

2017 J. Roy Houston Conservation Partnership Award

Bove Engineering



(l-r) Emil, Michael and Lucien Bove

Just shy of 50 years ago, Michael Bove, an ambitious young Italian immigrant who took evening classes to earn licenses in both engineering and surveying, founded a company – Bove Engineering – that would become one of the best-known engineering firms in western Pennsylvania, building a reputation for quality and a commitment to conservation along the way.

Today, Michael, now in his 80s, still comes to the office most days and serves as the company president. Sons Lucien and Emil, who recall going out on jobs with their dad ever since they could “pick up a hammer and stakes,” shoulder much of the firm’s day-to-day demands, which are significant, considering the firm serves as the municipal engineer for 10 different Westmoreland County communities, including Vandergrift, New Stanton, Irwin, and New Alexandria, and as the sewage enforcement officer for 12 different Westmoreland County communities.

As municipal engineers, the Boves are in a unique position to promote effective conservation practices and to help put them in place in the communities they serve.

Over the years, Bove Engineering has helped to implement a number of important conservation practices, including helping to get stormwater controls on



projects and developments as far back as the 1980s in Hempfield Township, before most municipalities were even thinking about managing runoff. In fact, Bove Engineering helped create one of the first stormwater management ponds in Hempfield Township and one of the first Stormtech Infiltration



Systems in Westmoreland County.

That early work in Hempfield demonstrated the benefits of stormwater management and served as a model for other local communities to follow. In the 30 years that Bove served as Hempfield’s municipal engineer, the township developed extensively, and along with the shopping centers and roads, put some 200 stormwater ponds or underground tanks in place to capture the runoff from all those new, impervious surfaces.

More recently, Bove Engineering played a lead role in a major effort by the historic borough of Vandergrift to separate its sewage and stormwater systems. One of the largest projects of its type in the county, the \$11 million effort is resulting in significantly fewer sewage overflows into the Kiskiminetas River.

Over five decades, as elected officials changed, Bove Engineering has been a constant in many Westmoreland County communities. As such, they help newly elected community managers understand the benefits of conservation practices, encourage Conservation Partnership Agreements between municipalities and the District, help to shape and enforce local ordinances, and see that conservation measures are incorporated in the ongoing variety of municipal infrastructure projects – from streets and sidewalks to water and sewer systems.



Both Lucien and Emil serve as advisors on the District’s Technical Programs Committee, offering professional expertise to help develop and sustain the District’s erosion control and stormwater management programs. Emil also serves the District as an associate director.

As the next generation of Boves train in civil engineering, drafting, and accounting, prospects are good that Bove Engineering will continue to be a major force for both quality municipal projects and conservation in Westmoreland County.

Westmoreland Conservation District