

Chester Conservation District meets, and encourages farmers to go 'no-till'

WEST CHESTER — G. Pownall Jones, Toughkenamon, was reelected chairman of the Chester Conservation District at its organization meeting last week. Robert Hodge, West Chester, was reelected vice-chairman and Robert G. Struble, secretary-treasurer.

Earl M. Baker was sworn in as the new Commissioner member of the Board. Gertrude Yarnall of Cochranville was sworn in as an urban director. Harold Kulp of Pottstown is the new farmer director replacing George Frank of West Chester. Frank had been a Director for twenty years. The Board passed a resolution praising his service to the District and the County.

In other action, the Board recommended the issuance of an erosion-sediment and water management control permit, encouraged farmers to go to 'no-till' corn planting as a method of soil conservation and placed lower priorities on the Soil Conservation Service in the building of farm ponds.

Steven Finkel, urban specialist with the District, reviewed the erosion-sediment control plan for a development in West Whiteland Township. The plan calls for earth moving on more than twenty-five contiguous acres of ground at one time. This requires a recommendation from the District Board for the issuance of the permit by D.E.R.

Finkel said that the large sediment basins and individual on-lot berms would handle erosion during construction. The basins would be used to maintain zero increase in run-off after construction. The basins would also be used for a ball field and other recreational facilities after construction.

Marshall Jones of Westtown headed a contingent of farmers who favor 'no-till' planting of corn. Other farmers were Nevin Myers of Chester Springs, Ira Hicks of West Chester and Robert Richards. Glenn Shirk, Extension Agent, filled in on details.

Jones explained 'no-till' as the planting of corn in sod or small grain seedings. A special planter and special technique places the corn seed in a slit in the sod.

Present corn planting methods require the plowing and harrowing of fields before the corn is planted. The soil, without any vegetative cover, is easily carried away by rain or wind.

"A 'no-till' corn planter costs between four and five thousand dollars. This is more than a small farmer can afford," Jones said. He asked if the District could purchase a

planter — then rent it out to Chester County farmers. Directors felt that with the County Commissioners asking for a reduction in the County budget, that it would be impossible to set up such a rental program.

Requests for Soil Conservation Service to assist in designing ponds for esthetic enhancement would be on an "as time permits" basis, Directors decided. S.C.S. services are limited by man-power ceilings. Directors said that a one-visit feasibility consultation could be done by S.C.S. technicians. A list of consultants and/or engineers capable of designing and supervising pond construction would be provided the land owner.

Elbert Wells, District Conservationist, SCS, gave figures on amounts of conservation practices established by farmers in the County. Two thousand five hundred and sixty-five feet of diversions have been installed. Five hundred ninety feet of grassed waterways established. Over a mile of drainage tile has been buried. Other conservation practices completed

include contour strips, stock watering facilities and animal waste handling facilities.

Marshall Haws, Executive Conservationist, said that a basic engineering workshop is scheduled for February 11, at the West Goshen Township Building. Requirements for an erosion-sediment and water management control plan for developments and sub-divisions will be explained. The use of the Soil Survey will be covered by Elbert Wells. Richard King of Yerkes Assoc. will demonstrate the calculation of run-off before, during and after construction of a development. "Twenty-five reservations have all ready been made," Haws said.

Frank McBerty was reappointed as District Legislative Chairman. Gertrude Yarnall will be attending the National conference of the National Association of Conservation Districts being held in Hawaii this week. She was appointed District representative to State Council meetings.

Union hears Worley

NEW CUMBERLAND — "Preserving the family farm means a great deal to America — I'm for full production of food by American farmers, but don't want to see them go bankrupt from surpluses," proclaimed Francis Worley, an Adams County Independent Republican who addressed a gathering of Pennsylvania Farmers Union members here earlier this week. "We have to protect farmers so as to not destroy the goose which layed the egg," he emphasized.

Worley, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, claims to be the only man running for that office who has a "substantial farm background." A lawyer, he has served 24 years in Harrisburg. Although he has never farmed on his own, he prides himself as having "done it all" on his grandfather's and father's farm when he was a young man.

With nearly 100 persons present for the first day proceedings of the Penna. Farmers Union Convention, Worley outlined his political views and told the gathering that he was the one who



Francis Worley

pioneered the gasoline tax refund in the state and killed a bill which would have titled farm tractors.


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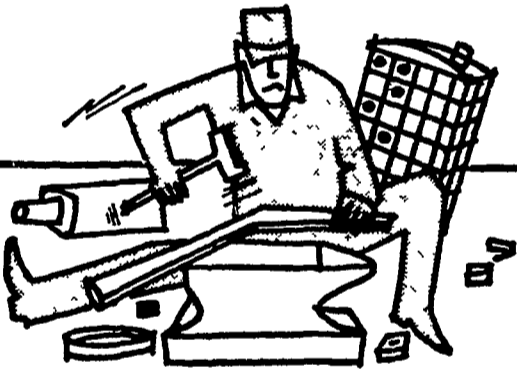
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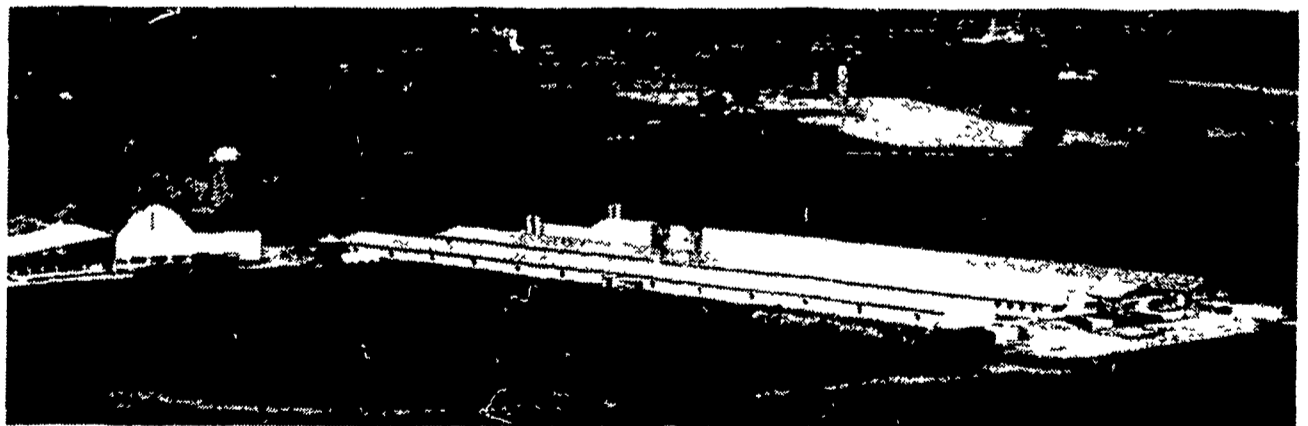
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