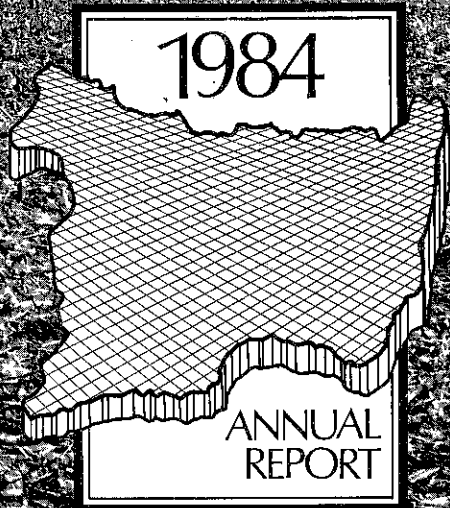
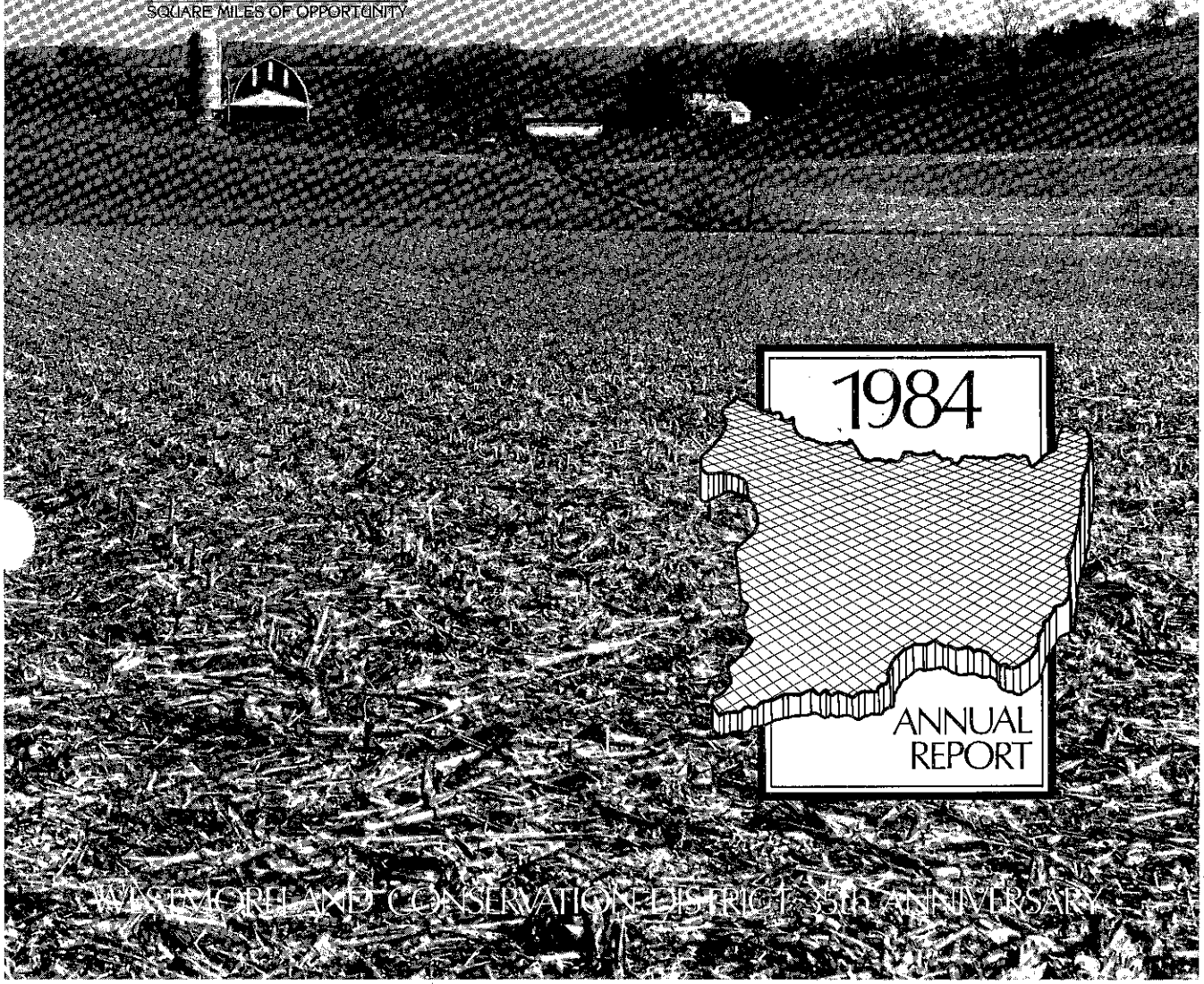


Westmoreland Conservation District

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

1040

SQUARE MILES OF OPPORTUNITY



WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT 35th ANNIVERSARY

FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIRMAN



Westmoreland Conservation District

Donohoe Road, R.D. 8, Box 23A

Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: (412) 837-5271

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a law creating the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. This marked the beginning of a national effort to conserve our soil and water resources.

The birth of the conservation movement in Westmoreland County was inspired by the projects completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps near Beaver Run. As a result of these projects, and at the request of county farmers, the Westmoreland Conservation District was organized on October 21, 1949.

My congratulations to everyone involved with the conservation movement on this — the District's 35th Anniversary! I would also like to extend congratulations to the Soil Conservation Service on their 50th Anniversary!

Our accomplishments are many, however, our work is not finished. We are aware of the problems facing farmers, urbanizing regions and the big cities. We must turn this awareness into energy and ideas so that we may continue the work that the conservation pioneers so wisely initiated 50 years ago.

We have a proud, successful past because of the directors, associate directors, and staff who have been a part of the district since 1949. The financial support of our County Commissioners and the State Conservation Commission combined with the technical assistance provided by the Soil Conservation Service have also been responsible for the strength and growth of our organization.

I feel that the Westmoreland Conservation District has never been more ready to contribute to the conservation effort. Our challenge is clear. With your help we will succeed!

Sincerely,

J. Roy Houston, Chairman, Westmoreland Conservation District

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. ROY HOUSTON, *Chairman*
GILBERT HUTTER, *Vice Chairman*
FRANK E. SKACEL, *Treasurer*
BOYD E. WOLFF, *Secretary*
WILLIAM BUTTERMORE, *Director*
ALEX J. SMITH, *Director*
TED SIMON, COMMISSIONER, *Director*

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

PAUL HEYWORTH DR. WILLIAM SHEA
MRS. HARRY S. SAXMAN ED CZARNECKI
ROY KEMERER HANK TRICE
MRS. GEORGE SHUPE

STAFF

ELWOOD J. LESLIE, *District Manager*
LINCOLN ARMBRUST, *Administrative Sesecretary*
GREGORY M. PHILLIPS, *Environmental Control Officer*
KATHLEEN A. ALLISON, *Secretary*

WESTMORELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT H. MILLER JOHN R. REGOLI
TED SIMON
Assisted by

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BUREAU OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

HARRY T. MEYER, *Field Representative*
SAMUEL LIVINGSTON, *Soils Engineer*

U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

WESLEY M. GORDON, *District Conservationist*

WESTMORELAND'S CONSERVATION TEAM

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation
Bureau of Community Environmental Control
Bureau of Forestry
Bureau of Surface Mine Reclamation
Bureau of Oil & Gas Management
Bureau of Water Quality Management
State Conservation Commission
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PA. FISH COMMISSION
PA. GAME COMMISSION

FEDERAL

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation Service
Farmer's Home Administration
Soil Conservation Service
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Corps of Engineer
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Cooperative Extension Service
Department of Emergency Management
Department of Parks & Recreation
Department of Planning
Vocational & Agriculture Schools
Loyalhanna Watershed Association
Turtle Creek Watershed Association
Jacobs Creek Watershed Association

THE HISTORY OF THE WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The formation of Westmoreland County's Conservation District was difficult. It was filled with heated debate, surrounded by politics, and shrouded in misinformation.

The first attempt at organizing a district under the old conservation law failed. Responding to petitions, the county commissioners decided to hold a referendum in April of 1938.

The hearings, press coverage, and public meetings were filled with the fear of a "federal dictatorship" in which a few favored farmers would be endowed with the power of federal funds. Those favoring the district pointed to the obvious need for conservation practices and the benefits of a coordinated action to protect their natural resources.

The entire movement was inspired by the Civilian Conservation Corps' Beaver Run Watershed Project. The project started in the summer of 1935 and resulted in the planting of two million trees, 12 miles of diversion terraces, and other conservation practices. More than 200 farmers were given assistance in a 35,000 acre area until the project was disbanded in 1937. With this and other demonstrations of organized conservation efforts, the idea spread throughout Westmoreland and parts of Allegheny Counties. The dream was quickly squashed when only 1,300 of 7,000 eligible farmers rejected the formation of the 733,350 acre "Westall" district in a 975-360 vote.

The second attempt ended in success. Under the conservation law of 1945, the Westmoreland County Commissioners, responding to "the will of the majority of the farmers" took the necessary local steps to declare the county as a conservation district. County Commissioners Frank K. Cochran, J. Calvin Turner, and W. Everett Noel unanimously passed the resolution.

The District began operations during the summer of 1950, and with assistance provided by the Soil Conservation Service, farmers immediately began to implement conservation practices. Most of these can still be seen throughout the county today.

1984 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION FARMERS

The Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors has selected an Outstanding Conservation Farmer annually since 1953. The first farmer in Westmoreland County to be recognized for his implementation of soil and water conservation practices was James Torrence of Export.

The 1984 recipients of the Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award are the Sapinskys of South Huntingdon Township. Max and his son Ed operate a 202 acre dairy farm near Jacobs Creek.

Max has practiced soil and water conservation for 50 years. In 1935 their land was totally block farmed and severely eroded. Today the farm is an excellent example of soil and water conservation.

Some of the conservation practices implemented by the Sapinskys include: contour strip-cropping, subsurface drainage, spring developments, grassed waterways, conservation tillage and manure management.

Although much of the farm is moderately sloped, contour strip-cropping and conservation tillage keep soil loss to a minimum.



"A farmer can't make it today unless he practices conservation" stated Mr. Sapinsky.

Max and Ed Sapinsky, 1984's Outstanding Conservation Farmers with Ed's daughter, Lisa

The Westmoreland Conservation District congratulates the Sapinskys for their conservation achievements!

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION FARMERS WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1972 - Jess Stairs - <i>Acme</i> | 1980 - Welty Keenan
- <i>New Stanton</i> |
| 1973 - Gilbert Hutter - <i>Kecksburg</i> | 1981 - James Schenck - <i>Scottdale</i> |
| 1975 - Boyd Wolff
- <i>New Alexandria</i> | 1982 - Schramm Farm
- <i>Harrison City</i> |
| 1976 - John R. Wagle
- <i>Pleasant Unity</i> | 1983 - Ralph Frye Jr.
- <i>Pleasant Unity</i> |
| 1977 - Fred Slezak
- <i>New Alexandria</i> | 1984 - Max and Ed Sapinsky
- <i>Smithton</i> |
| 1978 - Donald Hutter - <i>Mammoth</i> | |
| 1979 - John Greenawalt
- <i>Pore Farm - Madison</i> | |



CONGRATULATIONS ELWOOD!

J. Roy Houston, Westmoreland Conservation District chairman, left, and Greg Phillips, the new manager, right, congratulate Elwood J. Leslie, center, outgoing conservation manager for the district. Leslie was honored at the annual planning meeting of the conservation district. Leslie received commendations from state Senator James Kelley on behalf of the Senate and from state Representative Jess Stairs on behalf of the House. Ted Simon, chairman of the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, presented Leslie with the first proclamation ever received by a county employee.

1985 ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

The theme of the District's 1985 Planning Meeting was "Thirty Five Years of Serving the Conservation Needs of Westmoreland County". The meeting was held at the Greensburg Sheraton Inn on November 14, 1984 — almost 35 years to the day from the District's first day of operation.

The program included, a review of 1984 objectives, proposed priorities for 1985, lunch, and a slide show entitled "The First 50 Years!"

In addition, this year's Planning Meeting also served as a special occasion to honor Elwood Leslie, District Manager, prior to his retirement. Many of Elwood's friends were present to pay him tribute for 15 years of dedicated service he has provided to the residents of Westmoreland County.

The following district programs have been assigned a high priority for 1985:

- CONSERVATION PLANNING
 - SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM
 - RURAL ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM
- RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
- CONSERVATION EDUCATION
 - FLASH FLOOD PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF THE WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Westmoreland Conservation District is a legal subdivision of state government responsible under state law for coordinating conservation activities within County boundaries. The State Conservation Commission provides administrative, advisory, and financial assistance to Conservation Districts.

The purpose of districts are: to focus attention on land, water, and related resource problems; to develop programs to solve them; to enlist and coordinate help from

all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the district goals; and to make all citizens aware of the interrelationship between human activities and the natural environment.

We recognize that three of our basic purposes are to help assure Westmoreland County of adequate water supplies, the land capability to produce adequate supplies of food and fiber, and the continued protection of our streams and rivers against pollution.

FLASH FLOOD WARNING PROGRAM

Heavy rainfall, even for short periods, may be followed by flash flooding. Flash floods are a fact of life and death.

Since 1972, the Westmoreland Conservation District, the County Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service have been involved with the Flash Flood Program. Many improvements have been incorporated into the program since its inception.

In 1984, four radio-raingauges were installed at various locations within the County. The raingauges record and transmit rainfall infor-

mation. They are located near headwaters where flash floods often originate. The information is transmitted to the Department of Emergency Management (911) in Greensburg, where it is relayed to flood prone areas.

The system will be completely operational with the installation of four additional radio-raingauges.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM THE WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- CONSERVATION PLANNING
- APPLICATION OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
- WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
- COUNTY FLASH FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM
- SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL
- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
- RURAL ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM (R.A.M.P.)
- RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)
- SOLID WASTE & SEWAGE EFFLUENT DISPOSAL
- SOIL SURVEY
- DEVELOPERS PLANNING ASSISTANCE
- MUNICIPAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE
- AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION
- CONSERVATION EDUCATION

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROGRAM

On September 21, 1972 the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), Environmental Quality Board adopted rules and regulations to control accelerated soil erosion and the resulting sedimentation (Title 25, Chapter 102, Pa. Clean Stream Law). The Westmoreland Conservation Districts participation in the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program began on February 13, 1974, when the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution to delegate to the District the administration of Chapter 102 (Erosion and Sedimentation). It was also resolved that the District would assume the operations and inspection portion of this program.

The Westmoreland Conservation District continued to emphasize administration of the erosion and sedimentation control program in 1984. During the year the District fulfilled its responsibilities by receiving and responding to erosion and sedimentation complaints, assessing problems in the field, and working with landowners and /or earthmovers to obtain compliance.

The (DER), Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation is responsible for Pennsylvania's soil and water conservation programs and provides assistance as well as funding to Conservation Districts. The



SOIL EROSION - YOUR RESOURCES IN A RUT

Pennsylvania General Assembly, through the DER, made available \$750,000.00 in cost-sharing for the 1983-1984 fiscal year. The Westmoreland Conservation District utilized \$18,252.46 of these funds. Of this total, \$10,000.00 was provided as cost-sharing for the employment of a District Manager, \$7,031.00 for cost-sharing a technician, and \$1,221.46 in administrative assistance.

Assistance and guidance to the Westmoreland Conservation District and liaison with DER and other State and Federal Agencies was provided through the services of Field Representative Harry Meyer. This assistance included advising the District Board, and assisting and training district staff.

The Harrisburg staff of the Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation provided assistance to the district in special program or problem areas. In addition, Soils Engineer Sam Livingston provided technical erosion and sedimentation control training and guidance to district staff, and reviewed erosion and sedimentation control plans for Earth Disturbance Permits and plans related to surface mining activities.

DISTRICT FACTS:

The Westmoreland Conservation District was the first conservation District in Pennsylvania to implement a soil erosion and sedimentation control program.

Approximately \$100,000 was appropriated to assist local sponsors of Public Law 566 projects during 1984. The Jacobs Creek Watershed project utilized \$10,619.28 of the funding for land rights acquisitions.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is authorized through the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 to provide local units of government technical and financial help in conserving and using their natural resources. The USDA also helps those groups sponsoring RC&D areas seek funds and services from federal, state and local sources.

RC&D areas are locally organized, sponsored, and directed. Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland Counties comprise the Penn's Corner RC&D area. Penn's Corner is administered by an executive council that is composed of county government and conservation district representatives.

The following statistics consist of a brief summation of project measures in Westmoreland County which have received technical and financial assistance through the RC&D program in 1984:

<u>PROJECTS COMPLETED</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>RC&D SHARE</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
Westmoreland County Parks II	Westmoreland County	\$ 9,510.00	\$ 14,000.00
<u>PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION</u>			
North Huntingdon (Phase I)	N. Huntingdon Twp.	37,735.00*	52,734.00
<u>PROJECTS WAITING FOR FUNDING</u>			
Hempfield Parks (Phase I)	Hempfield Twp.	7,080.00*	9,330.00
<u>PROJECTS IN ADVANCED PLANNING</u>			
North Huntingdon (Phase II)	N. Huntingdon Twp.	89,510.00*	119,350.00
Roadbank Stabilization	Westmoreland County	3,640.00*	6,065.00
Northmoreland Park	Westmoreland County	\$298,000.00*	\$596,000.00

*Estimated Cost

THE RURAL ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM (RAMP)

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the RAMP Program. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) administers and helps participants develop reclamation plans for their land. Long-term cost sharing is offered to implement the plans.

People who own or control non-federal land that has been mined for coal may be eligible for cost sharing. To qualify, areas must have been abandoned before August 3, 1977, and left unreclaimed or inadequately reclaimed.



Top consideration is given to areas exhibiting extreme danger to public health, safety, property, and general welfare. Also considered for funding at this time for areas which have adverse effects on public health, safety, and welfare.

PROJECTS UTILIZING RAMP FUNDING IN 1984

Reclamation of a priority one RAMP site was completed in Unity Township near Baggaley. The work consisted of razing of deteriorated coke ovens, removal of structures, and regrading of several coal and coke waste piles. Conservation practices installed include: grassed and rock-lined waterways, diversions, surface water detention pond, and seeding of 35 acres.

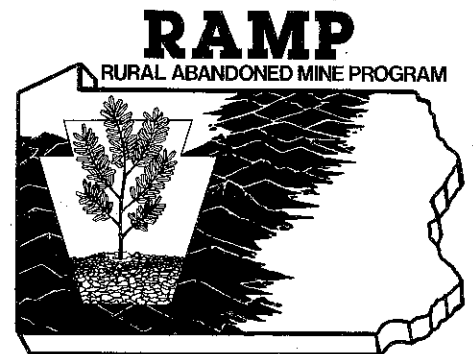
THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COALITION FOR ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION

The Coalition is an organization of volunteers concerned with the reclamation of abandoned mined land. Presently, the coalition consists of 23 member counties representing western Pennsylvania.

The general purpose of the organization is to provide local

leadership for encouraging the reclamation, development, and wise use of abandoned mine lands in the bituminous coal area of Western Pennsylvania. This includes: reducing the hazards to health and safety, eliminating soil erosion, and improving the local economy of the region.

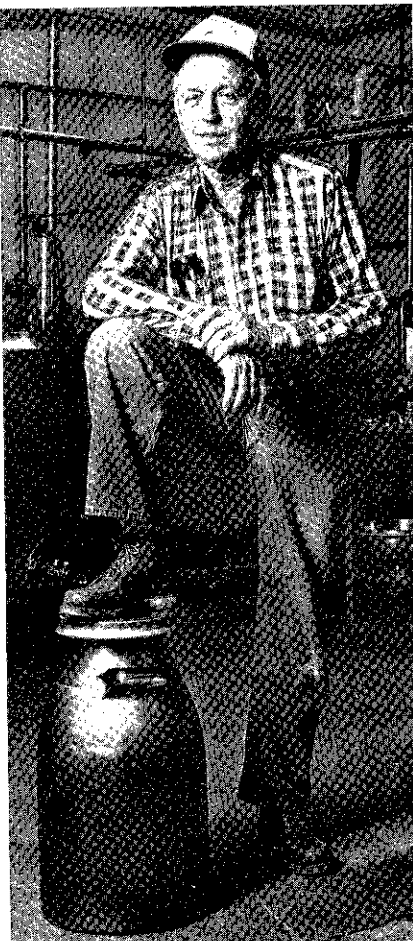
The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation welcomes concerned citizens to join in the effort to obtain increased funding for abandoned mine reclamation. For more information contact your County Conservation District.



MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



J. ROY HOUSTON, — Murrysville — employed as a Marketing Supervisor for Peoples Natural Gas Company in Greensburg, Mr. Houston was appointed to the Board in 1968. In 1973, Roy was elected Chairman of the Board.



GILBERT HUTTER, R.D. #5, Mt. Pleasant — owner and operator of a 201 acre dairy farm that includes a milk processing plant and distributorship, Mr. Hutter was appointed to the Board in 1966. A former Chairman, Gib was elected Vice-Chairman in 1980.

TED SIMON — County Commissioner and Director, has been a member of the District Board since 1970.



FRANK SKACEL, R.D. #1, Derry — owner and operator of a 160 acre grain and beef farm, Mr. Skacel was appointed to the Board in 1969 and elected Treasurer in 1975. Frank is also active with the Derry Area Young Farmers.



BOYD WOLFF, R.D. #2, New Alexandria — owner and operator of Wolfdon, a 410 acre dairy farm, Mr. Wolff was appointed to the Board in 1973. Boyd was elected to the Pennsylvania State University, Board of Trustees in 1984 and also serves on The West Central Farm Credit's Board of Directors.



ALEX SMITH, Greensburg — former President of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, Inc., Mr. Smith currently teaches Vocational Agriculture at the Central Westmoreland Vo-Tech. Alex was appointed to the District Board in 1973.



WILLIAM BUTTERMORE, R.D. #3, Mt. Pleasant — owner and operator of Fern Springs, a 206 acre dairy farm, Mr. Buttermore was appointed to the Board in 1974. Bill also owns a grain, lime, fertilizer and chemical distributorship.

MONTHLY DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

The Westmoreland Conservation District is administered by a duly appointed Board of Directors. The Board is composed of four farmer directors, two urban directors, and one County Commissioner. The Board convenes at least once a month to plan, prioritize, and supervise the implementation of district programs.

The general public is invited to attend and participate in our meetings.

Regular monthly district meetings are scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. They are held at the Peoples Natural Gas Company which is located one mile north of the Westmoreland Mall on Donohoe Road near Greensburg.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Westmoreland County Commissioners
left to right: JOHN R. REGOLI, TED SIMON
and ROBERT H. MILLER

We express our appreciation to the Westmoreland County Commissioners who contributed greatly to the District's progress, not only through financial support, but through sincere interest and encouragement in carrying out programs to wisely use and conserve our natural resources in Westmoreland County.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Westmoreland Conservation District promotes the application of sound soil and water conservation management practices. Technical assistance is provided to the District by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (S.C.S.)

As a result of this interagency cooperation the conservation needs of landowners, farmers and developers are served.

The following presents a brief summary of the major services and conservation practices established with SCS assistance in 1984:

• Individual landusers provided assistance	402
• Landusers applying one or more conservation practice	238
• Acreage of conservation plans prepared and/or revised	3,605
• Acreage of stripcropping established	935
• Spring developments installed	20
• Grass and rocklined waterway acreage constructed	9
• Linear feet of diversion constructed	18,366
• Soil erosion and sedimentation control plans reviewed	161
• Agricultural Conservation Program referrals serviced	81
• Pond requests serviced	20
• Assistance provided to governmental units	26

In addition, SCS

- Provided technical assistance, as requested, for soil erosion and sedimentation control and surface water disposal on active surface mine reclamation sites.
- Assisted the Westmoreland Conservation District with on-site investigation of soil erosion and stormwater related problems.
- Supplied soil survey information upon request.
- Provided technical assistance to landusers that resulted in various applications of agronomic practices to reduce soil erosion. These included: conservation cropping systems, conservation tillage, pasture and hayland management, and planned grazing systems.

HAM AND EGGS FOR CONSERVATION

In an effort to increase agency interaction and promote better communication, the Westmoreland Conservation District organized and participates in a monthly agency breakfast.

Representatives of various agencies converse about individual policies, procedures, and activities. Topics of discussion include: forest, fish, and game management, surface mine and gas well drilling activity, as well as soil and water conservation.

The breakfast meetings are scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Lord Ligonier Inn.

The following agencies are present at our monthly get together:

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

LOYALHANNA WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

PENNSYLVANIA GAME
COMMISSION

BUREAU OF SURFACE
MINE RECLAMATION

BUREAU OF OIL &
GAS MANAGEMENT

WESTMORELAND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PENNSYLVANIA FISH
COMMISSION

SEEDLINGS TO SAVE SOIL

On April 28, 1984, the Westmoreland Conservation District distributed over 14,000 seedlings to county residents. Property owners as well as business, civic, church, and youth groups were encouraged to buy and plant seedlings to beautify and improve our environment.

Eleven different varieties of seedlings were offered to the public at an average cost of forty cents per seedling. The total value of seedlings sold was in excess of \$6,000.00.

Designed by Mark Jackson and Emil Kuhar

Westmoreland
Conservation
District

932 St. Clair Way
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

