SPRING 1972

TCWA Report

Turtle Creek Watershed Association

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An Introduction to the TCWA

WHO, WHAT AND WHERE

Whenever the term watershed association is used, several questions come to mind. Who are they, what do they do and where do they do it? It would do well at this time to identify the Turtle Creek Watershed Association (TCWA) and where the Association's future efforts will be made.

As to the WHO, the TCWA is a non-profit corporation chartered under the State and comprised of a board of directors, a staff and Association members. The nine members of the board of directors develop the policies which control the organization and direct the basic program. The full time staff actually does the day to day functions under the direction of the board.

People who live or work within the limits of the watershed are qualified to become members. Members join the Association by payment of annual dues and are then entitled to vote for directors and otherwise participate in TCWA business.

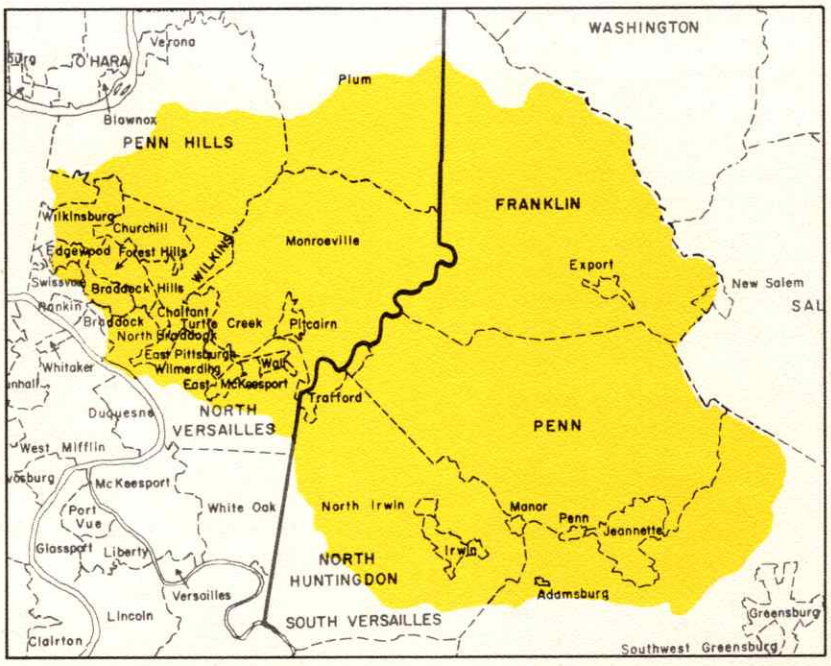
Accountability for performance and honesty is obtained in the same manner as in a business corporation. A corporation accountant keeps records of income and disbursements and supplies a report to the Board of Directors monthly. Board meetings open to the public are held regularly at which time proceedings during the last month are discussed as well as future actions chartered.

An annual meeting during which board members are elected and a report is given on the year's accomplishments is held the second Thursday in February. (Reports are also given on request to participating municipal governments.)

WHAT does the TCWA do? Our charter with the State commits us to a program of soil erosion and flood control, sewage and mine-drainage abatement and the development of recreation facilities and natural resources throughout the watershed.

To project a better idea of what we do, we operate as a planning agency interested in a specific sector of the planning scene: flood control, pollution abatement and resource development. We also operate as a corporation in entering contracts to provide and receive goods and services. So we not only make the plans, but we operate to get something done.

WHERE does the TCWA operate? Our area of responsibility is the 147 square-mile drainage basin of Turtle Creek. Included are 28 municipalities and over 205,000 inhabitants. Seventeen municipalities, approximately 115,000 people and 40 percent of the territory (59 sq. miles) is located in Allegheny County. Eleven municipalities, about 90,000 people and 60 percent of the territory (88 sq. miles) is located in Westmoreland County.



TCWA's Basic Program

Although the primary effort of the TCWA is to provide flood control and to "clean up" the watercourse and streambanks, pollution found anywhere in the watershed will be attacked, no matter whether it is a water, air or land pollution.

The following is an identification of the basic 1972 program:

TCWA Basic Program

- **FLOOD CONTROL**
1. Aid in the development of a model erosion control ordinance to obtain on-site control. Promote the adoption of the erosion control ordinance to all watershed municipalities.
2. Study critical erosion areas and make plans to control the problems.
3. Work to change local planning and zoning to protect potential erosion areas.
4. Control sediments in the streams by construction of siltation ponds and other devices.
5. Devise a program for continuous maintenance of the channel improvement. Locate sources of funds to maintain channel improvement.
6. Supply educational films and information on erosion control.

- **MINE ACID DRAINAGE**
1. Study Export and Irwin areas to locate sources of acid pollution.
2. Work to get State to fund acid abatement projects for the Export and Irwin areas.

- **SEWAGE POLLUTION**
1. Focus attention on the Jeannette, Irwin and Thompson Run sewage problems.
2. Aid State Health Department (DER) and municipalities to abate existing pollution.

- **SOLID WASTE**
1. Locate illegal "dumps" along stream banks.
2. Promote enforcement of local dumping regulations.

- **RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT**
1. Plan and develop recreation facilities adjacent to area streams.
2. Initiate, aid and co-ordinate efforts to improve watershed environment.

Allegheny County Gives $25,000 and a Consultant Engineer

County Support–Allegheny County Commissioner, Thomas J. Foerster (seated, center) presents John Mores (seated, right), TCWA Executive Director, and John Schwartz (seated, left), Chairman, TCWA Board of Directors, with a $25,000 Allegheny County grant to be used to launch a major program to eliminate flooding in the Turtle Creek Valley. Also participating in the ceremony are standing, left to right: J. Roy Houston, Chairman Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District; Earl M. O'Connell, Westinghouse Air Brake Community Representative; Robert L. Cammack, Manager, Plant Services, Westinghouse Electric Corporation; Thomas H. New, Administrative Assistant, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Paul Carmichael, President Local 601, International Union of Electrical Workers; J. S. Minnotte, Chief Engineering Advisor, U. S. Corps of Engineers; Francis McTiernan, President Association of Westinghouse Salaried Employees; Walter J. Cummings, Chief Steward, Local 601, I.U.E.; Thomas Quinn, Business Agent Local 610, International Union of Electrical Workers; and William Shute, Chairman, Allegheny County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Allegheny County, through the efforts of Commissioner Thomas J. Foerster, has shown its recognition of the serious flooding and siltation problem that has long plagued the lower Turtle Creek Valley. During the summer of 1971, negotiations were concluded and an agreement was reached with the TCWA providing $25,000 to design a major program for flood control.

The program will attack soil erosion on-site through the development of a model "grading" ordinance and in the streams through debris basins and other devices. To keep the valley's flood control channel free of sediments, a proper cleaning and maintenance plan will be arranged.

At stake is the multi-million dollar industrial complex in lower Turtle Creek as well as over 21,000 industrial jobs located there. Commissioner Thomas J. Foerster, at a ceremonial signing of the contract in Chalfant Borough last October, spoke to civic, political and industrial leaders of the area on the need for a united effort to bring the very serious siltation problem under control.

Commissioner Foerster, a leader in the fight against the silt problem, praised labor, management and area municipal officials, as well as the TCWA for their efforts in trying to find a solution. He also made public an announcement that a consultant engineer would be made available to the TCWA for help in designing technical portions of the program.

The use of this engineer is at least as valuable to the TCWA as the $25,000. The program now has technical assistance available for the evaluation of facilities and structures. Allegheny County deserves a "Thank you" from every citizen who lives or works in the Turtle Creek Valley. Too often monies are wasted by approaching a siltation problem piece-meal. This is not the case this time. Allegheny County has provided all the necessary tools. It is now up to the TCWA to find the ways of proceeding.

Review of the First Year

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association has completed its first year of operation and several vital events have taken place. The Association's corporate mechanism has been set up and is operating smoothly. Regular reports by the treasurer, accountant, solicitor and executive director are submitted at monthly meetings.

Allegheny County has supplied $25,000 for developing a flood control and pollution abatement program, and has made available an engineering firm that can be utilized to answer technical questions and perform engineering design work.

A full-time executive director has been appointed and a basic program established. Nearly all of this has been done through the efforts of the Board of Directors who have given freely of their time and at no personal compensation. They have done a fine job.

It is hoped that association members understand that during the first year of operation it was difficult to inform them of affairs and actions of importance. This matter has been rectified. With a full-time staff, the TCWA can now proceed with a program of public education and awareness. Our quarterly newsletter and other publications will give an up-to-date account of what is going on in the area, and where your particular skills and efforts can be utilized in our program.

CONSERVATION LEADERS of Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties join together in reviewing plans for the Turtle Creek Watershed Association. Seated left to r. are: John Mores, newly appointed executive director of the association with President John Schwartz. Standing - Elwood Leslie, executive assistant, Westmoreland County S&WCD; Judd Porter, Allegheny County District conservationist, SCS; Francis Licsko, director WCS&WCD; Roy Houston, chairman WCS&WCD; William Shute, chairman Allegheny County Soil and Water Conservation District; and Al Carl, Allegheny County Planning Department.

1971 TCWA Action

- Instigated the closing of three illegal land-fill dumps that were polluting area streams.
- Brought State's Environmental Strike Force in to deal with developers causing excessive erosion–five law suits filed.
- The Monroeville Mall area was studied and plans prepared for abatement of the serious erosion problem emanating from this site. All concerned parties have been informed of necessary remedial action.
- Comprehensive program for watershed resources development begun.
- Assumed responsibility as coordinator in referring pollution complaints to the responsible agency. Resulting action is monitored.
- Survey launched to locate all watershed pollution sources.
- Model erosion control ordinance begun.
- Maps, data and plans were presented at a December 2, 1971 Harrisburg meeting in an attempt to secure a mine survey and sealing program in the Export and Irwin areas to abate acid pollution. A follow-up meeting was requested by the Department of Environmental Resources heads in early 1972.

TCWA Executive Director Appointed

John Mores, former Assistant Planning Director for Washington County, was appointed last September as the Association's executive director. John is an area resident, born and raised near Brownsville, Pa. He brings excellent credentials for developing and implementing a watershed program.

In Washington County, Mores authored the Comprehensive Sewage Facilities Plan for the County's 66 municipalities, including plans for 35 sewerage systems designed on a watershed basis. Information on urban growth, industrial development and land-use determinants was compiled, the same type of information that is essential to a comprehensive watershed program. He also participated in studies dealing with education, transportation systems, pollution abatement and solid waste disposal.

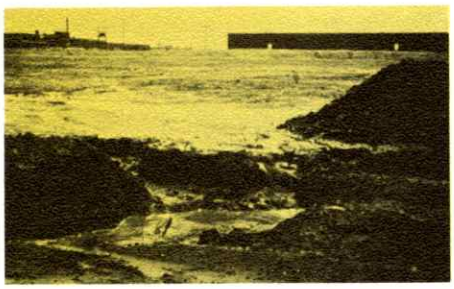
Perhaps, the most important experience he brings is in the area of land development. Having had the responsibility of reviewing subdivision plans in Washington County, he is familiar with both the need for development controls to protect land and property values, and with the economics of abiding by these rules and regulations when preparing land.

In Mores' own words, "one of our primary efforts here in the watershed is to stop the erosion of soils which are settling in our flood control channel. To do this, we need ordinances that prevent on-site erosion. The trick is to make rules that can do the job without raising site development costs significantly."

Executive Director Mores' education background consists of a bachelor of Science degree from Penn State University and a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

Siltation

What is the No. 1 pollutant in the Turtle Creek Valley? Without a doubt it is siltation, with the final result–flooding.



Silt from construction sites . . .

No other pollutant threatens so completely a man's home, health and job, and no other pollutant is less obvious and more underrated. Water pollution you can see. Air pollution you smell. And land pollution you can wade through.

But soil erosion and siltation? You don't realize its affect until your storm sewers are clogged and water flows into your cellar, your land has lost its fertility and grass won't grow, where once there was a stream there is nothing but a mud puddle, and your employer tells you maintenance costs are too high and he must relocate.

Flooding and the damage incurred is obvious, but few of us realize that sediments are a primary cause of flooding, and in the case of the Turtle Creek Valley, THE primary cause of flooding.

Flooding affects everyone, not just those whose homes and businesses are damaged. Higher insurance rates, higher taxes for clean up, and fewer job opportunities eventually result. Of the 21,000 industrial jobs in the lower Turtle Creek Valley, only 6,879 are held by Valley residents. The rest are held by people in surrounding municipalities.

Nearly 1/2 of the workers are from Westmoreland County. In fact, Irwin is the single largest contributing municipality with over 2,000 Valley workers. So the effect of a decline in jobs would be felt by all surrounding municipalities as well as several counties. Flooding affects us all!

The question then becomes: Who is responsible for safeguarding against erosion problems? Responsibility rests primarily with the municipality. Historically, each civil division determines how its land is developed, where it is developed and what construction methods are used.

pollutes the channel and . . . causes flooding.

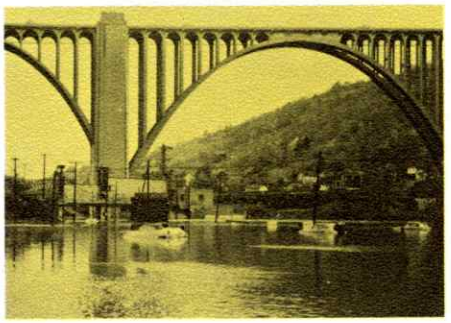
These are the vital questions that determine soil erosion. And these are the elements that zoning, subdivision and erosion ordinances control. The only way the siltation problem can be licked is for local government to enact legislation and enforce it vigorously to wisely use and protect land.

The cost of siltation in the Turtle Creek watershed is enormous. In just over two years–between 1967, when the flood channel was completed, and 1969, when it was cleaned–it cost a total of $750,000 to dredge the Turtle Creek Flood Control Project (another dredging must be undertaken in the near future). After considering the sources of the silt, it is estimated that it will cost at least $200,000 annually for silt removal. What a price to pay for destroying our soils and our streams, and causing a flood hazard.

It isn't that the problem can't be controlled, it can! The methods and technology are known. The Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook prepared for the Allegheny County Planning Department prescribes standard methods and guidelines for both developers and municipal officials.

Soil can and must be protected on-site, where the problem is most easily and economically resolved. The small increase in site development costs cannot compare with the enormous expense of dredging once these soils get into our streams. If they are allowed to continue cascading down from hilltop development, everyone is the loser.

LAND USE PLANNING is the first step a municipality should take. This shows what areas are of proper slope and soil texture to allow concentrated development.

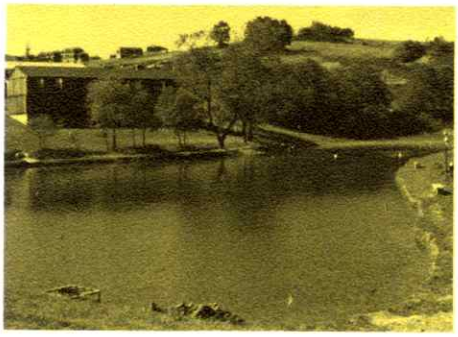


Soil maps can be used to show areas where slides and erosion are likly to take place. Areas with moderately steep slopes or poor soil characteristics should be limited to low density development. Areas with steep slopes should be left in natural vegetation.

ZONING should reflect the planning decisions. Zoning is the legal tool which allows a municipality to plan its development. Land should be zoned according to its best use, in compliance with the community's comprehensive plan.

SOIL EROSION CONTROL ordinances should then be in-

stituted. These normally cover all forms of construction. They prescribe good sloping practices and the use of vegetation, grasses and terracing to contain soils and prevent erosion. On-site settling ponds are called for to keep possible sediments out of area streams.



PART OF THE ANSWER

This dual purpose pond was used as a siltation basin during the construction phase of the Ryan Corp. Glencannon housing project. Now it serves as an interesting recreational facility.

SUBDIVISION CONTROLS help; although they control only residential development, a section on grading should be included. The section may refer to the erosion control ordinance if there is one, or it may prescribe standards for the basic elements in a soil containment plan.

It is felt that if municipalities take action, soil erosion will cease to exist as a problem in the watershed. True, there are other major sources. Farming, highway construction and the building of municipal facilities are all contributors. However, with the decline in available farm land, farming will cease to be a problem shortly in the future.

Highway and municipal construction will remain a problem. But State and local governments are growing in their awareness of environmental protection. There is hope here. All that is needed is public encouragement and support for good conservation and development procedures.

Mine Acid

Mine acid drainage—the stream killer—is the principle reason much of the Turtle Creek watercourse is devoid of fish and other aquatic life. Because most of the large sources are found high in the watershed, nearly all of the main stream is affected.

Apparently, massive mine drainage is coming only from the Irwin Syncline. This geological formation is shaped like a spoon. It is located along the eastern edge of the watershed with the center (or strike line) extending from Export in the north down through Westmoreland City in the south. The spoon or basin shape is tilted downward from north to south.

The Pittsburgh coal in this formation was extensively deep-mined between 1890 and 1925. Because water is still allowed to flow through these old underground workings, mine acid is destroying our streams.

Estimates from the Environmental Protection Agency and engineers working in the region tell us it may cost from $1.2 to $2 million to seal and treat all of the sources. There may be as many as 100 separate sources. However, because the Irwin Syncline makes a basin for routing water to only a few primary sources, it is likely that abatement of most of the problem can be done relatively cheaply.

As few as four or five mines may require sealing to clean up 75 to 80 percent of the problem. Dilution from pure tributaries will offset any remaining minor sources of acid drainage.

The DELMONT-EXPORT region has been partially studied by Wright engineers and Morris-Liebergott engineers. Two major sources were located by Wright engineers. The old Delmont mine has flows of 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd) and the Export mine has flows of 2 mgd. All phases of the Wright study will be completed by January 31, 1972.

STREAM KILLER'... Export mine acid discharge with 2 million GPD capacity.

At that time, alternative abatement processes should be available for final design and construction. Still remaining is the need for a study to determine abatement processes for portions of the syncline not already studied in the Delmont-Export region.

The IRWIN-NORTH IRWIN region is the other major area of the watershed in which mine acid drainage is found. The full extent is presently unknown since no studies have been prepared for the region. Old mining maps and preliminary surveys indicate possibly two or three major sources with an estimated total four million gallons per day drainage. An in-depth study is vitally needed in this area to assess the problems and the solutions.

The THOMPSON RUN region also has scattered areas of mine drainage seeping from the hills. Because the extent of the mining was rather small, there are no large sources. However, there are several small sources that should be dealt with.

Alex Hutchinson Engineers has completed a study of a small area along Chalfant Run, and General Analytics Engineers has completed a study dealing with mine drainage on the ski slopes at Boyce Park. The remainder of the area will need to be studied in the future—preferably after action has been inaugurated on the first two regions.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Sewage

Until recently, there were two major and two minor source areas of sewage pollution in the watershed. The major sources included the developed areas around and upstream of Murrysville and the Irwin-North Irwin area. The minor sources include the Jeannette and Thompson Run areas.

The MURRYSVILLE area is no longer a problem. It was abated in 1970-1971. In June 1970, the Franklin Township sewerage system and secondary treatment plant was put into operation. Expansion of collection facilities has continued since that time.

Almost 70 percent of the people living upstream of the plant are already served. The plant, with a capacity to handle 18,000 persons, is presently being utilized by about 10,400 persons. What limited sewage problems do remain in this area will be resolved in the near future through collection line expansion.

The IRWIN-NORTH IRWIN area is the watershed's worst sewage pollution source. "Wildcat" sewers collect raw sewage from many homes in these and surrounding communities and convey it untreated to Brush Creek. The problem has been recognized by area residents.

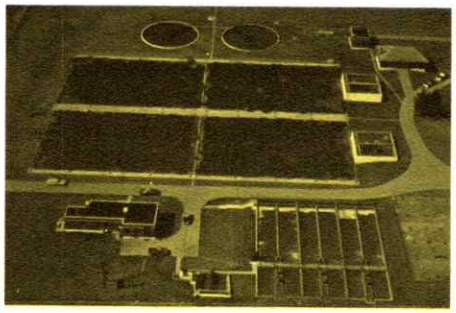
Extensive engineering studies have been completed to show alternative solutions. Municipal rivalries have slowed getting a project started. However, with the advent of State Orders to these municipalities to abate the polluting of Commonwealth streams, the municipalities negotiated in earnest.

The results were fruitful. An agreement was reached in the fall of 1971. The boroughs of Irwin, North Irwin, and Manor and the townships of North Huntington, Penn and Hempfield are presently committing themselves to a program where one large collection system will be built with a treatment plant (43,000 capacity) near the community of Larimer.

Plans and applications for grant monies will shortly be prepared and should be completed by the fall of 1972. It is projected that the system will be operational by 1975.

The JEANNETTE area has a sewage problem because a number of outlying areas are not tied into the existing system. The City of Jeannette operates a plant, designed to handle 25,000 to 28,000 people, that serves the city, Penn Borough and parts of Hempfield Township. Approximately 22,000 people are presently served. It appears that there is sufficient capacity to handle upstream growth in the near future. The immediate need is to tie in older developed areas of Lincoln Heights and a number of nearby subdivisions that are causing stream pollution.

The THOMPSON RUN area is the most diffused pollution area. There are many small sources coming from a number of different types of development. These range from car washes along the "strip" in Monroeville, to older urban areas with "wildcat" sewers, to new subdivisions with inadequate or malfunctioning treatment plants. The solution here appears to be more one of enforcement than construction of municipal-owned sewer systems. Efforts must be made to locate, identify and abate individual sources of sewage pollution.



WHAT IS NEEDED . . . This plant, complete with trickling filters and digesters, provides secondary treatment of sewage from 58,000 people. State standards require secondary treatment in all watershed treatment plants.

What's New in Recycling?

Counties and municipalities in Pennsylvania are presently completing their solid waste plans as required by State Act 241. Plans have to be made for future collection, transportation and disposal of garbage and refuse.

Because the Pittsburgh region has many strip mined areas and a great deal of open land, most planners are prescribing land-fill disposal sites.

But is this the answer? It is now! Economy calls for it! But there is a better way. And we have got to get started now. Present planning must take into account that, somtime in the future, our collection and disposal systems will have to be converted over to a region-wide system. This system uses a single disposal site and a new process–recycling. Here is a report out of Alabama that is encouraging.

"There is no such thing as solid waste–it's simply a resource temporarily used and then cast aside".

This is the philosophy of Frank P. Wright of Chattanooga, Tennessee, which has guided him in preparing a plan for a Regional Solid Waste Reclamation Center which would cost approximately $85,000,000, be situated on a 1500 acre plot and be operated as a public utility.

Wright, president of Wright Systems International Corporation reports that he and his associates have a program for the Atlanta - Birmingham - Montogomery area ready that could form the basis of a similar program for other areas.

Wright's system utilizes sealed box cars which would collect refuse at central points within the large cities and carry them to the reclamation site somewhere outside the metropolitan area.

Wright estimates that one of his plants could service all the communities within a 180 mile radius of the site.

Communities would, under Wright's plan, still be responsible

for the collection of refuse and delivery to the collection points at the box cars.

From that point on, the utility would bear the cost of transportation to the site and the recycling process.

Wright said that a regional approach is necessary because the system needs 1500 tons per day of refuse. An optimum operation could return as much as $5 per ton to the communities from which it was collected, he added.

Grass Roots Participation

You probably are wondering when all of the problems seem so very large, "What can I do?" Remember, each of us can help in pollution abatement. All of our efforts add up. Listed below are some suggestions on how you can enter into the environmental clean-up picture.

One Individual

- be a TCWA member
- be sure you don't pollute–not even carelessly thrown gum wrappers.
- keep your yard and property neat.
- locate sources of pollution. Report them to the proper authorities or the TCWA.
- patrol in your car. When you locate a roadside "dump", find an addressed envelope. Send a small package of the garbage (well wrapped and with a note) back to the addressee. Also, notify the local police.
- enter a suit yourself using the 1899 Refuse Act. If you obtain the evidence, a United States attorney will

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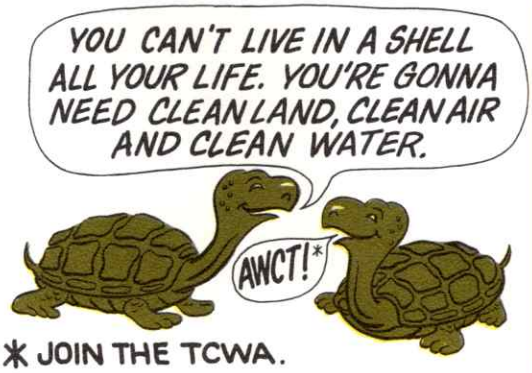

"WATERSHED"—a New Term

With the increasing trend toward planning urban facilities on a watershed basis, the term "watershed" is coming into common use.

A watershed includes all of the land that is drained to a common point. In the case of the Turtle Creek Water, it is all of the land whose waters drain to the mouth of Turtle Creek.

You and the other people who live in the watershed are part of the watershed community. So are the animals, the birds, and the fish. All depend on the watershed, and they, in turn, influence what happens there–whether it's good or bad.

Why your watershed is important?–Water may be a friend or it may be an enemy. If it runs off the land too fast, it cuts gullies and carries away topsoil, which should be kept on the farm to produce food and clothing. This soil along with other debris may spoil fishing. It may also reduce the amount of water the stream or lake can hold and thus decrease the water supply for your town and your bathroom. Such sediment carried downstream by runaway water may greatly increase the cost of filtering the water you get from the kitchen faucet.

If too much water runs away too rapidly, it causes a flood that damages farms, crops, property, homes, highways, and utilities. It may take lives. Stream channels may be choked with sediment. Then the flood is more serious because the choked-up channels carry less water. Sediment deposited in reservoirs after heavy rains reduces the amount of water that can be stored for use in water-short areas. When water does these things it is an enemy. But water can be slowed down and used to advantage when soil and water conservation practices and other flood-prevention measures are put in over all the watershed.

It is important that every person and every municipality protect its soil and water through proper practices. For detailed information, contact your county Soil Conservation Service or the TCWA. *(Excerpted from PA-420 U.S. Dept of Agriculture.)*

Diagram of a watershed.

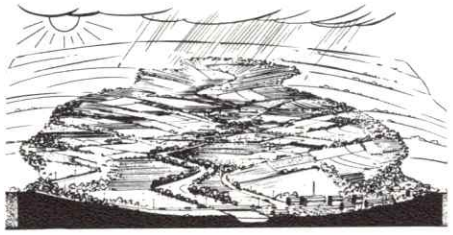

Diagram of the same watershed with the farm fields, trees, buildings and roads removed to show the drainage pattern.

TCWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association is presently conducting a membership drive. If you live or work within the watershed, you are qualified. Only with a united effort can we achieve an environment free from the ravages of flooding, mine acid drainage and the sewage pollution that have long plagued Turtle Creek. Help us improve the area in which we live and work. Join the TCWA and participate in our efforts and actions.

Name of Individual _____
(If Organization Representative, give title.)

Name of Organization _____

Address for receipt of all TCWA mailings: _____

_____ Zip _____

ANNUAL DUES: $3

Make checks payable to: Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
700 Braddock Avenue 4S2
East Pittsburgh, Pa. 15112
Phone: 256-2433

(Grass Roots Participation)

fight pollution cases for you. You may share 1/2 of the fine that is collected.

- fight car pollution. Ride to work with a friend.
- think! There must be something you can come up with on your own. Original efforts are many times the most significant.
- form a group. There is greater strength in group action.

Organized Groups

- all of the above, and
- check your municipal ordinances to be sure you have the proper legal controls to safeguard your environment.
- remember, environmental problems are many times a new thing for local government. Most are concerned, they need public support. Give this support.
- petition for needed laws and ordinances.
- adopt a section of stream or tract of land near your town. Clean it, protect it. Organize stream clean-up campaigns using boy scouts, high school groups, etc.
- buy small parcels of land. Build ball parks and recreation areas. Dedicate them to the community in the name of your group.

There are a multitude of ways in which both individuals and groups can get involved to improve environmental conditions. A booklet has been prepared by the Student Council for Pollution and the Environment (SCOPE) which outlines many ways you can help. To obtain this free booklet write: SCOPE, Room 702, 911 Walnut, K.C., Mo. 64106.

In an effort to obtain a watershed-wide study and abatement of mine acid drainage, the TCWA met with Dr. David R. Maneval, Science Advisor for the Appalachian Regional Commission in Harrisburg on December 2, 1971. The TCWA outlined the benefits to industry, existing urban areas and areas available for new development that would be affected by such a program. Dr. Maneval was encouraging but could give no commitments until cost estimates were procured. A follow-up meeting is scheduled in February. The State has $100 million and the Federal government $300 million (for Pennsylvania) available for studies and abatement programs of the type required.

Local controls for stopping soil erosion in the watershed are in bad shape. Of the 28 municipalities, only one, Penn Hills, has a strong erosion control ordinance. The Borough of Monroeville has some control through zoning and subdivision codes, but these are not considered adequate, particularly with the enormous amount of construction taking place in this municipality. None of the remaining 26 municipalities are protecting one of their most precious resources—their soils.

A new educational effort is being made by a local group called the Allegheny Institute for Environmental Studies and Education (located in Monroeville.) The environment may well be the primary beneficiary. Designed as an educational process involving both high school and college students, emphasis is placed on attaining public awareness of problems and solutions, and in obtaining action through programs initiated by the students. Grading is based on achievement, and is done by the people for whom and with whom the student is working. It is an effort to allow students to solve environmental problems by setting goals, designing programs and working with the public, all through their own initiative.

COUNTY GRADING ORDINANCE NEARS COMPLETION

The Allegheny County Planning Department is nearing completion of the model grading ordinance they are preparing. The ordinance is designed to provide strong controls for moving earth and protecting against soil erosion. Preliminary drafts of the ordinance were recently aired with members of the Home Builders Association and Soil Conservation Service to assess the effects on site development costs. After all interested parties are heard, a final draft will be written. Several alternative uses of the ordinance are available: it may be recommended to all 129 County municipalities for adoption to lend uniformity and as an improvement over existing ordinances; it may be used as a reference for strengthening present local controls; or it might be adopted and enforced on the County level.

Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
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TCWA Quarterly Report