignorance, to do a haphazard job.



Conservation District Directors above, left to right, are: Gilbert Hutter, Frank Skacel, Alex Smith, District Chairman J. Roy Houston, Bill Buttermore, and Boyd Wolff. Missing from the picture is Commissioner Director Ted Simon.

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 four Farm Directors, two Urban Directors, and one County Commissioner Director.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COURSE

The Conservation District, in conjunction with the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit and the Nature Center of the Parks and Recreation Department, is in the process of coordinating conservation education in the 17 school districts in the area covered by the Intermediate Unit.

C&S 470 "Teaching of Environmental Education in Elementary Schools" will be offered as a credit course and held at Twin Lakes Nature Center.

Working on the program are: Harrie E. Caldwell, Curriculum and Research Specialist, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit; Gordon Johnson, Continuing Education Representative, Penn State University; Mike Lavin, Interpretive Services Specialist, Parks and Recreation; and Elwood J. Leslie, Executive Assistant, Westmoreland Conservation District.

For Further Information Please Contact:

The Pennsylvania State University
Continuing Education Office
McKeesport Campus — University Drive
McKeesport, Pennsylvania 15132
Phone: 678-9501 (Mck)
Phone: 462-6401 (Pgh)



Westmoreland County Community College dedicated its new Mobile Conservation Lab in 1975.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REAPPOINT DIRECTORS

Commissioners Simon, Regoli and Davis reappointed Frank Skacel, Derry, and Alex Smith, Greensburg, to serve four-year terms as Conservation District Directors. Ted Simon will be the Commissioner Director for 1976.

Mr. Skacel is a self-employed dairy farmer and committeeman for the ASCS Service Program. He served as Past President of the Derry Area Young Farmers and on the Committee for the Study of Home Rule in Derry Township. He has served the Conservation District since 1964 and is presently Vice-Chairman and Treasurer of the District.

Mr. Smith was graduated from Penn State University with a B.S. and an M.E. in Agriculture. He is a member of the faculty at Central Westmoreland Vo-Tech School. He serves the District as Executive Council Member and Publicity Representative. Alex was elected by the Executive Committee of the State Association to serve as Secretary for the 66 Conservation Districts throughout Pennsylvania for 1976.

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN ELECTED CHAMBER PRESIDENT

J. Roy Houston assumed the Presidency of the Central Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce at their tenth anniversary. The Annual Dinner Celebration was held at Harty's Pub where entertainment featured a "Salute to America." Elwood J. Leslie, Conservation Executive Assistant, is heading the Energy and Conservation Committee for the year.

MONONGAHELA RIVER STOCKED BY FISH COMMISSION

1975 marked the first time this river has ever been stocked with any fish. For the past several years fishermen have been reporting catches all along the river due to the decrease in the water pollution. Fish Commission personnel surveyed the water and found it did and could support fish life. The river was stocked with Walleye Fry and Tiger Musky fingerlings from Point Marion in Fayette County to Pittsburgh.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER

The Library of the Environmental Information Center has been moved to a new home at the Twin Lakes Nature Center, located off the Donohue Road.

With increased activity at the Nature Center which involves field trips, hikes, in-service days, outdoor classroom programs, and the rebuilt lake and landscaped surroundings, the Center will be an ideal setting for the Environmental Library.

With the coordination of the Conservation District and Nature Center staff, the library will now be able to serve many more people who are interested in environmental education.

The Library will be open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will continue to be maintained and staffed by the Conservation District.



Elwood Leslie looks over the supply of material at the Environmental Information Center Library.

**CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 5 Permits, E and S*
- 110 E and S Control Plans Reviewed*
- 195 Referrals, ASCS 1975
- 1,211 Services to Individual Landusers
- 244 Services to Units of Government
- 51 Services to Groups
- 53 Services on PL-566 Land Rights
- 57 Conservation Plans for Individuals
- 54 Inventories and Evaluations, Individuals
- 3 Inventories and Evaluations, Units of Government
- 3 Inventories and Evaluations, Groups
- 110 Subdivisions Reviewed, E and S Plans*
- 1,600 Farms under Cooperator Agreement
- 238 E and S Control Inspections*
- 2,598 Acreage reviewed for Future Development in Westmoreland County
- 413 Acres presently under development in Westmoreland County
 - 1 PL-566 Project in Westmoreland County
 - 2 PL-566 Projects under Investigation in Westmoreland County:
 - Little Pucketa (Controls flooding in New Kensington and Lower Burrell Areas)
 - Jacks Run, Sewickley Creek
 - 3 Watershed Associations in County
 - Loyalhanna
 - Jacobs Creek
 - Turtle Creek

- 1 Environmental Information Center
- 2 Directory of Environmental Information for Westmoreland County
- 1 Conservation Show at Greengate Mall (Pa. Conservation Week)
- 5 E and S Control Seminars*
- 12 Conservation District Meetings
- 2 District Special Meetings
- 4 Executive Council Meetings attended
- 26 Municipalities visited to explain District's involvement in E and S Control Regulations*
- 665,000 Total Acreage in Westmoreland County
- 175,000 Agricultural Acreage in County

*Erosion and Sediment

WHAT IS A FARM?

Beginning in the late 1950s your place was a "farm" if you worked less than 10 acres but sold at least \$250 worth of farm products yearly, or farmed more than 10 acres and sold at least \$500 worth.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Census Bureau have changed the definition and now say a "farm" is "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are sold or would normally be sold during a year."

A popular statistic going around is that America, with six percent of the world's population, consumes 46 percent of the world's resources. Not mentioned is the further fact that with only one tenth of one percent of the world's population employed on our farms, we feed more than 25 percent of the world's four billion people.

STATE POSTER CONTEST

Conservation Posters from Pennsylvania's 66 Conservation Districts were judged in Westmoreland County by approximately fifty students from the Elementary and Secondary Art Education classes of Seton Hill College under the direction of Doctor Stuart Thompson. Contestants from three divisions including kindergarten to 12th grade participated in the show which was held at the Greensburg Garden and Civic Center. Alex Smith, District Director, was chairman for the state project.



Doctor Stuart Thompson, left, is pictured with two of his elementary class judges during the Conservation Poster Show.

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 1,600 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.

FLASH FLOOD PROGRAM

The Conservation District and the Westmoreland County Civil Defense in cooperation with the National Weather Service have recently instituted a Flash Flood Program for Westmoreland County. A public warning will be issued for specific rivers and streams in areas where flash flooding is imminent.

In the event of heavy rains occurring at the headwaters of Jacobs Creek, Loyalhanna Creek, Turtle Creek, Sewickley Creek, or Little Pucketa Creek and the Arnold and New Kensington Areas; established rainfall reporting stations will alert the county emergency headquarters who will then alert Civil Defense and Fire Stations in the danger areas.

The National Weather Service presently compiles the readings of local rain gauges to determine the potential flood levels in Westmoreland County watersheds.

Residents of areas who have experienced flash flooding are encouraged to contact the Civil Defense Headquarters and request that they be alerted of the possibility of a flood emergency in their particular area. Contact your local Civil preparedness office for evaluation of your problem. (R.D. 8, Box 23A, Greensburg, Pa. 15601, Phone 834-7007.)

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

For two years it has been the law under House Bill 197, Act 148, for local municipalities to establish Environmental Advisory Councils. These Councils set the stage for local government to face problems associated with resource conservation and protection, especially land use development. Stewardship over community land is being strengthened at the local level where it has the best chance of success.

The Conservation District will promote a flow of information to these Advisory Councils from the State Commission and various local agencies who have the knowledge which these local Councils will require to reach their full potential.

LAND USE STATEMENT

"Use every acre according to its capability and treat it according to its needs." This statement has been the guide to conservation in the United States for the past 40 years. The Westmoreland Conservation District feels that the time has come to enforce this guideline within our county. One of the District's major objectives for 1976 is to work towards a strong land use policy for Westmoreland County. The District states that it is time for the monetary issue to be put aside as the land use dictator. Common sense and technical data must now become king.

Westmoreland County has many problems with soils and topography which should preclude indiscriminate land use. Areas with shallow soils, steep topography, or that are slide prone or flood prone should have their use limited to what they are suited for.

Aside from destroying the land and environment, improper land use results in a drain of tax dollars. The cost of flood prevention alone could amount to \$15 million in Westmoreland County during the next 10 years. The erosion prevention and land use reclamation portions of the Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Project could amount to another \$10 million. This is just the tax dollars being funneled back through one federal agency. When all of the tax dollars spent for resource repair by the Myriad of government agencies is considered, indiscriminate land use is costly.

Westmoreland County is urbanizing at the rate of 3,000 acres per year. Land use problems, erosion, sedimentation, storm water runoff, loss of cropland, etc., are multiplying so that land use control and treatment must be faced now. In 1976 the District plans work with municipal officials in the County in developing land use regulations to avert future problems.



ACP COST-SHARING IN DISTRICT

During 1975 about \$62,245.00 of ACP cost-sharing were used in the Westmoreland Conservation District. The funds were used to help solve particular conservation and environmental problems.

Practices included: Diversion Terraces, Sod Waterways, Spring Developments, Tile Drain, Animal Waste Storage, Strip Cropping, etc.

In addition to sharing the cost of conservation practices to the District, ACP transferred \$5,235.00 to the Soil Conservation Service for technical services to the District.

THE DISTRICT AND SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The SCS is a source of technical expertise to the Conservation District. Following is a list of major items or services provided by the SCS.

Major Item or Service Provided	Number of Items
Services to individual landusers	1,211
Services to Units of Government	244
Services to Groups	51
Services on PL-566 Land Rights	53
Conservation Plans for Individuals	57
Inventories and Evaluations for Individuals	54
Inventories and Evaluations for Units of Government	3
Inventories and Evaluations for Groups	3
Erosion and Sedimentation Plans/Subdivisions Reviewed	92

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER

Edward G. Kontor, 741 Lemington Street, Greensburg, joined the staff of the Conservation District as an Environmental Control Officer. In his present position, Ed performs a variety of technical duties in determining the adequacy of measures planned or being implemented to control erosion and sedimentation resulting from earthmoving activities.

Mr. Kontor received an Associate Degree from Westmoreland County Community College where he majored in "Conservation and Environmental Technology." Former employment included Solid Waste Management for Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

JUNIOR BOARD RETURNS

The program of the Junior Board of Directors has returned. The Conservation District is restructuring the program to benefit and attract young adults between the ages of 14 to 21.

Elwood Leslie, Executive Assistant of the Conservation District, appointed Debbie Garrett, 19, of North Huntingdon as coordinator of the project. She along with six selected advisors will supervise and guide Junior Board members and provide information.

The group's activities will include work on local conservation projects, field trips, creating public awareness of environmental problems and assisting in District programs.

Advisors and their representatives include: Debbie Garrett, Elwood Leslie, Ed Kontor, Westmoreland Conservation District; Mike Lavin, Department of Parks and Recreation; Stella Poerio, Civil Defense; Mary Ann Walko, Turtle Creek Watershed Association; Bill Fodiak, Sportsmen's Diary.

The first meeting of the Junior Board was held at Twin Lakes Nature Center. Anyone interested in joining this group may contact Debbie Garrett at the Conservation District Office or phone 837-5271.

PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES FOR 1976

PRIORITIES:

- 1) Permits, Erosion and Sediment Control
- 2) Farm Plans
- 3) Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Reviews
- 4) Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Program

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Preservation of Prime Agricultural Land
- 2) Environmental Information Center Library
- 3) Conservation Show at Greengate Mall
- 4) Public Relations Program
- 5) Conservation Education in County Schools
- 6) Coordination and Cooperation between all Cooperating Agencies
- 7) Accelerate Watershed Development
- 8) Work with County RC&D Committees
- 9) Flash Flood Warning System
- 10) Promote Forest Management Practices
- 11) Continued Environmental Impact Statements
- 12) Accelerated Progress on PL566 Projects

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.

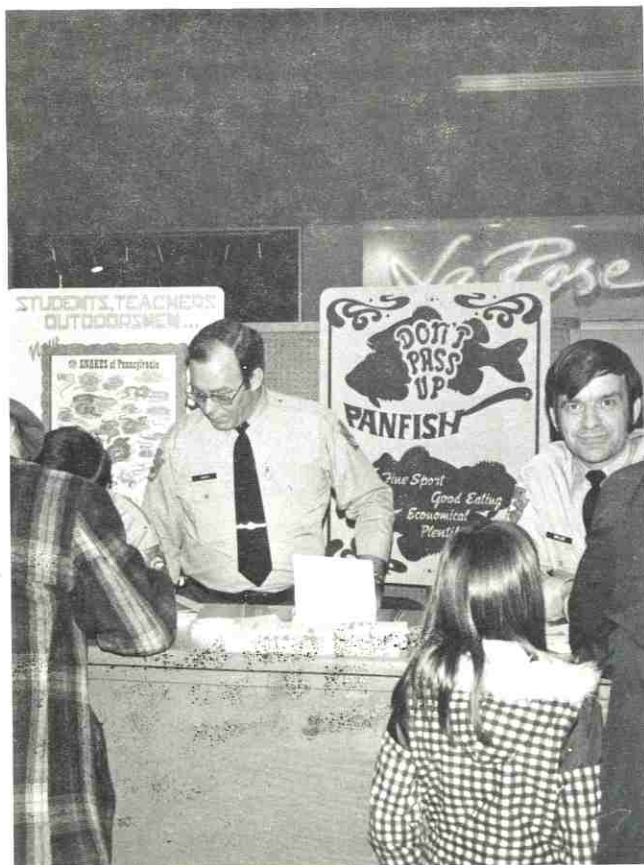
Conservation Districts can provide a Farm Conservation Plan for farmers at no cost to the

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.

TOWN AND COUNTRY CONSERVATION SHOW

Pictured is one of the displays featured at the 8th annual week-long Conservation Show held at Greengate Mall. Through exhibits by 23 federal, state, county and private organizations, conservation related programs were exposed to an estimated 70,000 persons daily. The project sponsored by the District's Board of Directors was coordinated by Executive Assistant Elwood Leslie.



Following its first year of administration and inspection of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program by Westmoreland Conservation District, a meeting was held to evaluate the District's performance. The evaluation meeting determined the District was performing its duties in accordance with the applicable regulations and DER policy and procedures.

Attending the meeting were Franklin Williams, Charles Williams, Terry Pallas, Dave Jance, Bertha Phillips, and Gloria Mele representing the Bureau of Water Quality Management; Elwood Leslie, Edward Kontor, and Marge Copeman representing the Westmoreland Conservation District; and Afton Schadel, Harry Meyer, and Dennis Bush representing the State Conservation Commission.



NAMED ADVISOR TO STATE ASSOCIATION

Mike Lavin has been appointed to serve as Advisor on the Education and Youth Committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, Inc.

Mr. Lavin has a B.S. Degree in Parks and Recreation majoring in Interpretive Services and Outdoor Education. He has been with the Parks and Recreation Department since 1972.

PENN'S CORNER RC&D PROJECT

The Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Project is located in Southwestern Pennsylvania and comprised of the counties of Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland. The project area encompasses a total area of 2,571,520 acres, or 4,018 square miles with a 1970 population of 2,383,584 people.

Generally, the project area is characterized by urbanization, industrialization, a slowing of population growth and a decline in agriculture.

The Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Project is sponsored by the Boards of County Commissioners and the Conservation Districts in each of the five counties. Under Pennsylvania law, these two units of government have the legal authority to join together on a multi-county basis to carry out an RC&D project.

The number one project for Westmoreland County is the Handicapped Fishing Project at Twin Lakes.



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 Youth and Education
 Nancy L. Light Environmental Secretary
 Kathy G. Shale Environmental Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Roy Houston Chairman
 Frank E. Skacel Treasurer and Vice Chairman
 Ted Simon 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