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EC65-167 A Watershed Educational Program...After the Application for a Watershed Plan has been Made

Harold Gilman

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A WATERSHED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

...AFTER

THE APPLICATION FOR A WATERSHED PLAN HAS BEEN MADE!

by Harold H. Gilman, Extension Conservationist

WORKBOOK for the PLAN of ACTION
FROM THE BEGINNING OF A WATERSHED PROJECT TO ITS COMPLETION IS A LONG ROAD—

1. Several people get an idea about a watershed.
2. They ask the County Extension Agent, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) technicians, and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) supervisors what is required to get a watershed project started.
3. The group attends the next SWCD Board meeting and presents its problem.

It may take 2 to 3 years to get a plan....

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO...
SWCD supervisors, SCS personnel, and County Extension Agent discuss the problem. They determine the type of education and information program to be presented, when and where and by whom.

Determine from informational meetings if there is sufficient interest to pursue a watershed development program. Select a steering committee.

Training sessions for the steering committee to collect an inventory of flood damage and upland problems.

Here is where you are now.

Prepare and present application to State Soil and Water Commission.

Plan is received and presented to the people.
You have

1. Created interest throughout the watershed by holding informational meetings.

2. Obtained damage reports.

3. Prepared and filed an application for a plan with the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

**NOW—WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?**

REST for 2 or 3 years? Relax and let enthusiasm dry up while you are waiting for the plan?

SLEEP while fields are washing away?

**NOW is the Time to MOVE:**
Now Is the Time To Get:

1. Every man, woman, and child in the watershed to see what erosion and floods are doing in their own community.

2. Assign responsibilities. Encourage people to enter into the community program to outlaw floods and erosion. People respond to a program in direct proportion to their part in the planning and the development.

3. People accept new ideas more readily when approached by someone from the local community. Make only limited use of outside experts to explain and sell the program.

In brief:

1. Everybody in the watershed must see and know the problem.

2. Everybody in the watershed takes part in the program.

3. Everybody is a leader in selling the program.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

1. A Watershed Conservancy District should be organized. For details see University of Nebraska Circular CC 175, "Questions and Answers About Watershed Conservancy Districts in Nebraska."
2. Get Land Treatment on the land.
   
a. By having land treatment on the land by the time your watershed plan has been developed, it will speed the completion date of your project.
   
b. Getting land treatment on the land is sometimes a slow process, so a good education program must be conducted.

THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM CAN BE PLANNED BY AN EDUCATION COMMITTEE SELECTED BY

Watershed Board of Directors
County Extension Agent
Work Unit Conservationist
Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors
Other Community Leaders

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. Chairman
2. Secretary-treasurer
3. Sub-committees
A Planned Program of Information will reach:

1. All individuals, including tenants and landowners. Many landowners in the watershed live elsewhere. A mailing list of these people will be helpful.

2. All organizations, rural and urban.

**WHO MUST BE INFORMED IN OUR WATERSHED?**

- DAD
- MOM
- THE KIDS
- AUNT
- UNCLE
- GRANDMA
- GRANDPA
- COUSINS
- MINISTER
- Newspaper EDITOR
- BANKER
- Civic clubs
- Women's clubs
OUR NEIGHBORS    SCHOOLS    P. T. A.

FARMERS WORKING WITH THE CITY PEOPLE
HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

Let's get some maps

1. COUNTY MAPS

2. WATERSHED MAP

Watershed maps

a. Mark the highways and county roads
b. School houses
c. Rural churches
d. Towns
e. Sub-watersheds
3. Make up an ownership map
   a. Write the name of each owner on the map

4. Divide the Watershed, using one of these methods:
   a. By sub-watersheds
   b. By areas

5. Get working committees established in each sub-watershed or sub-area
   a. Make them responsible for all conservation activities in their area.
   b. Keep an up-to-date map of terraces built, waterways established, grass seedings established, diversions, etc.

6. Have periodic meetings of all groups from over the watershed.
   a. Have each report on the progress of land treatment in the area.
   b. Discuss ways and means of increasing the application of land treatment.
Let's list all people and organizations in the watershed who should provide advice and support.

I. Individuals
   County Agent
   Work Unit Conservationist
   Farmers Home Administration Supervisor
   Vo Ag Instructor

II. Watershed Board of Directors

III. Conservancy District Board of Directors

IV. Extension Board Members

V. Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors

VI. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office
   Manager
   County Committeeman

Chamber of Commerce
   Secretary

VII. President
   Agricultural Committee Members

VIII. County Commissioners
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<th>City Government</th>
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<td>XVII. Women's Project Clubs</td>
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<th>President</th>
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<th>XX. National Farmers Organizations</th>
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<th>XXI. Other Organizations</th>
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<td>Farm Bureau</td>
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Grange
Rotary Club
Lions Club
Kiwanis Club
Co-op Elevator
Co-op Oil Company
Co-op Creamery
Rural Area Development Committee
Weed District
Conservation Contractors

XXII. Have you forgotten someone? If so, list them here

YOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

1. Check Extension Circular EC 62-137 "Watershed Development" for meeting suggestions
2. You have a list of people in your watershed who can help you (pages 12–17 of this circular). How can they help?
3. Here are some suggestions:
   a. County Extension Agent
   b. County Commissioners
      A. Explain the cost of bridge maintenance and road repairs after a flood.
      B. Tell how flood retarding and grade stabilization structures would save tax money, property, and soil for the county.
   c. Ministers
      A. Seek their cooperation during soil stewardship week.
      B. Provide a tour of conservation projects for ministers only.
      C. Obtain conservation material for them.
      D. Offer to present a conservation program to their church men's and women's clubs.
   d. Chamber of Commerce and Other Civic Clubs
      A. Explain the watershed story to their officers and board of directors. Then take a conservation program before the entire group.
      B. Ask for their assistance in planning and conducting meetings throughout the watershed.
      C. Compare present farm production with the increased production under a complete conservation plan. Note the increased income to the community.
   e. School Officials
      A. Ask them to introduce conservation into their curriculum. Encourage vocational agriculture classes to attend your meetings and to enter into conservation activities.
   f. Women's Clubs, PTA
      A. Have them sponsor a conservation program within their organization.
      B. Ask them to sponsor window displays and fair exhibits on conservation.
      C. Ask them to sponsor essay, poster, or public speaking contests on conservation.
A SUMMARY OF POSSIBLE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Air tours
2. Ground tours
3. Grass tours
4. Tours to watersheds that are partially completed
5. Chamber of Commerce and civic club meetings (Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis)
6. County school Conservation Day Program
7. Land, range, and stubble mulch judging contests
8. Poster and essay contests for school children
9. Meetings and tours with ministers
10. Meetings with church groups, men's and women's clubs
11. Demonstration contests at county fairs
12. Scrap book contests
13. Store window and county fair exhibits
14. Radio and TV programs on conservation
15. News articles about local conservation activities
16. News letters to cooperators or to every family in the watershed  
   Keep them informed about facts and progress in the watershed
17. Take pictures, pictures, pictures—before conservation and after
18. Public speaking contests on soil and water conservation
19. Community meetings
20. Neighborhood group meetings
**CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

Make up an educational program from lists of individuals, groups, and activities.

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SUMMARY

A small watershed program has as its objective the wise use and management of all the soil and water in a watershed. Such a program is often called "watershed protection and flood prevention." Federal help in carrying out the program is authorized under Public Law 566. Only small watersheds of less than 250,000 acres are eligible for federal aid.

The key to the success of a watershed program is cooperation. All residents, landowners, industries, organizations and governmental agencies within the watershed must work together toward common goals and benefits. The small watershed program is truly a local program with federal help.