

Soil, Water Conservation District Meets

The Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District meeting was held Wednesday evening at the Farm and Home Center. Several upcoming meetings were discussed.

It was reported that the Ephrata Jaycees will hold meetings at Ephrata and New Holland on plans to form a watershed to clean up pollution in the Indian Run basin.

The Ephrata meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. February 18 at the high school and the New Holland meeting has been set for 7:30 p.m. March 10 at the High School Refreshments will be served at both meetings.

An Octoraro watershed meeting was announced for February 18 at Octoraro High School. The watershed previously held a meeting January 22.

A meeting to discuss pollution of Mill Creek was announced for next Thursday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center. Sponsored by the Federated Sportsmen of Lancaster County, the meeting will include at least five speakers.

The district discussed its annual FFA public speaking contest and 4-H roundup in April at the Farm and Home Center. No exact date was set, however.

Plans for the district's annual banquet March 23 at the Farm and Home Center also were reviewed. Price was set at \$3 for a family style dinner.

In comments at the meeting Aaron Stauffer, chairman, said his contact with farmers shows that they are "interested in information in waste disposal." He said information on waste disposal should be included in discussions on pollution control at upcoming meetings.

Everett Kreider questioned the building of sod waterways in the Fall too late for grass to grow. This means the waterway is subject to erosion through the winter, he noted.

Orval Bass, district conservationist, said the primary reason that waterways are built so late in the year is that there are not enough contractors

available to do all the work required during the growing season.

Some erosion does occur from leaving the waterways uncovered over the winter, Bass said, but he said the erosion is not serious enough to warrant delay of the work in light of the shortage of contractors. He noted that 80 per cent of the erosion which occurs during the year occurs during summer months.

Robert Schweitzer, service forester, indicated disappointment with the number of trees planted by county land owners in the past year. Only seven private landowners participated by planting about 7,000 trees, he said.

The conservation district also released its 1971 budget showing projected expenditures

in 1971 of \$6,780. Income includes \$5,700 from the county commissioners and the remainder is made up of balance on hand from last year.

The district also released a list of objectives for 1971. The basic goal will be to "continue to promote the wise use of conservation of the natural resources of Lancaster County" by informing the public of district goals and activities, improving involvement of youth and youth directors, reducing siltation, and reducing pollution.

The goal of informing the public includes holding the annual conservation field day, establishing more outdoor laboratories, encouraging more watershed activities such as associations and meetings, publishing and distributing the long range plan, and publishing

an erosion and sediment control handbook.

Getting youth involved includes giving more assistance to youth programs, such as 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and public schools, and improving the youth directors' activities.

Reducing siltation in the county includes a continued review of urban subdivision plans and continued review of highway plans.

Reducing pollution includes a public meeting on agricultural waste management.

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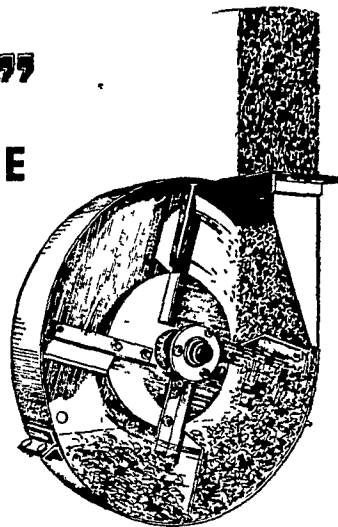
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