

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
1949**

Mortie Gongaware - Chairman; Robert Torrance - Vice Chairman
Eugene Cairns - Member; J. Calvin Turner - Member, County Commissioner
Robert McAleese - Member

RESOLUTION

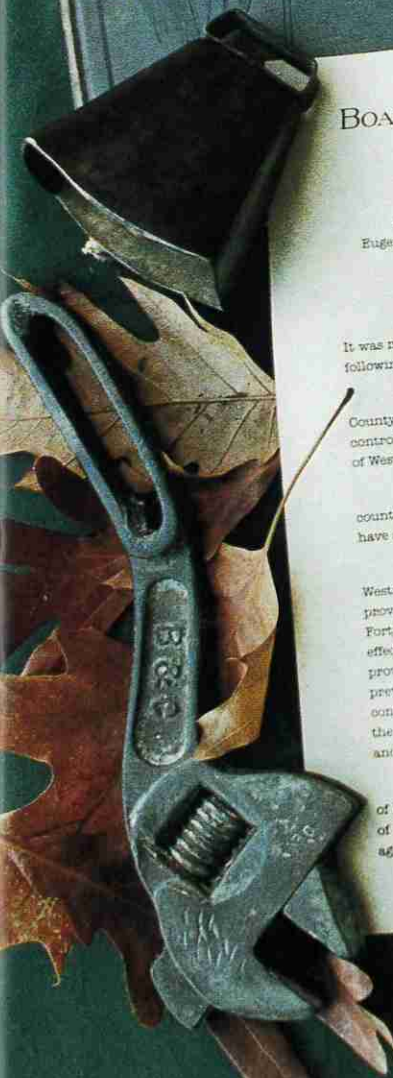
It was moved by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Cochran and agreed that the following Resolution be adopted.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, has determined that conservation of soil resources and control and prevention of soil erosion are problems of public concern in the County of Westmoreland, and

WHEREAS, a substantial proportion of the rural land owners of said county favor a Resolution creating a soil conservation district in said county and have so petitioned the Commissioners of said Westmoreland County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the County of Westmoreland is hereby declared to be a soil conservation district under the provisions of the "Soil Conservation Law" of One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Five (1945 May 15, EL 547 et seq., PS 849 et seq.) for the purpose of effectuating the legislative policy as announced in Section 2 in said Act, to wit, to provide for the conservation of soil and soil resources and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and thereby to preserve natural resources; assist in control of floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve the tax base, protect public land and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, under the authority of said Act of Assembly, that such soil conservation district shall constitute a public body of corporate and politic exercising public powers of the Commonwealth as an agency thereof.



Dear Friends of Conservation,

We stand at the brink of a new era with anticipation and expectation and greet the dawn of a new millennium filled with a sense of accomplishment at the role we have played in contributing to the conservation of natural resources and public education. I invite you to join me in celebrating the Westmoreland Conservation District's proud legacy – 50 years of serving the citizens of Westmoreland County – and looking forward to a promising future – one in which our children and grandchildren will benefit from our efforts.

On behalf of the board of directors and staff, we thank you for your support and commitment and look forward to entering a new century with you.

J. Roy Houston

J. Roy Houston, Chairman



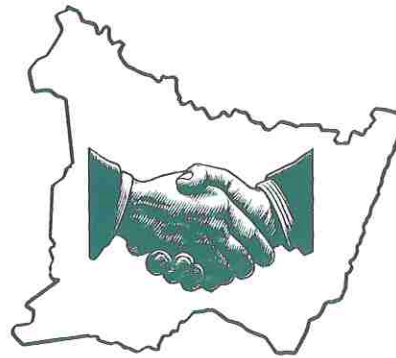


Special thanks to the Westmoreland County Commissioners for their very generous support in all aspects of District activities. They continue to play an integral part of an important partnership formed fifty years ago, signified by the re-creation of the official proclamation pictured on the cover.

50 years - A Scrapbook of Success



The problems revealed during the Dustbowl Days of the 1930s and the hard work of the CCC crews launched the modern conservation movement.



The Westmoreland Conservation District began in 1949 and has been building partnerships ever since.



Farmers led the way with contour strip cropping and practices designed to prevent soil erosion.



Voluntary landowner "cooperators" were instrumental in getting conservation practices on the land.



Plowing contests offered the combined benefits of fun, farmer education and fostering public awareness.

At age 50, the Conservation District remains committed to the local farmer, part of our heritage.



Old fashioned plow wrench

50 years - A Scrapbook of Success



During the 1960s, it became abundantly clear the District should get involved in flood control and prevention.



The need for erosion and sedimentation control accelerated in the 1960s with a boom in suburban development.



Board Chairman J. Roy Houston and his friend, District Manager Elwood Leslie, developed a system to recognize and encourage conservation efforts.



Earth Day was born in the 1970s to remind Americans of their conservation responsibilities.

The District formed Westmoreland County's first environmental library in downtown Greensburg.



The county Envir-Olympics (later renamed Envirothon), started in 1986 and has nurtured the awareness, skills and knowledge of hundreds of high school students.



The district helped form a 24-county coalition in 1982 to reduce abandoned mine drainage pollution.

50 years - A Scrapbook of Success



The District's newsletter, *Landmarks* (started in 1986), spread the word and won state and national awards.



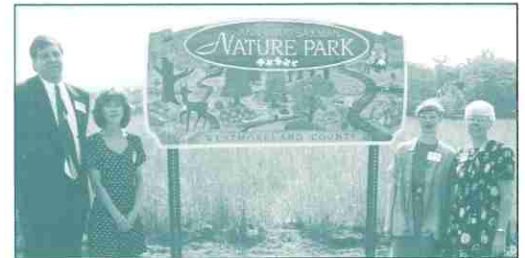
Responding to urbanization pressures, the Farmland Preservation Program was started in 1990 with help from the District.



Donohoe Center became the home of the District in a one-stop conservation service unit with other agencies in 1994.



Bridgeport Dam is one of three flood control facilities built in the 1960s and '70s that also offer recreational opportunities.



Rededicated in 1996, the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park provides opportunities for people to learn first hand about the environment.



Considerable teamwork was required during the 1990s to create the Monastery Run abandoned mine water treatment facility at St. Vincent College, Latrobe.



In the spring of 2000, the Center for Conservation Education will become a reality.



The 50th Anniversary of the Westmoreland Conservation District was celebrated with a variety of events, including...

Logo Development

In honor of this milestone, a special logo was created featuring the slogan, "Caring For Our Natural Resources 1949-1999."

Timeline

In February, the District unveiled a timeline highlighting special events of our 50-year history. The timeline debuted at an open house that featured tours, speakers and demonstrations for the 250 people in attendance.

Tree Planting

A special Arbor Day Tree Planting took place in April. Major sponsor Allegheny Energy joined district forester Tony Quadro, associate director Bob Ackerman and 60 additional participants in planting a northern red oak near the site of the proposed "Center for Conservation Education" at Donohoe Center.

Family Barbecue

The Donohoe Center grounds also served as the setting for a Family Barbecue on September 11. The day consisted of food, games and entertainment; 150 people enjoyed the event.

Time Capsule

The festive spirit of the Barbecue concluded with the burial of a time capsule containing mementos of historical significance. The time capsule will be opened on the 100th Anniversary of the Conservation District.

Postal Cancellation Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service in Greensburg made a pictorial postal cancellation stamp featuring the Conservation District logo and 50th Anniversary slogan. The stamp was issued on October 21, and made available for 30 days to those who requested the cancellation by hand. Requests came from across the country and included Hawaii, Canada and England.

"50 Things You Can Do for Conservation"

The District published a booklet that was distributed to special groups and organizations promoting *"Fifty pretty easy and not very expensive things you can do to conserve that great place: Westmoreland County."* 2,500 received the informational brochure.

Awards Banquet

Rounding out the 1999 50th Anniversary activities was the November Annual Awards Banquet at the Four Points Inn in Greensburg. Guest speaker Keith McGough delivered a motivational speech to the 200 people in attendance as the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. For a complete list of Award Recipients, see page 20.

Commemorative Crystal

By special arrangement with Saint George Crystal of Jeannette, we obtained commemorative lead crystal plates, paperweights, and tumblers, for our special award recipients.

Center For Conservation Education

A STRONG EFFORT during our 50th Anniversary year was directed toward building the foundation for a dramatically expanded conservation education program. In fact, this new public outreach effort will be the most extensive in the District's history!

For our first 50 years, we have worked closely with farmers, developers, loggers, and others who work regularly with the land to help them practice good stewardship. Now, our goal is to expand those efforts to include high school students and adult members of the general public. By demonstrating the value of conservation to this larger segment of the County's population, we hope that we will be even more effective in promoting conservation as a personal ethic and way of life.

The Center for Conservation Education in Westmoreland County

The nucleus of this expanded outreach will be a new facility, the Center for Conservation Education in Westmoreland County, to be built on the grounds of our headquarters at Donohoe Center.

During 1999, the team of Greg Phillips, Roy Houston, Karen Jurkovic, and Bob Teeter successfully met the Center's \$250,000 projected capital needs by raising \$165,000 from the following generous donors.

- March: \$100,000 - Richard King Mellon Foundation
- July: \$15,000 challenge grant - Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation
- September: \$10,000 - Southwest Bank
- October: \$10,000 - Allegheny Energy; \$5,000 - Alvin Kacin
- December: \$25,000 - Laurel Foundation

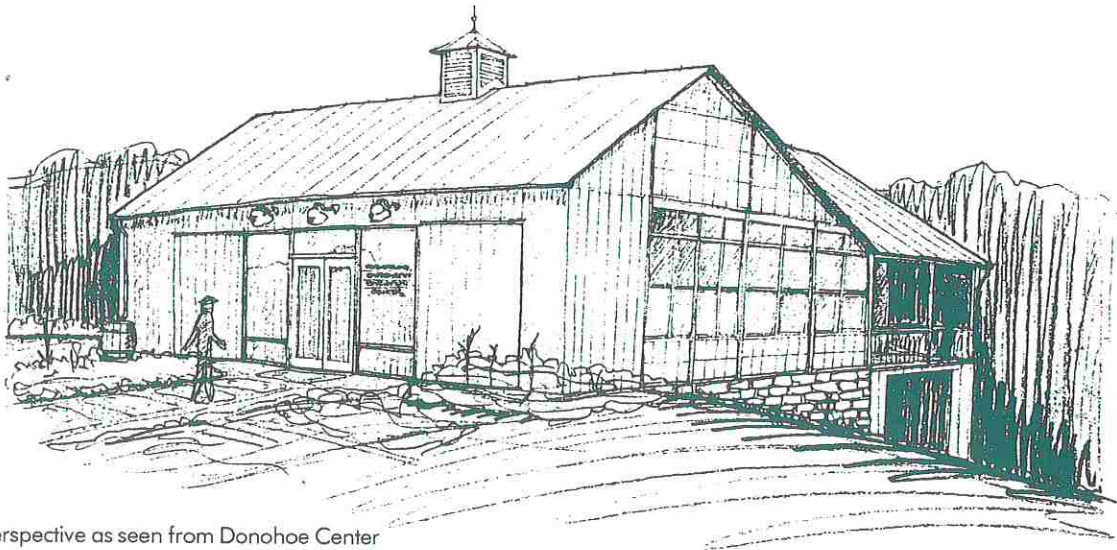
In 1998, the team secured donations of \$25,000 from Allegheny Energy; \$50,000 from the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation; \$2,200 from several individual donors; and \$10,000 in fine money collected by the District.

The success of this fundraising effort means that construction of the Center can begin in the spring of 2000. An existing Westmoreland County barn, donated by contractor Kim Miller, will be disassembled and brought to the Donohoe Center grounds where it will be reassembled and adapted for use as the education center. A. Richard Glance is the architect for the project, and basic construction should be completed this fall.



Original donated barn to be relocated behind Donohoe Center.

Additional fundraising efforts will continue in the spring of 2000 for the "finishing" aspects of the Center, including: landscaping, construction of an observation deck overlooking Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park, furniture, equipment, and a conservation resource library.

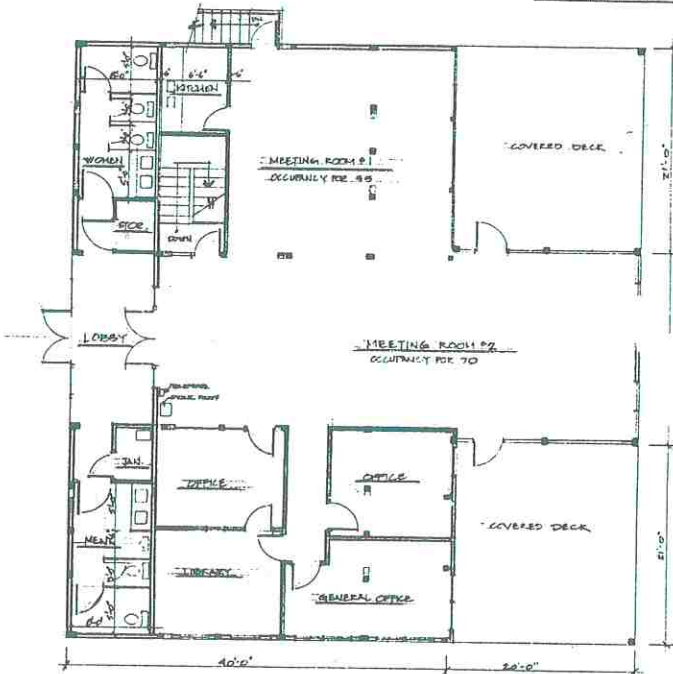


Exterior perspective as seen from Donohoe Center

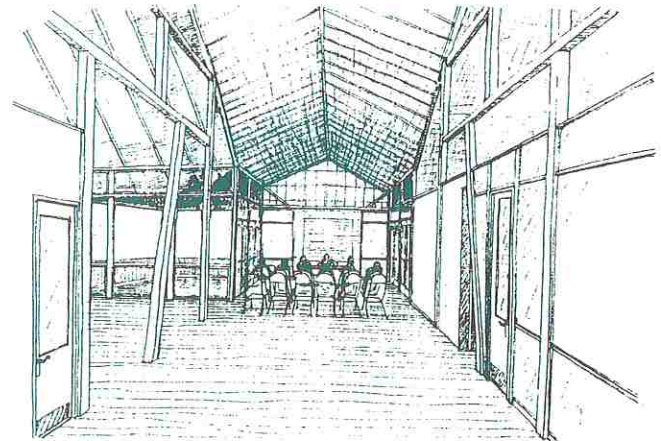
EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE - PLAN "C"

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION
EDUCATION CENTER

2/29/00
GLANCE & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Ground level floor plan



Interior perspective with view into Nature Park

Preliminary plans designed by Glance and Associates, Inc. with input from the Steering Committee

Program Development

Fundraising wasn't the year's only accomplishment toward our goal of expanded conservation outreach. Even before the building was a reality, we began thinking about the programs it would offer. Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection, we are now in the process of developing a series of learning activities on the subjects of watersheds and sustainable communities.

Dr. Judith Hechtman of Indiana University of Pennsylvania is serving as the facilitator for this curriculum, which will be written by local educators Fred Goodman, Ralph Lemmon, Tom Pearson and Jerry Police. The lessons feature Westmoreland County specific issues and sites, relevant to area learners. We are also working to guarantee the curriculum's use in local classrooms by designing it to meet all Pennsylvania school codes, standards, and assessments, including the proposed standards for environmental education.

We plan to introduce this curriculum through a special, credit workshop for Westmoreland County's middle- and high-school educators during 2000.

Forestry

FIFTY YEARS AGO Westmoreland County was 38% forested. The forest was growing back from the clearcutting that took place in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and second growth timber stands were just starting to enter the sawtimber size class (over 12"). Early stands of hemlock and white pine, and oak and chestnut had given way to oak-hickory, and northern hardwoods. Today, the County is about 50% forested due mostly to abandoned farmland reverting to forest.

Currently, much of the timber resource is either mature or close to maturity. Timber prices are at an all time high, especially for red oak and black cherry. This combination has led to an increasing demand on the timber resource, especially in the forested ridges where our high quality water comes from. Correspondingly, inspections on timber harvesting sites increased from 50 in 1998 to 62 in 1999.

Fifty years ago, timber harvesters would skid logs right down the middle of the stream channel because it was an easy way to get the timber off. Today however, we know that it degrades a stream to do this, and best management practices such as stable haulroads, waterbars and cross drain culverts are used to protect streams during the harvest. A detailed erosion control plan must be developed for each timber harvest — we reviewed 20 plans for timber harvests last year.

Timber harvests have been an integral part of Bill and Ingrid Rea's 50 years of caring for their property in Ligonier Township. They have had several timber harvests and have planted thousands of trees. In 1999, the fruit of their labor was rewarded. The Reas were selected as the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' Maurice K. Goddard Award winners for outstanding forest management in Pennsylvania.

An important addition to the District's geographic information system (a computerized map and database system) that will enable us to contact more private landowners like the Reas, is the tax map layer. There are approximately 3,000 landowners in Westmoreland County with over 25 acres. How these landowners manage their land and timber resources can have a big impact on the county's water quality. This layer will help us to ensure that more woodlot owners are aware of good forest management practices.

One tree that could tell us a lot about the past three hundred years became one of the county's 75 Trees of Distinction (a county tree that is either the largest of its species or historically significant) last year. The tree, a white oak in Washington Township, measured 64" diameter at breast height and 70' in height. We hope that the "baby" red oak tree that the District planted in 1999 in honor of its 50th anniversary will live as long!

Other noteworthy occurrences in 1999 include 12 woodland management plans — including a Forest Stewardship Plan on 400 acres in Fairfield Township; over 50 loggers attended two loggers workshops — Silviculture and Environmental Logging; 2000 seedlings distributed; 1200 Tubex tree shelters distributed; and forestry educational programs reaching over 400 students were held for Harrold Middle School, Greensburg Salem High School, Nicely Elementary School, and Metzgar Elementary School.



Envirothon

THE ENVIROTHON BEGAN in Pennsylvania in 1979 as an educational outreach program of the Conservation Districts. Originally called the Envir-Olympics, the first statewide competition was held in 1983, and the first national competition was held in 1987.

Wildfire was the current issue of the 14th Annual Westmoreland County Envirothon which was held May 3 at Mammoth County Park.

Following months of classroom study, the teams of students are presented with a series of questions related to four issues — soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatic life — and one current conservation issue.

Teams from 10 area school districts watched as representatives of the State Bureau of Forestry and area fire departments ignited a “prescribed burn” in Mammoth County Park. Students learned how fire is used as a tool to reduce understory fuels and prepare a site for regeneration.

Franklin Regional High School, who took the county gold medal this year, has continued to dominate the local event. Kiski Area High School and Norwin Senior High School, ranking second and third respectively, served as strong competition. Franklin Regional has also won gold medals and top placement in the annual state competition.

The Envirothon promotes teamwork, and encourages the high school students to become environmentally aware, action-oriented adults.

1999 Envirothon Team

THE PARTICIPANTS

Belle Vernon High School
Burrell High School
Franklin Regional High School
Greensburg Salem High School
Hempfield Senior High School
Kiski Area High School
Laurel Valley High School
Mount Pleasant Senior High School
Norwin Senior High School
Yough High School

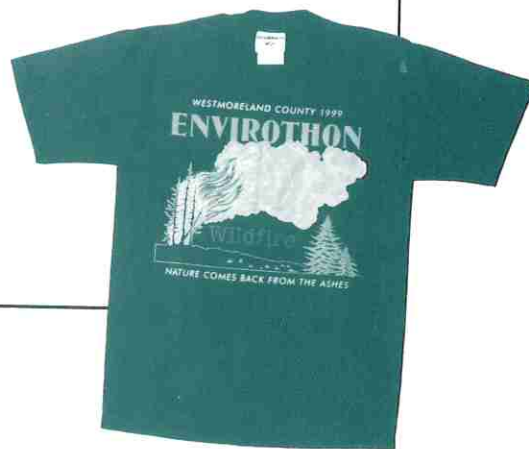
THE AGENCIES

Natural Resources Conservation Service
PA Bureau of Forestry
PA Game Commission
Powdermill Nature Reserve
Westmoreland County Bureau
of Parks & Recreation

OUR SPONSORS

— *Major Underwriting Supporters* —
Allegheny Energy
Innovative Environmental Services
Shop ‘n Save
Sony Technology Center

— *Additional Support Provided By* —
Beckwith Machinery Company of Pittsburgh
Jackson Graphics
Westmoreland County Sportsmans League



Erosion and Sedimentation Control

ONE OF THE District's largest, long-running programs has been the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program. Launched in late 1972, the program took shape under the Clean Streams Law and began with a simple handbook of erosion control standards.

Erosion control plans were submitted to the District beginning in the mid-1970s. By 1983, we had received approximately 600 plans; we have now logged more than 4,900 plans into our computer database. The program has changed tremendously over time. Improved database management has been complemented by an increased field presence. Since the development of our latest Long Range Plan in 1997, the staff has taken a more proactive role. Changes have included an increase in pre-plan meetings with design engineers, pre-construction meetings with contractors and signing cooperative agreements with municipalities in order to strengthen our web of partners across the county.

Heightened development in Westmoreland County has placed increased workload on the staff. The staff has recently split field activities by staff specialization in order to increase efficiencies. The technical staff now includes a forester, hydraulic engineer, agricultural conservation technician and two development inspectors. Chris Droste joined the team in July to maintain site inspection frequency on commercial and residential sites.

The field staff has seen a marked increase in compliance over the past few years. In 1999, the district spent 690 work hours on site inspections in order to achieve voluntary compliance on 70 earthmoving sites. Sites that are not turned over for enforcement are considered to be in voluntary compliance. Educational programs and pre-construction meetings have been effective in assisting contractors and loggers in achieving voluntary compliance with the regulations, and most importantly in installing best management practices on the land. Erosion and sediment pollution control was a topic in workshops conducted for loggers, pond owners, elementary school students, municipal officials and the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County.

1999 Delegated Program Activities

| | |
|--|----------|
| Educational Events | 10 |
| Number of Participants | 580 |
| Technical Assistance to the public (Erosion Control & Stormwater Mgmt. programs) | 265 |
| Conservation Partnership Agreements with Municipalities (new and retained) | 17 |
| Total Number of Plan Reviews | 249 |
| Plan Review Project Acres | 4,006 |
| Plan Review Disturbed Acres | 1,880 |
| Plan Review Fees Collected | \$18,000 |
| Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control | |
| Site Inspections (Sites under 5 Acres) | 251 |
| General NPDES* Permits Issued | 41 |
| Individual** NPDES Permits Issued | 2 |
| Total Permit Application Fees Collected | \$11,250 |
| Permitted Site Inspections (sites over 5 acres) | 209 |
| Total Inspections | 460 |
| Stream Encroachment Permits Issued | 193 |

* NPDES stands for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

**Individual permits are for high quality and exceptional value streams.

Dirt & Gravel Roads

THE DISTRICT ASSISTED three municipalities in completing three road projects in 1999 with approximately \$33,000 in funding from the State Conservation Commission. Fairfield, Salem and Donegal Township roads were the focus. Three high-quality streams (Coalpit Run, Beaver Run and Indian Creek) are receiving less pollution from sedimentation because of these projects.

An inventory of all dirt and gravel roads in the County was nearly completed and municipalities continued to submit grant applications for projects. Approximately 25 of the county's 67 municipalities have at least one dirt and/or gravel road. As might be expected many of these roads are in the rural, eastern half of the county. Surprisingly though, many more urbanized municipalities still have some roads that remain dirt and gravel and need to be maintained so as not to cause sediment pollution to receiving streams.

Future funding for the program from the State Conservation Commission will fund many additional projects in the county. A Quality Assurance Board, consisting of one representative each from the Fish & Boat Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Conservation District Board of Directors, will be prioritizing, ranking and funding projects for the year 2000. The total distance of dirt and gravel roads that are identified as problem areas or 'work sites' by the District Resource Specialist will determine future County allocations from the state. These work sites will be tracked and monitored on our Geographic Information System. We look forward to completing many more projects, identifying all potential work sites and strengthening our working relationships with our municipalities in the year 2000.



1948 Chevrolet Fleetmaster Woody Wagon, handy on the farm or in the field.

Technical Database

WITH INCREASED FUNDING comes the need to be more accountable so that we can report progress to our funding sources.

From a rag tag blue journal book with hand drawn columns and entries which were type written envelope labels to a sophisticated computerized database that runs at the speed of light, the District's record keeping has kept pace with technology. In 1999, our databases tracked delegated program activities in the areas of erosion and sediment control, nutrient management, stream encroachments, and dirt & gravel roads. We tracked Outreach, Plan Reviews, Permit Processing, Complaints, Inspections, and Compliance and Enforcement Actions.

Our database for *Landmarks* distribution, which includes 5,372 entries, was used to report to 21,488 people. District staff participated in 64 outreach activities involving 2,835 partners on such things as open space planning, waste management/recycling, legislative outreach, environmental education, and watershed restoration.

We also tracked the number of visitors to our office, which is up 51% from 938 in 1998 to 1,419 in 1999. In addition the number of attendees who participated in meetings with USDA, Cooperative Extension Service, Resource Conservation & Development, Farmland Preservation, and Western Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Donohoe Center was 6,359.

Stormwater Management

ONE OF THE hallmarks of government-sponsored stormwater management projects has always been concrete — huge, gray masses of the stuff, cast into channels, dams and pipes, with the purpose of directing water runoff. In the local area one has only to look in downtown Greensburg to see the rectangular channel of Jack's Run and realize the philosophy of fifty-year-old stormwater management: Get the water away as quickly as you can, by the most direct path possible. Taken to the extreme, one imagines a drainage system completely under the control of man, with every drop of water directed, steered and carried to the proper place and at the time desired. Such a philosophy prevailed in 1949 in Westmoreland County; its results can be seen in Latrobe, Derry, Jeannette, Irwin and any other city or borough.

What effect did fifty years of stormwater experience have on our County? Our program's goals shed some light on progress made. Of first importance, land development should minimize disturbance on the natural regime: stream channels, topography and land cover. Development that works with nature instead of fighting it generates less stormwater runoff, and at lower velocity. For a residential subdivision, this may mean curving the streets around a hillside and providing each homeowner with an undisturbed buffer below, to absorb runoff. For a commercial site, the preservation of streams and wetlands may reduce the need for expensive detention ponds and pipes. For a municipality, designating stream buffers and non-buildable areas protects future residents from trouble. The very nature of the Conservation District compels us to help land users find such 'friendly' alternatives to traditional drainage. By cooperative work with engineers, municipalities, and landowners, we meet the needs of all — including our streams and aquatic creatures. In 1999, the District helped 173 engineers and reviewed 86 stormwater management plans for development.

The second half of our stormwater program addresses the past — an attempt to solve some of the flooding and drainage problems that we have inherited. Our office helps landowners, municipalities, engineers and developers to correct old problems of flooding and runoff. Working with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, our staff issues permits for work in streams such as bank stabilization, driveway culverts, and utility lines. These permits are designed to keep channels unobstructed and to protect natural flow characteristics while allowing use of the area. We make site visits and provide technical assistance to those with flooding problems or needing permits. In 1999, we issued 193 permits for stream work and made 118 site visits in response to requests for assistance.

The unifying theme of our approach to stormwater has always been the conservation ethic — the wise use, conservation and restoration of our natural resources must govern all we do and say. It is our hope that at the end of the next fifty years, stormwater problems will be but a dim memory as this philosophy governs our stormwater decisions.



The old-fashioned way to control stormwater — Walworth Valve Company's flood control channel in South Greensburg, on Jack's Run.



Volunteers work to install low-cost, environmentally friendly streambank stabilization on Jack's Run at Lynch Field, City of Greensburg.

Nutrient Management & Conservation Planning

50 YEARS AGO, the Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors met with farmers to talk about contour stripcropping and other conservation practices for the farm. While we continue that traditional mission today, we have also begun working with the state of Pennsylvania on a program to improve the management of nutrients on farms. Nutrients are the physical inputs a crop receives for growth, including any crop residue left over from the previous year. Inputs include: fertilizer, manure, lime, crop residue, plus anything else the farmer plans to add to the soil. A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan can be developed for individual farmers that takes into consideration all of the nutritional value of the inputs and then makes recommendations on the quantity of each. Such a plan will maximize potential profits from farmland and will prevent nutrient loading of streams. This plan can then be used in conjunction with the farmer's Conservation Plan that reduces soil erosion. With both plans in operation, a farmer can realistically expect to have a stream flowing through his farm show an actual improvement in water quality from the one side of his farm to the other. A dozen older plans are being updated to meet today's requirements and 11 more are in the process of being prepared.

A major addition to our programs to help farmers was taken by adding a state funded Conservation Planner to our staff. That person is charged with giving farmers technical assistance with conservation planning and to find sources of funding to help pay for installing BMPs (Best Management Practices) that are needed, such as: spring developments, streambank fencing, rotational grazing, alleyway and barnyard stabilization. We have applied for Growing Greener grants for 2000, in an attempt to initiate a cost-share program to help reimburse farmers when they make improvements to their farmland.

Project Grass

PROJECT GRASS IS the name of an effort that promotes rotational grazing of animals. Rotational grazing refers to the practice of pasturing animals in paddocks made from dividing a larger field into a number of smaller fields in order to allow the rest of the paddocks to regrow instead of the animals ranging over the entire large field. Benefits of rotational grazing include: overall production of the land is increased because the grass is allowed a period of regrowth; erosion is minimized because the animals are limited to where they can go; and the beneficial individual grass plants survive a lot longer because they can mature and build up the root growth in the soil. Rotational grazing animals in the summer is usually more profitable for farmers instead of hauling feedstuffs to the barn and feeding the animals there with high priced equipment. It has been documented that the animals are healthier when they get a reasonable amount of exercise from rotational grazing instead of being penned up in a barn all year.

The Westmoreland Conservation District is encouraging farmers to develop grazing plans and assisting farmers with some cost share money for certain Best Management Practices like stream crossings and stream bank fencing to keep the animals out of the stream. There are at least 25 farmers in the county doing intensive rotational grazing and 75 more who practice rotational grazing in a limited manner. We are working diligently to find more cost share funding to promote this program. We feel it is a very worthwhile effort for us to keep farming profitable in Westmoreland County to maintain the delicate urban/rural balance that makes Westmoreland County such an attractive place to live.



Old time
sheep bell

Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park



Students from Metzgar Elementary School begin an educational tour of the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

ORIGINALLY 50 ACRES of parkland set aside in 1960, "Nature Park" blossomed in 1996 with the dedication of an additional 10 acres and two miles of trails. Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park honors the area's pioneer conservationist, botanist, landscape designer and master gardener.

Gearing up for spring, on April 1999, the District along with the Westmoreland County Parks Department, Boy Scout Troop 465 of Fort Allen, Girl Scouts, PA Game Commission, Westmoreland County Juvenile Offenders and volunteers completed several improvement projects. The day's labor included the addition of trail signs, benches, interpretative trail number posts, and trail cleanup — removing deadfalls and snags, chipping and drainage installation. The efforts assured the trail's condition for community usage.

A grant of \$35,000 was awarded to the Westmoreland Conservation District by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for streambank stabilization, retention, and pond enhancement. This work to be done in 2000 includes over three hundred feet of biostabilization, in-stream log structures, riparian planting and pond cleanout. The principal spillway (riser outlet structure) will be modified to create a permanent pool of water in the pond for habitat improvement. The area will be used to educate others on stream corridor restoration and management.

Trail improvements to the Discovery Loop and the installation of a new bridge over a stream were added thanks to Eagle Scouts Justin Acita and Anthony Regola. Westmoreland County Juvenile Offenders also completed construction of a new trail relocation to eliminate a steep and potentially dangerous portion of the trail.

To further enhance the use and enjoyment of the area, a new interpretative trail brochure was developed for the Discovery Loop. This brochure provides a self-guided learning experience for all ages.

Highway Beautification



SMALL ROADSIDE PLANTINGS that began in the late 1960s have bloomed into a county extravaganza with the help of volunteers and some creative partnerships. Each of these projects strengthens community bonds by bringing together hundreds of volunteers. Smaller cities and towns are discovering that small trees and colorful flowers can be effective when it comes to luring new businesses and shoppers.

Projects for 1999 included:

- Hundreds of spring bulbs, colorful perennials, and hardy shrubs were planted inside the Youngstown cloverleaf on Route 30.
- For the second year, the intersection of Route 30 and Greengate Road was enlivened with 6,000 annual flowers.
- Hanging baskets and thousands of begonia blooms transformed the Westmoreland County Courthouse Square into an inviting array of color.

In addition to the District, among the partners participating in these projects were the Penn State Master Gardeners, the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County, 4-H Youth, Jupina Landscaping, Hempfield Township, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Westmoreland County Planning Department, Hempfield Rotary, PA Clean Ways of Westmoreland County, Greensburg Jaycees, Adelphoi Village, City of Greensburg, Central Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, Greensburg Garden and Civic Center, Derry High School, Specialty Spraying Company, Latrobe Mini Garden Committee, and Adam Eidemiller, Inc.

Soil Survey Update

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY of the soil survey was recognized locally during 1999 in the form of informational displays and literature. The first soil survey in Pennsylvania was started in the Lancaster area in 1900, and in Westmoreland County in 1953.

To celebrate the Centennial of the Soil Survey in the United States, the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service selected Hazleton as the state soil of Pennsylvania. Of the over 3,000 types of soil in Pennsylvania, Hazleton is found in 33 counties, including Westmoreland. Additionally, Pennsylvania's state flower – Mountain Laurel; state tree – Eastern Hemlock; state bird – Ruffed Grouse; and state mammal – White-tailed Deer; all thrive on this deep, well-drained soil formed from sedimentary sandstone. In Westmoreland County, it is an important forest soil on Chestnut and Laurel ridges. Efforts are underway to have Hazleton recognized as the state soil by the Commonwealth. The designation is intended to increase awareness of soil as our most important resource.

Rob Knight and Alex Dado of the Natural Resources Conservation Service had a productive year in 1999. In addition to helping to celebrate the Soil Survey Centennial, they updated 160,000 acres through fieldwork and the tedious process of map digitizing. That leaves only 131,000 acres that have not been updated. Most fieldwork this year occurred on Laurel and Chestnut Ridges and focused on determining the depth to hard bedrock on different landforms. The soil survey database was also updated to go along with the maps in the new soil survey. Additionally, a soil temperature study was completed on the Laurel Ridge. Four soil temperature data recorders were placed in the soil at different elevations and aspects and kept there for one year. This data is important to forestry interpretations as it helps us understand the growing season for trees at different elevations.

Efforts in the coming year will focus on completing the soil survey database and updating the remaining acres. Digitizing and subsequent publishing of the report will depend upon the securing of national, state, and/or local funding.



Classic fountain pen

Westmoreland County Fair

THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY FAIR of 1999 provided the first opportunity for the Westmoreland Conservation District to participate in a cooperative display with all agencies housed in Donohoe Center. The Display symbolizes our message of a "one stop shopping center for agriculture."

The District's participation at the County Fair dates back to the 1960s. For many years, the display was housed in the Sportsman's Tent. With the growth of district programs, in 1998 our display was relocated to Commercial Building #2. Our current cooperative display includes the Farm Service Agency, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, Rural Development, Farmland Preservation Program, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Literature was available for the public to examine and take in many program areas of the District, and our staff took turns manning the booth to greet many of the 90,000 fair-goers and to answer questions.



1999 County Fair display...a cooperative effort.

Web Page

THE MODERN, fully equipped office of 1949 featured electric typewriters, adding machines, dictaphones, mimeograph and ditto-machines, and the "original" black Bakelite telephone. Our district staff have used all of these devices over the years to serve our citizens' needs.

Our latest technological innovation, begun in the summer of 1999, is the development of an internet web page, that propels us full-speed into the information age. Located at www.wcdpa.com, the site features information on programs and activities, meetings, seminars and also contains a brief history and overview of technical programs. A calendar of events is updated monthly, and the site provides links to several cooperating agencies. Proposed future uses include soil survey information, access to permit applications and a county map of conservation projects by watershed.

Board and Staff

THE FIRST BOARD of directors for the Westmoreland Conservation District, consisting of chairman Mortie Gongaware; vice-chairman Robert Torrance; and Eugene Cairns, J. Calvin Turner, and Robert McAleese; were elected on April 13, 1950 – seven months after the resolution was voted on by the county commissioners.

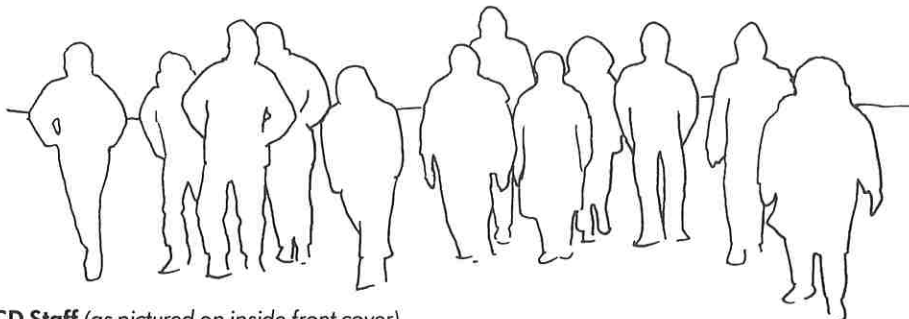
Fifty years later, the 1999 nine-member board elected the following officers during the January district meeting — chairman J. Roy Houston, vice-chairman Ron Rohall, secretary P. Roy Kemerer, and treasurer Conrad Donovan. They join fellow directors Al Barnett, Graydon Long, Dorothy Stoner, Keith Walters and County Commissioner Terry Marolt in leading the district. Later in the year, Ron Rohall went on to be elected vice-president of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

The district staff has grown and evolved over the past fifty years as well. What began with a district manager and an administrative assistant has grown to eleven full-time employees - seven professional and four clerical positions. During 1999, there were several changes in the make-up of the staff: Alex Dado left the district in January as soil scientist and joined the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the same capacity; Dan Griffith joined the staff in March as the Nutrient Management/Ag Conservation Technician; Chris Droste was hired in June as an erosion control technician; and Melissa Anderson was hired in November as a part-time secretary.



1999 WCD Board of Directors

(Bottom row) l-r: P. Roy Kemerer, *Secretary*; Conrad Donovan, *Treasurer*; Dorothy Stoner; Keith Walters.
(Top row) l-r: J. Roy Houston, *Chairman*; Ron Rohall, *Vice-Chairman*; Graydon Long; Al Barnett.
Not pictured: County Commissioner Terry Marolt.



WCD Staff (as pictured on inside front cover)

l-r: Mark Killar, *WPCAMR Regional Coordinator*; Tony Quadro, Jr., *Program Specialist/Forester*; Craig Barras, *Erosion Control Specialist*; Greg Phillips, *District Manager*; Lorrie Stouffer, *Assistant District Manager*; Joanne Kitsko, *Receptionist*; Jim Pillsbury, *Hydraulic Engineer*; Karen Barnhart, *Secretary/Clerk*; Melissa Anderson, *Secretary*; Chris Droste, *Erosion Control Technician*; Dan Griffith, *Nutrient Management/Conservation Technician*; Kathy Fritz, *Program Secretary*.

WCD Awards

THE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET has undergone many changes during our fifty-year history. Originally an afterthought to our annual planning meeting, it has become our premier event of the season, and enables us to recognize and celebrate those making important local contributions. In addition, the 1999 event capped a year-long celebration of our 50th Anniversary as a District. Although featured speaker Theodore Roosevelt (Keith McGough) inspired the audience, the true heroes of the evening were the award recipients. Presentations were made to the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County (*Outstanding Conservation Organization*), Robert L. Ackerman (*Outstanding Conservation Service*), and David Smith (*Outstanding Conservation Farmer*). The District also received a special recognition plaque in honor of our 50th Anniversary from State Conservationist Janet Oertly of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Traditionally, the Westmoreland Conservation District has had several individuals and groups receive state recognition as well. At the 1999 Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts/State Conservation Commission Joint Annual Conference, Alquin Heinnickel was honored as Conservation Farmer of the Year for his noteworthy establishment and maintenance of soil, water and nutrient management practices on his farm. The M.K. Goddard Forest Resource Management Award was presented to Bill Rea in recognition of his outstanding woodlot management.



1999 Westmoreland County Award Winners



(l-r) Dolores Heinnickel; Pat Sueck, PACD President; Alquin Heinnickel, PACD Conservation Farmer of the Year.



(l-r) Ken Manno, Sustainable Forestry Initiative of PA; Ingrid Rea; Pat Sueck, PACD President; William Rea. Ingrid and William Rea recieved the PACD M.K. Goddard Forest Resource Management Award.



1999 Annual Awards Banquet Highlights



District Treasurer and Master of Ceremonies, Conrad Donovan.



Wes Gordon, NRCs District Conservationist introduces keynote speaker.



Special Guest Speaker, President Theodore Roosevelt, (Keith McGough).



(l) David Smith, WCD Outstanding Conservation Farmer with (r) President Theodore Roosevelt (Keith McGough.)



Paula Korber of the Westmoreland Botanical Society, award recipient.



Outstanding Conservation Service Award winner, Bob Ackerman.



District staff and friends pose in 1949 fashions for the 50th Anniversary Awards Banquet. (l-r) Sandy Donovan, Phyllis Kennedy, Leanne Phillips, Theresa Rohall, Lorrie Stouffer, Karen Barnhart, Vivian Bernardo, Joanne Kitsko, Kathy Fritz and Leanne Griffith.



Phyllis Kennedy and District Chairman, Roy Houston.

Five Star Trail



THE FIVE STAR TRAIL, which connects Lynch Field in Greensburg to the historic Railroad Museum in Youngwood, has received a lot of footprints and bicycle tire tracks since its inception in 1997. Five Star Trail is the third most used County Park facility. This very successful recreation project was completed in conjunction with the Westmoreland County Parks

Department and the municipalities of Greensburg, South Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, Youngwood and Hempfield Township. In the future this trail may be linked to the Westmoreland County Community College and New Stanton.

District staff serve as advisors and directors of the volunteer board in this recreation project as well as administering Five Star Trail operating funds.

Our accounting personnel is responsible for handling Five Star Trail's monthly cash receipts, accounts payable, the reconciliation of its bank statements, and the production of the treasurer's report which is used at each monthly meeting. In addition, we make sure that all necessary paperwork is supplied for the annual audit each January. In this way, we continue to maintain an active and important role with the County Parks Department and the Five Star Trail.

PA CleanWays



OUR 1971 ANNUAL REPORT cover depicts young adults under the direction of our then active Junior Board of Directors cleaning trash from Brush Creek and its tributaries. A 1989 *Landmarks* article notes the formation of a Compost Recycling Committee to facilitate the production and marketing of compostable materials such as leaves and grass clippings.

With the 1992 formation of PA CleanWays, a nonprofit organization that fights illegal dumping and littering, an important part of our workload was transferred into their capable hands.

The District staff continues to serve as an advisor to PA CleanWays. We also help to implement programs such as Christmas Tree Recycling, Highway Beautification, a Compost Demonstration Area, and the Earth Day Network. We also handle a special administrative account, which involves cash receipts, accounts payable, and reconciliation of the monthly bank statements.

Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation



THE MISSION OF the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation is to: "Enhance and assure the quality of life of Westmoreland County residents by providing a safe, accessible, culturally based, family-oriented, well maintained and protected, economically responsible and strategically located park and recreation resources." The Bureau staff worked hard in 1999 to fulfill this mission for the residents of Westmoreland County.

Our parks were used more than ever before. Over 900,000 people participated in parks' programs; nearly 150,000 used park pavilions; 740,000 people enjoyed the parks sports facilities; nearly 30,000 visited parks concessions; and 17,000 participated in Nature Center activities. Thousands more used walking and biking trails, or came to fish, play or simply enjoy the out of doors.

A major initiative of 1999 was Parks Horizons – A Comprehensive Plan for Parks Recreation and Open Space for Westmoreland County. A key part of the plan process was to survey County residents to find out what they think about their County Parks and Recreation facilities and programs. Some of the findings were as follows:

- 70% of County households prefer a park setting that is at least 60% natural
- Twin Lakes Park is the most popular park facility in the County
- The Youghiogheny River Trail and the Five Star Trail rank second and third in terms of the most visited County-owned facilities
- Increasing public knowledge and awareness of the parks is of overwhelming importance
- County residents do not want to decrease the number of parks, the total park acreage or the Bureau's annual operating budget
- The Bureau should concentrate on existing park maintenance, targeted new facilities in existing parks and new trails.
- 58% of the households indicated that they would be willing to commit additional funds to parks and recreation

Although each county park saw projects and maintenance efforts implemented during 1999, cooperative efforts with the Westmoreland Conservation District focused on the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park. Located behind the district and parks offices off Donohoe Road in Greensburg, a system of interpretive and walking trails were developed for Nature Park, along with a brochure that contains a self-guided nature trail map and sixteen stations. All Nature Park trails were named and markers were installed in a 50-member volunteer work party on a Saturday morning in May.

Residents of Westmoreland County have shown that they love their park facilities and programs simply by using them in ever increasing numbers. Not only have the number of park visits increased, but expanded seasonal use has grown and continues to grow at a rapid rate.

Western Pennsylvania Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation



WESTMORELAND COUNTY ONCE contained vast amounts of what has been described as perhaps the most valuable natural resource ever discovered on the continent...coal from the "Pittsburgh" seam. Many of the towns throughout the County grew up around the coal mines working the Pittsburgh seam. The railroads connected them to the markets of the iron and steel industries. The mining of Pittsburgh coal helped create the steel industry and gave employment to thousands within Westmoreland County.

Our society developed around it. But the mining of Pittsburgh coal also left an indelible mark on the landscape. Thousands of acres of abandoned mine lands litter the County and all of the major watersheds are polluted to some degree by water draining from the abandoned workings.

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) has been working closely with WCD on abandoned mine problems since its creation in 1982. The district supports WPCAMR by sponsoring for the fifth year, a \$100,000 grant from the DEP Bureau of Watershed Conservation under which their reclamation program operates.

WCD personnel assisted with a major updating of the Coalition's database consisting of the 616 individuals and groups they have worked with throughout the years. The revision has helped streamline operations in the WPCAMR office. The Coalition's newsletter, *Reclamation Report*, distributed to over 500 people, once again provided insight into the reclamation activities throughout the region.

During the past year the Coalition assisted 16 watershed groups throughout the region by providing small operational grants totaling \$47,250. The five groups operating within Westmoreland County all took advantage of this Regional Watershed Support Initiative funding.

Many grassroots watershed groups have been working hard during the past year to correct abandoned mine problems throughout the County. In Turtle Creek the watershed association has been working with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Penn DOT and others to develop a solution to several discharges in the Export area. The Sewickley Creek Watershed Association has redesigned its mechanical aeration treatment system on Wilson Run to improve efficiency and reduce maintenance requirements. The group has also acquired 45 acres near Lowber to develop a wetland treatment system for a large discharge in the area. The Mountain Watershed Association is completing its first mine drainage wetland treatment system and has done an extensive stream bank stabilization project. The Jacobs Creek Association has developed a plan to assess the water quality of the entire watershed, including mine drainage impacts. And the Loyalhanna Watershed Association created a "Stream Team," with help from the federal Office of Surface Mining, to assess their watershed's water quality.

With the passage of the "Growing Greener" legislation in December, the state has committed a large amount of funding to address abandoned mine problems. Working at the grassroots level, the watershed associations of Westmoreland County are poised to take advantage of that funding to clean up their degraded streams and lands.

Farm Service Agency



THE 1999 SEASON was a very difficult period for Westmoreland County agricultural producers. Drought, with resulting low crop yields and short water supplies coupled with record low commodity prices, brought many farms closer to economic disaster.

To help with the economic emergency, Farm Service Agency programs provided participants in the 7-Year Production Flexibility Program with a second annual payment, supported grain prices with deficiency payments, made support payments to hog and dairy producers, and offered emergency loans to County producers suffering losses.

Additionally, the Farm Service Agency County Committee requested and received approval for the Livestock Assistance Program to help cover grazing losses and for the Emergency Conservation Program to provide cost sharing for emergency livestock and irrigation water supplies. Finally, Congress enacted the Crop Disaster Program, made available to County producers suffering crop production losses.

Conservation continues to be the centerpiece for all programs administered by the Farm Service Agency. All FSA disaster programs require that participants comply with conservation plans on all land they operate. Most importantly the Westmoreland FSA continued to make a positive environmental impact on our County by enrolling an additional 169 acres in the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program. This brings the County's total to 1,105 acres in 1999. This acreage is maintained by the landowners to promote both conservation and wildlife habitat.

Natural Resources Conservation Service



SINCE 1949, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service, has provided technical assistance to land users in cooperation with the Westmoreland Conservation District.

NRCS continues to provide, upon request, on-site technical assistance to land users to plan and install soil and water conservation practices. The NRCS has assisted conservation practices such as rotational grazing, barnyard stabilization, contour stripcropping, grass waterways, spring developments and stream corridor management.

The lack of water in 1999 brought additional requests for assistance on spring developments, wells and ponds. A solar water pump was installed as a demonstration to lift water 130 feet in elevation and 1,000 feet in distance to another pasture. This project was in cooperation with Project Grass and Resource Conservation and Development. Several stream crossings for livestock and farm equipment were installed with our assistance. A successful pond seminar, attended by over 160 people, was conducted in cooperation with Cooperative Extension Service and other agencies.

We continue to be active in the cooperative Monastery Run project, improving the quality of Loyalhanna Creek. NRCS provides technical assistance on other mine water improvement projects, including Brinkerton, Powdermill Nature Center and Keystone State Park.

We provide assistance to the Westmoreland Conservation District on projects such as non-point source pollution evaluation, dirt & gravel road improvements, watershed grant applications, stream corridor improvements, promotion of watershed initiatives and others.

Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development



RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RC&D) is a nonprofit public-private partnership involving local community members working voluntarily on a multi-county basis to resolve issues and develop opportunities for rural development. The Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area began in 1975. The program provides continued technical and/or financial assistance to projects in Westmoreland County.

The year's accomplishments included:

- Transfer of three miles of railroad right-of-way along the Allegheny River to Allegheny Township. The Township will develop this area into a rail trail and mini park. This property was appraised at approximately \$300,000.
- The Penn's Corner Conservancy also accepted \$100,000 on behalf of the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association for abandoned mine drainage remediation work in the Sewickley Creek watershed.
- Approximately \$200,000 were "passed through" the Penn's Corner Conservancy for the construction of the Conservation Education/Resource Center to be constructed near Donohoe Center.
- Bioengineering and mechanical practices were installed on a 120 foot, severely eroded section of Indian Creek in Donegal Township. The approximate total cost was \$24,000.
- Three Forest Stewardship Plans were prepared for private woodlots in Westmoreland County. The consulting foresters, who prepared these plans, were paid from a U.S. Forest Service \$2,025 grant obtained by the Penn's Corner Conservancy.
- The Westmoreland County Comprehensive Recreation Parks and Open Space Plan was partially funded by a \$10,000 U.S. Forest Service grant obtained by the Penn's Corner Conservancy.
- Penn's Corner continues to provide leadership for the Alternative Waste Management Program in Southwestern PA. The USDA, NRCS has already committed technical assistance and \$5,000 of RC&D funding to an experimental peat filter system at Twin Lakes County Park. Additional technical assistance and funding have been pledged by the supplier of the peat filter system and by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition, the Penn's Corner RC&D Program continues to provide technical and/or financial assistance to projects such as the Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park stream bank stabilization, development of the Five Star Trail, the Youghioghney River bank stabilization project near Collinsburg, the Lynch Field Partnership and the Indian Creek Valley Rail Trail.

Department of Environmental Protection



THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION enhanced electronic communication with all county conservation districts by updating the software used in each district office. The Division of Conservation Districts is currently working to make it possible for conservation districts to do all of their required reporting online, which will save time and money, and allow for more timely reimbursements for district's delegated/contracted program expenses.

Additionally, the Division is currently administering a budget of \$3,225,000 for the cost sharing of salaries of 178 conservation staff for Fiscal Year 1999-2000. The cost share is designated for District Managers and technicians.

Staff coordinated and assisted 13 regional DEP/conservation district roundtable meetings in 1999 to discuss issues and concerns related to conservation district programs. Staff also conducted 16 regional meetings for conservation district directors. Annual administrative training for the Chapter 102 (Erosion Control) and 105 (Encroachments) delegated programs was held in State College in September with 135 District staff attending. Two training sessions were also held during the year for training new conservation district staff in the Chapter 102/105 and NPDES Programs.



Early conservation education tools

Westmoreland Conservation District Financial Statements

Concise Statement of Financial Position
Combined Funds
December 31, 1999



Assets

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Cash | \$98,129 |
| Other Debits | 5,000 |
| General Fixed Assets | 60 |
| Total | \$103,189 |

Liabilities and Fund Balance

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Current Liabilities | \$10,793 |
| Long-Term Debt | 60 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 92,336 |
| Total | \$103,189 |

Concise Statement of Activities
Combined Funds
Year Ended December 31, 1999

Unrestricted Net Assets

Support

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Westmoreland County | \$559,281 |
| State Grants | 57,469 |
| Other Revenue | 27,204 |
| Fees | 26,123 |
| Farmland Preservation | 36,130 |
| WPCAMR | 77,783 |
| Interest Income | 1,027 |
| Special Projects | 164,263 |
| Other | 12,148 |
| | \$961,428 |

Expenditures

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Program Services | \$593,453 |
| Management & General | 272,126 |
| Fundraising | 3,214 |
| | \$868,793 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Excess (Deficiency) - Current | 92,635 |
| Net Assets - Beginning Balance | (299) |
| Net Assets - End of Year | \$92,336 |

Year 2000 Conservation Team



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Roy Houston, *Chairman*
Ron Rohall, *Vice-Chairman*
Conrad Donovan, *Treasurer*
P. Roy Kemerer, *Secretary*
Albert Barnett, *Director*
P. Graydon Long, *Director*

Scott Conner, *County Commissioner, Director*
Dorothy Stoner, *Director*
Keith Walters, *Director*

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Bob Ackerman
Bill Clark
Jack Driscoll
Paul Heyworth
Mark Jackson
Tom Keller
Bill Kotsenas
Harry Meyer
Theresa Rohall
Dr. William Shea
Elmer Slezak

STAFF

Gregory M. Phillips, *District Manager*
Lorrie Stouffer, *Assistant District Manager*
Tony Quadro, Jr., *Program Specialist/Forester*
Craig Barras, *Erosion Control Specialist*
Christopher E. Droste,
Erosion Control Technician
James W. Pillsbury, *Hydraulic Engineer*
Daniel Griffith, *Nutrient Mgmt./
Conservation Technician*
Kathleen Fritz, *Program Secretary*
Karen Barnhart, *Secretary/Clerk*
Joanne Kitsko, *Receptionist*
Melissa Anderson, *Secretary*

PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Darl Rosenquest, *Regional Soils Engineer*
Chuck Kubasik, *Field Representative*

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Wesley M. Gordon, *District Conservationist*
Larry Stokum, *Soil Technician*
Rob Knight, *Soil Scientist*
Alex Dado, *Soil Scientist*

SPECIAL THANKS

Westmoreland County Commissioners

COUNTY PARTNERS

Department of Public Works
Department of Planning
Penn State Cooperative Extension Service
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

STATE PARTNERS

Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Pennsylvania Game Commission
State Conservation Commission
Pennsylvania Association
of Conservation Districts

FEDERAL PARTNERS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm Service Agency
Rural Economic & Community
Development Service
Penn's Corner Resource
Conservation & Development

LOCAL PARTNERS

Jacobs Creek, Sewickley, Loyalhanna,
Mountain, and Turtle Creek
Watershed Associations
Westmoreland Woodlands
Improvement Association
PA CleanWays
Penn's Corner Charitable Trust
Westmoreland Conservancy
Saint Vincent College
Powdermill Nature Reserve
Five Star Trail Chapter –
Regional Trail Corporation

SUPPORTERS OF:

The Farmland Preservation Program
and the Western Pennsylvania Coalition
for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.
Both organizations are guided
by volunteer boards.



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Hank Webster, *Secretary*
Clearfield County
Doug Petro, *Treasurer*
Fayette County
Mark Killar, *Regional Coordinator*
Debra Simko, *Watershed Coordinator*

Special thanks to:

Amy L. Marino, *assistant project coordinator,*
for her help in the production of this report.
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Stephanie LaFrankie for design and layout.

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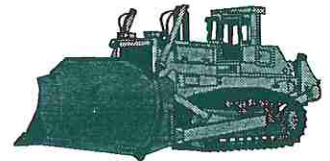
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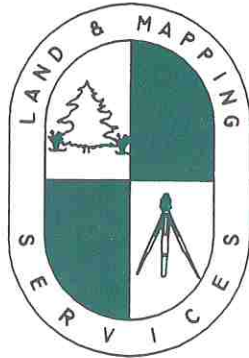
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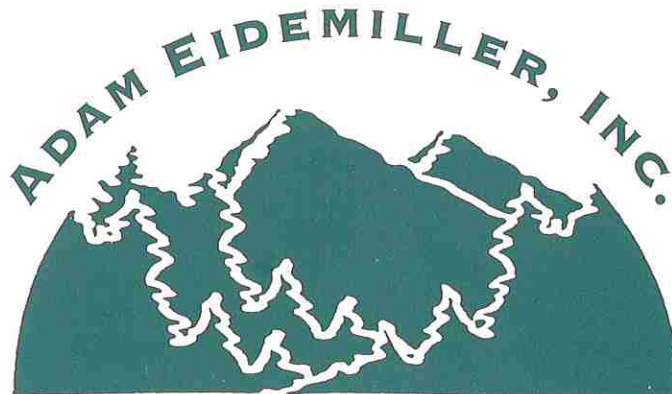
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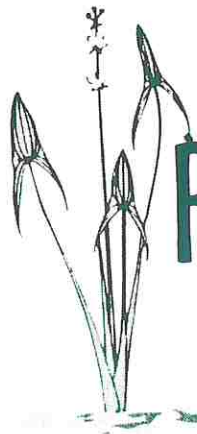
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Mission

The Westmoreland Conservation District is dedicated to the conservation, restoration, and proper use of our natural resources. Functioning as a unit of government, the directors, associates, and staff commit themselves to the leadership and service required in pursuing activities beneficial to the environment.

Programs

District programs range from science-based conservation efforts to serving as a clearing house for public information and education.

- Agricultural Conservation
- Arboretum
- Backyard Composting
- Corridor Planning
- Education
- Energy Conservation
- Envirothon
- Farmland Preservation
- Flood Control Projects
- Forest Management
- Geographic Information System
- Land Reclamation
- Loyalhanna Gorge Forestry Demonstration Area
- Monastery Run Clean-up
- Natural Resource Inventories
- Nutrient Management
- Rails to Trails
- Recreation
- Recycling
- Resource Conservation and Development
- Rural Abandoned Mine Program
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Soil Survey
- Stormwater Management
- Stream Encroachments
- "Waste-to-wealth" Beneficial Use Development
- Water Conservation
- Watershed Restoration/Planning
- Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Wetlands

We will work with many other like-minded agencies, organizations and individuals... some of whom are mentioned in this report...to advance the conservation ethic. If you are interested in a conservation subject not included here, we can help by referring you to the appropriate agency for more information.



Westmoreland Conservation District

Donohoe Center

RD #12, Box 202-B

Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

Phone (724) 837-5271 • Fax (724) 837-4127

email: wcd202b@aol.com

www.wcdpa.com