

SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION  
IN  
MARYLAND  
1935 – 1985

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It was my pleasure to serve as Executive Secretary of the State Soil Conservation Committee from September 1967 to December 1983. This employment and prior experience gave me the opportunity to collect much of the information presented here. However, a number of persons assisted with collecting and/or verifying the information, including Paul Anderson, Randy Bachtel, Clarence Britt, Fred Bull, Kathy Gugulis, Rhea Kincaid, Harold Scholl, and Lee Watson.

This information was assembled as part of the observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Soil Conservation Service which was organized April 27, 1935. Most of the information presented here is of a statewide nature. Many of the districts have developed a history of their district. Paul and Mike Sigrist contacted all of the Eastern Shore districts and developed historical information for each of those districts.

A special thanks to Lillian Griffith for typing the original of this history.

Arnold C. Hawkins

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION IN MARYLAND

By  
Arnold C. Hawkins

The soil conservation program grew out of the "Dust Bowl" days of the early 1930's when wind erosion became so bad that dust was blown from the West across half of the U.S. and Maryland and out to sea. Prior to this, there had been only minor efforts at controlling soil erosion. In 1929, Congress passed an amendment to the Agricultural Appropriations Bill that provided \$160,000.00 for investigation of soil erosion control. A number of erosion control experiments were started by the Bureau of Soils of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The erosion control experiments continued until 1933 when Congress passed Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act, which provided for the establishment of the Public Works Administration in the Interior Department. One of the authorized programs of Title II concerned soil erosion control. This authorization provided authority for the administration of the Public Works Administration to allocate emergency funds to establish the Soil Erosion Service (SES) in September, 1933. The USDA Bureau of Soils was transferred to the SES. Hugh Hammond Bennett who had been with the bureau of Soils became the head of the SES. For additional information on Dr. Bennett and his visits to Maryland, refer to the paper, "The Beginnings of SCS", by Harold E. Scholl in the Appendix.

The SES program was carried out through the use of demonstration projects located in representative agricultural regions of the country. Farmers in the project area were asked to enter into five-year contracts to establish conservation practices on their farms. It was hoped that farmers in the surrounding areas would be encouraged to observe the benefits of conservation practices and establish the practices on their farms.

The location of the SES in the Department of the Interior caused a lot of friction between the Departments of Interior and Agriculture because of the duplication of work in the two departments and also work of the Land Grant Colleges. Early in 1935, President Roosevelt, by Executive Order, transferred the SES to the Department of Agriculture. Also in 1935, Congressman Marvin Jones of Texas introduced legislation in Congress, which became the Soil Erosion Act of 1935. This legislation, effective April 27, 1935, established the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to replace the SES.

The SCS continued the demonstration projects started by the SES. Several projects were located in Maryland. The Little Antietam and Israel Creeks Project was established August 1935 with headquarters in Hagerstown, Washington County. Mr. Oscar C. Bruce, who later was responsible for all SCS operations in Maryland, was responsible for this project.

The Middle Patuxent River Project was established in Howard County, August 1937, with headquarters in Ellicott City. The headquarters were later moved to Catonsville. Mr. Boyd D. (Pop) Gilbert was in charge of the project. Mr. Rhea Kincaid who later served as a supervisor in the Frederick SCD transferred from Virginia to Maryland to work on this project. Another well known name in soil conservation circles, William (Bill) Nace, was also associated with this project.

Conservation planning and installation was also associated with the CCC Camps at Harwood in Anne Arundel County and Whitehall in Harford County. Mr. Fred Bull who later served as the first Executive Secretary of the State Soil Conservation Committee worked at both of these camps and supervised SCS employees that planned and helped install conservation practices.

The conservation activities that were associated with some of the other early established CCC Camps on the Eastern Shore of Maryland were in the area of obtaining adequate drainage for crop production.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Camps (CCC) which are referred to above were authorized by the Emergency Employment Act of March 31, 1933, the same year the SES was formed. The Act was passed to provide work for young men and unemployed veterans of World War I. Over three million men enrolled nationwide before the close of the program in 1942. They lived in camps and worked on various kind of projects. Over 800 camps were associated with soil conservation work. The young men assisted SCS in installing and demonstrating the value of conservation practices.

The CCC Camps that were planned for establishment under SCS supervision in Maryland numbered up to 12; however, some of these were never established and no more than seven were in operation at any one time.

The first camp, SCS-1, Camp Boonsboro, in Washington County was occupied November 1, 1935. This camp was associated with the Little Antietam Project. Mr. Norman R. McCardle was camp superintendent. On October 3, 1939, the camp was moved to Frederick County and became SCS-11, Camp Braddock. On March 15, 1942, the camp was disbanded.

A camp, SCS-2, was approved for Frederick County in June, 1935, but was never established. The approval was transferred to Harford County and a camp known as SCS-5, Camp Black Horse, was established at White Hall and operated from November 1, 1935, to May 12, 1942. Mr. Hugh Hancock was superintendent of the camp. The Gunpowder Falls Deer Creek Soil Conservation District was one of the first soil conservation districts (SCD's) in Maryland partly because of the conservation activities associated with the CCC Camp at Whitehall.

A camp, SCS-3, was approved in June, 1935 for Carroll County, but was never established and the approval was transferred to Kent County and approval given for establishment of SCS-6 at Kennedyville. This, too, was never established and the approval was transferred to Chestertown where SCS-7, Camp Kent, was established September 26, 1938, and operated until July 7, 1941. This camp was associated with installing conservation practices in the newly formed Kent SCD.

SCS-4, Camp Annapolis, was established at Harwood in Anne Arundel County on November 1, 1935, and operated until July 12, 1938, when it was moved to Pennsylvania. Mr. Ike Shepherd was camp superintendent.

SCS-8, Camp Somerset, was established at Westover in Somerset County and occupied October 31, 1935. The camp was associated with drainage improvement. It was discontinued October 31, 1941.

SCS-9, Camp Goldsboro, in Caroline County was also associated with drainage improvements. The camp was established September 30, 1935, and discontinued May 21, 1942.

SCS-10, Camp Vienmar, was established in Dorchester County at Vienna on September 26, 1935, and operated until June 21, 1940.

SCS-12, Camp Wicomico, was established October 3, 1939, at Powelville in Wicomico County and was closed July 31, 1942. This camp was associated with drainage improvement.

Mr. Oscar C. Bruce was the first person to direct SCS operations in Maryland. His title of State Coordinator was later changed to State Conservationist. Others who have served in this capacity are Mr. Edward Davis from 1939 to August, 1959; Mr. Edward Keil from August, 1959 to May, 1970; Mr. C. Douglas Hole from May, 1970 to June, 1972; Mr. John H. Gibson who due to Mr. Hole's sick leave, was Acting State Conservationist during most of Mr. Hole's tenure; Mr. Graham Munkittrick from June, 1972 to October, 1976; Mr. Gerald R. Calhoun from October, 1976 to November, 1984; Mr. Richard Nagel, Acting State Conservationist from November, 1984 to January, 1985; and Pearlie S. Reed from January 22, 1985 to the present.

In addition to his other duties, the state conservationist served as a voting member of the State Soil Conservation Committee from 1937 to 1971. In 1971, that position was made an advisory member of the committee.

Mr. Edward M. Davis, the State Conservationist from 1939 to 1959 played a very important role during those years. Ed Davis was an outstanding person in many ways and had many innovative ideas. He was responsible for starting many of the developments that form the basis for much of our erosion control program on roadside banks and ditches. He led people in doing pioneer research and development of the first hydro-seeding as well as mulching of critical eroding areas. He used sand-blasting equipment to blow fertilizer on to roadbanks. When regular fertilizer would not spread properly, he had it pelletized so it would spread properly with the sand blast equipment. He also started the use of mulches and particularly use of jute netting to give protection to ditches and waterways while a grass cover was established.

Marshall Augustine was one of the early pioneers in plant materials for use in erosion control. He spent long hours with many people working with plants for controlling erosion on beach areas, waterways, streambank, strip mines and developing areas. He and W.W. Steiner who was in charge of the National Plant Materials Center for SCS collaborated to find plants that were suited for the special conditions of many severely eroding areas. Mr. Augustine also worked with Ed Davis to test jute and many other materials for the control of erosion while grass was getting started. Mr. Augustine was widely recognized in his field and after retiring, worked as a special advisor to the Department of Natural Resources in Maryland to help them get started in sediment erosion control work.

The main office for SCS operations in Maryland has been at several locations. The first location was at Hagerstown in connection with the first project in Maryland. There were offices at Ellicott City and Catonsville in connection with the Middle Patuxent Project. These were also area office locations, which were eventually moved to Baltimore. Available records do not indicate how long the Hagerstown office was maintained. A 1940 report of the SCS lists Maryland under the Region III, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania office with a State office in College Park and an area office in Baltimore City. Mr. Boyd D. Gilbert was in charge of the area office.

As SCS operations were expanded a number of offices were set up around the State. Many of these were established before a district was formed. An example is the offices in Cockeyville and Reisterstown before the Baltimore County District was established in Towson. A 1944 list of offices includes a number of Work Groups with a District Conservationist in charge at Chestertown, Hagerstown, Upper Marlboro, Cambridge, Salisbury, Oakland, Bel Air and Libertytown. These Work Groups covered operations in one or more districts or counties. There were also a number of smaller operations known as work units such as the Cockeyville and Reisterstown Work Units mentioned above. The Units reported to a central office such as those listed above. These offices changed from time to time. At one time there was a central office in Towson with branch offices in Bel Air and Ellicott City. The College Park State Office was initially located at the University of Maryland. This office was moved to the location on Hartwick Road in College Park in 1963. As the size of the SCS operation grew, the state was divided into areas. Mr. Hugh Hancock provided the leadership for the western area with offices in Hagerstown. Mr. Fuzzell was in charge of operations for Southern Maryland with headquarters in Waldorf and Mr. William Ott had an office in Salisbury for the Eastern Shore.

About 1960, the area offices were eliminated and all operations were directed from the College Park office. Areas were established again in 1980 with an Area Conservationist for each of two areas. An office was located in Easton for the Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland, and an office in Frederick for the rest of the State.

The SCS continued the demonstration projects started by the SES but it soon became apparent that this would not be enough for a major attack on soil erosion. Some farmers would establish practices they observed but they also needed technical assistance and supervision. Local direction of the program was also needed to get many people to cooperate. Soil conservation districts were proposed and a model law for establishing districts, "A Standard Soil Conservation District's Law", was published in May 1936.

Maryland, along with 21 other states, passed its Soil Conservation District's Law effective June 1, 1937. It appeared as Article 2A, Sections 15-28 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. In 1939, renumbering of the Code resulted in the SCD Law to be in Sections 45-58. In the 1955 issue, it appeared in Article 66C, Sections 88-103 and in 1974 it was moved to the Agriculture Article, Sections 8-101 to 8-501.

The SCD Law created the State Soil Conservation Committee with authority to organize, advise, and assist soil conservation districts. The districts were to be organized as independent political subdivisions of the state. The five-member boards of supervisors were given broad general authority to carry out soil and water conservation programs.

Initially, the Committee was a state agency located within the State Board of Agriculture and Board of Regents of the University of Maryland. In 1973, it became a unit of the new Maryland Department of Agriculture.

The Committee worked over the first 20 years to organize districts to include all the farmland in the state. The first district organized was the Kent SCD in 1938. The Kent SCD was also the first district organized in the Northeast United States. The last district to organize was Talbot in 1958. A list of districts and their dates of organization are included in the Appendix. Three districts were organized to cover a watershed. One of these still exists and includes all the land in the Catoctin watershed in Frederick County. The Monacacy District was eliminated when the Frederick and Carroll Districts were formed; and the Gunpowder Falls-Deer Creek District was eliminated when the Baltimore and Harford Districts were formed. The other districts were formed along county boundaries.

The initial membership of the Committee was the Director of the University of Maryland Experiment Station, Director of the Maryland Extension Service, Maryland State Forester, Chairman of the State Board of Agriculture, and the Principal Administrative Officer of the SCS. A 1951 change in the law replaced the state forester with the director of the Maryland Department of Forests and Parks. Also added was the Dean of Agriculture and two SCD supervisors to be appointed by the State Board of Agriculture (SBA) for one-year terms. Mr. Harry Rieck from the Caroline District and Mr. William R. Powell from the Howard District were the first supervisors to serve. Dr. Gordon M. Cairns was the first and only person to serve on the committee as the Dean of Agriculture. He held the position until 1971 when another change in the law eliminated the position of Dean of Agriculture from the committee. Dr. Cairns also served as chairman of the committee during this entire period. He was the third person to be chairman.

Dr. T.B. Symons, Director of the Cooperative Extension Service was the first person to serve as chairman of the committee, a position he held until 1950. Dr. Symons was a major force in the successful organization of the Maryland Soil Conservation Districts. All but one of the Maryland Districts were organized during his tenure as Chairman.

A 1955 amendment provided for the chairman of the SBA to appoint another member to serve in his place. This language appeared in Section 91 of Article 66C. The SCD Law had been relocated to that article. This amendment allowed Judge Cole, Chairman of the SBA, to appoint Dr. Symons to serve in his place.

A 1966 amendment added the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fish, George Shields; the Director of the Department of Water Resources, Paul McKee; the President of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Lathrop Smith; and a third supervisor to be appointed by the SBA to serve a three-year term. W. Mitchell Digges was appointed to this position.

A 1969 amendment added the Director of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs and the Chairman of the USDA, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee. This made a 14-member committee.

Following the formation of the Department of Natural Resources in 1971, the membership of the committee was changed to make the Secretary of Natural Resources, or other member of the Department, a member in place of the Directors of the Departments of Water Resources, Forests and Parks, Game and Inland Fish and Chesapeake Bay Affairs. Secretary Tawes appointed Mr. Herbert Sachs to serve in his place. Those that have represented the Department of Natural Resources are listed in the Appendix. At the same time, the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs at the University of Maryland, Dr. Frank L. Bentz, became a member to replace the Director of Extension, Director of the Experiment Station, and Dean of Agriculture. Also, the chairman of the Agricultural Commission replaced the Chairman of the SBA.

The membership of the committee was changed in 1973 to make the Secretary of Agriculture, Y.D. Hance, or other member of the Department, a member and to add another supervisor, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, to represent a fourth geographic area. Mr. Vernon R. Foster was appointed to this position. Those that have represented the Department are listed in the Appendix.

The law was changed again in 1984 to add a representative of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Mr. Gould Charsee, and a supervisor to represent a fifth geographic area. Mr. George Godfrey was appointed to this position.

Prior to July 1971, only three people had served as chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Dr. Symons served from 1937 to 1950, Dr. Kemp 1950 to 1951 and Dr. Cairns 1951 to 1971. In 1971, Mr. Wilbert R. Paul became the first District Supervisor to serve as Chairman of the Committee. He served four years to July 1975. Others that have served are Mr. W. Mitchell Digges 1975 to 1977, Mr. Vernon R. Foster 1977 to 1982 and Mr. Donald Spickler 1982 to 1985. Mr. Richard Wright was elected Chairman in July 1985.

The committee operated without any paid personnel until 1951 when Mr. Fred Bull was employed as Secretary. Later on the title of the position was changed to Executive Secretary. The State Conservationist served as secretary prior to Mr. Bull's employment. Mr. Bull served in this position from February 10, 1950 to May 1, 1964. Mr. William Horvath served as Executive Secretary from April 26, 1965, to June 30, 1967, and Arnold Hawkins served from September 7, 1967, to December 31, 1983. Anne C. Seiling became Executive Secretary in 1984.

A number of changes were made to the SCD Law other than membership changes. The first of these was a provision that a supervisor could receive a subsistence expense allowance (later changed to per diem) of \$4.00 per day. This was changed to \$6.00 in 1951 and in 1970 the specific dollar amount was deleted and a provision was added for the SSCC to set the per them as provided in the annual state budget.

An amendment was added in 1943 to provide for the division or combination of districts. This was later deleted as were the provisions for formation and dissolving of districts. The State was covered by districts except for Baltimore City. If a district is ever formed for the City it will have to be by an act of the Maryland General Assembly.



A 1960 amendment added a provision that authorized the SSCC to accept federal funds and commodities and a 1962 amendment authorized districts to borrow up to \$50,000 with the approval of the SSCC. The specific dollar limitation was removed several years later.

A 1969 amendment made district boundaries the same as county boundaries and thus provided for the districts to work with all the people. Prior to this they were limited to farmland.

Initially two of the district supervisors were appointed and three elected in special elections. In 1970, the special elections were eliminated and one supervisor was appointed by the county government to serve at their pleasure and four were appointed by the SSCC for four-year terms. One of the four was appointed from a list of three names submitted by the County Farm Bureau and one from a list of three names submitted by the Cooperative Extension Service.

A provision added in 1978 provided for district employees to be placed on the State payroll with cost sharing with the local government to pay salary and benefit costs. Most of the districts took part in this program to get benefits for their employees.

A major change in district operations occurred during the 1968-69 fiscal year. In December 1968, SCS funding for clerical assistance was discontinued. Funds to replace this loss were not available from the State. Most of the districts asked for and obtained financial assistance from their county government. For many districts this was the beginning of a major change in financing for conservation programs.

At the same time as arrangements were being made for clerical assistance, arrangements were being made for the transfer of state funds to the districts for expenditure at the district level. This allowed the districts to hire their own personnel. Some districts made arrangements with their county government to hire and pay for district personnel.

Another major change in administration of district affairs came with the need for administrative assistance for the board of supervisors. A pilot District Manager Program was initiated in 1968 in the Howard SCD with the county providing part of the funding. Matching state funds were secured for eight district managers in the 1971 budget for the SSCC and districts. Most of the districts had managers by 1980.

In addition to providing technical assistance for soil and water conservation problems, the district and SCS were involved in a number of special projects including the Cooperative Soil Survey, Public Law 566 Watershed Projects, the Resource Conservation and Development Program, the Rural Abandoned Mines Program in the Allegany and Garrett Districts, a Clean Water Project in the Carroll District and a Clean Lakes Project in the Baltimore County District.

The initial focus of the soil conservation program was on providing technical assistance for agricultural soil conservation problems. This was soon broadened in line with the Declaration of Policy of the soil Conservation Districts Law which states that, "It is the policy of the General Assembly to provide for the conservation of the soil, water and related resources of the state and for the prevention of soil erosion in order to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors,

preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect the public lands, protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the state, and otherwise enhance their living environment." The main reason for organizing some of the Eastern Shore districts was to provide assistance with drainage problems (controlled disposal of water). When construction of small ponds became a problem, districts were asked to review small pond construction plans. In 1969, the Allegany and Garrett Districts became involved in the reclamation of strip-mined land when the chairmen of those districts became members of the Land Reclamation Committee. These two districts were also involved in the Rural Abandoned Mines Program. The review and approval of sediment control plans became the responsibility of all districts in 1970 with the passage of the Sediment Control Law. The applicable districts are members of the local Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Boards, Districts and the SSCC were designated nonpoint source management agencies in the 208 Program, which was developed to control agricultural sediment and animal wastes. The most recent broadening of district responsibilities is the role the districts play in implementing the Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program for the Control of Water Pollution.

The State Sediment Control Law, passed in 1970, gave all districts a major responsibility to work with an urban oriented program. The workload more than doubled for some of the districts and there was a major increase in funding for districts. The State budget for the State Soil Conservation Committee and districts more than doubled from 1970 to 1973. Some of the counties also increased their assistance to districts. See the Appendix for a list of some of the events related to development of the Sediment Control Program.

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## THE BEGINNINGS OF SCS

BY

Harold Scholl

"Big Hugh", over six feet tall and robust, was a man who loved people, loved food, and loved to drink! He was the first "Chief" of the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The history of SCS in Maryland begins with him, Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett.

The Chief was a natural storyteller and a charismatic leader who inspired dedication and loyalty. He could communicate and work effectively with most every one—from the farmer on the land, to scientists, ordinary citizens, members of Congress, and even the President of the United States.

Big Hugh liked to come to Maryland to view conservation progress and to fellowship with district supervisors. They plied him with the oysters, crabs, beer, and bourbon he loved. Marshall T. "Augie" Augustine tells of an amusing episode during one of these visits. (It wasn't so amusing to him then). Those who know Augie recognized he had much of the same dedication, energy, story-telling ability, and innovation displayed by the Chief. But "little" Augie was quite a contrast to the Chief in stature.

Augie had been helping landowners to solve their shore erosion problems. While SCS had broad responsibilities for soil erosion, shore erosion was a "no-no" because this was "turf" belonging to the Army Corps of Engineers. During a Southern Maryland soil conservation district tour, a farmer told Hugh how much he appreciated Augie's help in solving his shore erosion problem. Augie could see the redness beginning to spread around the Chief's big neck and face. Rather than compliment Augie, the Chief merely replied that Augie was typical of all his high quality employees. Later, when they were alone, Augie says, "The Chief put his big hands around my neck and bellowed, "Augustine, if I ever hear of you working on shore erosion again I'll fire you on the spot!" A few days later, Augie received a phone call from Ed Davis, Maryland's State Conservationist. Mr. Davis told Augie that the Chief had called him about a Congressman having shore erosion problems on land he owned in Maryland and that Augie should contact him to offer his help. Then Mr. Davis added, "But Augustine, if you get into trouble, I'll deny I ever called you about this!"

This was typical of the "gray areas" and intrigue in the pioneering efforts of SCS in Maryland and throughout the U.S.

The Chief believed that "Eroded soils make for eroded people." He said, "It took natural forces 400 to 1,000 years to produce a single inch of top soil—this thin line of defense that stands between security and national weakness and decadence".

Born in 1881, he first learned about soil erosion, when as a boy, he saw muddy waters run from the cotton fields on his father's farm near Wadesboro in Anson County, North Carolina.

As a Soil Scientist, after graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1903, he took a job with the Bureau of Soils in USDA.

In 1909 his boss wrote Bulletin 55 "Soils of the United States" which stated, "The soil is the one indestructible immutable asset that the nation possesses. It is the one resource that cannot be exhausted, that cannot be used up." By now, Hugh had the experience and knowledge to state, "I didn't know so much costly misinformation could be put into a single brief sentence".

Realizing his job was cut out for him, Hugh continued his documentation of the seriousness of soil erosion throughout the U.S. By 1911, he published the Soil Survey of Fairfield County, South Carolina, which indicated that bad farming practices had wrecked 136,000 acres of prime land. But the report did not raise a ripple in the surface of public opinion.

Pulling out all stops, Hugh continued to document erosion and preach about this problem he viewed as a national disgrace and concern. It wasn't until 1928 when the USDA published his "Soil Erosion, a National Menace" (Circular 33), that newspapers and magazines took notice and rumblings of national interest began to roll across the land. And in 1930, Congress appropriated \$160,000 to be used in conducting soil erosion investigations.

By 1933, Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett became the Director of the Soil Erosion Service, a new agency in the Department of Interior. In 18 months of operation forty-one soil and water demonstration projects and fifty Civilian Conservation Corps Camps were assigned to erosion control work under his direction.

This position provided a forum for Hugh to testify before congressional committees. He effectively used his skills as a communicator through the use of plain talk and theatrical drama. One example of this was his testimony before a Senate committee on HR-7054-a proposal to set up the Soil Conservation Service as a permanent agency.

The date was March 1935 when the second great dust storm had begun. From newspaper, radio, and telephone accounts, Hugh was able to predict when the clouds of dust would arrive in Washington, D.C. He dragged out his testimony till the clouds arrived, darkening the sky and filling the air with grit--a bit of Texas for every congressman to grind between his teeth and a bit of Oklahoma to redden their eyes. This soil, swirling in from a 2,000 mile journey, told the committee that this man Bennett was right and that something must be done immediately!

On April 27, 1935, Congress passed and President Roosevelt signed Public Law 46, the first soil conservation law in the history of the world. This was the beginning of SCS and the first time that soil conservation was national policy.

President Roosevelt called Bennett to his office to personally name him Chief of this new agency created out of the Soil Erosion Service, which was abolished. Bennett moved quickly and the agency flourished, but aroused the jealousy of rival departments and agencies. Roosevelt heard of these and stated proudly that Bennett must be doing a good job to get so many criticisms!

Bennett's popularity with Congress continued. At one point he poured a glass of water on a tabletop showing how quickly the water ran off. He compared the table top with poorly managed and eroded soil. He then placed an old bath towel on the table and poured a glass of water on it. He compared the soaking up of the water with the ability of well-managed top soil to retard runoff and resist erosion.

In 1939, Dr. Bennett published his book "Soil Conservation." This became the worldwide reference on soil conservation problems and solutions. Evidence of the Chief's foresight was his prediction of the probable need for soil conservation in urban areas and construction sites. Interestingly, Maryland pioneered this effort in the nation; all in line with Bennett's scientific appraisal. Those who worked on this in Maryland got a glimpse of the same pioneering spirit and zest that was experienced by those who pioneered the early agricultural conservation program. For example, George Wheeler and Clarence Britt designed and laid out the first terrace constructed in Maryland.

As a recognized worldwide scientist and authority on soil conservation and as a pioneering administrator and leader, the Chief laid a sound foundation for soil conservation in Maryland and elsewhere. Some of the principles from this foundation were:

1. Soils vary in their capabilities.
2. The basic physical objectives of soil conservation activities should be the use of each acre of land within its capabilities, and the treatment of each acre in accordance with its needs for protection and improvement.
3. Soil and water conservation are inseparable phases of one program-manage water and soil as one.
4. Treat entire farms and watersheds as units and not plan or treat piecemeal.
5. To protect and improve land for permanent productivity, it must be considered in terms of all its components-soil, slope, climate, susceptibility to erosion and other processes of deterioration and creation.
6. Agronomists, engineers, foresters, biologists soil scientists, hydrologists, economists and other key specialties don't have the answers individually. it requires a new profession, soil conservationists out on the land coordinating their skills with the landowners, objectives.
7. A conservation plan is an image on paper of how a farmer wants to use and treat his land after he has sound technical information and understanding of the land's needs.
8. A conservation plan is based on a scientific approach-define and understand the objective, collect facts, analyze these facts develop alternative solutions, select the best solution, organize and schedule the needed work, and evaluate and improve the work.

9. Take time to develop a conservation farmer and not merely a conservation plan.

10. Use research and field trials to gain new scientific knowledge. (Research was a part of the SCS program in its early beginnings. Research was transferred to the Agricultural Research Service in 1954. At the same time the leadership for the National Cooperative Soil Survey was assigned to SCS).

11. To be successful, a conservation program must be run by local people who own the land. (On 2/27/1937, President Roosevelt sent a letter to the governors of all states. He urged them to adopt the Standard Soil Conservation District Act, which was attached to the letters, and encouraged its passage in their respective legislatures. The new law would permit the formation of soil conservation districts. It's interesting that one of the authors of the standard act was Philip Glick, a Marylander who presently resides in Montgomery County).

12. Soil conservation can best be sold by demonstrations on the land. In his book, the Chief talked about face-lifting demonstrations. These were massive undertakings whereby a complete conservation plan was installed in one day before thousands of people. One such demonstration was on the Thrasher farm in Frederick County. It was sponsored by the Frederick County Pomona Grange in cooperation with the Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts and the SCS. A second such day was again sponsored in 1978 by the Catoctin SCD in partnership with the Frederick SCD. The emphasis was on clean water through the application of soil conservation practices. The major SCD leadership to the project was provided by Paul Edwards, SCS District Conservationist and Kathy Gugulis, SCS Public Information Specialist. It's interesting too that Henry D. "Pat" Lakin, a dedicated supervisor of the Catoctin SCD, now owns the Thrasher farm, which is still a showcase for conservation on the land.

There are many more stories about Chief Bennett. One final story follows Hugh into retirement. Near 70, he continued to garden, contour of course, at his home near Falls Church, Virginia. A neighbor said to him one time, "Any time I drive by your place on a Saturday, I see you working in your garden. How do you manage to keep at it hour after hour in this hot sun?" "Well, I'll let you in on a secret", said Hugh with a twinkle in his blue eyes, "See this corn row? It's exactly sixty feet long. At the end of the row I have a prize, a mighty fine incentive. And this prize is a good Kentucky Bourbon highball!"

Chief Bennett died in 1960 at the age of seventy-nine. His personality and scientific knowledge, his enthusiasm and charismatic leadership is an integral part of the SCS history in Maryland. It also continues in the programs of the "Old Line" and "Pocomoke" chapters of the Soil Conservation Society of America. The Chief conceived and helped found this professional society to advance the science and art of good land use through bringing together the many disciplines involved in conservation programs. It also continues through the increasing responsibilities and successes of Maryland's Soil Conservation Districts.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ORGANIZATION DATES

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>ORGANIZED</u>
Kent	5-11-38
Catoctin	5-26-39
Gunpowder Falls - Deer Creek	1939 Discontinued 1944
Monocacy	1939 Discontinued 1944
Washington County	1-22-40
Charles	3-4-41
Prince George's	4-7-41
Allegany	9-24-41
Caroline	12-16-41
Queen Anne's	12-19-41
St. Mary's	1-5-42
Dorchester	3-27-42
Wicomico	5-22-42
Worcester	6-23-42
Garrett	9-21-43
Baltimore County	9-6-44 (includes part of Gunpowder Falls- Deer Creek District)
Harford	9-6-44 (includes part of Gunpowder Falls- Deer Creek District)
Frederick	9-6-44 (includes part of Monocacy District)
Carroll	2-23-44
Carroll	11-20-44 (reorganized to include part of Monocacy District)
Howard	5-10-45
Cecil	6-26-45
Montgomery	8-7-45
Anne Arundel	2-21-46
Somerset	4-18-46
Calvert	6-10-48
Talbot	4-30-58



State Soil Conservation Committee Members

Year	Director Experiment Station	(1) Director CES	State Forester	(2) Chair State Board Agriculture	(1) State Conservationist SCS	Director Forests & Parks	Dean Agriculture UMD	SCD Supervisor #1	SCD Supervisor #2	SCD Supervisor #3	President MASCD	Director Game & Fish	Director Water Resources	Director CB Affairs	Chair ASCS Comm	(3) Sec'y DNR	(2) Chair Ag Comm	V P Ag Affairs UMD	SCD Supervisor #4	(1) Sec'y MDA
1937-38	Metzger	Symons *	Besley	Skinner	Bruce															
1938-39	"	" *	"	"	"															
1939-40	Symons	" *	"	"	Davis															
1940-41	Corbett	" *	"	"	"															
1941-42	"	" *	"	Holzapfel	"															
1942-43	"	" *	"	"	"															
1943-44	Kemp	" *	"	Adams	"															
1944-45	"	" *	"	Cole	"															
1945-46	"	" *	"	"	"															
1946-47	"	" *	"	"	"															
1947-48	"	" *	"	"	"															
1948-49	"	" *	Kaylor	"	"															
1949-50	"	" *	"	"	"															
1950-51	" *	Gwin	"	"	"															
1951-52	Haut	"		"	"	Kaylor	Cairns *	Powell	Rieck											
1952-53	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1953-54	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1954-55	"	"		Symons	"	"	" *	"	"											
1955-56	"	Nystrum		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1956-57	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1957-58	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1958-59	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1959-60	"	"		"	Keil	"	" *	Remsburg	"											
1960-61	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1961-62	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	Denny											
1962-63	"	--		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1963-64	"	Alton		"	"	Buckingham	" *	"	"											
1964-65	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"											
1965-66	"	"		"	"	"	" *	Paul	"											
1966-67	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"	Digges	Smith	Shields	McKee							
1967-68	"	Wagner		"	"	Ellis	" *	"	"	"	"	"	"							
1968-69	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"	"	Fike	"	"							
1969-70	"	"		"	"	"	" *	"	"	"	"	"	"	Manning	Jaeger					
1970-71	"	"		"	Hole	"	" *	"	"	"	Ward	"	"	"	"					
1971-72		"			Gibson			" *	"	"	"	"	"			Tawes	Hance	Bentz		
1972-73		"			Munkittrick			" *	Holloway	"	Edwards	"	"			Sachs	"	"		
1973-74		"			"			" *	"	"	Lieske	"	"			"	"	"		
1974-75		"			"			" *	"	"	"	"	"			"	"	"		
1975-76		Curtis			"			" *	"	"	Paul	"	"			"	"	"		
1976-77		"			"			" *	"	"	"	"	"			"	"	"		
1977-78		"			Calhoun			" *	"	Ward	Sutton	"	"			"	"	"	" *	"
1978-79		"			"			" *	"	"	"	"	"			McElroy	"	"	" *	"
1979-80		"			"			" *	Wright	"	Allred	"	"			"	Hill	"	" *	Hawkins
1980-81		"			"			" *	"	Digges	"	"	"			Andrews	Kemp	"	" *	Altman
1981-82		Oliver			"			" *	"	"	McFarlane	"	"			"	"	"	" *	Cawley
1982-83		"			"			" *	"	"	"	"	"			"	"	"	"	"
1983-84		"			"			" *	"	"	"	"	"			Peck	"	"	"	"
1984-85		"			" Reed			" *	Spurrier	"	"	"	"			"	Spickler	"	"	"

(1) Advisory member after 1970-71  
 (2) Chairman or designee  
 (3) Secretary or designee  
 \* Chairman

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – VOTING MEMBERS

J. E. Metzger	'37-'38
Thomas B. Simons	'37-'50 '55-'71
F. W. Besley	'37-'48
W. W. Skinner	'37-'41
Oscar C. Bruce	'37-'39
Edward M. Davis	'39-'59
Roger B. Corbett	'40-'43
Henry Holzapfel, Jr.	'41-'43
W. B. Kemp	'43-'51
Ronald K. Adams	'43-'44
William P. Cole, Jr.	'44-'45
Joseph F. Kaylor	'48-'63
James M. Gwin	'50-'55
I. C. Haut	'51-'71
Gordon M. Cairns	'51-'71
William R. Powell	'51-'59
Harry H. Rieck	'51-'61
Paul E. Nystrum	'55-'62
Edward R. Keil	'59-'70
Charles H. Remsburg	'59-'65
T. Walter Denny	'61-'72
Edward W. Aiton	'63-'67
H. C. Buckingham	'63-'67
Wilbert R. Paul	'65-'77
W. Mitchell Digges	'66-'77 '80-'89
Lathrop Smith	'66-'68
George B. Shields	'66-'71
Paul McKee	'66-'71
Robert E. Wagner	'67-'75
Spencer Ellis	'67-'71
Norman Fike	'68-'70
Joseph Manning	'69-'71
Edward Jaeger	'69-'71
Douglas Hole	'70-'71
Wilbur F. Ward	'70-'72 '77-'80
Millard Tawes	'71-'72
Y. D. Hance	'71-'79
Frank L. Bentz	'71-'85
C. Edward Holloway	'72-'79
Herbert Sachs	'72-'78
D. Coursey Edwards	'72-'73
Fred Lieske	'73-'75
Allie Messer	'74-'79

Vernon R. Foster	'74- '82
Donald M. Spickler	'75- '87
William Sutton	'77- '79
Kenneth McElroy	'78- '80
Richard Wright	'79- '89
Floyd Allred	'79- '81 '82- '
Julian Hill	'79- '80
Arnold C. Hawkins	'79- '80
Thomas Andrews	'80- '83
George Kemp	'80- '84
Robert Altman	'80- '81
Lee McFarlane	'81- '85
Wayne Cawley	'81- '
James Peck	'83- '
Paul Spurrier	'84- '
George Godfrey	'84- '
Gould Charshee	'84- '
Simpson Dunahoo	'85- '
Raymond Miller	'86- '
Robert M. Davis	'87- '

## SOIL SURVEYS

The Cooperative Soil Survey Program had its beginning in 1899. By 1922 all counties in Maryland had been mapped. However, the soil conservation planning that was carried out by SCS required more accurate and detailed soils maps than were available from this initial effort.

Following the formation of the Kent Soil Conservation District in 1938, the detailed soil survey using modern standards was started under SCS supervision with the Maryland Agriculture Experiment Station providing research on soils and SCS providing soil scientists for the field mapping.

All of the state had been mapped by 1970 and re-mapping was started to make the earlier surveys comparable to the later ones to include interpretations, recommendations, etc.

Maryland was the third state in the nation to have a completed soil survey.

## Appendix 5

### PUBLIC LAW 566

Public Law 566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, provided authorization for the SCS to assist soil conservation districts and other sponsors in planning and carrying out projects for watershed protection, flood prevention, sediment control, drainage and storage of water for water supply, recreation, fish and wildlife, stream flow augmentation and irrigation. SCS provided technical and financial assistance to develop and implement plans to solve flood prevention and other water management problems. The State Soil Conservation Committee acted as the Governor's representative in approving applications. The SSCC also set the priorities for planning. Forty-one applications were approved by the Committee through 1972. A complete list is included in the Appendix.

The Soil Conservation Service also carried out three River Basin studies, five Flood Plain Management Studies and eleven Flood Insurance Studies. More specific information on all of these projects can be found in the Maryland Water Resources Progress Report, 1984 published by SCS in January 1985.

Maryland Small Watershed Program Status

Application #	Watershed name	Status 1	Size (acres)	Application approved by state committee	Approved for planning	Plan/EIS completed	Project approved for operation	Project completed	Project costs		
									PL-566	other	total
1.	Little Deer Creek	C	10,112	11/54	2/9/55	5/56	9/13/56	6/30/70	282,443	65,886	348,329
2.	Little Youghiogheny River	C	26,275	2/55	4/15/55	3/56	3/14/57	12/31/76	1,770,544	852,496	2,623,040
3.	Timmonstown Branch	C	8,655	3/55	8/25/55	2/57	5/21/57	6/30/63	203,745	150,263	354,008
4.	Gilbert Run	C	28,622	10/55	1/6/56	12/58	8/7/59	12/31/76	2,946,597	702,662	3,649,259
5.	Upper Rock Creek	C	38,765	12/56	1/8/57	12/62	6/20/63	6/30/73	1,414,322	2,822,880	4,237,202
6.	Little Antietam	T	20,119	5/57	4/15/58	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Little Beaver	T	5,500	5/57	4/15/58	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Long Marsh	C	27,363	7/57	4/15/58	1/60	8/31/60	6/30/75	1,021,901	407,992	1,429,893
9.	Marshyhope Creek*	O	40,240	9/26/57	6/6/58	1/64	8/19/64	-	4,578,154	2,282,428	6,860,582
10.	Aydelotte	C	12,470	9/59	8/15/61	8/62	8/30/62	7/1/71	520,132	260,000	780,132
11.	Ninepin Branch	C	6,300	7/26/61	6/18/62	3/63	4/1/63	6/30/68	167,384	94,843	262,227
12.	Franklin Branch	C	3,162	7/26/61	5/20/63	3/64	6/25/64	5/31/69	82,461	55,204	137,665
13.	Coonfoot Branch	C	3,752	7/26/61	5/20/63	4/64	6/30/64	5/31/69	89,795	58,708	148,503
14.	Shingle Landing	C	11,670	7/26/61	10/23/67	8/68	11/26/68	9/30/81	576,674	305,800	882,474
15.	Dividing Creek	C	41,900	7/26/61	7/15/68	12/73	7/19/74	9/30/83	1,298,984	742,300	2,041,284
16.	Upper Choptank River*	O	10,260	11/6/61	6/18/62	5/65	9/10/65	-	1,183,377	724,072	1,907,449
17.	Corsica River	T	15,865	7/2/62	7/26/65	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Rehobeth	AR	5,000	7/2/62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Marumsc	AP	14,000	7/2/62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Turkey Branch	AP	3,000	7/2/62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Kings Creek	AP	9,096	7/2/62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Upper Manokin	O	7,883	7/2/62	2/15/65	10/65	12/1/65	-	731,187	628,140	1,359,327
23.	Western Run	AR	55,000	8/13/62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Passerdyke	C	7,840	11/15/63	7/26/65	4/66	5/24/66	6/30/76	526,966	189,000	715,966
25.	Goldsboro	O	9,250	12/20/63	9/19/66	7/67	8/25/67	-	1,008,609	604,860	1,613,469
26.	Big & Little Pipe Creek	S	123,520	12/4/64	12/18/67	6/76	-	-	2,862,500	3,539,500	6,402,000
27.	St. Mary's River	O	20,000	6/7/65	7/25/66	6/69	9/29/70	-	4,268,785	4,617,106	8,805,891
28.	Little & Middle Patuxent	T	70,000	6/7/65	2/24/69	-	-	-	990,300	4,053,000	5,043,300
29.	Catoctin Creek	S	95,000	10/15/65	7/22/69	-	-	-	2,679,100	2,309,400	4,988,500
30.	Middletown Branch	AR	6,748	10/15/65	-	-	-	-	264,540	95,600	360,140
31.	Upper Casselman River	T	84,100	2/21/66	12/9/69	-	-	-	1,820,200	2,630,300	4,450,500
32.	Piney Run	C	11,700	2/21/66	4/10/67	5/68	8/27/69	9/30/81	825,200	2,553,800	3,379,000
33.	Big & Little Elk Creeks	T	68,430	5/20/66	10/5/70	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.	Piscataway Creek	T	42,000	6/12/67	10/20/72	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	Forge Branch	P	14,500	6/17/68	7/5/83	-	-	-	-	-	-
36.	Seneca Creek	O	82,479	2/17/69	6/30/75	2/82	3/1/82	-	321,400	105,700	427,100
37.	Pocomoke River	AR	234,000	12/15/69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38.	Patapsco River	AR	236,315	12/27/70	4/15/58	-	-	-	-	-	-
39.	Mattawoman Creek	AR	50,468	3/15/71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40.	Beaverdam Creek	S	16,384	11/55	1/6/56	-	-	-	-	-	-
41.	Upper Chester River	O	90,000	1/20/72	2/10/77	7/82	2/2/83	-	1,208,900	1,332,600	2,541,500

- 1 C = Completed
- O = Operations
- P = Planning
- FE = Field Examination
- AP = Application Pending
- S = Suspended
- T = Terminated
- AR = Application Returned to State Soil Conservation Committee (Not Feasible)

- 2 Costs are based on best available source e.g. work plan, 207 report, etc. (nominal dollars).
- \* Delaware has administrative responsibilities. Maryland acreage and costs shown here.

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Another authority for SCS to assist with group activities was provided through the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962. Through the Resource Conservation and Development Program, authorized by the act, SCS was given authority to give technical and financial assistance to local groups for conservation and development of natural resources in their area.

Two projects were approved for Maryland. The Southern Maryland RC&D for the Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's District's and the Eastern Shore RC&D for all of the nine Eastern Shore District's. The County Government and the Forest Conservancy District Boards were also represented on the RC&D Boards. Various conservation related projects were carried out at the County/District level.

## EVENTS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEDIMENT CONTROL AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN MARYLAND

1935 - Public Law 46 - Declared that soil erosion was a national menace and pointed specifically to prevention of silting of rivers and harbors as one of the goals of the act.

1937 Maryland Soil Conservation District Law.

1940 Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) was organized in the interest of water pollution control and abatement.

1943 - First ICPRB report recognized sediment as one of three major forms of pollution in the Potomac River Basin. The others were sewage and industrial wastes. It also supported Soil Conservation District programs in rural areas.

1957 - Report by Wolman and Geyer "A Clean Potomac in the Washington Metropolitan Area", stated silt is the worst pollutant of the Potomac River.

1961 - Ruling by Maryland Attorney General that soil is a pollutant within the meaning of Maryland's Water Pollution Control Act.

1962 - ICPRB established "Task Committee" of professionals to develop a proposed sediment control program.

1963 - Task Committee report to ICPRB in May, "A Program for Sediment Control in the Washington Metropolitan Region". Report pointed to a need for Soil Conservation Districts to serve urban areas, a need for stated policy of intent by governing officials to control erosion, and the need for regulatory control through local ordinances.

1964 - January report by M. Gordon Wolman to the Maryland Water Pollution Control Commission - "Problems Posed by Sediment Derived from Construction Activities in Maryland" advised that the tonnage of sediment derived by erosion from an acre of ground may exceed 20,000 to 40,000 times the amount eroded from rural land in an equivalent period of time; called for regulatory measures, sediment control manual, and a highway sediment control program.

1964 - Montgomery County Council appointed sediment control task force consisting of Suburban Maryland Home Builders Association, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery Soil Conservation District and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. SCS, ICPRB, and the Engineering Society also assisted.

1965 - Task Force presented a voluntary sediment control program to Montgomery County Council.

1965 - On June 29, Montgomery County Council adopted the voluntary sediment control program as official county policy through resolution #5 - 1954.

1967 - On June 27, the Montgomery County Council made erosion and sediment control mandatory through an amendment to subdivision regulations and designated the Montgomery Soil Conservation District as the technical authority to recommend erosion and sediment control measures which developers must agree to carry out to receive clearing and grading permits from Public Works and to have plats recorded.

1967 - Montgomery Soil Conservation District sponsored the first urban conservation tour in Maryland.

1967-69 - Sediment control programs were adopted in Prince George's, Baltimore, Howard and Anne Arundel Counties through the task force approach initiated by the SCD and patterned after the Montgomery County program.

1968 - Prince George's Soil Conservation District sponsored the second urban conservation tour in Maryland.

1969 - Theodore Miazga, MNCPPC member, drafted erosion and sediment control legislation for the Patuxent River Watershed area with assistance from Attorney Harry Leurch, legal counsel of MNCPPC and others.

1969 - Delegate William Goodman introduced the Miazga conceived legislation as House Bill 1298, which was subsequently enacted as Chapter 415 of Maryland Laws, effective July 1, 1969. The law applied to those portions of Howard, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties within the Patuxent River Watershed. The law required any earth changes, except agricultural practices and single family residences on two or more acres, to have prior approval of the appropriate soil conservation district and the approved earth change to be done in accordance with the recommendations of the district so that erosion and siltation is controlled.

1969 - Howard Soil Conservation District sponsored the third urban conservation tour in Maryland.

1969 - December - Delegate William Goodman in consultation with the Legislative Council, Department of Water Resources and others, drafted legislation to extend the Patuxent Sediment Control Program to the entire state.

1970 - April 22, Earth Day - Governor Mandel signed House Bill 1151 enacted as Chapter 245 of the Acts of 1970 and known as the Maryland Sediment Control Law. The law was similar to the Patuxent Law but in addition:

Provided for the Department of Natural Resources to provide statewide leadership and,



Required counties to implement the law and to adopt procedures for referral of development plans to Soil Conservation Districts for approval before ground is broken.

1970 - Executive Order 11507 of the Water Pollution Control Act required erosion control measures on all federally funded developments and construction operations.

1970 - Baltimore County Soil Conservation District sponsored the fourth urban conservation tour in Maryland.

1971 - January - Montgomery Soil Conservation District began to encourage developers to include innovative stormwater retention measures as part of the sediment control plans they submitted to the Soil Conservation District for approval.

1971 - April 6 - Maryland Attorney General ruled that protective stormwater measures may be imposed by the soil conservation districts under the 1970 Sediment Control Law, and that it was the function of the Department of Natural Resources to assist in the formulation of these plans.

1971 - Effective July 1, 1971, the Montgomery Soil Conservation District required provision for on-site stormwater management in all development plans for multifamily, commercial and industrial developments submitted to the Montgomery Soil Conservation District for approval.

1971 - The Department of Water Resources approved the Montgomery criteria and program for stormwater management on a pilot basis and established a broadly based task force to develop statewide criteria for stormwater management.

1971 - September - Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District sponsored the fifth urban conservation tour in Maryland.

1982 - The Maryland General Assembly passed a Stormwater management Law to be effective July 1, 1984.

Note: Some items taken from a more extensive list prepared by Harold E. Scholl, Soil Conservation Service Resource Conservationist, in 1971.

## PLANNING FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Public Law 92-500, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, provided for programs to be carried out to eliminate the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States and make all waters fishable and swimmable by 1983. The Act was amended in 1977 as PL 95-217, The Clean Water Act of 1977. The Governor designated the Water Resources Administration (WRA) as the lead agency for carrying out this program. The initial planning effort was concerned mainly with point sources of pollution (sewage disposal). The State was divided into 18 basins, mostly along watershed lines, and a plan was developed for each basin. The purpose of the plans was to provide the State, local governments, and citizens with water quality assessment and program management information. The plans were the basis for making grants for sewage disposal systems. The plans were to be updated every two years. As they were updated they included consideration of non-point sources.

A Public Advisory Committee and a Governmental Policy Group were organized for each of the 18 basins to obtain citizen and local government input into the plans. The soil conservation districts were invited to be represented on these groups. Most of the districts had a representative attend these meetings.

Initially, the Governor chose to non-designate the entire state for "208" area planning. However, in April 1975, the Washington Council of Governments, being an interstate agency, received EPA approval as a "208" planning agency. This involved two counties in Maryland, three in Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

In June 1975, the Baltimore Regional Planning Council was approved as a planning agency. This involved five counties and Baltimore City. In the Washington COG area the districts formed an Association of Conservation Districts. Through this Association arrangements were made for an SCS, IPA assignment with the Water Resources Board of the COG.

In the Baltimore area there was an SCS, IPA arrangement with the Regional Planning Council. These individuals participated in the plan development process and maintained liaison with districts and SCS. The districts of the Baltimore area held a number of joint meetings without the benefit of a formal organization.

The districts were most closely associated with Section 208 of the Act. The stated purpose of Section 208 was to encourage and facilitate the development and implementation of area wide waste management plans. The plans involved an inventory of non-point sources of pollution, development of a plan to control these sources and designation of an agency to carry out the plan.

Early in 1976 some of the soil conservation district supervisors began to consider the role the districts might take in this planning effort. The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) set up a "208 Planning Committee" in March 1976. The Committee made its

report in January 1977 and recommended that districts take an active role in "208" planning and made a number of suggestions on how districts could be involved.

As the planning progressed it became very clear that any plans developed to control agricultural non-point sources could have a major effect on agricultural operations. There was no organized effort to discuss and coordinate comments from agriculture. An Ad Hoc Task Force, consisting of representatives from various public and private agricultural interests, was formed to enhance the participation of the agricultural sector in 208 planning. Dr. Bentz served as chairman. The first meeting was held on January 13, 1977. Some of the people that served on the MASCD 208 Planning Committee also served on the Ad Hoc Task Force.

The MASCD report was discussed by the State Committee in February, 1977, and in March the WRA responded to the recommendations and presented a list of ten tasks that needed to be accomplished and how the districts could provide input into each task. Inventories of pollution, current land uses, setting of priorities, etc. were among the suggestions. These recommendations were accepted by the Committee and passed on to the districts. The next step was the development of a contract and arrangements for the WRA to pay districts for inventories carried out in the nondesignated areas (those areas not within COG or RPC). The designated planning agencies were encouraged to do the same.

The continued meetings by the MASCD "208 Planning Committee" and the Ad Hoc Task Force led to a proposal for water quality plans to be developed to control animal wastes and agricultural sediment. The plans would be developed voluntarily unless there was a citation by WRA for a water quality violation. The Ad Hoc Task Force presented the proposal to the State Committee on November 17, 1977. The State Committee adopted the proposal and proceeded to implement planning by appointment of a Technical Team under the leadership of Harold Scholl. The Team was asked to develop criteria and methods for the selection of critical areas, identify best management practices including educational materials and develop a guide for the content and format of water quality plans. The Team presented a report to the State Committee on June 29, 1978. This report was adopted by the State Committee and referred to the WRA with the recommendation that it be made the State plan for controlling agricultural non-point sources related to agricultural sediment and animal wastes.

The State Committee appointed a "208" Program Education Committee" to develop a plan for an effective education program. Ralph Adkins was chairman of this Committee.

The proposed program was forwarded to EPA. It was given conditional approval on September 28, 1979, and, following completion of the education part of the program and a reporting system; it received final approval on February 6, 1980.

All of the agencies and organizations that were represented on the State Soil Conservation Committee had a part in developing the program. Those that had a direct part in carrying out the program include:

State Soil Conservation Committee  
Soil Conservation Districts

Soil Conservation Service  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Water Resources Administration

The Soil Conservation Districts, State Soil Conservation Committee and the Water Resources Administration were designated as management agencies. Following a re-arrangement of responsibilities in the Departments of Natural Resources and Health, the state level responsibility for water quality planning was transferred from the Water Resources Administration to the Office of Environmental Programs within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.