# Westmoreland Conservation District

## *2012 Annual Report*

## On the cover

Many hands may not always make light work…but they do make good things happen in Westmoreland County.

It is the power of partnerships that has brought about significant benefits in the quality of our streams and waterways…as well as in the health of our soils, our land and forests, and in the livability of our communities.

We are extremely grateful for the many individuals, organizations, businesses, and foundations that willingly join their resources with ours to steward our natural resources and to make Westmoreland County such a special place.

Front cover photo (background) – Vertical Gorge by Stephen Simpson
Inside front cover photo – Sumac and Asters Mount Pleasant by Stephen Simpson
Back cover photo (background) – Laurel Ridge Panorama at Sunset by Stephen Simpson

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*
Helen Keller (1880-1968)

Dear Friends:

Partnerships made the accomplishments in this report possible – in fact, they are the reason we have been able to achieve so much for conservation since our founding in 1949.

All the progress that has been made to clean up our streams… to repair our damaged lands…to maintain the viability of our farms…and to protect our precious natural resources has happened because of the combined strength of people and organizations and businesses and foundations, each focusing their energies on like-minded goals.

For the past few years, the challenges for conservation have also reached into foundational areas of the District, including how we:

- provide new levels of conservation services and respond to new opportunities, such as the Marcellus shale gas industry
- secure funding and develop creative ways to sustain our programs in times of tight budgets and uncertain allocations
- expand our functions and assume new roles as initiators of certain actions, such as enforcements, and
- address sustainability and help to mentor up-and-coming conservation leaders.

We need the help of partners in this work, too, and are extremely fortunate to have a broad base of support that ranges from local to federal, from individual to corporate.

Particularly on the county level, we are grateful to have strong ties with the Westmoreland County Commissioners Chuck Anderson, Tyler Courtney, and Ted Kopas…to have Larry Larese, who recently retired as the county's planning director, now as a member of our associate board… to be working with Jason Rigone, the current county planning director, on making GreenForge sustainable…and to partner with Greg McCloskey, director of the Department of Public Works and Malcolm Sias, director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, in helping to manage one of the best park and trail systems in the state of Pennsylvania.

We continue to have strong relationships with members of our state legislative contingent, and are especially grateful for the new and growing partnership with Peoples Natural Gas Company, the employer whose commitment to community volunteerism first brought our former chairman and my predecessor, Roy Houston, to us 40 years ago.

I thank you as well for your support of conservation, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with you on our shared goals.

Ronald J. Rohall

Ronald J. Rohall
*Chairman*

# Supporting Water Quality Improvement

For decades, an abandoned deep coal mine has been causing some 600,000 pounds of dissolved iron to flow into Sewickley Creek near the town of Lowber each year.

The Sewickley Creek Watershed Association installed a passive pond and wetland treatment system here that, since 2007, has been successfully reducing the iron oxide levels entering the stream by 90%. And the captured iron oxide is generating income for the project, being sold as a pigment for use in paints, dyes, and stains.

The District helped to form the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association in 1991, and has worked closely with the organization ever since on projects such as this one at Lowber and at similar mine discharge sites at Brinkerton and Wilson Run in this watershed.

At the wetland treatment site in Lowber, Sewickley Creek Watershed Association Board Member Larry Myers (right), is joined by (left) District Watershed Specialist Rob Cronauer and Westmoreland County Commissioner and District Board Member Ted Kopas.

# Supporting Regional Economic Development

Activity at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe is really taking off these days as the facility's expanded list of flight destinations, free parking, short screening lines, and fast baggage claim are making air travel more accessible and easier than ever.

This year, the District staff supported the construction of needed, new infrastructure at the airport – a new 250-car parking lot and new hangar/office complex with runway access – by providing several consultations regarding the permits needed, reviewing the initial construction plans and two subsequent revisions, offering guidance during the process to assure compliance yet reduce paperwork, and conducting four on-site inspections.

State Aviation Bureau statistics show that the airport's economic impact has been steadily growing, registering some $97.5 million in 2010…and more than $141 million in 2012.

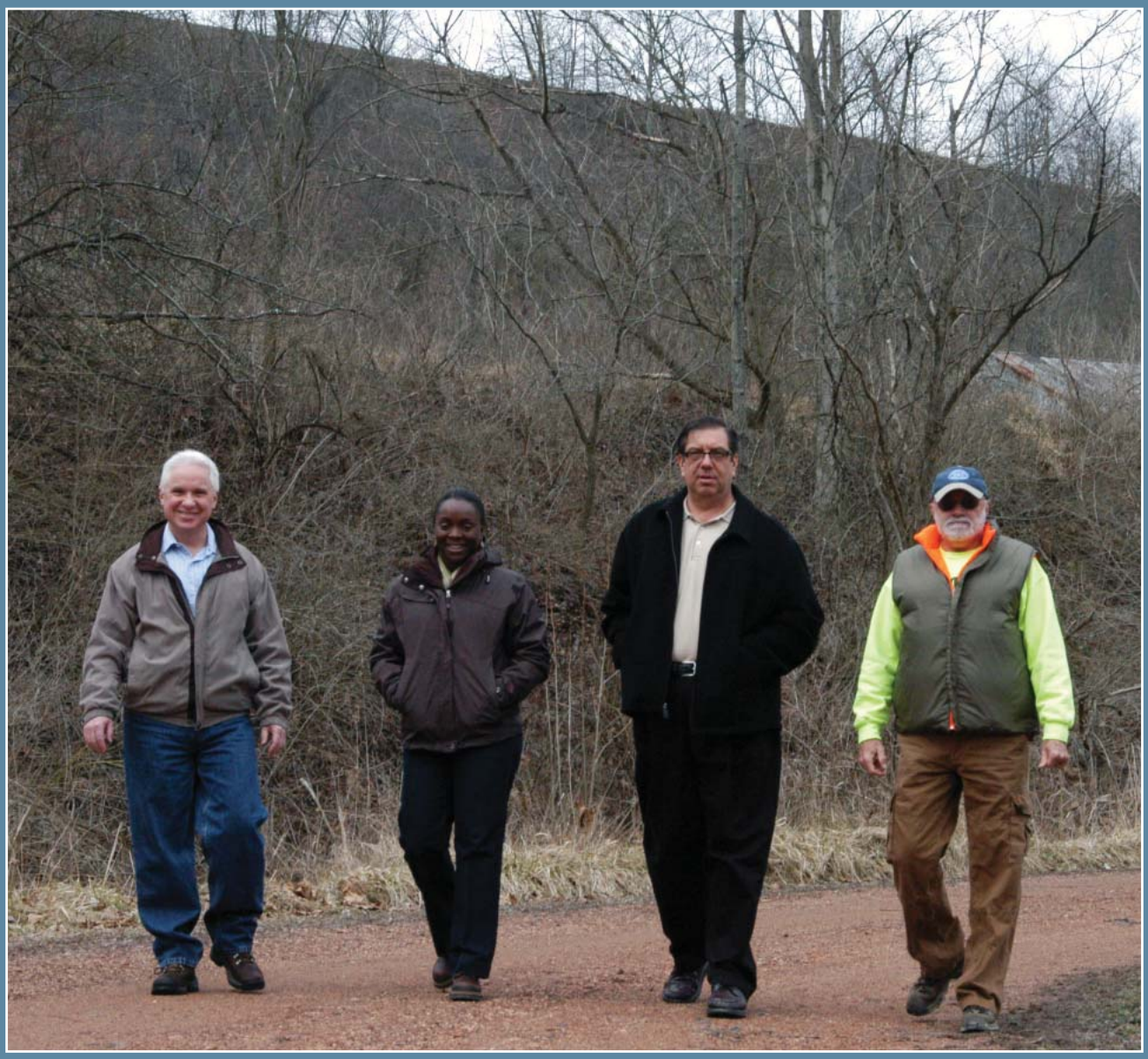
At the airport, its Executive Director Gabe Monzo (right), is joined by (left) Westmoreland County Commissioner Chuck Anderson and Westmoreland Conservation District Board Chairman Ron Rohall.

# Supporting Healthy Forests

In a forested area of Hanna's Town where the District helped the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Department conduct a regenerative timber harvest in 2008, District Forester Tony Quadro and Westmoreland County Commissioner Tyler Courtney talk about the benefits of woodland stewardship.

Income from the sale of the timber, selectively cut from 26 of Hanna's Town's 120 acres, was used by the county to support this county park as well as the nine other parks and four hiking/biking trails in the park system, which provides free, year-round recreation opportunities.

# Supporting Productive Land Use



Years ago, when coal was extracted from underground mines, a certain amount of unwanted material also was extracted. When the mine products were brought to the surface, the coal was separated from the waste. The coal was hauled off and millions of tons of the waste were left behind, creating high barren hills called "slag dumps" or "boney piles" across the landscape.

Today, thanks to decades-long conservation efforts, many of these coal waste piles have been eliminated and the land returned to productive use. Some piles still remain, such as the one in the background of this photo, taken on the Great Allegheny Passage Trail near West Newton.

In the photo, Westmoreland Conservation District Manager and volunteer President of the Board of the Regional Trail Corporation Greg Phillips (third from left), surveys the site with representatives of Alcoa, Dave Williams and Judodine Nichols (left), to discuss the possibility of using one of their company's byproducts to stabilize the waste pile. Joining them (right) is Bob Hand, a volunteer with the Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation.

Dear Conservation Friend,

I'm not sure where the time has gone, but in a few months, I will be celebrating 30 years as District Manager of the Westmoreland Conservation District.

When I stop pushing forward for a few moments and pause to look back to how things were in those early days in the 1980s, I am struck by just how much improvement has been made in the quality of natural resources here in Westmoreland County.

In those early years we faced many challenges, including a cleanup job of epic proportions – acres of land and miles of streams that had been severely damaged by abandoned coal mines.

It took many partners – individual citizens who reclaimed their own land (more than 126 acres to-date!), and a variety of coalitions, such as the 50-member Loyalhanna Creek Mine Drainage Coalition, who restored community resources.

Today, many coal-damaged lands are useable again… and tons of abandoned mine pollution have been removed from the waterways. You only have to drive by places such as the restored 48-acre former mine site at Marguerite and the no-longer-orange-colored Loyalhanna Creek in Latrobe to see examples of what partnerships made possible.

And the same partnership spirit has made a tremendous positive difference in other areas as well, including the health of our forests, the viability of our farms, and even the sustainability of our communities.

For the District's 60th anniversary in 2009, we listed the names of more 600 individuals who have partnered with us to advance the cause of conservation over the years. There may be close to an equal number of organizations, government agencies, businesses, industries, and foundations that also have played a role in getting our natural resources to the level of quality they are today.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our partners. Your leadership, commitment, and hard work really have made a positive difference. With your continued help, I look forward to the exciting things that we can do for conservation in the next decade.

Greg Phillips
*District Manager/CEO*

# Stable Soils

District Senior Erosion Control Specialist Chris Droste (center), with (l-r) Penn Township Code Enforcement representatives Dallas Leonard and Bill Roberts, compare the project plan to the actual site work during an interim inspection of a stormwater control basin at Bushy Run Corporate Park in Penn Township.

In addition to the one in New Alexandria (see page 11), our staff reviewed the plans and inspected four other new **sanitary sewer projects** in Westmoreland County during the year.

These major infrastructure projects have been possible through an infusion of more than $33,650,000 of federal stimulus money into our county through the Rural Utilities Service.

Communities receiving new sanitary sewer systems in 2012, and the local waterways that should have cleaner water, were:

- North Washington, with water quality benefits for Pucketa Creek
- Darlington and New Alexandria, with water quality benefits for Loyalhanna Creek
- Lincoln Heights and Norvelt, with water-quality benefits for Sewickley Creek.

The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County in 2012 undertook for the first time in its history an effort to **construct its own waterline** – a $12-million joint venture with the Greater Johnstown Water Authority that would **provide water from Quemahoning Reservoir to customers in Ligonier.**

As happens with most first-time ventures, there were a number of construction challenges with this project, and our erosion control staff stepped in mid-course to help.

Our staff conducted a special training class to explain best management practices for controlling erosion and sediment, and provided technical assistance to help remedy some of the problems that had developed.

The project involved a number of earthmoving activities, including creating trenching for 16 miles of pipe along Laurel Mountain, and building a number of facilities, including a million-gallon storage tank, four pressure-regulating stations, and one pump station.

In addition to providing technical help, our staff reviewed applications and issued more than 30 permits for the project, which in this first phase connects 1,500 former well-water customers to a municipal system.

Our senior erosion control specialist's inspections at the end of the year showed that **all disturbed earth was stabilized along Dominion's newly constructed Appalachian Gateway natural gas transmission line.**

The construction path of this pipeline traversed 20 miles and 10 municipalities in our county, and disturbed a total of 312 acres during the two years of its construction.

The entire transmission line runs for more than 100 miles, from Kanawha County, West Virginia to the Oakford compressor station in Delmont. It was built to carry conventionally produced natural gas as well as non-conventional production from coal-bed methane and Marcellus shale to the Mid-Atlantic and northeastern U.S.

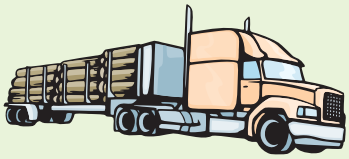
Our specialist will inspect the entire project area again in the spring of 2013, to ensure that newly vegetated areas have taken hold.

## PLANS REVIEWED AND PERMITS ISSUED in 2012

**Reviewing Plans** – The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has delegated responsibility to Westmoreland Conservation District for reviewing the erosion and sedimentation pollution control plans that are required for any commercial, utility, or residential construction; agricultural work; or timber harvesting operation in the county that is of a size large enough to fall under the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law.

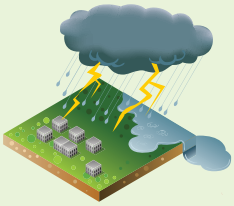
The Westmoreland Conservation District also reviews stormwater management plans for these projects, based on its agreements with area municipalities when the project involves less than an acre of disturbed land…and based on a delegation agreement from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection when the project disturbs more than one acre.

If, during the review of a plan, the District determines that the conservation measures are not adequate, the plan must be revised and the District will review the revision.



**EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS REVIEWED: 231**

- **216** for commercial, utility, or residential construction
- **15** for timber harvesting



**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS REVIEWED: 73**

**PLAN REVISIONS REQUESTED AND REVIEWED: 153**

- **103** for erosion and sediment pollution control
- **50** for stormwater management

**Issuing Permits** – The Westmoreland Conservation District has delegated authority to issue certain permits, including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System general permit, which is a federal permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chapter 105 general permit, which is a state permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition, the District can make a recommendation to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding whether or not a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System individual permit should be issued.

**PERMITS ISSUED: 128**

- **55** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System general
- **69** Chapter 105 stream encroachment
- **4** Erosion & Sediment Control General Permit 1 (this permit is specific to natural gas transmission lines)

**PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS RENDERED TO OTHER AGENCIES: 8**

- **8** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System individual

**INCOME FROM PLAN REVIEW AND PERMIT FEES: $113,725***

- **$76,225** from plan reviews and revision reviews
- **$37,500** from four Erosion & Sediment Control General Permit 1s

** Plan review fees for cooperating state agencies such as PennDOT, Westmoreland County agencies such as County Planning, and local municipalities are waived as a professional courtesy and are not reflected in this total.*

Other new **natural-gas-related project sites** in Westmoreland County that our staff inspected during the year to ensure that erosion and sediment were controlled during construction included the following.

- NiSource's Big Pine Gathering System, which disturbed some 13 acres in Derry Township as part of its 55-mile length through western Pennsylvania. The pipeline will be used to gather natural gas from Marcellus shale producers in our area and transport it to users in other parts of the country via existing interstate pipelines.
- A disturbance of 18 acres for a new compressor station in Herminie to support Laurel Mountain Midstream LLC's Marcellus shale gas gathering system.

**Two new buildings were added last year in the Westmoreland County Airpark, a county industrial development site** located on Route 981 near the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport.

Both buildings are approximately 30,000 square feet.

The new additions complete the first phase of development at the park, which has a 72% occupancy rate. Phase II, which will open up an additional 52 acres and provide the larger-sized parcels needed for buildings 50,000-square-feet and larger, is scheduled to launch in 2013.

Activity was exceptionally brisk last year at **Bushy Run Corporate Park** in Penn Township, a 168-acre private commercial development park, as four new companies moved in.

Our senior erosion control specialist inspected earthmoving and stormwater management installations during the construction of new locations for XTO Energy (a new 27,000-square-foot building); Galway Bay Corp., a sewer plant contractor (a new 10,000-square-foot headquarters and equipment storage space); Chromaglass, Inc., manufacturers of clear and colored industrial glassware (a 30,600-square-foot manufacturing

plant); and Hayes Mechanical, which services boiler, construction, and repair industries (a 9,450-square-foot office and warehouse combination). He also inspected development of a new pad at the park for potential businesses.

Bushy Run Corporate Park is the former Carnegie Mellon University research facility.

Although far off the pace of its historic high, some **new residential construction** did occur in the county in 2012, most notably in North Huntingdon Township.

Our staff issued permits for and inspected new home site construction in that township's largest housing development, Lincoln Hills (now in Phase 8 of its development), as well as in Hampton Heights, a new 20-acre plan, and Kingsbury, a large-lot, one-street development.

Other residential construction in the county occurred at:

- Rabbit's Foot, 16 multi-family units in the City of Lower Burrell, and
- South Greengate Commons, a 45-unit senior citizen apartment complex being built by the Westmoreland Community Housing Authority off South Greengate Road in Hempfield Township.

Our erosion control staff was involved in **inspecting several PennDOT projects during the year.**

- The Smithton Interchange area of Interstate 70, which disturbed 65 acres, was completed in December and involved widening almost two miles of the highway, a major reconstruction of bridges, stormwater management for the on and off ramps, and the addition of two stormwater ponds.
- A 1-1/2-mile widening project along Route 30 in Hempfield Township and the City of Jeannette involved many inspections related to cutting banks back, tearing down buildings, moving utility poles, and so on. This project was still underway at year end.

At the advice of our advisory committee in 2011, we took a hard look at the number of staff hours and the administrative and travel **costs the District incurs to administer its erosion and sediment control program.**

Changes in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations that took effect in late 2010 have continued to add time and expense to the program for the past two years.

In addition, in December 2012, a new "permit decision guarantee" from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection imposed defined timelines that we and the engineers submitting plans must comply with, as well as more tracking requirements.

In evaluating the impact of these changing regulations on our costs and fees, we obtained input from other Pennsylvania conservation districts as well as from officials in some of the larger municipalities in our county.

We also conducted a survey of our municipal and engineering clients to assess their satisfaction with our services (more than 90% responded positively), and their view of our fee structure.

Based on this input and our analysis, we are preparing to increase our erosion and sediment program fees in 2013.

Photo - Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation

You don't have to go far to see the positive economic impact of the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport (top of photo). Right next door is the Westmoreland Airpark, where 52 additional acres are poised for expansion, adding 12 new parcels for development and an additional entrance to Route 981.

District Technical Program Secretary Christie Sebek and E & S Program Administrative Assistant Kathy Fritz make sure plans and paperwork flow smoothly through the review process.

Overall, our goal is to ensure that our fee structure in each program area (forestry, stormwater, erosion and sediment control) is adequate to support the program.

The changing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations have also meant that our staff, particularly our erosion and sediment control program administrative assistant, **spent a good deal of time last year explaining these changes to our clients.**

She issued a number of general email updates and spent a good deal of time one-on-one with engineers, designers, and other District clients who need NPDES permits for their projects.

Among the many changes are specific time points in the life of a plan review when definite actions – by both the District staff and the submitting party – must be complete.

Another major change is that all Best Management Practices installed on a site have to be included in the property deed and maintained.

**Four enforcements** occurred during the year. Two were related to timber harvesting and were referred to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (see Forestry section, page 18).

In one of the other two, a contractor undertaking a facility expansion project for a commercial business in Washington Township failed to correctly install a post-construction management practice, causing pollution to flow into a county-owned wetland. When notified of the problem, the parties involved acted promptly to resolve the issue and to assure that the site is in compliance.

The fourth enforcement occurred after workers dredged a stream in Hempfield Park. The District helped the parties identify a way to achieve compliance and reviewed the erosion and sedimentation control plan for the restoration.

At the end of the year, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection was reviewing the site restoration plan. Upon approval, the plan will be implemented in 2013.

For the second consecutive year, we hosted a **Private Lane workshop** that gave participants information on how to repair the heavy toll that rain and flooding can take on unpaved driveways and roads…and how to do it in a way that actually reduces maintenance and prevents problems from recurring in the future.

Some 25 people, primarily homeowners, attended. Our watershed specialist subsequently visited a few of their homes to provide additional technical consultation.

## 2012 SITE INSPECTION SUMMARY

After an erosion and sediment pollution control plan or stormwater control plan is approved and work begins, Westmoreland Conservation District technical staff members regularly visit the site to make sure that the conservation measures are being property implemented and to watch for potential problems.

If an inspection reveals that a site is in violation of the Clean Streams Law, the District has authority delegated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to issue a notice of violation. If this notice is not heeded, the District can move to legally enforce the Clean Streams Law.

### ACRES OF LAND AFFECTED IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

**5,935** total acres of land were involved in projects that had approved erosion and sediment or stormwater management plans

**731** of those total project acres were actually disturbed during the work (e.g., commercial, utility, or residential construction; agricultural work; or timber harvesting operation)

### INSPECTIONS

**157** individual sites were inspected

**257** total inspections were conducted on those sites

### COMPLAINTS

**40** erosion control, stream encroachment, and stormwater management complaints were investigated and addressed

### VIOLATION NOTICES AND ENFORCEMENTS

**10** notices of violation were issued

**4** sites required enforcement action

# Sustainable Communities

Reviewing the concept plan for a proposed innovative stormwater management system in the nearly 200-year-old borough of New Alexandria with District Erosion Control Specialist Matt Zambelli (third from left) were (l-r): Borough Council Members Wayne Duffield, Bev King, and Bryan Werner; District Hydraulic Engineer Jim Pillsbury; and Stormwater Technician Kathy Hamilton.

Most of our technical staff members were involved in a **landmark infrastructure project in the historic borough of New Alexandria.**

Our erosion and sediment control specialist monitored more than 11 miles of earth moved in streets and alleyways for a $10-million project to install the first sanitary sewer system in the 178-year-old town.

At the same time, our stormwater staff saw the extensive infrastructure project as an opportunity to also take some pressure off the borough's aging storm sewers, and encouraged the project's engineering firm to incorporate porous-pavement parking lanes, landscaped areas, and other innovative methods of infiltrating rain and melting snow and ice as part of the restoration effort.

The innovative stormwater management measures will be primarily installed along the town's Main Street, a one-third-mile corridor with a mix of businesses, doctors' offices, and homes as well as the town's community center and post office.

The new sanitary sewer lines, which will connect to every one of the 270 homes and businesses in town, will vastly improve water quality in the nearby Loyalhanna Creek and its larger watershed.

Four District staff members helped the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Department procure the permits needed to begin **construction of the next three miles of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail** – the stretch from Slickville to Delmont.

Obtaining approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for this project was complicated because, among other things, this section of trail is in a protected watershed and will cross over Beaver Run Reservoir, the source of drinking water for a large number of Westmoreland County residents.

To facilitate the permitting process, the District joined County Parks as a joint applicant for the permits and provided much of the required mapping and site details.

General clearing and grading for the trail began in December, and will link up with five miles of trail that were already in place from Saltsburg to Slickville. The ultimate length of the trail will run from Saltsburg to Trafford.

2012 was an exceptionally active year for the **Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program,** with six projects completed in our county.

**Mansville Road in Cook Township**
*(Fourmile Run/Loyalhanna Watershed)*

Once the worst unpaved road in the county in terms of erosion and the amount of water that typically was on it, this is the largest and costliest project undertaken to-date by this program.

The two-phase project that began in 2010 concluded this year.

Cook Township was our partner on this project, which will benefit not only those who travel this road but also the water quality of Fourmile Run and the Loyalhanna Watershed.

**Bailey's Road, Bridges Road, and Thomas Road in Fairfield Township**
*(Tubmill Creek/Conemaugh River Watershed)*

In 2012, the third and final phase of the Bailey's Road improvement

project was completed, with the entire 1.3-mile length of this road covered with Driving Surface Aggregate, a compacted mixture of different-sized stones that creates a dense and durable wearing surface.

On Bridges Road, deep gullies worn on both sides of the road by poor stormwater drainage were filled and the road regraded to reduce erosion.

On Thomas Road, the low road level, which allowed water from the nearby creek to flow onto it during heavy rains, was raised with some three feet of fill, allowing stormwater to drain properly.

Before improvement, all of these roads were negatively impacting tributaries to Tubmill Creek, a cold-water fishery of exceptional value. Tubmill Creek flows directly into the Conemaugh River, just west of Bolivar Borough.

Fairfield Township partnered with us on all three road projects, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy also joined us on the Bailey's and Bridges road work.

**Skyview Road in Donegal Township** *(Indian Creek Watershed)*

One of the few Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance projects undertaken in this watershed, Skyview Road, had additional cross pipes and drainage added.

Donegal Township partnered with us on this project, which improved the quality of Indian Creek, a high-quality watershed.

The Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program not only improves area infrastructure for motorists but also reduces the pollution that unpaved roadways can deposit in nearby, often high-quality, streams.

**Locust Road in Laurel Mountain Borough** *(Loyalhanna Watershed)*

In 2012, we improved this road in Laurel Mountain Borough by adding underdrains and roadside drainage. Laurel Mountain Borough is a unique community in that all of its streets are dirt and gravel.

The borough applied for the grant for this project, which reduced sediment buildup in the nearby high-quality stream, headwaters to the Loyalhanna Creek.

**Two abandoned mine sites in the county were reclaimed in 2012** with technical assistance from the District's watershed specialist and financial assistance from the state's Landowner Reclamation Program.

**Near Bovard**, a little more than five acres of a former coal refuse site was reclaimed in 2012.

Work included upgrading old sedimentation basins, regrading the soil and amending it with biosolids, and seeding the land that had little vegetation.

In 2008, an additional five acres at this same site had been reclaimed. That past work included capping, seeding, and mulching an old boney pile.

All work at this site benefits water quality in Jacks Run, which flows through the City of Greensburg on its way to Sewickley Creek.

**Just above the town of Wyano**, the District concluded a project that began in 2009 to help a landowner reclaim some 60 acres of property that had been both deep- and strip-mined by previous owners.

The parcel, which essentially was a large coal-refuse pile, was systematically returned to a "green" condition by being covered over with soil from a nearby hillside and planted with grass. In 2010, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approved the use of biosolids on this site to help encourage grass to grow in this very compromised, low pH and poor fertility soil.

The landowner also used his own heavy equipment to reshape the land to more closely echo the natural landscape contours.

An existing sediment basin on the property was retrofitted to capture sediment while the restoration work was going on and to protect nearby Hunter's Run, a tributary of Sewickley Creek.

In 1987, Westmoreland Conservation District was the first district in the state to award a project under the Landowner Reclamation Program, which allows property owners to reclaim abandoned mine lands for the amount of forfeited bonds.

Over the years, seven sites in Westmoreland County totaling 126.4 acres have been reclaimed under this program.

Our watershed specialist also **prepared plans and designs** for:

- The City of Lower Burrell to address stormwater issues
- Ligonier Camp and Conference Center to mitigate pond erosion
- Rolling Rock Club to address drainage issues, and
- Pleasant Valley Park to manage wildlife concerns.

Our visual communications specialist **assisted other like-minded organizations with their outreach** during the year. He helped:

- Sewickley Creek Watershed Association by developing interpretive signs for the abandoned mine reclamation site at Lowber, and
- the Allegheny Trail Alliance by creating a new layout for its letterhead and providing technical assistance with a map.

Our education program coordinator worked with the technical staff to **update a handbook on "Best Management Practices for Construction Sites."**

It features erosion and sediment control practices and is available to engineers and construction personnel.

# Clean Streams & Waterways

Water Quality Educator Dana Rizzo (left) helps homeowner Diane Reintgen monitor the health of the pond on her property in Derry Township.

In partnership with Westmoreland County Community College and the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association, the District helped to put a project in place that will **permanently improve water quality in the Sewickley Creek Watershed.**

For many years, the largest paved parking area at the community college extended right up to within 15 feet of the stream that flows through campus.

This meant that for decades, there was not much buffer to stop the oil, antifreeze, litter, road salt, and other pollutants that inescapably come along with cars and people from finding their way into this unnamed tributary to Sewickley Creek.

The lack of a meaningful buffer between the four-acre parking lot and the stream also meant that large amounts of water ran off the paved surface during a storm and flowed at high speed into the creek, eroding its banks and adding to sediment buildup.

With funding from a Growing Greener grant to the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association, the District's stormwater team created a plan that removed some 12,000 square feet of pavement from the edge of the parking lot, creating a healthy stream buffer of more than 40 feet…and in that new buffer area added lots of opportunities for water runoff to infiltrate before it hit the stream. Infiltration additions included an infiltration swale, a rain garden, 12 new shade trees, 72 shrubs, and even a porous concrete sidewalk.

The project was completed in the summer of 2012, and was the first stormwater-control project undertaken by the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association.

Our stormwater staff also worked with the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland to **design another landscape buffer in the county,** this one between the 19-acre redevelopment site that formerly was the Westinghouse insulator plant in Derry Borough and the street, Third Avenue, which parallels it.

The District, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, a commercial developer, and the municipality of Murrysville were involved in extensive discussions regarding a proposed commercial development that was **one of the first in southwestern Pennsylvania to seek approval since DEP changed its regulations regarding required buffer areas in high-quality or exceptional value watersheds.**

This "first test" was an intense and lengthy learning process for all involved and clearly showed us the need to ensure that we are accurately accounting and charging for staff time spent on plan reviews.

At the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, our staff inspected a construction project that incorporated **underground stormwater infiltration chambers.**

To discourage birds from congregating near runways, airports are no longer allowed to employ stormwater management methods that create surface water.

So the airport's **new 250-car parking lot and new hangar/office**

**complex** with runway access for XTO Energy included buried chambers that collect stormwater and allow it to slowly infiltrate.

Our stormwater technician helped the City of Latrobe prepare a **street tree planting design.**

With funding from the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, five columnar street trees were planted along Lloyd Avenue, the gateway for visitors from Route 30 to downtown Latrobe that has been undergoing a variety of aesthetic improvements for the past few years.

The new trees were edged into the sidewalk with porous concrete, which allows rain and melting snow and ice to sink into the ground and provide needed nourishment.

Latrobe currently is working on procuring funding for additional street trees.

**The grant project to install residential rain gardens in Mount Pleasant concluded in 2012 with the addition of nine gardens.**

A total of 20 rain gardens have been installed since 2009 in individual yards in the Ramsay Terrace housing plan, which dates back to the 1960s and has been plagued by recurrent flooding.

On the surface, the approximately 10-foot by 20-foot rain gardens are attractive landscape features, with perennial flowers, shrubs, and/or small trees.

Underneath, they are actually very hard-working and effective ways to capture rainwater and slowly release it into the ground, instead of sending it into an often over-burdened and aging storm sewer system.

The Mount Pleasant stormwater retrofit project also included the addition of several municipal rain gardens. It will continue in 2013 with stormwater retrofits added at Frick Park, Excela Health Frick Hospital, and in yet another municipal parking lot.

Our stormwater technician prepared a schematic **green design for a parking lot being proposed by the Latrobe Presbyterian Church** on what is now the site of a shuttered schoolhouse next door.

The design preserves the school's front lawn space and two mature canopy trees, and incorporates such stormwater management practices as permeable pavement and bioinfiltration areas with native plants, while providing space for some 20 cars.

A similar design was prepared to **retrofit and "green" a five-car parking lot in the City of Greensburg for the Progress Fund,** an organization that lends needed capital and provides technical assistance to underserved entrepreneurs in the region.

We **hosted six webcasts from the Center for Watershed Protection** during the year.

Targeted to engineers, surveyors, and landscape architects, each of these two-hour webcasts featured presenters who are leading the way with some of the most innovative stormwater management techniques in the nation and/or who have firsthand experience with innovations in green infrastructure.

Each webcast attracted an average of 18 people, and featured an interactive component that allowed them to address questions to the presenters.

Our staff shared their knowledge of stormwater management in a number of **presentations** during the year, including those to the:

- Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association of Institutional Owners of Property (those who own schools, hospitals, and other such institutions); and
- National Association of Conservation Districts (webinar).

Our shared water quality educator **conducted 11 workshops** in our county on topics including private water source management, pond management, septic system management, and water conservation. Some 419 people were reached by these efforts.

She also **provided technical assistance** to 60 county residents on ways to improve water quality.

The **"Get your water tested" public service announcement** created last year ran on all major Pittsburgh television networks during 2012.

The announcement is designed to stress the fact that well water can carry contaminants that can harm people, and the importance of regular testing.

Our education staff also updated five fact sheets on the relationship between water quality and natural gas.

The City of Latrobe's main gateway from Route 30, Lloyd Avenue, was improved with street tree plantings and porous concrete in a design prepared by District Stormwater Technician Kathy Hamilton and overseen by Jarod Trunzo, Latrobe's community engagement and sustainability coordinator.

# Outreach & Education

Eagle Scout Ryan Gilbert (l), a graphic design major at Saint Vincent College, examines one of the 15 interpretive signs created for the District's one-of-a-kind stormwater trail. Joining him are Ralph DeStefano, an intern with the District, and Mimi Thomas-Brooker, District education program coordinator.

With input from the professionals on our Communications Advisory Committee, **we made some strategic changes in the design, content, and frequency of our primary communications and outreach materials in 2012.**

In the past few years, emails and our website have been shouldering an increasing amount of the responsibility for announcing "breaking news" items, and the website has become the place to go to register for upcoming workshops and events.

With our award-winning newsletter *Landmarks* no longer carrying primary responsibility for these kinds of more immediate and timely news items, we had the opportunity to retool it into something we've always wanted to offer – a news magazine. This type of a publication is issued less frequently but filled with articles of broader scope and depth, and illustrated with large, high-quality photographs.

The first issue of the new, once-a-year *Landmarks* news magazine was being prepared for issue in January 2013.

We also made some changes to the look and content of our annual report in 2012, including introductory pages with larger photographs and using the subsequent pages to focus on only the top program accomplishments. The accomplishment section was visually punctuated with quick-read subheads and distinguishing color backgrounds.

Continuing the trend toward electronic communication formats, we also took a step into the world of social media in 2012, with the **launch of the District's Facebook page.**

Our visual communications specialist, with input from Board Chairman Ron Rohall, developed the policy for posting on the site and established a goal to post at least once a week.

We crafted a number of **special, targeted outreach efforts** during the year, including a new email report to elected officials and funders on the District's contributions to our communities and economic development… and a storyboard of conservation best management practices appropriate for restoring Marcellus shale gas drilling sites.

We contracted with the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management to closely review and **update our database,** refining both our technical and public audiences even more precisely.

The improved database, along with our increasing ability to message via a variety of communication platforms, means we are able to create communications that are increasingly timely and relevant for targeted audiences.

In 2012, we again hosted a **municipal roundtable** – a half-day gathering with the elected officials from the communities we serve.

The February event featured District staff presentations on conservation topics of interest, and a chance for open discussion.

Some 45 people attended, and topics discussed included Conservation Partnership Agreements, post-construction stormwater management, pond maintenance, ordinances, permitting and construction activity, and Marcellus pipeline activities.

Our **education program** offered a number of other events during the year, including:

- a bus tour of the Loyalhanna Watershed in September; and
- the annual Engineers' Workshop in March, which drew some 270 attendees.

# Productive Farms

Making sure a newly created diversion ditch on a farm in the Stony Run Watershed can do its job of keeping surface water from mixing with manure in the barn is District Nutrient Management Specialist/Agricultural Conservation Technician Dan Griffith.

Since 2009, we have been undertaking a **comprehensive conservation effort in the Stony Run Watershed in Derry Township.** This watershed, which drains 13 square miles in our county near Blairsville, has been identified as having one of the highest levels of sediment and nutrient pollution in Westmoreland County.

In 2012, we worked with Rick Duncan, who is the fourth farm owner in this watershed to install Best Management Practices under this program. These practices will make his farm more efficient and reduce the amount of pollution entering the local waterways.

With funds from Natural Resources Conservation Service and Growing Greener, we helped Rick design and build an open-air heavy-use area with a concrete floor that is part manure storage and part stable area where he can congregate and feed his herd of cattle.

Using this 40-foot by 100-foot structure controls the manure and significantly reduces the amount of barnyard mud, both of which had been an especially troublesome problem on this farm.

Our agricultural technician and our watershed specialist **helped Jacobs Creek Watershed administer a grant to put Best Management Practices on three farms – Hutter's, Kitz's, and Zelmore's – in that area of the county.**

Streambank fencing, stream crossings, spring developments, tree plantings, and riparian buffers were installed and two new nutrient management plans were prepared, all with the goal of improving the economic vitality of the farms and improving the water quality in Brush Run.

Our agricultural technician made **47 personal visits to area farms** during the year to help farmers employ conservation methods that improve their operations. Most of the visits were initiated by the farmer, asking about a specific resource concern.

He also worked with a number of farmers who came to the District office or called to discuss their operations.

In 2012, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection issued **a guidebook that farmers and horse owners can use to write a manure management plan for their operation.**

The guidebook does an excellent job of clearly outlining the information needed, and includes sample plans and charts to follow, according to the type of animals kept.

A manure management plan is required by state law for any operation that has production animals (including horses) and where manure ends up on the land.

The plan does not have to be reviewed or approved by any agency or individual. It could, however, be summoned if a farmer or horse owner becomes involved in any legal dispute to prove that it has been done, is being followed, and that record keeping is up to date.

A nutrient management plan is the next higher level of plan and operations that have one of these are considered to have met the manure management plan requirement.

The State Conservation Commission in 2012 **required all conservation districts in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to have a policy for addressing complaints related to agricultural operations,** such as if manure should migrate into a stream.

Our District board determined that even though we are not in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and even though we get only a few such complaints a year, it would be advantageous for our organization to have this type of policy in place as well.

Our board and staff reviewed the Department of Environmental Protection's initial draft policy as well as a revision by the Farm Bureau before settling on a process and adopting it at the December Board meeting.

The new policy gives a step-by-step sequence for our agricultural technician to follow in responding to these complaints, including referral to the Board should things escalate.

Our agricultural technician also serves as chair of the Agriculture Committee for Penn's Corner Resource Conservation & Development Council and in that capacity he coordinated the **2012 Southwest Regional Pennsylvania No-till Conference.**

Some 130 people attended this all-day event in February that featured speakers on continuous no-till corn farming, choosing planter and drill attachments, and advancements in nitrogen fertilizer technology, as well as a vendor show and panel discussion on reviving soil after gas well activities.

A **workshop for horse owners** promoted proper pasture management and explained the new focus on manure management plans, which are required in Pennsylvania if a person has production animals, which by definition include horses.

Those signing up for the workshop were asked to take soil samples of their property and have them evaluated before the workshop date. The soil information, along with maps our agricultural technician prepared of each individual's property, was used to prepare the individual's manure management plan. Each of the 22 participants left the workshop with a plan that meets the state requirement.

## VOLUNTARY NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS in 2012

**Eighteen farmers voluntarily submitted nutrient management plans for their operations in 2012.**

These plans benefit farmers by helping them manage their operations in ways that save time and money…and they benefit the community by keeping excess nutrients out of nearby streams and waterways.

Following, by watershed, are the farmers whose plans were approved by the Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors during the year and the acres under the plan.

### Allegheny River Watershed

Clay Alter, 118 acres in Allegheny Township

### Beaver Run Watershed

Curtis McQuaide, 199 acres in Salem Township

### Conemaugh River Watershed

John Yuris, 250 acres in Derry Township

### Jacobs Creek Watershed

Fred Evanko, 138 acres in East Huntingdon Township
John Kitz, 110 acres in Mount Pleasant Township
Sam Moore, 56 acres in Mount Pleasant Township
Ed Sapinsky, 534 acres in South Huntingdon Township
Jess Stairs, 130 acres in Mount Pleasant Township
Marlin Zelmore, 183 acres in Mount Pleasant Township

### Loyalhanna Creek Watershed

Bill Smith, 542 acres in Salem Township

### Sewickley Creek Watershed

Derwyn Carpenter, 90 acres in Sewickley Township
Greg Painter, 71 acres in Mount Pleasant Township
John Perkey, 460 acres in East Huntingdon Township
Ken Shoaf, 165 acres in Sewickley Township
Jason Stahl, 166 in East Huntingdon Township

### Stony Run Watershed

Rick Duncan, 193 acres in Derry Township
Roger Frye, 765 acres in Derry Township

### Youghiogheny River Watershed

William Doney, 205 acres in South Huntingdon Township

# Forestry

Forester Tony Quadro helps area residents learn the keys to identifying local trees during a winter field trip held in conjunction with the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association.

After six months of reduced activity, **timber harvesting in the county increased in the latter half of 2012**, as prices picked up a little…area sawmills aggressively sought product… and some woodlot owners grew tired of waiting for prices to return to the historic high 2007 levels and decided to sell.

**Most harvests in the county in 2012 were relatively small**, 10 to 50 acres in size, and occurred in eastern areas such as Ligonier and Fairfield Township.

The largest harvest was on a privately owned, several-hundred-acre site in Derry Township, near Torrance.

Our forester finished the year by registering an increase in the total number of **site inspections and plan reviews** he conducted, compared to those activities in 2011.

The number of **pre-harvest meetings** continued to rise in 2012, giving our forester an opportunity to meet with individuals about their harvest before the chainsaw starts and make recommendations, as needed, to lessen the impact on the soil and water.

When good conservation controls are in place before a harvest starts, there is less need to take actions to remediate or heal when it is complete.

The Conservation Partnership Agreements we have with municipalities that require harvesters to have an approved erosion and sediment control plan before they can get a harvesting permit…as well as the awareness raised by the District and landowner groups such as the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association (see item below)…have been key factors in spurring the growing number of pre-harvest meetings.

A first-ever development in 2012 was our forester's receipt of **woodlot concerns related to Marcellus shale gas.**

He received about a half-dozen calls from citizens asking questions about timber management on land that might be slated for a Marcellus-shale-related pipeline or well pad.

Even small details such as where and how harvested timber would be stacked in a wood pile can make a difference regarding whether the wood is useable or wasted.

Our forester led a **program in September for the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association on the District's "Trees of Distinction"** program, which recognizes trees in the county that are notable because of their age, size, location, or historical significance.

The self-driving tour featured a swamp white oak in Latrobe that is 100 feet tall and 46 inches in diameter, and a rare European ash in Greensburg that is 40 feet tall and 18 inches in diameter.

Publicity about the tour led several citizens to call our forester about trees they were aware of and felt were notable. Several of these – a catalpa in Crabtree and an Osage orange in Derry – turned out to be new additions to the Trees of Distinction list.

After years of not having to initiate any **enforcement proceedings for timber harvesting violations** of the Clean Streams Law, we initiated two in 2012 – one for a harvest site in Unity Township near Twin Lakes, and one for a harvest site in Fairfield Township.

The site in Unity had four crossings that were degrading the stream, and the site in Fairfield was allowing sediment to wash into a high-quality native trout stream.

We enlisted the help of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the loggers corrected these violations promptly.

# Organizational Development

A new copier is increasing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of producing printed pieces, including the latest version of the full-color Westmoreland County Conservation Directory, which was produced totally in-house by our staff, including (l-r) Sandy Dzendzel, director of administration and Karen Barnhart, fiscal administrator.

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts was instrumental in 2012 in **securing a commitment of some $7.5 million a year in dedicated funds for conservation districts from the Marcellus shale gas impact fee.**

PACD's efforts built on the work of others, including the efforts of our own district, which began lobbying the legislature in 2011 for just such dedicated conservation funding.

The allocation to conservation districts will be one of the first drawn from the impact fees collected. It began at a reduced level in 2012, and will grow to the full allocation in year three (2014). Overall, allocations will continue for more than a decade.

Half of the yearly allocation will be distributed in the form of a block grant that is divided evenly among the state's 66 conservation districts. The other half will be parceled according to a unique Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission formula that we hope acknowledges the impact of Marcellus drilling in the respective counties.

At the end of 2012, Westmoreland County ranked 14th in the state, with some 200 wells.

**GreenForge, the green conservation-incubator building on our campus, became sustainable in 2012**, thanks to a creative combination of foundation grants, refinancing, and loan reduction/elimination.

We hope to secure an additional long-term tenant for the building in 2013, and to enter into an agreement with the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation to manage the property, both of which will further enhance the building's operating independence.

PEOPLES NATURAL GAS™

Our relationship with Peoples Natural Gas Company continued to grow in 2012, with that company establishing the **J. Roy Houston Conservation Partnership Award.**

This tribute will be given each year to the group or individual who has shown outstanding commitment and service by partnering with the District to conserve our natural resources. The first award was made at the District's 2012 banquet to the Westmoreland County Commissioners, past and present.

Since the District's founding in 1949 by an act of the Westmoreland County Commissioners, these elected officials have provided the strong and consistent support that has allowed the District to make great strides in conserving our county's natural resources for the benefit of all citizens.

On hand at the banquet to receive the award were current Westmoreland County Commissioners Charles Anderson, Tyler Courtney and Ted Kopas; and past Commissioners Tom Balya, William Davis, Phil Light, and Ted Simon.

The new J. Roy Houston Conservation Partnership Award was created to honor the memory and spirit of Roy Houston, whose 40 years of service as the District's chairman from 1970 until his death in 2010 was the longest volunteer commitment in the District's history. Roy became involved with the District at the urging of his then-employer, Peoples Natural Gas.

**Peoples Natural Gas Company** also supported the District in 2012 with a second financial gift that allowed us to enclose the deck and expand the meeting space inside our barn headquarters.

The Little Pucketa Creek project, a partnership effort forged in 2008 to reduce flooding for some 14,000 homes and businesses around New Kensington, was chosen as **one of five winners of the 2012 Western Pennsylvania**

**Environmental Awards**.

The honor recognized the contributions of eight major partners – who contributed everything from technical expertise, to access to land, to a combined total of nearly $450,000 in funds – to address the Little Pucketa Creek flooding problem in a long-term, conservation-minded and holistic way.

Partners on the project are the Westmoreland Conservation District, Pucketa and Chartiers Watershed Association, the New Kensington-Arnold School District, the Municipal Sanitary Authority of the City of New Kensington, Westmoreland County, PennDOT, the State of Pennsylvania, and the Colcom Foundation.

The partners continue to work on managing stormwater and reducing flooding in this area, which is one of Westmoreland County's most severely impacted watersheds.

After years of good service, we realized that our **employee evaluation form** could use some updating, including a more meaningful way of measuring performance.

We replaced the former 1-10 ranking scale for aspects such as job knowledge with a more descriptive evaluation of whether the person fails, meets or exceeds expectations.

The new evaluation form goes into effect in 2013.

Our visual communications specialist helped procure a **new color copier** with enhanced features that allow us to do more work in-house, including the new capability to produce stitched, 8-1/2" X 11" booklets.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Concise Statement of Financial Position

Combined Funds - December 31, 2012

| ASSETS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cash | $ | 312,781 |
| Accounts Receivable | $ | 227,837 |
| General Fixed Assets | $ | 14,634 |
| Total | $ | 555,252 |

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Current Liabilities | $ | 96,990 |
| Net Assets | $ | 458,262 |
| Total | $ | 555,252 |

### Concise Statement of Activities

Combined Funds - Year Ending December 31, 2012

| SUPPORT | | |
|---|---|---|
| Westmoreland County | $ | 873,500 |
| State Grants | $ | 226,183 |
| Other Revenue | $ | 25,071 |
| Fees | $ | 120,726* |
| Act 13 Impact Fees | $ | 18,939 |
| Workshops | $ | 21,619 |
| Donations | $ | 23,597 |
| Special Projects | $ | 116,581 |
| Total | $ | 1,426,216 |

| EXPENDITURES | | |
|---|---|---|
| Program Services | $ | 1,138,881 |
| Management & General | $ | 477,381 |
| Fundraising | $ | 12,990 |
| Total | $ | 1,629,252 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Prior Period Adjustment | $ | (896) |
| Change in Net Assets | $ | (203,036) |
| Net Assets - Beginning Balance | $ | 662,194 |
| Net Assets - End of Year | $ | 458,262 |

**Due to slight variations in the dates when data was entered in our technical database and in our fiscal accounting database, the fee income numbers on this page and those on page 8 are slightly different. We have made some adjustments to our recording processes in 2013 that we expect will make these numbers track even more closely.*

Standing on the porous concrete sidewalk in front of the GreenForge building are members of the District's Board of Directors and Associate Board (left to right, front row) Karen Jurkovic, Al Barnett, Barbara McMillan, Joe Dietrick, Conrad Donovan, Kim Miller, and Theresa Rohall; (back row) Bill Doney, Alex Graziani, Bob Pore, John Turack, Chuck Duritsa, Ron Rohall, Ted Kopas, and Emil Bove.

Not pictured: Christopher Bova; Bruce Corna, Jr.; Joseph Kalinowski; Ellen Keefe; Larry Larese; Jesse Jon Salensky; Dwight Sarver; Paul Sarver; Fred Slezak; and Keith Walters.

Members of the District staff gather in the stormwater garden beside the barn headquarters (left to right) Jim Pillsbury, Rob Cronauer, Tony Quadro, Karen Barnhart, Matt Zambelli, Greg Phillips, Christie Sebek, Dana Rizzo, Kathy Fritz, Sandy Dzendzel, Mimi Thomas-Brooker, Dan Griffith, Kathy Hamilton, Chris Droste, and Mark Jackson.

Not pictured: Sandy Donovan.

Westmoreland Conservation District

Donohoe Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601
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email: wcd@wcdpa.com website: www.wcdpa.com

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Robert Pore

Theresa Gay Rohall

Jesse Jon Salensky

Dwight Sarver

John Turack

Keith Walters

## STAFF

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Anthony P. Quadro, Jr.
*Assistant District Manager/Technical Programs Director/Forester*

Karen Barnhart
*Fiscal Administrator*

Sandra Dzendzel
*Director of Administration*

Mark Jackson
*Visual Communications Specialist*

Sandra Donovan
*Receptionist/Secretary*

### Technical Staff

James W. Pillsbury, PE
*Hydraulic Engineer*

Kathryn Hamilton, RLA
*Stormwater Technician*

Robert D. Cronauer
*Watershed Specialist*

Christopher Droste
*Senior Erosion Control Specialist*

Matt Zambelli
*Erosion Control Specialist*

Daniel Griffith
*Nutrient Management Specialist/ Agricultural Conservation Technician*

Kathleen Fritz
*E & S Program Administrative Assistant*

Christie Sebek
*Technical Program Secretary*

### Educational Staff

Mimi Thomas-Brooker
*Education Program Coordinator*

Dana Rizzo
*District/Penn State Extension Water Quality Educator*

## 2012 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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William Doney
Rita Coleman
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Dustin Heeter
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John Lohr
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Gary Sheppard
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Roy Campbell
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Dana Rizzo
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Joseph Stefko
Mimi Thomas-Brooker

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M. Curtis Fontaine
Barbara McMillan
Larry Myers
Dana Rizzo
Ron Rohall
John Turack

These committees are made up of community volunteers, District board members, associate board members, and staff members. We very much appreciate all the volunteers who provide their professional expertise and give their time to help develop and sustain the District's programs.


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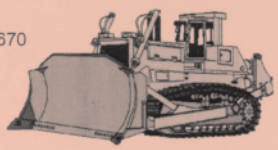

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We'd love to have you be a partner with us in the work of making Westmoreland County an even better place to live and work and play.

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