

MASCD PRESIDENTS AND SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

By: Arnold C. Hawkins



INTRODUCTION

The following pages give some of the History of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts starting with the administration of Lathrop E. Smith in 1966. During the administration of Mr. Smith, the Association requested Mr. Fred Bull, past Executive Secretary of the State Soil Conservation Committee, and past Supervisor of the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District, to write a history of the Association. Material was collected and assembled over the next few years and a history was published in 1970 that covered Association activities up to and including part of the administration of Lathrop E. Smith. This is a continuation of that history giving some of the more important activities involving soil conservation districts beginning with the Lathrop E. Smith administration. This report will make mention of activities which were not specifically sponsored by MASCD; however, the Association is concerned with all phases of soil and water conservation and in 1966 the President of the Association was made a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Also the Association was instrumental in creating the Conservation Education Council of Maryland, which for a number of years held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Winter Meeting of the Association.

The first ten reports in Section 7c are a collection of reports written by Arnold Hawkins for the presidents of MASCD. After that the association adopted a policy for each president to update the history at the conclusion of their term of office.

The initial publication of Section 7c included reports of the presidents up through the term of Donald L. Spickler, which ended in July 1987. Reports of the presidents whose terms ended after July 1987 were initially published as Part D, a supplement to Part C. In 2001 the Part D supplements were combined with Part C.

Arnold C. Hawkins

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LATHROP E. SMITH ADMINISTRATION
January 7, 1966 to January 4, 1969

Lathrop E. Smith, supervisor in the Montgomery District, assumed office at the close of the Association's Meeting January 7, 1966. His term lasted to January 4, 1969. At the Association Meeting which Mr. Smith assumed office, the Association voted to support a proposed amendment to the soil conservation district's law giving more district representation on the State Soil Conservation Committee. Legislation was introduced that year and on June 1, 1966 Lathrop Smith and Mitchell Digges became new members of the State Committee. Paul McKee, Department of Water Resources, also became a member at that time.

Efforts were initiated to establish a District Manager Program during this period. In 1968 funds were made available for a pilot program for the State Committee to cost-share with Howard County to provide a District Manager for the Howard Soil Conservation District. By 1978 this program had expanded to sixteen managers.

The Soil Conservation District Law was passed in 1937 and the State Soil Conservation Committee was established that year. The State Committee issued a number of five-year progress reports. The year 1967 was the occasion for publishing a thirty-year report and plans were initiated for this publication. The report was published in 1969.

Various means for gaining tax exempt status for the Association were investigated including exploring the possibility of an amendment to the Soil Conservation District's Law; however, this would not let the Association remain an independent organization and these plans were dropped. In 1968 efforts were initiated to obtain tax-exempt status through an Internal Revenue Service exemption. The Association's Articles of Incorporation were amended to provide for this. It was not until after Norman Fike became president that the tax-exempt status was accomplished.

During this period there was a major change in the arrangements to provide clerical assistance to soil conservation districts. Up until this time, the Soil Conservation Service and the State Committee had been providing part-time clerical assistance. The County Government was assisting in three or four districts. The Soil Conservation Service was notified in October 1968 that they would have to absorb all pay increases given that year retroactive to July 1. The Soil Conservation Service was faced with a decision to lay off technical personnel or cease the part-time clerical assistance. SCS clerical assistance was ceased in December and the State Soil Conservation Committee redistributed all remaining clerical funds among all the districts. Many of the districts met with their County Governments and most received help from the counties.

Montgomery and Baltimore County Districts were involved in developing sediment control programs during this period. The Montgomery Soil Conservation District led the way and the Baltimore County District was soon to follow. Both had programs operating prior to the statewide programs, which were to come later. With the increased emphasis on urban sediment control the soil conservation districts in the Baltimore-Washington urban area made plans to take turns in sponsoring an urban conservation tour. The first tour was held in the Montgomery District, October 19, 1967. The Prince George's District sponsored a tour on September 26, 1968.

The National Watershed Congress annually honors an outstanding individual for working in connection with watershed projects. The State Soil Conservation Committee submitted Lathrop E. Smith's name for his work in connection with the Rock Creek Project, and in 1968 he received the Watershed Man of the Year Award.

A Potomac Basin Compact was developed during this period. The Association endorsed the Compact in principle without approval of specific provisions. Eventually the Maryland legislature adopted the Compact but it was not implemented due to lack of adoption by the other states.

In July of 1967, the Association passed a resolution supporting state participation in Public Law 566 projects and in December 1966 the Association supported a specific proposal for state participation in the operation phase of the small watershed program. The State Soil Conservation Committee was already providing funds to SCS to assist in the planning of these projects.

A shore erosion tour was held in September 1968. People from Maryland and the surrounding states took part in the tour and viewed various shore erosion installations. Walter Denny was instrumental in arranging the tour. Mr. Denny was interested in all problems associated with the Bay. In June, 1968 he was appointed to a Legislative Advisory Committee on Chesapeake Bay Pollution.

The National Association of Conservation Districts established a District Outlook Committee. The Maryland Association and the State Soil Conservation Committee established a joint District Outlook Committee in October 1966. The main activity of the Committee was studying and making proposals for changes in the Soil Conservation Districts, Law.

Efforts were initiated to establish better relations between districts and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service County Committees. A Memorandum of Understanding was developed and signed by some of the districts. Also a Memorandum was developed and signed with the Department of Water Resources in 1968.

Participation in the Goodyear Awards Program continued. The Carroll District was the winning district in 1966, Howard was second. Washington County headed the list in 1967, Somerset was second. The Howard District was first in 1968 with Caroline second. Participation in the program was good at this time. Twenty-three out of twenty-four districts were entered in the 1968 contest.

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NORMAN FIKE ADMINISTRATION
January 4, 1969 to December 4, 1970

Norman Fike, supervisor in the Talbot District, assumed the presidency at the close of the meeting January 4, 1969. He served as president until December 4, 1970. His term of office was a period of most significant change in soil conservation district programs. The Patuxent Sediment Control Law was passed in 1969. This legislation affected only seven districts but it was the forerunner of much broader legislation which came the next year and affected all districts. The State Soil Conservation Committee helped sponsor several meetings to get the Patuxent Program started.

A Statewide Sediment Control Law was passed in 1970. Again a series of meetings were held to help familiarize everyone with the law and help get it implemented. The State Committee and Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts took an active part in these meetings. This legislation was of major importance to districts because it required all districts to be involved with a mandatory program. The passage of the sediment control program and support of district clerks and managers by the counties brought a need for closer working relations with county governments. A Memorandum of Understanding between districts and counties was developed by a special committee to the Association and recommended by the Association as a guide for districts to use in developing memorandums with their county governments.

Closer working relations with the State Roads developed during this period. A major erosion problem developed on some new road construction in the Allegany District. The Allegany District worked with the local State Roads officials to correct the problem. This led to the State Roads Commission agreeing to furnish local authorities with road plans and requiring contractors to comply with local ordinances when constructing state roads.

The "District Outlook Committee" continued its discussions of district programs and legislation. A process for appointment of all supervisors was approved by the State Committee and MASCD in December, 1969 and House Bill 1327 was passed by the 1970 session of the General Assembly but was made effective in July of 1971. The "District Outlook Committee" was also instrumental in getting the Association's Committees to adopt programs or plans of work.

At the January 1970 meeting each Committee was asked to discuss a "Program for the Seventies". Each Committee's goals and objectives were discussed and a final program adopted and published in July 1970.

Efforts to obtain tax-exempt status for the Association continued. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation were approved July 14, 1969 and on October 3, 1969 Arnold Hawkins reported to the Board of Directors that he had received tax exemption under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit educational organization, contributions to which are tax exempt.

The Urban Tour initiated in 1967 continued through this administration. The Howard District hosted the tour in 1969 and the Baltimore County District was host in 1970.

Twenty-three districts entered the Goodyear Awards Program in both the 1969 and 1970 programs. Caroline was the winner in 1969, Queen Anne's was second and Frederick won in 1970 with Montgomery second.

Prior to 1969 all state funds for use by districts were dispensed through the State Committee Office on an individual bill basis. During 1969 districts were given the option of receiving state funds for

expenditure at the district level. Most of the districts took advantage of this immediately and on July 1, 1970 all funds allocated to districts were transferred to the districts on a quarterly basis for expenditure at the district level.

Mr. Edward R. Keil served as State Conservationist in Maryland beginning in August, 1959. In May of 1970 he was transferred to the Caribbean Area and Mr. C. Douglas Hole who had been serving as State Conservationist in the Caribbean Area replaced him in Maryland.

Drainage has always been a matter of concern to soil conservation districts particularly the Eastern Shore districts. Questions of policy had been directed to the State Soil Conservation Committee from time to time and this led to the development and adoption of a policy statement on drainage on February 16, 1970.

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WILBUR F. WARD ADMINISTRATION
December 4, 1970 to December 1, 1971

Wilbur Ward, supervisor in the Calvert District, assumed the presidency December 4, 1970, and served until December 1, 1972. He also served as a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee during this period. Legislation passed in 1970 became effective in 1971 to revise the membership of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Committee membership was reduced from fourteen to seven members, including three supervisors representing three geographic areas, the President of MASCD, the Chairman of the Agricultural Commission, the Principal Administrator for Agricultural Affairs at the University of Maryland, and the Secretary of Natural Resources.

This same legislation required the annual election of officers by the State Committee. Wilbert Paul was elected Chairman of the Committee, a position he was re-elected to until he became President of MASCD in July, 1975. Mr. Paul was the first supervisor that served as a Chairman of the State Committee. Also this legislation provided for all supervisors to be appointed including one supervisor to be appointed by the County Government. The term of office of State Committee appointed supervisors was increased to four years. The Director of Extension and the State Conservationist were made advisory members of the State Committee and the ASCS State Committee was invited to designate an advisory member.

The changes in membership resulted in the retirement of Dr. Cairns as a member of the State Committee. A special resolution was developed and presented to Dr. Cairns for his many years of service as Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Prior to the changes in the State Committee membership, the State Conservationist was a voting member of the State Committee. Mr. Hole, the State Conservationist at that time, became very ill and John Gibson was designated Acting State Conservationist and a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee until that changes became effective July 1, 1971.

Mr. Hole retired June 28, 1972 and Graham Munkittrick became State Conservationist. The July 20, 1972 minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee make note of the passing of Mr. Hole. Another outstanding conservationist and Past President of the Association, Lathrop E. Smith, passed away January 20, 1972.

The District Managers program was expanded during this period, \$44,000 was appropriated for the 1971-72 year and eight district managers were authorized at the June 21, 1971 meeting of the State Committee. A job description for District Managers was adopted for districts to use in developing the required job description for their managers. The Committee recommended that the title District Manager be used by all districts.

At the December 21, 1970 meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee a Civil Rights Statement was adopted and recommended to the districts for adoption. Eventually all soil conservation districts adopted this document.

A Memorandum of Understanding was developed by the Association to be used by districts and the Cooperative Extension Service. Although not specified by law, the policy in most districts is for an extension agent to serve as secretary to the Board of Supervisors and also take the lead in educational activities. This Memorandum served to clarify this point.

The By-Laws of the Association provide for granting of lifetime membership in addition to past presidents who automatically became lifetime members of the Association. Prior to April 1972, lifetime membership had been awarded to Fred Bull, Charles Remsburg and Vernon R. Foster. The Board of Directors at the April 3, 1972 meeting voted Jacob Ankeney to lifetime membership in the Association. At that time Mr. Ankeney had served longer as a supervisor than any other Maryland supervisor.

The Anne Arundel District was host for the fifth Urban Tour held in the fall of 1971 and Baltimore City was host for the sixth tour in 1972. During this period the Governor appointed a Task Force, which studied and recommended the creation of the Department of Agriculture. The Association supported the creation of the proposed department, which was created by the 1972 General Assembly. The Association in December 1972 supported Y.D. Hance as the first Secretary of Agriculture. The Department began operation in January 1973.

The Conservation Needs Inventory was updated and published during this period.

Enrollment in the Goodyear Awards Program declined in 1971 and 1972 to eighteen entries. The Cecil District was the winner of the 1971 program, Calvert was second. The Calvert District won in 1972, Kent was second.

An RC&D Project was approved for Southern Maryland in 1971. This involved the Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Districts. Also in 1971 districts were required to pay Workman's Compensation Insurance. A Public Information Law was passed in 1972, and a change was made in the pond law to provide an exemption from a permit from DNR if the soil conservation district approved the plan.

The Association was a member of the Maryland Rural Affairs Council from its beginning. In 1972 the State Committee was invited to be a member.

Stormwater Management was a topic of discussion for some of the districts during this period. It was to become an important issue for all of the soil conservation districts. It had its beginning in the Montgomery District in 1970, when the district passed a resolution stating that it would encourage the inclusion of designed flood storage in all ponds and lakes and assist in planning for the retention on and in the soil of the greatest percentage of the annual precipitation. The Montgomery County Council soon afterwards adopted a similar policy.

The National Association of Conservation Districts, Convention was held in Washington, D.C. in 1972. The Maryland and Virginia Associations were hosts to the convention. The Maryland Association and all those that attended the convention are indebted to Virginia Wiltbank, Supervisor in the Prince George's District, for the many hours of work and the fine arrangements she made to make the convention a most outstanding one.

The Association at the December 1, 1972 meeting voted to operate on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. To implement this procedure Coursey Edwards was elected president to serve an initial term of six months.

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COURSEY EDWARDS ADMINISTRATION

December 1, 1972 to March 21, 1973

Coursey Edwards, Caroline SCD Supervisor, became president of the Association December 1, 1972. He served only until March 21, 1973 when he resigned as president and as a supervisor of the district.

Some legislation of interest to districts was proposed and/or acted upon during this period. A bill to create a soil conservation district for Baltimore City was submitted but was withdrawn prior to being acted upon. Changes in the Soil Conservation Districts' Law were proposed that would add the Secretary of Agriculture and one additional supervisor as members of the Committee. Some efforts were made to include agriculture in the required sediment control program. The National Association of Counties, NACD, and others developed a model sediment control act, which included agriculture. Also in Baltimore County legislation was proposed which would have tied preferential farm taxation to sediment control. In the Montgomery District legislation was proposed that would have removed the sediment control program from the district and made it an all county responsibility.

In February 1973, the Attorney General issued an opinion regarding district supervisors and the Maryland two offices of profit law. The opinion stated that district supervisors are holders of an office of profit. This eventually led to the resignation of several supervisors and also affected the eligibility of potential supervisors.

At the March 22, 1973 Directors Meeting Coursey Edwards, resignation was accepted and Fred Lieske was elected President. Mr. Lieske had been serving as Second Vice- President; however, Wilbert Paul, 1st Vice-President, was already a member of the State Committee and would have had to resign his appointed term because he could not serve in two capacities.

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FRED LIESKE ADMINISTRATION

March 22, 1973 to July 18, 1975

Fred Lieske, supervisor in the Cecil District, was elected President on March 22, 1973. His initial term was to complete the unexpired term of Coursey Edwards who resigned. Mr. Lieske was later elected to two full terms and served until July 18, 1975.

A new Association committee structure was initiated at this time. Five basic committees were named and each soil conservation district was asked to designate one supervisor to serve on each committee. Other committees were named as appropriate. Membership on these committees was in addition to the basic committees.

The State Soil Conservation Committee had for several years requested funds to hire an assistant secretary. These efforts had failed to date so in 1973 when the opportunity to obtain assistance under the Inter-Governmental Personnel Act became available the State Committee entered into an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service for Dale Churchey to be "Program Advisor" to the State Committee. In June 1975, Dale transferred to Nebraska and Winstead Burdette took his place as "Program Advisor". Other additions of personnel during this period were the hiring of two Soil Conservation Engineers. These were the first engineers authorized for the State Committee.

Early in 1973 the Attorney General had given an opinion that District Supervisors were office of profit holders. Under Maryland law a person cannot hold two offices of profit. Three supervisors, R. Johns Dixon, Harry Walter, and Theodore Bramble, resigned because of other offices they held. Later in the year two other supervisors, Wilbur Dove and Horace Brauning had to resign in order to accept other offices.

Agricultural Erosion was a major topic of discussion at the July, 1973 meeting and again at the January, 1974 meeting. A resolution at the July meeting requested soil conservation districts to "take necessary action to promote control of agricultural erosion and sediment production and that the State Committee take action to place agriculture under the Sediment Control Law, if and when the Committee feels it is necessary."

In January the Association recommended that "There be a more intensified voluntary agricultural sediment control program by the farmers in each district. To accomplish this, educational programs need far more consideration with more effort to have personal contact with farmers in the Districts." In another resolution the Association encouraged all districts "to act as an observing and inventory agency for erosion problems occurring in agriculture lands so that these problems can be corrected on an individual basis."

At the July, 1975 meeting of the State Committee it was the consensus of the Committee that "special effort should be made to get a conservation plan on every farm in the state."

Many districts, the Association, and the State Soil Conservation Committee corresponded with the Corps of Engineers or testified on the proposed regulations to implement Section 404 of Public Law 92-500. This concerned the drainage of agricultural lands. PL 92-500 also was important to districts because of Section 208 and the water quality provisions.

The Association in July, 1975 recommended that "the districts, the State Committee, and the Soil Conservation Service, be active participants in the water quality planning process, especially Section 202 of Public Law 92-500, and that districts be the local responsible agency to carry out non-point pollution

controls on agricultural lands." They also recommended "that each district make a concerted effort to develop a conservation plan on all farms in their jurisdiction and that an extensive education program be initiated throughout the state with regard to the effort and leadership for the education program be by the Cooperative Extension Service.

The Association adopted an affiliate and contributing membership program in 1973. Contributions to the program are set aside for educational activities. Also, the Association on January 4, 1974 voted to establish a conservation scholarship fund. This eventually developed into the Grant-Scholarship Endowment Fund. In October 1974 the Association accepted from Arnold C. Hawkins and Dale Churchey funds left from the 1973 Sediment Institute to start the fund. A Pond Design Manual was published in June 1975 and proceeds from the sale of these manuals were specified to be placed in the Endowment Fund.

In 1974 arrangements were worked out for the joint publication of a newsletter by the Association and the State Soil Conservation Committee. A non-profit educational organization mailing permit was obtained by the Association and the State Committee agreed to cover printing costs.

The NACD-Allis Chalmers Educational Awards Program was started in 1974. The Maryland Districts took part in the program, named state winners, and submitted entries in the regional contest in 1974 and 1975. The Association adopted its own Awards Program in July 1975.

The Maryland Districts assisted with an inventory of private outdoor recreational facilities. The inventory was completed in July 1975. It was later published by the Interior Department.

Supervisors training sessions were held by the State Committee in four locations in 1974. Also the State Committee was host to the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic State Soil Conservation Committees.

Efforts were initiated in 1974 to obtain some method of securing benefits and job security for district employees. Initial thoughts were to request thirteen positions in each of the next three years to obtain twenty-three clerks and sixteen managers. Efforts eventually shifted to obtaining legislation to provide for employees to be covered under the Merit System on a District request basis. This legislation was eventually passed in 1976 only to be vetoed. Identical legislation passed again in 1977 and was made effective July 1, 1978.

An RC&D Project had been in operation in Southern Maryland for several years. Walter Denny took the leadership in getting representation from the various counties and districts on the Eastern Shore to sponsor an application for planning assistance. An application was made for the shore area of Maryland.

In December, 1974 the State Soil Conservation Committee made application to the Corps of Engineers for a blanket permit through which permits for drainage maintenance could be issued for those projects carried out under district supervision without going through the lengthy court hearing process. The permit was obtained a year later.

The State Soil Conservation Committee sponsored a Sediment Institute in 1973. This was held October 17, 1973 the day before the Urban Tour was held in the Montgomery District. The Institute was also held in 1974 in conjunction with the Urban Tour held in the Prince George's District.

A petition to dissolve the Anne Arundel District was of concern to the districts early in 1974. The result was that the provisions to dissolve districts were removed from the law just as the provisions to form districts were removed several years earlier. An act of legislature is now required to form or dissolve a district.

Other 1974 amendments to the Districts, Law included (1) addition of a definition of conservation as follows: "Conservation means the wise utilization of natural resources and includes any one or more of the following; the development, improvement, maintenance, protection or preservation of these resources; the control and prevention of flood water and sediment damage, and the controlled disposal of water; (2) addition of two members to the State Soil Conservation Committee to include the Secretary of Agriculture and one additional supervisor; (3) a provision that any supervisor that fails to attend at least 50% of all regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors shall be considered to have resigned.

The 1973 winner of the Goodyear Awards Program was the Charles District; Prince George's was second. The Baltimore County District won in 1974, Catocin was second.

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WILBERT R. PAUL ADMINISTRATION
July 18, 1975 to July 22, 1977

Wilbert R. Paul served as president for two years, from July 17, 1975 to July 22, 1977. The Association was involved in a number of important actions and activities during this period. This report makes mention of a number of State Soil Conservation Committee actions. The President of Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts is a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Legislation was proposed and supported by the Association and districts to gain benefits for district managers and clerks by covering the employees under the State Merit System. The legislation was passed in 1976, but was vetoed. Identical legislation was passed again in 1977 and made effective July 1, 1978.

There were a number of changes in supervisors during this period. A list is attached. Two of the Past Presidents of the Association, Mr. Harry H. Rieck and Mr. T. Walter Denny, were among the deceased. A committee was appointed by the Association to establish a memorial for Mr. T. Walter Denny, who had served as MASCD President for five years, and was NACD Director, and Area Vice-President, as well as Chairman of the NACD and Maryland Shore Erosion Committees. Arrangements were made with the Corps of Engineers to landscape an area at the Chesapeake Bay Model as a memorial to Mr. Denny. The Association also made a financial contribution to the memorial.

Some supervisors were lost because of Maryland's "Two Offices of Profit Legislation". One of these, Horace Brauning, was made a lifetime member of the Association in March, 1976, at the request of the Carroll Soil Conservation District.

The personnel assistance of the Soil Conservation Service to the State Committee which had been instituted in 1973 under the Inter-Governmental Personnel act was terminated in 1976, because a permanent position had been created in the State Committee budget to replace this Soil Conservation Service assistance. An Assistant Secretary to the State Committee, Marshall Rea, was hired in January 1977. Marshall also served as Secretary to the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts. In October 1976, there was a change in State Conservationists. Graham Munkittrick left Maryland to become State Conservationist in Pennsylvania. Gerald Calhoun was his replacement.

Maryland Districts continued to take an active part in the Goodyear Awards Program. The Kent Soil Conservation District was the winner of the 1975 program, Cecil was second. The Howard Soil Conservation District was winner of the 1976 contest, and Frederick was second. In 1977 the program in Maryland was changed to operate on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. The Cecil District was the winner of the 1976-77 program and the Baltimore County District was second.

Publication of a newsletter in cooperation with the State Soil Conservation Committee was continued. In addition to the newsletter, activities of the Association were publicized through publication of the proceedings of the January, 1977 meeting of the Association. This publication was financed through advertisements placed in the publication. Through the assistance of the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District an exhibit frame was made available to the Association for making displays at fairs, etc. A display was placed in the 1977 Home Builders Mart in Baltimore.

The Association continued its support of soil judging activities. The Linganore Chapter of Future Farmers of America was assisted financially, in attending the National Land Judging Contest.

The Association also went on record in support of a broadened soil and land judging program to include 4-H, FFA, Scouts, etc.

An NACD-Allis Chalmers Environmental Conservation Education Awards Program was initiated in 1975. Some of the Maryland Districts took part in the program. The Cecil Soil Conservation District was the Maryland state level district winner.

A Scholarship-Grant Program was developed and adopted during this period. Through the assistance of the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District the Pond Design manuals were reprinted and the proceeds went towards the Educational Endowment Fund, which had been established.

The fund had increased to \$5, 000 by July, 1977. The Association at that time voted to make the interest earned after July 1977 available for the Scholarship Grant Program.

The Affiliate and Contributing Memberships were continued. Proceeds from these memberships were deposited in the Educational Endowment Fund.

The Association adopted an Awards Program at the July, 1975 meeting. Recognition was given to outstanding supervisors, employees, and cooperators by awarding certificates at the July, 1976 and July, 1977 Annual Meetings.

Several sections of PL 92-500 became of major concern during this period. A court decision resulted in new regulations being proposed for implementing Section 404. This section concerned activities in navigable waters, drainage, etc. The Association and many districts testified on this issue.

District involvement in planning for clean water under Section 208 began during this period. The State Committee arranged a tour of Agricultural Conservation practices for Basin Planners. Some districts also arranged tours.

An Association Committee was appointed to develop a program for agricultural input into Section 208 Planning. In January 1977 an Ad Hoc Task Force for 208 Planning was formed to coordinate agricultural input into 208 Planning. The Association was a member of this group. Eventually each district chairman was made a member of the Governmental Policy Group, an advisory group for each basin. Later on arrangements were worked out with WRA wherein districts would inventory and map agricultural land uses. These arrangements included a signed agreement between WRA, the State Soil Conservation Committee, and the district and included provisions for reimbursement to the district by Water Resources Administration.

There were several proposals during this period to bring agriculture under the State Sediment Control Program or to tie the preferential tax for land in agriculture to conservation plans. The MASCD resisted these proposals and passed a resolution recommending there be no legislation of this nature until after the 208 Planning process was complete.

The Washington Area Association of Conservation Districts after having been planned for a number of years finally got off the ground. Quarterly meetings were arranged between the Montgomery, and Prince George's Districts of Maryland, the District of Columbia Government and three districts in Virginia. Through this Association arrangements were made under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act for an SCS person to be assigned to the Washington Council of Governments. This person assisted in the planning for Clean Water under PL 92-500.

Other I.P.A. arrangements were made to assist in 208 Planning in the Baltimore Regional Planning Council Area and with the WRA for the non-designated area of the rest of the State.

The State Committee after almost a year of effort obtained a permit from the Corps of Engineers to satisfy the permit requirements for drainage systems maintenance carried out through the soil conservation districts.

In connection with drainage the State Committee hired an engineer to assist with carrying out a drainage program. This program was initiated under the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to carry out a drainage program and coordinate the activities of the public drainage associations. This authority was amended in 1976 to provide authority to cost share on drainage maintenance. It was not budgeted until after 1977.

An application was submitted for an RC&D Project for the Eastern Shore of Maryland. MASCD supported that application. An RC&D Council was formed for the area. For the first time the entire Eastern Shore area got together and supported the application. Only ten projects were approved nationwide during this period and the Eastern Shore was not one of them. The application remained pending.

The Southern Maryland RC&D continued its fine work in the Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Districts. Roadside stabilization was completed in the Calvert District.

Three additional employees (Soil Conservation Associates) were made available by the 1977 General Assembly. This made twelve State Committee employees providing technical assistance to* districts. A working agreement between SCS and the Committee was developed and signed. This agreement spelled out employee arrangements for employees assigned to SCS.

The records retention services of the Record Retention Division, Hall of Records, were made available to the districts during this administration.

Requirements for open public meetings of the State Soil Conservation Committee became a reality -in 1976 through a Governor's Executive Order. The State Soil Conservation Committee advised districts that this applied to them also. Effective July 1, 1977, legislation made this mandatory.

Maryland was host to the Northeast Area NACD Meeting in August 1976, at New Carrollton, Maryland. A very successful meeting and tour was held.

The Association and Districts, continued their good working relations with the Department of Natural Resources. During this time a working arrangement was established with Water Resources Administration and the Drainage Association of the Pocomoke River for maintenance of the dredged portion of the river.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Wildlife Administration was revised and signed by all districts. Cooperation in the 208 Planning process is mentioned elsewhere in this report. The Association also worked with the Coastal Zone Management Program. The Association named a representative to the Coastal Zone Resources Advisory Committee and the Association encouraged the districts to seek representation on the local CZM Advisory Boards.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

WILLIAM SUTTON ADMINISTRATION
July 22, 1977 to July 20, 1979

William "Billy" Sutton assumed the office of President of MASCD at the close of the annual meeting, July 22, 1977. Assuming office with him were Virginia Wiltbank, First Vice President; Floyd Allred, Jr., Second Vice-President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer; and Marshall Rea, Secretary. He served for two years to July 1979. As President of the Association, Mr. Sutton automatically served as a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Marshall Rea left the employ of the State Committee during this period to become District Manager in the Montgomery District. Paul Seman was Assistant Secretary to the State Committee from March 7, 1979 to August 31, 1979 and Benjamin Rigdon served in this capacity from December 19, 1979 to May 7, 1980.

There were a number of supervisor changes during this period as indicated by the attached list of appointments that were made. Twenty new supervisors were appointed. At the request of the Carroll District, Randall G. Spoerlein was made a life member of the Association.

The Association continued support of the Goodyear Awards Program and recommended all districts participate in the program. The Cecil District was the winner of the 1977 contest which ended June 30, 1977 and the Baltimore County District was second. The Catoctin District was winner of the 1978 contest and Caroline was second. The Carroll District won the contest ending June 30, 1979; Montgomery was second. To facilitate the judging of this program, the Association recommended that annual plans be submitted by September 1st and annual reports be submitted by February 1st each year.

Development of a Youth Conservation Program was continued under the leadership of Robert Ziehm, District Manager in the Howard District. Through his efforts a CETA employee was secured to work full-time on developing this program. One of the significant developments during this period was a proclamation by the Governor for the third week of May, 1979, to be proclaimed "Youth Conservation Week".

The Association was the recipient of a set of U.S. and Maryland flags to use at meetings, etc. Virginia Wiltbank, Supervisor in the Prince George's District, donated a U.S. flag, staff, stand, etc., and Mitchell Digges, Supervisor in the Charles District, made a donation of a Maryland flag set.

The Annual meeting of NACD was held in Washington, D.C. in February 1979. The Maryland and Virginia Associations were hosts for the meeting.

The awards program of the Association was continued and expanded. The Allis Chalmers Conservation Education Awards Program was expanded to provide for an award to be made to the outstanding teacher and district at the State level. The State Committee adopted a program to make awards to State Committee and district employees for outstanding service and for length of service. Efforts were also made to expand the soil judging program for increased participation by both 4-H and FFA.

In January 1979, Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., became the second person to serve as Maryland Secretary of Agriculture. A resolution was developed and presented to Y.D. Hance in recognition of his six years of service as the first Secretary of Agriculture in Maryland. Secretary Hance was also a Past Supervisor in the Calvert District.

As President of the Association, Mr. Sutton was also a voting member of the State Committee. Other members of the Committee in July 1977 were Vernon R. Foster, C. Edward Holloway, Allie

Messer, Wilbur Ward, Donald Spickler, Y.D. Hance, Herbert Sachs, and Frank L. Bentz, Jr. Kenneth McElroy, Department of Natural Resources, replaced Herbert Sachs on the Committee in June, 1978 and Richard Wright replaced C. Edward Holloway as the Eastern Shore representative in July, 1979. Secretary Cawley became a member when he was appointed Secretary in January 1979. On February 9, 1979, he designated Arnold Hawkins to be the Department's voting member. Vernon Foster was Chairman for the entire period.

During this period the Committee adopted a policy of appointing the Past Chairman of the Committee as an advisory member. Mitchell Digges became the first person to serve in this capacity in July 1977 when his term on the Committee expired. In Maryland, service on the Committee is limited to two full four-year terms. The Committee also appointed an Executive Committee to include the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary, President of MASCD and the Past Chairman.

The Resource Conservation Act was passed in December 1977. On September 21, 1978, the Committee entered into an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service to administer funds available from SCS to carry out the RCA Program. A total of \$73,000 was made available. This was the first time the State Committee was involved in the administration of federal grant funds. David Benner, SCS, assisted the Committee in developing an outline for district programs. Chuck Hancock, also of SCS, assisted with this program.

The Catoctin District was the sponsor of Project Clearwater held in August 1978. This was a replay of the one-day conservation rejuvenation of a farm that was held in the same area in 1938. The Catoctin District was nominated for and later received the American Motors Conservation Award for carrying out this project.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (PL-9587) was enacted in August 1977. A Rural Abandoned Mines Program administered by SCS was part of this Act. An advisory committee was established for this program. The already established State Land Reclamation Committee was used as the basic membership for this Committee with the addition of representation from the State Committee and other agencies. The first meeting of the RAMP Coordinating Committee was held January 17, 1979.

During this period a three-way agreement was developed which spelled out the working arrangements between the State Committee, districts and the Soil Conservation Service. The agreement was especially helpful in connection with assigning responsibility for supervision of State Committee and district employees. The agreements were signed by the State Committee on July 20, 1978.

The legal status of districts had not been very clear until August 23, 1978, when the Attorney General issued an opinion which provided that districts are independent political subdivisions of the State.

Maryland Senate Bill 159 was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 1977 and made effective July 1, 1978. The districts had until June 30, 1979, to apply to have their employees covered under the State Merit System. Eighteen districts made application to have one or more employees covered.

Mr. Sutton's term as President of MASCD and member of the SSCC ended with the close of the MASCD Annual Meeting July 20, 1979.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

FLOYD ALLRED, JR., ADMINISTRATION
July 20, 1979 to July 17, 1981

Floyd Allred, Jr., Cecil Soil Conservation District was elected President of MASCD in July, 1979. He assumed office at the close of the Annual Meeting, July 20, 1979. Elected with him were Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Lee McFarlane, 2nd Vice-President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer; and Joan Price, Secretary. These officers served for two years to July 1981.

As President of the Association, Mr. Allred was also a voting member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Other members of the Committee in July, 1979 were: Vernon R. Foster, Wilbur F. Ward, Donald Spickler, Richard Wright, Kenneth McElroy, Allie Messer, Frank Bentz and Arnold Hawkins. Mr. Foster served as Chairman of the Committee during the entire period.

In October 1979, Mr. Julian Hill replaced Allie Messer as the SSCC, Agricultural Commission member. In August 1980, Mr. John L. King became the Agricultural Commission member.

In March 1980, Wilbur Ward resigned and W. Mitchell Digges was appointed to take his place. Also, in February 1980, the Committee requested the Secretary to designate someone, other than the Executive Secretary, to represent the Department. He responded by appointing Dr. Robert Altman. Dr. Altman served until he retired from the Department in June 1981. As a result of a Governor's Executive Order, some functions of the Water Resources Administration were transferred to the Health Department, Office of Environmental Programs. Mr. McElroy, the Department of Natural Resources representative, transferred to the Department of Health in September, 1980. Mr. Thomas Andrews became the Department of Natural Resources representative. The Committee requested the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to appoint an advisory member to the Committee. The Secretary responded by appointing Mr. Kenneth McElroy.

Paul Seman served as Assistant Secretary to the State Committee from March 1979 to August 1979. Ben Rigdon assumed this position in December 1979 and served until May 1980. The position remained vacant for the rest of this period. Some part-time assistance was received from Chuck Hancock, SCS, during the Fall of 1979. Toni McGowan served as Office Secretary during most of this period.

Mary Ann Tannachion was hired in 1979 to assist the State Committee and districts in developing long-range plans and other Resource Conservation Act related activities. During the year that she was employed, most of the districts developed programs and a program under the title of "Conservation: A New Beginning" was developed and published for the State Committee. The publication of the State Committee and district programs was made possible through a grant from the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. These RCA Grant Funds were also made available to the districts for appraisals of the status of resources, etc.

The SCS had been operating without area conservationists. In January 1980 two areas were designated and Whitey Secor became the first Area Conservationist for Area I, Paul Edwards became Area Conservationist for Area II.

The Association continued to collect funds from the sale of Stormwater Management Pond Design manuals for the Scholarship Grant Fund. Interest from the Fund was paid out for scholarships or grants.

The Association's Information and Education Committee continued efforts to establish a Maryland Youth Conservation Education Awards Program. Funds for awards were collected and paid out one year

only. It was the consensus of those working with the program that full-time leadership would be necessary for the program to be successful. This was not available and the program was discontinued.

The Merit System legislation passed in 1977 gave districts until June 30, 1977 to apply to have their secretaries and managers to be covered under the State Merit System. Eighteen districts applied. Arrangements were worked out with these districts and twenty-one district employees were on the State payroll on June 30, 1981.

In January 1981, a number of private contractors filed a lawsuit against the five equipment operating soil conservation districts and the Department of Agriculture in the U.S. District Court. The suit involved a claim that soil conservation districts were unfairly competing with private industry. The suit was still pending in July 1981.

Workshops for District Secretaries were held each year. The districts were encouraged by the Association and Committee to send their secretary to these two-day events.

In March, 1981, the Secretary of Agriculture requested the Agricultural Commission to "make an in depth study of the soil conservation districts with a view to strengthening and clarifying the law that governs districts." The Commission reported and made recommendations in July 1981.

Officials of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Study met with State Committee members and supervisors to discuss obtaining assistance with their studies of the area. It was determined that the information they needed could be obtained from SCS records.

In 1980-81 drainage cost share funds were made a part of the SSCC budget. These funds were disbursed through the appropriate soil conservation district to the Public Drainage Associations and Public Watershed Associations that had made application for assistance.

The Catoctin Soil Conservation District was the recipient of the American Motors Conservation Award for 1980 for their work in carrying out Project Clearwater.

Districts continued to take part in the Goodyear Awards program. The Carroll District was first in 1979 and Montgomery was second. The Allegany District was first in 1980 and Kent was second.

Some districts also competed in the NACD-Allis Chalmers Education Awards Program. The Baltimore County District was first in 1979; the Cecil District was first in 1980. The Association continued its program of awarding certificates for Outstanding Leadership, Special Achievement, Outstanding Contributions By A New Supervisor, Outstanding Cooperator, Outstanding Employee, Outstanding Contribution, and Outstanding Associate Supervisor.

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. 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, Vice Chairman of SSCC, served as Chairman. 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. Eventually a proposed program to meet 208 water quality requirements 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.

An important part of this activity was the development of three applications for rural clean water projects. This program was never funded through SCS as originally proposed. Eventually an Experimental RCWP project was funded through ASCS for the Pipe Creek area of the Carroll District. The District took an active part in carrying out this project.

The Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic SSCC's was held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in March 1980. Maryland was the host for the 1981 meeting held in Frederick, Maryland.

In July 1980 an RC&D Project was approved for the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Planning and implementation of projects continued in the Southern Maryland project also.

A movie, "Down on the Farm", was produced through the efforts of SCS in the Cecil SCD.

Legislation was passed in 1980 that would provide for fees to pay for district review of sediment control plans. The legislation required the approval of the county government. It had been used in only one district a year later.

Legislation was also passed in 1980 to include SSCC members under requirements to file financial disclosure statements. This was greatly modified by the 1981 General Assembly. At the time of this writing, regulations had not been published to implement the legislation.

Gerald Calhoun, SCS, State Conservationist for Maryland, also served as the National President of the Soil Conservation Society of America during calendar year 1980.

Supervisor liability has always been a concern of district supervisors. A number of possibilities to gain some protection were investigated. In 1981, two pieces of legislation were introduced. Legislation to provide for assistance to supervisors by the Attorney General did not pass. The second piece of legislation passed in 1981 and was signed into law. It included members and employees of boards of supervisors under the definition of State Personnel in Title 12 of the State Government Article and made them eligible for payments for any settlement or judgment against them.

The Association at the 1980 Annual Meeting, voted to give the president authority to obtain part-time executive secretary assistance. President Allred arranged with Dale Churchey, a former District Conservationist in Maryland, to provide this assistance.

President Allred ended his term as President on July 17, 1981 when he passed the gavel to Lee McFarlane, the incoming President. Assuming office with Mr. McFarlane were Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Loring Sparks, 2nd Vice-President; Wilson Lippy, Treasurer; and Joan Price, Secretary.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

W. LEE MCFARLANE ADMINISTRATION
July 17, 1981 to October 25, 1983

Lee McFarlane, a Supervisor in the Howard SCD, became President of the MASCD at the close of the Annual Meeting in July 1981. Other officers installed with him were Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Loring Sparks, 2nd Vice President; Wilson Lippy, Treasurer and Joan Price, Secretary. These people were all elected to a two-year term; however, Wilson Lippy resigned after one year and Loring Sparks became Treasurer and Robert Stevens became 2nd Vice-President. Following the death of Robert Stevens in the Fall of 1982, Richard Wright became 2nd vice-President. At the regular two-year election in 1983, Lee McFarlane was re-elected to a second two-year term. Also elected were Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Richard Wright, 2nd Vice-President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer and David Bourdon, Secretary.

As President of MASCD, Mr. McFarlane was also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Other members with him were Vernon R. Foster, Chairman; Frank L. Bentz, Jr., University of Maryland, Vice-Chairman; Donald L. Spickler, Area #1; W. Mitchell Digges, Area #2; Richard Wright, Area #3; Thomas Andrews, DNR; Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., MDA; and George Kemp, Chairman, Agricultural Commission. Vernon Foster's term as a member expired in July, 1982. He was not eligible for reappointment. Floyd Allred, Jr., was appointed as the Supervisor member for Area #4 and Donald Spickler was elected Chairman. Mr. Coulter, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources retired in 1983. He was replaced by Dr. Torrey Brown who designated Mr. James Peck to represent DNR replacing Mr. Thomas Andrews on the Committee. In July, 1983 legislation became effective to provide that the chairman of the Agricultural Commission could designate someone other than a commission member as the commission representative to the Committee. Mr. Julian Hill was designated as the SSCC member.

In October 1981, Dale Churchey who had provided administrative assistance to the Association, resigned and President McFarlane assumed more of those duties.

Mr. Gerald Talbert became Assistant Executive Secretary of the State Soil Conservation Committee in September 1981. He left the SSCC position to become Executive Director of the Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation in July 1983.

Other changes in personnel of interest to SCD's during this time period were: Stuart Peterson became Executive Director of ASCS, Dr. Hugh Binks became Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Ernest Shea became Director of the MDA Division of Agricultural Development and Marketing.

Thirteen new district supervisors were appointed during this time period. See the attached list of supervisors as of December 15, 1983. At the January 1982 meeting of the Association, Virginia Wiltbank, Past Supervisor in the Prince George's District, was presented with a Life Membership in the Association.

In October 1981, the MASCD adopted a procedure for area sponsorship of MASCD meetings. Schedules were adopted to provide that the four areas would alternate in sponsoring the Annual and Winter Meetings. Each area will host one Annual Meeting and one Winter Meeting in each four-year period.

In July, 1981 Mr. Gould Charsee, the DHMH representative to the SSCC proposed a study be made of SCD workloads. The study was carried out as a joint MASCD/SSCC project and was published with the financial assistance of DHMH and DNR. Copies were distributed in December 1982.

Legislation to require financial disclosure by SSCC members, which was passed in 1980, was finally implemented in May 1983 but in a very much modified form than was originally proposed.

Prior to July 1982 stormwater management was not provided for on a statewide basis. An Attorney General's ruling provided that districts could require stormwater management as a part of sediment control plan review. Legislation passed in 1982 established a statewide program, which made counties responsible for the program. The program is to be fully implemented in July 1984. The legislation provided that districts could take an active part in the program at the request of the counties.

Other legislation passed in 1982 included authorization for the Attorney General to provide assistance to soil conservation districts and an increase from four to five year terms for district supervisors. Also, in 1982 the Association and districts successfully supported an amendment to a Public Drainage Association bill, which provided for immunity from the suit for officers or directors of PDA's. President Wright was at that time chairman of the SSCC subcommittee on drainage. It was too late in the session to submit this same legislation for the Soil Conservation Districts Law; however, the Association voted to request to be submitted in 1983. The request was made but the proposed legislation was not submitted as an administration bill as requested.

A cost-share program for the control of agricultural sources of water pollution was also authorized by the 1982 legislature. The legislation for this program was developed by the SSCC. Five million dollars was made available to cost-share for up to 87 1/2% of the cost of installing best management practices. State Committee personnel assisted with developing regulations and procedures for the program. The program became operational in July 1983.

Legislation was passed in 1983 that made clear districts, authority to provide contracting services, equipment and supplies to landowners. The legislation also made clear that districts can displace or limit economic completion in the exercise of any power specified in the Soil Conservation Districts, Law. This clarification did not have any immediate effect on the lawsuit against five of the districts by a group of private contractors, which was started in 1981 and continued through 1983.

Work with the Rural Clean Water Program continued in the Carroll District. Special cost-sharing funds were also made available in the Baltimore County District when the District received a Clean Lakes Program grant to carry out cost sharing in the drainage area of the reservoirs that provide water to Baltimore City.

The Resource Conservation Act Program Proposals were released in the Fall of 1981. Both the MASCD and SSCC supported the USDA, Secretary's Preferred Program in general, but not at the expense of diminishing current programs or the current level of SCS assistance. The Preferred Program and targeting of funds to critical areas was implemented without any additional funding which left the securing of special area projects as the only way to maintain current levels of assistance.

The SCS in the fall of 1982 initiated an effort, along with Pennsylvania, to obtain funding for a Mason-Dixon Project. This involved eight counties in Maryland and fourteen in Pennsylvania. Work began in 1983 to develop an application along with Delaware and Virginia for a Wind Erosion Project for the Delmarva Area. Work also began in 1983 to develop a special project for Southern Maryland.

There was a lot of water quality planning activity associated with the Patuxent River Basin. The Patuxent 208 Plan, after several years of planning, was finally completed and approved by EPA in 1983. A Patuxent River Commission was created by the Maryland Legislature in 1982 to develop a plan for the river. Lee McFarlane served as a member of the Commission. The plan is to be completed and circulated for comment in December 1983. The emphasis on cleaning up the Patuxent, the only major river completely within Maryland, resulted in a major amount of the State Cost-share funds being designated for use in that area. Also the SSCC was asked to appoint a Patuxent River Agricultural Task Force with

the objective of getting conservation plans implemented in the Patuxent River Basin. Lee McFarlane was chairman of this task force.

Another activity related to all of these erosion and water quality planning activities was the EPA Chesapeake Bay Study and the publication of the study and recommendations during 1983.

Because of all the water quality planning activity, the implication that agriculture was the source of part of the problem and the need to coordinate agricultural activities, an Agricultural Task Force was formed under the leadership of Secretary Cawley. All agricultural interests were represented on the task force including the SSCC and MASCD. A number of meetings were held to coordinate activities and develop strategy for dealing with agricultural sources of non-point pollution. The main direction of these meetings was to secure resources to fully implement the Statewide Agriculture Water Quality Management Program For the Control of Sediment and Animal Wastes (208) which had been developed by the SSCC and approved by EPA in 1978 but never implemented because of lack of funds. The State Committee appointed a Technical Team for Agricultural Water Quality to revise the plan to include nutrient control. The State Committee also appointed an Information and Education Committee For Agricultural Water Quality to assist in implementing the plan and advance water quality control in general.

Participation in the Goodyear Awards Program continued. The Carroll District was first in 1981, Worcester was second. The Kent District was first in 1982, Howard was second. The MASCD Awards program continued through these years. (See list of award winners). The Maryland Outstanding Conservation Teacher Award for 1983 was given to Robert Chance of the Harford District. He also received the NACD-Allis Chalmers Outstanding Conservation Teacher award for the Northeast Area.

A Soil Conservation District was formed in the District of Columbia in 1982. The MASCD invited the new district to join with the MASCD in statewide meetings and other activities. The NACD has indicated that the new district will be judged along with the Maryland districts in the Goodyear Awards Program.

In January 1983 the National Endowment For Soil and Water Conservation announced they would sponsor a national Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award. The MASCD offered to coordinate the program in Maryland. An application was submitted for Vernon R. Foster to receive this award. In November 1983 he was notified that he was one of the ten finalists.

Prior to July 1983 there had always been a strong resistance to cross compliance between programs even though there was a soil or water conservation relationship. However, at the 1983 Annual Meeting the Association adopted a resolution in support of a requirement that a conservation plan be implemented on a farm before any funds are paid for easements under the Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Program.

Workshops for District Secretaries were held each year. The districts were encouraged by the Association and Committee to send their secretary to the workshops.

The continued decrease in federal funding led to the decision by SCS to decrease the amount of office space provided by SCS for district employees. The current policy was that SCS would provide space for a secretary and one district technician. The SSCC had already been paying for space for State paid technicians assigned to work in the districts.

In January 1983 NACD began operating a Conservation Tillage Information Center. The purpose is to gather and share information that would encourage use of conservation tillage practices. Most of the Maryland districts signed up to participate in the information center.

The Association in January 1983 adopted a change in the by-laws to provide that officers are installed at the quarterly Board of Directors Meeting following their election. The officers that were elected in July 1983 took office October 25, 1983. This report includes information up to that date.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

W. LEE MCFARLANE ADMINISTRATION
Second Term

Lee McFarlane was re-elected president of MASCD at the Annual Meeting, July 1983. Other officers re-elected were: Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Richard Wright, 2nd Vice-President; and Loring Sparks, Treasurer. David Bourdon, District Manager, Prince Georges SCD, was elected Secretary. Their two-year terms of office began with the October 1983 Board of Director's Meeting. At the regular two-year election in 1985, Donald Spickler was elected President; Richard Wright, 1st Vice-President; George Bishoff, Garrett SCD, 2nd Vice-President; David Bourdon, Secretary; Loring Sparks, Treasurer. They took office at the October 1985 Board of Director's Meeting.

As president of MASCD, Mr. McFarlane was also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Other MASCD members with him were: Donald Spickler, SSCC Chairman, W. Mitchell Digges, Richard Wright and Floyd Allred. Agency representatives were: Frank Bentz, Vice-President for Agriculture Affairs, University of Maryland and SSCC ViceChairman; Wayne A. Cawley, MDA, with Ernie Shea as alternate for MDA; James Peck, DNR. No one represented the Agriculture Commission during the first year. Mr. Spickler's 2nd term as Area Representative expired July 1984. He was appointed as the Agriculture Commission representative and was re-elected Chairman. Frank Bentz continued as ViceChairman. Paul Spurrier replaced Mr. Spickler as Area Representative. Legislative action divided the Eastern Shore into Upper Shore and Lower Shore areas for SSCC representation. Richard Wright continued on SSCC as the Lower Shore representative with George Godfrey being appointed as the Upper Shore representative. The same legislative action placed a representative of DHMH on the SSCC with Gould Charshree, OEP, moving from advisory to voting membership. Mr. Digges was reappointed to a second term, July 1985. Officers elected at that time were Richard Wright, Chairman and Floyd Allred, Vice-Chairman.

Mr. McFarlane also represented MASCD on the following: Maryland Rural Affairs Committee (MRAC), Coastal Resources Advisory Committee (CRAC), CRAC Wetlands Soil Committee, CRAC sub-committee on the Critical Areas Commission recommendations, Conservation Education Council (CEC), MDA Critical Areas Commission Agriculture Task Force, Patuxent River Commission and was Chairman of the Patuxent River Agriculture Task Force. He served as council member for Maryland at the NACD and NACD-NE Conference and was on the NACD District Operations and NACD District Outlook Committees. He was also on a joint national NACD-SCS Committee that examined the CO-01 formula. This committee made recommendations for changes, which resulted in a CO-01 formula more favorable to Maryland and most other northeastern states.

Arnold Hawkins, long-time SSCC Executive Secretary, retired December 31, 1983. A reception in his honor was held at the January 1984 conference. He was presented with a MASCD Life Membership in recognition of his efforts on behalf of MASCD. Mr. McFarlane was requested by MDA to serve as Acting Executive Secretary on a temporary basis until a new executive secretary could be appointed. After interviews by a SSCC Search Committee, Ms. Anne Sieling was appointed SSCC Executive Secretary.

Other personnel additions during these two years were: Rosemary Roswell, Soil Conservation Administrator; Catherine Rappe, Soil Conservation Specialist; and Paul Schlindwin, Agriculture Water Management Specialist. Due to increased MDA personnel in SCD's, area coordinators were appointed. These were: Daniel Bard, Western Maryland; James Voss, Central and Southern Maryland; and Mary Ann Skilling, Eastern Shore.

In late 1984, Gerald Calhoun transferred from his State Conservationist position to serve as the SCS liaison with the Chesapeake Bay Program in Annapolis, covering the six state Chesapeake Bay watershed. Pearlie Reed replaced him as State Conservationist.

This could be termed the Chesapeake Bay years with so much MASCD, SSCC, and MDA time devoted to the Chesapeake Bay programs. SSCC, in cooperation with CES and other agencies, held five regional meetings to advise supervisors and other agriculture-related personnel on activities about the Chesapeake Bay Program. A supplementary budget was proposed to the 1984 legislature to upgrade base-level capabilities of all SCD's, provide additional personnel and additional cost-share funds. It was proposed that we have a conservation plan on every Maryland farm within ten years.

FY-85 General Fund appropriations approved by the Maryland legislature showed a tremendous increase over previous budgets for soil conservation efforts. The legislature also authorized 42 new positions with additional funding and positions authorized the following year. In Maryland, \$5 million have been expended on the Agriculture Cost-Share Program (MACS), with another \$7 million allocated. With MASCD and MDA support, the maximum cost per project was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000, with the farm limit remaining at \$25,000.

The Mason-Dixon Targeted Project was approved by SCS, with resulting additional funding and personnel from federal sources. This will help in the agriculture Chesapeake Bay efforts. An extensive education/publicity campaign was undertaken to educate farmers of their responsibilities in the Bay clean-up activities and to inform the public of agriculture's efforts and concerns for the Bay. CES, in cooperation with other agencies, published a series of Bay Fact Sheets and bulletins such as "BMP's for Nutrient Uses" and "Farm Conservation Plans." The logo "Maryland Farmers, Partners with the Bay" was distributed on large buttons, caps, stick-on labels for letters and on small lapel pins. SSCC sponsored a seminar on "The Movement of Agriculture Nitrogen and Phosphorus to the Chesapeake Bay".

An SSCC-appointed Technical Team presented their report in August 1984 on applied methodology for ranking state watersheds on their potential for releasing non-point agricultural phosphorus and nitrogen to the Bay. Thirty watershed segments were ranked for potential release of phosphorus. This was used in targeting of new personnel authorized by the legislature, and for targeting cost-share funds.

The Patuxent River Agriculture Task Force meetings were scheduled on an as-needed basis to keep member SCD's up-to-date on Patuxent River Commission activities, on how to increase participation in the MACS program and on monitoring programs to obtain better base data on agriculture runoff.

An MASCD Goals Committee was appointed to propose goals for our Association over the next few years. One goal accepted was to plan some type of part-time paid help for the Association. Initial action to accomplish this was passage of an increase of annual dues from \$50 to \$500 per district, effective July 1, 1985. A committee is investigating various job descriptions and was to report to the October 1985 Board of Director's Meeting. A more complete report is to be made at the January 1986 conference.

The 50th Anniversary of the soil conservation movement was in 1985. This was celebrated by various districts at banquets, picnics, tours, etc., and was recognized by MASCD at the summer conference banquet. An outline of the "History of the Soil and Water Conservation in Maryland", from the early 1930's to the present was prepared. It will be the basis of a written history. MASCD also sponsored distribution of Golden Jubilee Black-Eyed Susan seed packets in celebration of the 50th anniversary. MASCD invited our Maryland senators and individual SCD's invited their congressman or congresswoman to attend the National 50th Anniversary Banquet. Maryland was well represented at this celebration.

Since NACD is no longer sponsoring a national congressional breakfast, MASCD decided to sponsor a congressional breakfast for the Maryland delegation. Nine of the ten congressional delegates were represented at the breakfast where the accomplishments and future needs of the soil conservation movement were explained. MASCD has had excellent support from our congressional delegation for our position on various conservation issues. In two cases, the entire Maryland delegation signed a joint letter supporting the MASCD position.

MASCD assumed sponsorship of the annual Secretary's Workshop formerly sponsored by SCS. In the two years of sponsorship, registration fees have covered all expenses to MASCD.

Mr. McFarlane ended his second two-year term as President at the beginning of the October, 1985 Board of Director's Meeting, passing the gavel and a President's Handbook to incoming President, Donald Spickler.

By: W. Lee McFarlane

DONALD L. SPICKLER ADMINISTRATION
October 1985 to July 1987

In an effort to provide "on the job" training and time for a new president to get his administration organized, the MASCD By-Laws required that new officers elected at the Annual Meeting would not take office until the Board of Directors meeting in October. The new officers elected at the 1985 Annual Meeting were the first to be affected by the procedural changes.

Assuming office at the October meeting were; Donald Spickler, Washington County SCD, President; Richard Wright, Wicomico SCD, First Vice-President; George Godfrey, Garrett SCD, Second Vice-President; Loring "Bud" Sparks, Baltimore County SCD, Treasurer and David Bourdon, District Manager, Prince Georges SCD, Secretary. The current committee chairmen were reappointed.

Noting the importance of a strong association to act in concert with the strong program being developed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture under the Chesapeake Bay Initiatives, President Spickler proposed several changes to the By-Laws and Operating Procedures and appointed Paul Spurrier chairman of a committee to review and recommend changes to these documents.

"A proven past - ready for tomorrow" was adopted as the theme of the Association for the next two years.

The State Soil Conservation Committee was reorganized with Richard Wright remaining Chairman, and Floyd Allred, Vice-Chairman. Simpson Dunahoo, of Wicomico SCD was appointed as Ag Commission representative. Other members of the SSCC remained the same, except that Mr. Spickler replaced Mr. McFarlane as MASCD representative. Mr. McFarlane continued to represent MASCD on the various other committees as he had in the past.

Concern for the Bay continued to be the driving force that provided more support for soil conservation and water quality programs of soil conservation districts. The Environmental Protection Agency provided one million dollars for use in cost-share programs in the priority watersheds. MDA requested 19 new positions for assignment to Districts for the Bay Program, five for the urban programs and nine for the critical area programs, as well as an additional ten million dollars for the state cost-share program. Twenty-two of the thirty-three positions requested were funded, and the ten million was included in the State bond issue.

An Agricultural Water Use Task Force was established by Secretary Cawley to study the water use needs of agriculture and recommend legislation to protect agriculture's interest in water allocations by the Department of Natural Resources. George Godfrey represented the Districts on the task force.

In the fall of 1985, Montgomery SCD announced that they would support local legislation in the 1986 Maryland General Assembly that would permit the Montgomery District to transfer sediment control review responsibilities to Montgomery County.

Mike Permenter of the Soil Conservation Service was assigned to MDA to help track progress being made by the districts as they increased their activities to meet the goals established under the Bay Initiatives.

Dr. Frank Bentz, after a productive and distinguished career with the University of Maryland, announced his retirement. He attended his last meeting as an official voting member of the SSCC in December. Dr. Raymond Miller, representing the University, replaced Dr. Bentz, and assumed his official responsibilities on the SSCC on January 1, 1986.

The winter 1986 Meeting of MASCD was held at the Ramada Inn in Hagerstown with the Western Area as host. Districts voted to assess themselves fifty dollars each to support the MASCD Conservation Teacher of the Year Award, administered by the Information and Education Committee chaired by Joe Scott of Washington County SCD. Other committee chairmen were Y.D. Hance, Calvert SCD, District Operations; George Bishoff, Garrett SCD, Plant, Wildlife and Recreation; Dan Poole, Catoctin SCD, Soil Resources and Carl L. Stephen, Harford SCD, Water Resources. The MASCD supported a state tax credit on no-till machinery and Walnut Point Farm or similar aquaculture operations. Also simplification of the Maryland Cost-Share application and approval procedures. No action was taken on the Montgomery District sediment control legislation. MASCD decided to keep the name of the Association the same and suspend efforts to change to The Maryland Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Tom Minnich, District Manager, Washington County SCD was the convention coordinator.

MASCD voted to give a cash contribution to the emergency hay fund for farmers in flood ravaged West Virginia. This action was found to violate the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, and could not be carried out.

The Annual Convention of The National Association of Conservation Districts was held in Nashville, Tennessee. MASCD had twenty-eight attend the meeting. Craig Hartsock, District Manager, Allegany District spoke to the RAMP committee and Pearlle Reed, State Conservationist; Anne Sieling, Executive Secretary of SSCC; and Don Spickler addressed the Water Resources Committee. Richard Wright represented Maryland at the organizational meeting of the drainage states in the nation. This group aspires to be a special subunit of NACD to focus attention on national drainage issues.

The SSCC took action on the Montgomery County legislative initiative and voted to oppose House Bill 1661 saying the intent of the bill would be detrimental to all soil conservation districts in Maryland.

MASCD's Board of Directors met at the SCS Office in College Park in March 1986. District Supervisors met the SCS Staff and heard a brief review of all the SCS activities in Maryland. President Spickler proposed one Annual Meeting of the Association with each committee meeting during the year in addition to the Annual meeting to consider issues of special interest in depth. Mitchell Digges presented the Maryland flag that has been used at numerous national conventions, to MASCD to be used at future national conventions. District Supervisor liability was discussed and a District Manager's meeting was scheduled for the Annual Meeting of MASCD. The Association voted to nominate Donald Spickler for NACD Director to represent the Northeast Region.

W. Mitchell Digges celebrated the 45th anniversary of his appointment as a District Supervisor in Charles SCD on April 17, 1986 at the SSCC meeting. Mitch received a citation from Governor Hughes and a 45-year pin from MASCD. Mitch has provided leadership to the soil conservation movement in Maryland with many years of service as a member and Chairman of the State Committee. Secretary Cawley praised Mitch for his outstanding contributions to the Districts of Maryland.

Ernie Shea left the Maryland Department of Agriculture in May 1986 to become the Executive Vice-President of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Rosemary Roswell replaced Ernie as Secretary Cawley's representative on the SSCC.

Despite a strong effort on the part of MDA and the SSCC to defeat HB1661 it was passed by the General Assembly. Without MASCD support, Secretary Cawley was reluctant to recommend a veto to Governor Hughes, and the bill became law.

On May 3, 1986, the Soil Conservation Service and the City of Baltimore signed an agreement for SCS to conduct a soil survey of the City. Impressive signing ceremonies were held in Mayor Schaefer's office. Pearlie Reed signed for SCS, Secretary Cawley represented MDA, Richard Wright represented the SSCC and Don Spickler represented MASCD.

Maryland SSCC hosted the 1986 meeting of the MidAtlantic Association of State Committees in Baltimore and the MASCD hosted the Congressional Breakfast in the Capitol with all Maryland Congressmen and Senators represented by key staff personnel.

Concern that agricultural practices may adversely affect groundwater supplies prompted the SSCC to reactivate the Technical Team, that had done such outstanding work in identifying surface water problems, and charged them to study groundwater problems. The Team was chaired by Dr. Allen Taylor.

The 1986 Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Fenwick Inn in Ocean City in July. Ernie Shea returned, representing NACD, and Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein visited informally at the Awards Banquet. The convention was hosted by the Lower Shore with Edward Holloway, Wicomico SCD, convention chairman and Allan Hatton, District Manager, Wicomico SCD, convention coordinator. A major action was the revision of the bylaws to provide that the Board of Directors shall be the policy making body of the Association.

Maryland was host for the Northeast Regional Meeting of NACD at the Ramada Inn in Hagerstown in August. Donald Spickler was elected NACD Director representing the Northeast Region on the NACD Board. President Spickler announced that he would not seek a second term as President of MASCD.

All District offices were to be supplied computers by SCS and the SCS Area Offices were discontinued. Kathy Gugulis, SCS Public Affairs Specialist, moved to the SCS Headquarters office in Washington, D.C.

After many months of negotiations and compromises the SSCC adopted the 208 enforcement procedures that would be used to help administer the water quality program as it related to agricultural practices in Maryland. The SSCC also recommended flat rates for the Agricultural Cost-Share Program. New Supervisors Handbooks were published and distributed to all SCD Supervisors.

The MASCD Board met at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis in October 1986. The search for a part-time executive was accelerated. Applications were received from many interested persons and candidates were selected for interview by the Executive Committee. Changes were made in the operating procedures.

Fred Bull, first Executive Secretary of the SSCC, from 1950-1964 died in November of 1986.

William Donald Schaefer was elected Governor of Maryland in November 1986. Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., remained as Secretary of Agriculture. Robert Walker was appointed as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Dr. Charles Puffinberger was appointed Assistant Secretary of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation. The SSCC was placed in Dr. Puffinberger's division.

The winter Meeting of MASCD was held in Gaithersburg, in January 1987 with the Central Area as host. George Lechluder, Montgomery SCD, served as convention chairman, and Marshall Rea, District Manager, Montgomery SCD served as convention coordinator. A slide presentation was prepared by the Central Area Districts showing the highlights of their area and their accomplishments in the conservation of natural resources. A candidate was selected for the executive secretary position and was interviewed at the Winter Meeting. Tentative agreement was reached concerning employment. Several issues could not be resolved during the first few months of 1987 and the tentative employment agreement was not finalized.

Helen Barnes became Public Affairs Specialist for SCS.

MASCD sponsored a Congressional luncheon in March of 1987.

Anne Sieling resigned as Executive Secretary of the SSCC to become Public Affairs Specialist with MDA. Louise Lawrence was selected as Executive Secretary of the SSCC.

MASCD Board of Directors met at MDA in March 1987. Due to the confusion during the transition period of the previous administration, the By-Laws had been changed to permit the newly elected officers to assume their duties at the close of the meeting at which they were elected.

The 1987 Annual Meeting of MASCD was held at the Sheraton in Ocean City in July. The Southern Maryland Area was host and W. Mitchell Digges, Charles SCD, was convention chairman. Alan Cruikshank, District Manager, Charles SCD, was convention coordinator. Officers elected were: Richard Wright, Wicomico SCD, President; John Nicolai, Howard SCD, First Vice-President; George Bishoff, Garrett SCD, Second Vice-President; Loring "Bud" Sparks, Baltimore SCD, Treasurer; and Allan Hatton, District Manager, Wicomico SCD, Secretary. SCS Chief Wilson Scaling was special guest of the Association. Changes to the Operating Procedures were accepted. J.G. Warfield, Jr., Supervisor in Howard SCD, was selected as the first Executive Secretary of The Maryland Association. The gavel was passed to Richard Wright at the close of the meeting.

During this period the MASCD Auxiliary was very active in their support of the Association. Their work with the hospitality room at the Northeast Meeting in Hagerstown was outstanding and much appreciated by our friends throughout the Northeast. Olga Walter, Charles District, served as President. Mary Poole, Catocin District, succeeded Olga and assumed her new duties at the close of the Annual Meeting in 1987.

Anne Sutton, Kent District and former President of the Auxiliary, received the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award for the Northeast Region of NACD. Mary Poole also received the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award for the Northeast Region of NACD.

By Donald L. Spickler

RICHARD W. WRIGHT ADMINISTRATION
July, 1987 to July, 1989

The following is a record of soil and water conservation related actions and events associated with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the soil conservation district program in Maryland during the presidency of Richard Wright.

Mr. Wright was elected president during the July 1987 Annual Meeting of the Association. Other officers elected at the same time were John Nicolai, First Vice-President; George Bishoff, Second Vice-President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer; and Alan Hatton, Secretary. All of these officers served until the July 1989 Annual Meeting.

As President of the Association, Mr. Wright also served as a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Mr. Floyd Allred served as Chairman of the Committee during this period and represented the Central Area (#4). Mr. Paul Spurrier represented the Western Area (#1), Mr. W. Mitchell Digges represented the Southern Area (#2), Mr. Robert Davis represented the Lower Shore Area (#5), and Mr. George Godfrey represented the Upper Shore Area (#3).

The first meeting over which Mr. Wright presided was a special meeting of the Board of Directors called to discuss office space for the Association. A proposal to use space in the Howard SCD was accepted. This was the first office ever opened by the Association. Previous to this, contact with and mail for the Association was through the State Soil Conservation Committee Office.

Mr. J.G. Warfield was the first person to use the new office space. Arrangements had been made during the July 1987 Annual meeting to hire Mr. Warfield as a part-time executive secretary. This was only the second time the Association had arranged to pay anyone to assist with the work of the Association. The Association, at the 1980 Annual Meeting, authorized President Allred to hire a part-time executive secretary. Mr. Dale Churchey was hired but he resigned in October 1981. No one else was hired until Mr. Warfield was hired.

Mr. Warfield resigned as of May 1, 1989 to accept full time employment with the Soil Conservation Service. Mrs. Lynne Hoot was hired as a replacement. She was also on a part-time basis. At the July 1989 meeting, the title of the position was changed to Executive Director.

In August 1988, the SCS State Office was moved to the Annapolis area. Shortly thereafter, the State Conservationist, Mr. Pearlie Reed, offered to provide the MASCD an office in the new SCS office space. An agreement was reached for part-time secretarial assistance and the MASCD office was moved to 339 Revell Highway, Annapolis, MD. in May, 1989.

State Conservationist Reed announced in July 1989, that he was being transferred to California.

The 1987 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Southern Area in Ocean City.
The 1988 Winter Meeting was hosted by the Upper Shore Area in Baltimore.
The 1988 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Western Area in Ocean City.
The 1989 Winter Meeting was hosted by the Lower Shore Area in Baltimore.
The 1989 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Central Area in Ocean City.

Participation in the Goodyear Awards Program was continued. The deadline for submitting entries was changed to the end of January. Anne Arundel and Catoctin were the winning districts for 1987 and the Calvert and Carroll Districts won for 1988.

Entries were made each year in the NACD Environmental Conservation Education Awards Program (Teacher of the Year Program). The MASCD Teacher Awards Program was changed in 1987 to provide cash awards by requesting each district to contribute \$50.00 each year for the awards. Cash awards were also paid in 1986 using Grant funds.

Prior to 1987, supervisor service pins were given by the SSCC for each five years of service. At the July 1987 meeting, the Directors voted to fund this program on a continuing basis.

The Directors had voted previously to sponsor the Annual Secretaries Workshop. Procedures adopted at the 1987 Annual Meeting were implemented to have the secretaries of each of the five geographic areas take turns in hosting the workshops. Workshops were held in September 1988 and September 1989.

At the January 1988 meeting, a system of rating districts, based on supervisor attendance at meetings was proposed and later adopted. A plaque was purchased to be held by the winning district until the next winner is chosen. The Wicomico SCD was the first district to receive the award, in July 1989 for attendance during the 1988 calendar year.

Also, at the January 1988 meeting, action was taken which led to the formation of an Urban Committee. Eventually, the bylaws were amended to provide for six standing committees rather than five as in the past.

At Mr. Wright's request, a number of past presidents of MASCD met during the 1988 Winter Meeting to discuss an organization of soil conservation leaders. The discussion led to the formation of the Maryland Soil Conservation Leaders Association. In 1989, the MASCD By-Laws was amended to provide that the Leaders Association would be affiliated with the MASCD as an advisory group. Additional information on the Association can be found in Section 4-00.

Three new Life Members were approved at the January 1989 Meeting. They were Calvert Norfolk, past supervisor in the Calvert SCD; Dr. Gordon M. Cairns, who had represented the University of Maryland and served as chairman of the SSCC for 20 years; and Dr. Frank L. Bentz, who had represented the University of Maryland and served as Vice-Chairman of the SSCC for 15 years. Doctors Cairns and Bentz were also taken in as members by the Soil Conservation Leaders Association.

Grant Program guidelines were changed July 1987 to provide one year in which to complete projects. This was found to be too short a time and the time was later changed to eighteen months. Also, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Conservation Education Council to provide for their grants to be paid through the MASCD rather than have each organization pay one half of the total grant.

Early in 1989, Mr. Lynn Sprague was hired to replace Malcolm Crooks as the NACD Northeast Area Representative and Donald Spickler was reelected for a second term as a northeast area director of NACD.

The assembling and publishing of the histories of soil conservation in Maryland was approved and the Soil Conservation Leaders Association was asked to be responsible for this. The Auxiliary paid for the purchase of copies for each current supervisor plus some additional copies, which they made available at \$1.00 per copy. The histories, titled "Maryland Soil Conservation History," were received after the end of this administration, in January 1990. A copy was sent to the NACD Archives in League City, Texas.

Pond manuals were reprinted; however receipts from the manuals were deposited in the general fund rather than in the Education Fund as originally arranged.

Other actions included continued sponsorship of FFA Land Judging, paying for membership in the Citizens Program For the Chesapeake Bay, bonding of the Treasurer for the first time, approving a resolution to develop, promote and support a contest system to assure a team from Maryland will compete yearly in the National Envirothon and approving a resolution to make the Awards Committee a permanent committee. The permanent Awards Committee was created at the October 1989 Directors Meeting.

As president of the MASCD, Mr. Wright was also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Many of the discussions and actions by the Committee, although not necessarily associated with MASCD actions, were associated with soil conservation and water quality programs and were of direct concern to the districts. Some of them are recorded here.

One of the programs that was of major concern to the districts was the Cooperative Soil Survey. The program was initially associated with areas where soil conservation districts were located. The survey was completed for all SCDs in Maryland in 1970 and a last acre ceremony was held in St. Mary's City. Maryland was the third state in the nation to have what was then considered a completed soil survey. In 1986, the Soil Conservation Service arranged with Baltimore City to carry out a soil survey for Baltimore City, the only area in Maryland not covered by a SCD. The survey was completed in 1988 and another "Last Acre Ceremony" was held in Baltimore City on October 19, 1988.

During the fall and winter of 1987 and 1988, there was a good bit of activity concerning soil conservation district review of sediment control plans. The Suburban Homebuilders Association in Prince George's County started a movement to try to get sediment control plan review transferred to the County. In Baltimore County, the Department of Environmental Protection had legislation prepared and introduced in the Maryland Legislature that would have accomplished the same thing. The Association and districts went on record in opposition to any change of this nature and eventually the legislation was withdrawn.

It had been a number of years since any supervisor training had been carried out other than that accomplished through MASCD meetings. During the fall of 1987, supervisor workshops were conducted on a regional basis.

The use of poultry waste structures constructed with cost-share funds was the subject of discussion at a number of SSCC meetings. Eventually, Secretary Cawley gave notice that these structures could be used for storage of animal wastes only.

To address the need for a definition of a farm, to use for planning and reporting purposes, the SSCC in May, 1989, appointed a committee to make recommendations. The definition that was eventually approved by the SSCC was based on an "Ag Unit" which was defined as; (1) 10 or more acres of cropland, pastureland, hayland or a combination of these, or (2) 5 or more animal units, or (3) tobacco raised and sold.

The application of sewage sludge to agricultural land was a concern to many of the districts. Legislation was passed in 1988 to require that soil conservation districts as well as the local Health Department, be notified whenever a permit is issued to spread sludge in the district. The Association adopted a resolution, which provided that the Association would maintain a record of all permits issued statewide. A program was set up in the Howard District to track this information.

Water appropriations legislation passed in 1988, which provides that agricultural users that use an annual average of 10,000 or more gallons per day, are required to obtain a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. It grandfathered uses in existence prior to July 1, 1988 by making issuance of permits to these users automatic. Also, public notice and hearing requirements were waived for agriculture users until July 1, 1993. This had been a controversial subject of discussion for a number of years.

Supervisor liability has always been a concern of district supervisors. A review of past action showed a number of possibilities to gain some protection had been investigated and actions taken leading up to immunity from suit in 1988. In 1981, two pieces of legislation were introduced. Legislation to provide for assistance to supervisors by the Attorney General did not pass. The second piece of legislation passed in 1981 and was signed into law. It included members and employees of board of supervisors under the definition of State Personnel in Title 12 of the State Government Article and made them eligible for payments for any settlement or judgment against them. The legislation, to provide for assistance by the Attorney General, was introduced again in 1982 and passed. Also, in 1982, the Association and districts successfully supported an amendment to a Public Drainage Association bill, which provided for immunity from suit for officers or directors of PDA's. President Wright was, at that time, Chairman of the SSCC subcommittee on drainage. It was too late in the session to submit this same legislation for the Soil Conservation Districts Law; however, the Association voted to request it be submitted in 1983. The request was made but the proposed legislation was not submitted as an administration bill as requested.

It remained for the 1988 session of the Legislature for the most significant liability legislation to be passed. A subsection on liability was added to the SCD Law and also referenced in the tort claims section of the State Government Article to provide that a member or employee of a board of supervisors of a SCD is immune from suit in courts of the State and from liability in tort for a tortious act or omission. The new legislation did not make the districts themselves immune from suit but it makes reference to Title 12 of the State Government Article as the source for the payment of claims.

A State Conservation Reserve Program was authorized by the 1988 Legislature. It authorized a \$20.00 per acre payment for farmland located in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area or meeting federal requirements for a vegetative filter strip provided it is also enrolled in the Federal Conservation Reserve Program. In 1989, legislation allowed additional funding from the Department of Natural Resources to add a one time \$100.00 per acre for planting trees on eligible land.

During this period, the State Soil Conservation Committee identified a need to address agricultural non-point source pollution caused by nitrogen inputs. A nutrient management program was developed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service. The legislature approved funding to the MDA in 1988 to initiate the program. The program supports Extension Service farm consultants who work with the Agricultural Community and individual farmers to provide information and recommendations about management of nutrients from sources such as animal wastes, commercial fertilizers, sludge, etc.

Also during this period, the SSCC initiated the development of a stream protection BMP and

pond sediment control criteria for the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program, the development of a Manure Management Handbook for SCD's and landowners reference and the development of a memorandum of understanding with the Critical Area Commission to conduct soil conservation and water quality planning activities in the area within 1000 feet of tidal waters and wetlands.

Mr. Wright's term ended with the close of the Annual Meeting, July 1989. Mr. Wright passed the gavel to the incoming President, Mr. Royden Powell of the Queen Anne's Soil Conservation District.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

ROYDEN POWELL ADMINISTRATION
July 1989 – April 1992

The following is a summary of Soil and Water Conservation related activities associated with the MASCD and soil conservation districts during the presidency of Royden Powell.

Mr. Powell was elected president during the Annual Meeting, July 14, 1989. Elected with him were; George Lechluder, 1st Vice President; George Bishoff, 2nd Vice President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer and Jeffrey Opel, Secretary.

At the July 1989 meeting Mr. Perlie Reed, State Conservationist announced that he was being transferred to California. In October 1989 it was announced that Mr. Philip Christensen would replace Mr. Reed. He served until February 1991 when Mr. Robert Klumpe became State Conservationist.

The title of the position Executive Secretary of MASCD was changed to Executive Director to better reflect the activities of the position. Arrangements were made with the SCS to provide for office space for the Association in the state office on Busch's Frontage Road in Annapolis.

All of the awards made during previous administrations were continued during Mr. Powell's administration. Recipients of the awards are as listed in the Association Manual. One new Service Award, Employee Special Achievement Award was added in March 1992 as a regular MASCD Award and the first presentation was at the 1992 Annual Meeting. Mr. W. Mitchell Digges became the first supervisor to have served 50 continuous years and was awarded a 50 year service pin and made a Life Member of MASCD.

As in the past, two statewide meetings were held as follows:

1989 Annual Meeting hosted by the Central Area in Ocean City
1990 Winter Meeting hosted by the Southern Area in Annapolis
1990 Annual Meeting hosted by the Upper Shore Area in Deep Creek
1991 Winter Meeting hosted by the Western Shore Area in Hagerstown
1991 Annual Meeting hosted by the Lower Shore Area in Ocean City
1992 Winter Meeting hosted by the Central Area in Towson

At the 1992 Winter Meeting action was taken to hold the next Winter Meeting two weeks later to correspond to the legislative session. Meeting policies were also changed in 1990 to include the auxiliary, SCS and Extension service in planning for statewide meetings. Action was taken to exempt Life Members from paying the registration fee.

The Grants Program guidelines were revised to clarify requirements and procedures and an evaluation form was added. Five grants were approved in March 1992. After this interest shifted to the Envirothon and in the next administration Grant funds were used for the Envirothon.

A National Envirothon was started in 1988. Allegany was the first Maryland SCD to compete in the national program in 1990. Maryland held its first State Envirothon in the Garrett District in 1991. Five districts competed. Dorchester SCD's team placed first.

A memorial fund was established during the 1990 winter meeting. Voluntary contributions were collected as needed to make contributions in the name of deceased supervisors or their spouses to chosen charities. The auxiliary administers the fund.

The Association develops and adopts policy during most of the statewide meetings. The policy was never assembled for quick reference to avoid duplication or determine already adopted policy to be followed. This was accomplished in 1991 when Lynne Hoot assembled the MASCD Policy Book.

Donald Spickler served on the Governors 20/20 Growth Commission Panel as the Agriculture representative. Without any direction from the agriculture community his agenda was to protect land equity, private property rights and the ability to farm. The panel completed its study in the fall of 1990 and the Governor submitted a plan to the legislature but it was held for summer study.

In 1990, NACD and SCS offered 10 grants of \$100,000 each to be used by states to do pilot projects on Leadership Development. A team of individuals, lead by Royden Powell put together an extensive program for MASCD to win one of the grants. Although Maryland was unsuccessful in winning the grant, Royden worked with federal and state agencies to generate funding to carry our part of the program. This included a two-day Leadership Development Seminar as part of the 1991 Annual Meeting. Bader and Carr of Community Systems, who had done several similar programs for NACD presented the Seminar.

To fund an additional part of the leadership Development Proposal, the Association applied and received a \$14,978 grant from the N. E. Regional Center for Rural Development to be used to continue and expand the district supervisors leadership program. In the Summer of 1992 Phil Favaro and Merl Miller from the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service assisted in putting on a follow up Seminar to expand the leadership development of supervisors. At the Winter meeting in 1993 the grant funds were used to put on a Legislative Seminar to inform supervisors on how to work with their elected officials. Finally, in May 1993, MASCD used the remaining grant funds to support a Grantwriting Seminar by Community Systems. The grant paid for a portion of the \$500 fee for District Managers to attend.

The Northeast NACD Area meeting was held in Salisbury, MD in 1991. The meeting was co-sponsored with Delaware. The event was held at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury and included the Northeast Agricultural and Environmental Expo. A total of 58 companies and agencies exhibited at the Expo.

An Employees Association was discussed on several occasions. A presentation on formation of a Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees was part of the January 1990 meeting. It was not until several years later that the Association voted to approve formation of an Employees Association. The Association continued to support the Secretaries Workshop and workshops were held each year.

The Auxiliary continued to meet during each of the statewide meetings. The Auxiliary was responsible for state level competition in the Poster Contest, Coloring Contest and Speak-Off Contest. A Maryland Poster won National competition in 1991.

A Conservation Visitor Center was proposed for construction at Beltsville ARS and a temporary center was opened, but plans were dropped due to lack of funding.

The president of MASCD is by law a member of the SSCC. Many of the discussions and actions by the Committee are of direct concern to the soil conservation districts and are recorded here. Other supervisors who served on the committee are as listed in the table of "Supervisor Members of the State Soil Conservation Committee" located in Section One of the MASCD Association Manual.

By Arnold Hawkins

GEORGE LECHLIDER ADMINISTRATION
May 1, 1992 – July 17, 1997

Mr. Lechliden started his terms as President of MASCD on May 1, 1992 following the resignation of Royden Powell, who resigned to accept full time employment with the MDA in a position associated with relations between the Department and Districts. He completed Mr. Powell's term of office and was twice elected to a two year term. His presidency ended on July 17, 1997 when Martha Clark was elected President. George Bishoff, Paul Spurrier, Martha Clark and J. Parker Smith served as Vice Presidents during his Presidency. Loring Sparks and Donald Spickler served as Treasurers. Marshall Rea served as Secretary.

Loring Sparks who had served as Treasurer for eighteen years declined nomination for another term in 1995 and Donald Spickler was elected. Mr. Sparks was presented a clock for his many years of service.

Mr. Robert Klumpe was State Conservationist when Mr. Lechliden became President. Mr. Klumpe was replaced by Dr. Jeri Berc in 1995 and David Doss became State Conservationist in 1997.

Debra Bogar became the Northeast Area NACD representative in 1992. Donald Spickler completed his term of service as NACD NE Area Director in 1993.

Two statewide meetings were held each year as follows:

1992 Annual Meeting hosted by the Southern Area in Solomon's
1993 Winter Meeting hosted by the Upper Shore Area in Annapolis
1993 Annual Meeting hosted by the Western Area in Deep Creek
1994 Winter Meeting hosted by the Lower Shore Area in Annapolis
1994 Annual Meeting hosted by the Central Area in Gaithersburg
1995 Winter Meeting hosted by the Southern Area in Annapolis
1995 Annual Meeting hosted by the Upper Shore Area in Ocean City
1996 Winter Meeting hosted by the Western Area in Annapolis
1996 Annual Meeting hosted by the Lower Shore Area in Solomon's
1997 Winter Meeting hosted by the Central Area in Annapolis
1997 Annual Meeting hosted by the Southern Area in Solomon's

A policy of holding all winter meetings in the Annapolis area was initiated. Action had already been taken at the 1992 Winter Meeting to hold the 1993 Winter Meeting two weeks later to correspond to the start of the legislative session. Arrangements were made each year to meet with the legislators. A legislative linkage program was initiated to assign supervisors to each of the 188 state legislators. Each supervisor had at least one legislator assigned to him or her and most had two. This enabled the districts to develop relationships with legislators in Baltimore City and reduce the burden on those urban districts with a large number of legislators. To encourage agency participation, which had decreased due to budget constraints, a one-day registration fee for agency personnel was adopted. Also due to budget constraints and the higher costs of meeting in Ocean City the Association voted in 1995 to hold future meetings elsewhere. In 1996, as a further way to cut costs the banquet was eliminated and an awards luncheon was held instead and the meeting shortened by one night. The 1997 Annual meeting was held in conjunction with the Agricultural Education Foundation.

As mentioned above the winter meetings were held in the Annapolis area to make it more convenient to meet with the State legislators. To get better coverage of legislators and to better distribute the workload, a linkage program was developed where in each supervisor was assigned legislators to contact. A Legislative Outreach Committee was appointed at the January '94 meeting to plan and direct the legislative outreach program.

The Envirothon was a major area of interest during this administration. The Association had for a number of years had a policy which recommended the "development, promotion and support of a contest system to ensure that a team from Maryland will compete yearly in the National Envirothon". In 1992 the MASCD voted to use the interest from the Associations Grant Endowment Fund for the Envirothon for one year. Prior to this the interest had been used for grants for conservation related projects. In 1995 the MASCD voted to handle the financial records for the Envirothon and to make the associations tax exempt status (501 (c) 3) available for grant requests for the Envirothon. Also in 1995 a committee was appointed to develop estimates of funding needs for the Envirothon. Their recommendation was that \$15,000 was needed for a team from Maryland to compete in the National contest. In 1996 a grant was received from EPA to develop a pilot program to put the Envirothon in the Middle Schools. Arrangements were made for a teacher from Baltimore County to develop the program. Also in 1996 a MOU was signed with the MDE where in the MDE contributed \$1,000 for the Envirothon. Kathlene Diehl of the SCS provided a very active leadership role in getting the State Envirothon started. Participation increased from 5 districts in 1991 to 22 districts and Baltimore City in 1996. Maryland placed 2nd in the National Contest in 1995 and again in 1997.

Prior to 1991 the Association did not have an organized means of keeping tract of its resolutions and policies. The MASCD Policy Book was assembled in 1991, but there was no formal means of keeping it up to date. A Resolutions Committee was established in 1993 and given responsibility to keep the Policy Book up to date; recommend additions, corrections or deletions, as well as place in final form all new resolutions. Specific information can be found in section 2-17. The Resolution Committee guidelines were changed several times during this presidency. Resolutions adopted during this period are as listed in the Policy Book by date of adoption.

The Long Term Strategic Planning Committee, which had been established during a previous administration, recommended adoption of mission and vision statements. This was accomplished in 1993. The statements appear in the front of the Association Manual page 1-00. The Committee also made recommendations and pursued obtaining an EPA Grant to establish an Education Coordinator position.

A committee was appointed in 1993 to study the structure of the Committees used for the two statewide meetings. There were six resource committees that met each time. The Study Committee recommended that the six resource committees be clustered under two categories, Administrative and Technical, for development and coordination of meeting agendas. This was used for two meetings and then in July 1994 a procedure was approved to use the two committee structure for the Annual Meeting (Summer) and to use a multiple Committee structure for the Winter meeting. Multiple was later defined as five committees as follows: Natural Resource Conservation; District Operations; Environmental Policy; Urban, Community and Coastal Resources; and Information and Education.

Service Awards were presented the same as in previous administrations. Recipients are as listed in the Association Manual. Also listed are recipients of the Goodyear Awards and District Attendance Award.

Mr. Lechlinder worked with Secretary Riley to obtain Governor's Citations for three individuals who were especially helpful to him in his administration. Louise Lawrence was awarded a

citation for her unfailing dedication to agricultural policy development in Maryland through continued coordination with other state, federal, and local agencies and citizens of Maryland. Louise's work with the State Soil Conservation Committee, the Critical Area Commission, the State Water Quality Advisory Board and MDA's Office of Resource Conservation was instrumental in developing sound, implementable policies for environmental stewardship and a healthy agriculture industry in Maryland. Lynne C. Hoot was awarded a citation for her "outstanding contributions to agriculture through her organizational support of agricultural commodities, agribusiness and soil and water conservation". In addition to the support she provides to MASCD, Lynne served in carrying out the missions of the Maryland Grain Producers Association, Maryland Pork Producers Association, and the Maryland Delaware Agribusiness Association. Arnold C. Hawkins was awarded a citation for his "continued support of soil and water conservation programs in Maryland through service to Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and individual soil conservation districts." In addition to serving as former Executive Secretary to the State Soil Conservation Committee, Arnold provided a variety of support roles to MASCD and to individual SCDs including Anne Arundel SCD and Baltimore County SCD.

An association for District employees was the subject of discussion on several occasions. Employee associations had been formed in some of the other states and there had been meetings of the Northeast area district employees. Mr. Jeff Opel attended these meetings and presented information on the proposed Conservation District Employees Association to the MASCD. A committee to investigate an employees association in Maryland was appointed in January 1996. A report was presented in July and a motion to pursue formation of an employees association was approved. At the close of this administration Mr. Opel was surveying the districts to determine interest in an association.

A new quota system was adopted by NACD, which if followed by the Maryland Districts would require much larger contributions to NACD, which the districts were not in a position to pay.

A proposal to combine the Department of Agriculture and National Resources was successfully opposed.

C. Edward Holloway received Life Membership in 1993.

The MASCD Auxiliary, since 1986, has participated in the Auxiliary Woman of the Year – Distinguished Service Award program. Sarah Holter was selected for this award in 1991 and was also the Northeast Area winner. Sarah was selected for this award again in 1995. Again she was the Northeast Area winner and also received the National Auxiliary award during the 1996 NACD Convention.

The Auxiliary continued to hold state level competition in the Poster Coloring and Speak Off Contests.

A symposium on Storm Water Management was co-sponsored by the MASCD and NRCS in 1995 which generated additional funding for the Association.

The Association continued to support the Secretaries Workshop, which were held each year.

In 1994 the conservation partners, agreed to publish a quarterly newsletter, "Maryland Conservation Partnership Press". MASCD agreed to assemble the newsletter and distribute it. A bulk mailing permit, which had lapsed because of lack of use, was obtained again to mail the newsletter at the non-profit bulk rate.

The memorandums of understanding between the USDA Secretary of Agriculture and Districts and between the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) and Districts, which had existed since the first district was formed, were out of date and not being followed. A number of districts requested the MOU's be brought up to date. A committee in USDA along with NACD representation (Maryland districts were not represented) responded with several proposed changes as follows:

- a. A mutual agreement between USDA, the State and the individual districts. This was agreed to and signed in 1996.
- b. A Cooperative Working Agreement between the NRCS, the State Department of Agriculture and each individual district. The districts in general, objected to some of the wording and the State Department of Agriculture being brought into the agreement without any input from the districts. This was discussed by the MASCD Directors and the SSCC. A committee was appointed to develop a more acceptable MOU. Bob Davis, committees chairman, reported at the July 1997 annual meeting that a revised MOU had been agreed to, but was not yet available for distribution.
- c. Supplemental agreements could be made between the districts and NRCS or MDA as needed.

The SCD Law and State Sediment Control laws provide that districts may charge for sediment control plan review if approved by the local government. Some of the districts experienced difficulty in implementing this provision so in January 1996 the MASCD adopted a resolution in support of legislation to provide that "when a county government does not approve the charging for sediment and erosion control plan review by the district that the county would provide the necessary funds." This was revised in July 1997 to include an increase in existing fees necessary to cover the actual costs. This was approved after a special committee appointed to study the fee problem in the Prince George's district reported at the July 1997 meeting.

As president of MASCD, Mr. Lechluder was also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Many of the actions and discussions by the Committee, although not necessarily associated with MASCD actions, were of direct concern to the soil conservation districts.

Other supervisors who served on the Committee are as listed in the table of "Supervisor Members of the State Soil Conservation Committee" located in Section One of the MASCD Association Manual.

Total Resource Management Planning was discussed by the SSCC and tried in several districts during the spring of 1995. The Wicomico, St. Mary's, Howard and Washington County SCD tried out the program and worked with cooperating agencies to address all the resources on at least one property in the district. The general conclusion was that the process was more time consuming and would have to be made more efficient to be used.

The SSCC endorsed the MDA definition of a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan. The MDA had experienced difficulties in tracking progress needed in support of budget requests. The MDA needed to define a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan in terms of soil conservation and water quality associated with crop and pastureland and management of the farm headquarters area if animals are part of the operation. Other resources such as forestry or wildlife management do not have to be part of the plan for progress reporting needed by MDA.

Beginning with the 1996 fiscal year MDA assumed responsibility for administering the bond money which funds MAC grants. Funds for prior years were administered by MDE. This resulted in a shorter turn around time to make payments.

Also in 1996 MDA put greater emphasis on follow-up to maintain compliance and the SSCC endorsed a policy to limit cost share on pond rebuilds to 65%, not to exceed \$5,000. The Committee also endorsed increasing the per practice cost share limit from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and endorsed elimination of cover crops as a cost shared BMP.

By Arnold Hawkins