

1962

EC62-137 Watershed Development

Harold Gilman

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Watershed Development

By HAROLD H. GILMAN

EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
E. F. FROLIK, DEAN E. W. JANIKE, DIRECTOR



rouble starts....

when the first raindrop hits the ground





Gullies eating away farms.



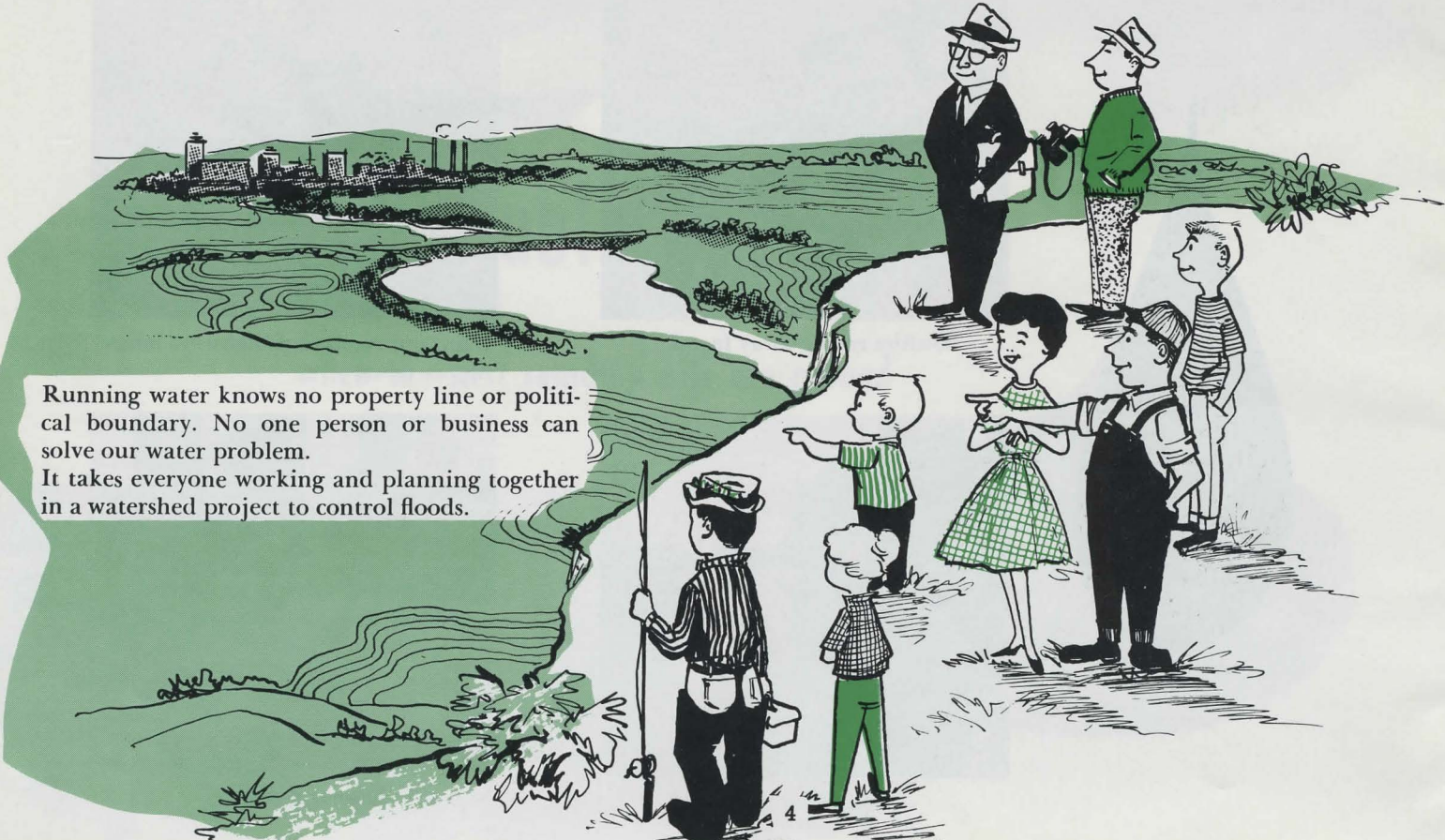
Damaged roads and highways mean higher taxes.



Towns flooded.



Homes flooded.



Running water knows no property line or political boundary. No one person or business can solve our water problem.

It takes everyone working and planning together in a watershed project to control floods.

How to Start a Watershed Project?

Local people must get together and discuss their community water problems.



Who are the local people?

1. Interested farmers and ranchers.
2. Soil and water conservation district supervisors.
3. ASCS county and township committees.
4. County officials—commissioners, engineer.
5. Chambers of commerce—service clubs.
6. Ministers, bankers, Vo Ag.
7. County Extension agent and the Extension board.
8. Soil Conservation Service.

At the meeting—discuss

1. What are the problems?
2. Is there a desire to do something?
3. What are each farmer's responsibilities?
4. What are community responsibilities?
5. What does the government do?
6. Will the watershed organization increase taxes?
7. How do we apply for a watershed plan? (See Watershed Handbook)
8. Who makes up the plan?
9. Do we have a voice in the plan?
10. Do we have to accept the plan when it is written?

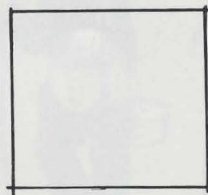
Who can help us answer these questions?

1. State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
2. Soil Conservation Service.
3. Extension Service.
4. Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors.
5. Local county officials.

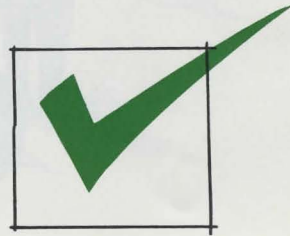


**SHALL WE GO AHEAD WITH
A WATERSHED ORGANIZATION?**

no



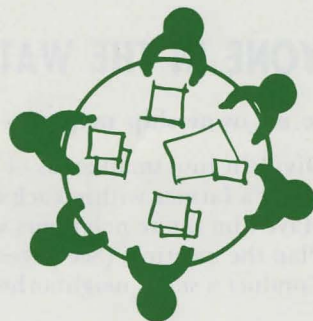
yes



If your answer is Yes - - - Then

1. Form a temporary steering committee of:

- a. Representatives of leading community organizations.
- b. Representatives from each county in the proposed watershed.
- c. Representatives from each soil and water conservation district.
- d. Ministers, civic leaders, farm organizations.



2. What does this steering committee do?

- a. Approach the matter quietly and without fanfare until a program of action has been agreed upon.
- b. Determine the geographic area of the proposed watershed.
- c. Get ownership maps of the proposed watershed area (by counties).
- d. Select community leaders: one farmer to each four to five sections of land.
- e. Hold community leader training meeting on obtaining flood damage data.
- f. Get flood damage data.
- g. Compile data into usable form.
- h. Community leaders plan and conduct neighborhood meetings to explain the watershed program.
- i. Plan and conduct educational meetings for civic and church groups.
- j. Submit a watershed application to the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission. (See page 13.)
- k. If the application is approved, organize a special watershed group to assume local responsibility.

EVERYONE IN THE WATERSHED MUST BE INFORMED

So, take an ownership map of your watershed area and:

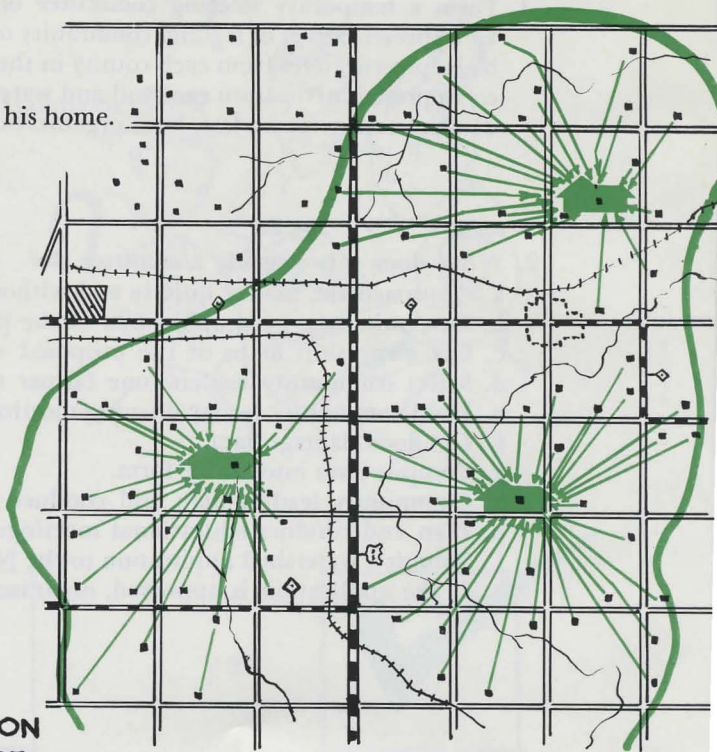
1. Divide it into small areas of 4-6 sections of land.
2. Select a farmer within each of these small areas.
3. Have him invite neighbors within the area to a meeting at his home.
4. Plan the meeting. (See pages 9 and 10.)
5. Conduct a small neighborhood meeting for each group.



**FARM MEETING
PLACE**



**NEIGHBORHOOD
FARMS IN RELATION
TO MEETING PLACE**





SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP MEETINGS TO INFORM THE PEOPLE

1. Meetings should not last more than 1-1½ hours.
2. Hold meetings when people are not too busy.
3. Suggested times for neighborhood meetings:
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
4. A good idea is to serve coffee at each meeting.
5. Have aerial photos and maps of farms in the community where you meet.
6. Have a large map of the watershed.
7. Have all facts about the watershed.
8. Encourage questions.

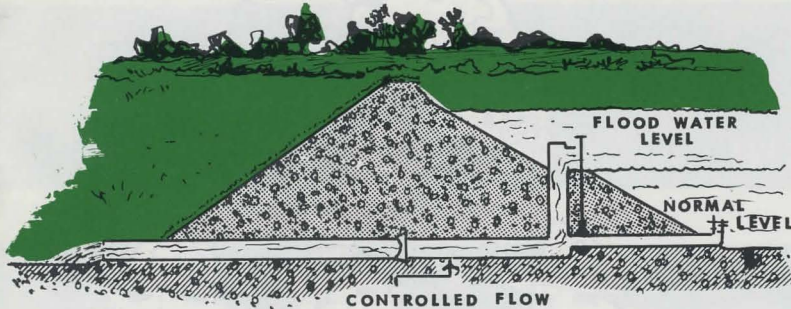
A suggested program for a neighborhood meeting. Adapt to your local conditions.

1. **Opening remarks**—by Steering Committeeman, County Agent, SWCD Supervisor, Work Unit Conservationist or other interested farmer or rancher. (Not more than two leaders at a meeting.)
 - a. Welcome the group
 - b. Give purpose of meeting5 minutes
2. **Why is there a need for action.**
 - a. Show colored slides of watershed erosion and floods.
 - b. Show colored slides on how to combat erosion and floods.
 - c. Show charts on facts about community floods.} 10 minutes
3. **Why there is a need for community action.**
 - a. How floods have affected this community.10 minutes
4. **What are possibilities for controlling floods.** 10 minutes
5. **What are obligations of local people if watershed plan is developed and approved.**
 - a. How can they meet their obligations?
 - b. How much is it going to cost?} 15 minutes
6. **What will the government do if a watershed plan is developed and approved?** 10 minutes
7. **Questions** 15 minutes
8. **Coffee** 20 minutes

WATERSHED FLOOD CONTROL AND GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

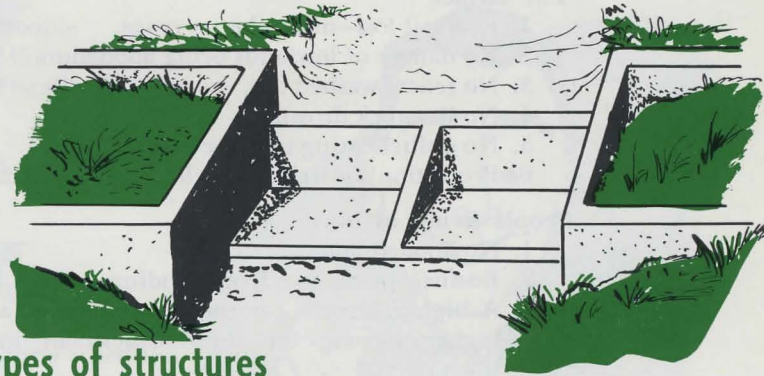
Purpose of flood control structures

1. To reduce flood damage.
2. To reduce water runoff.
3. To permit orderly release of flood water.



Purpose of grade stabilization structures:

1. To prevent soil loss.
2. To prevent severe gullying.
3. To reduce the grade of some gullies.



For these two types of structures

The farmer agrees:

1. To install and maintain land treatment measures.

The watershed organization agrees:

1. To obtain easements (land or right of way for structures).
2. To be contracting officer for structures.
3. To care for and maintain structures.
4. To show a favorable cost-benefit ratio.
5. To have 50% of farms above a structure with a conservation plan.
6. To have 75% of land treatment on the land above the structure.

The government agrees:

1. To pay up to 100% of cost of the preparation of the work plan.
2. To pay up to 100% of cost of surveys, site investigations, layout, design, preparation of specifications and inspection assistance.
3. To pay up to 100% of cost of the structure for flood control or stabilization.
4. To pro-rate cost if water is stored for other purposes, such as municipal, industrial, irrigation, drainage, or recreational uses.

WHO BENEFITS FROM A WATERSHED PROGRAM?

The farmer

1. Less soil loss—means better crops.
2. No danger of lowlands being flooded.
3. No fences washed out.
4. No livestock drowned.
5. No gullies eating into the fields.
6. Protection for irrigated fields.



People living in town

1. No flooded homes.
2. Business places free from flooding.
3. A higher income for the farmer means a higher income for the businessman in town.



All of us benefit by:

1. Less taxes for upkeep of roads, bridges, gravel.
2. Higher income means more money for schools, churches.
3. More places for recreation—fishing, boating, picnics, hunting, swimming.
4. A more beautiful countryside.
5. The feeling of safety from heavy rains.



LET'S GET ACTION!

1. An application for a watershed must be prepared by local people.
2. It is sent to and approved by the Nebraska Soil and Water Commission.
3. Who prepares the application? (See Nebraska Watershed Handbook)
 - a. Local steering committee assisted by:
 1. Local landowners and tenants.
 2. Soil and Water District supervisors.
 3. Soil Conservation Service.
 4. Extension Service.
 5. State Soil and Water Commission.
4. What information is required? (See section 3, Watershed Handbook)
 - a. Description of watershed.
 - b. Watershed problems—obtained from flood damage interview schedules.
 - c. Type of assistance needed.
 - d. Type of treatment needed.
 - e. Interest of the local people.
 - f. Estimated time to complete the project.
5. Who can sponsor a watershed application?
 - a. Soil and water conservation district.
 - b. Special purpose watershed district.
 - c. Municipalities, cities and towns.
 - d. Counties.
 - e. Drainage districts.
 - f. Irrigation districts.
 - g. Reclamation districts.

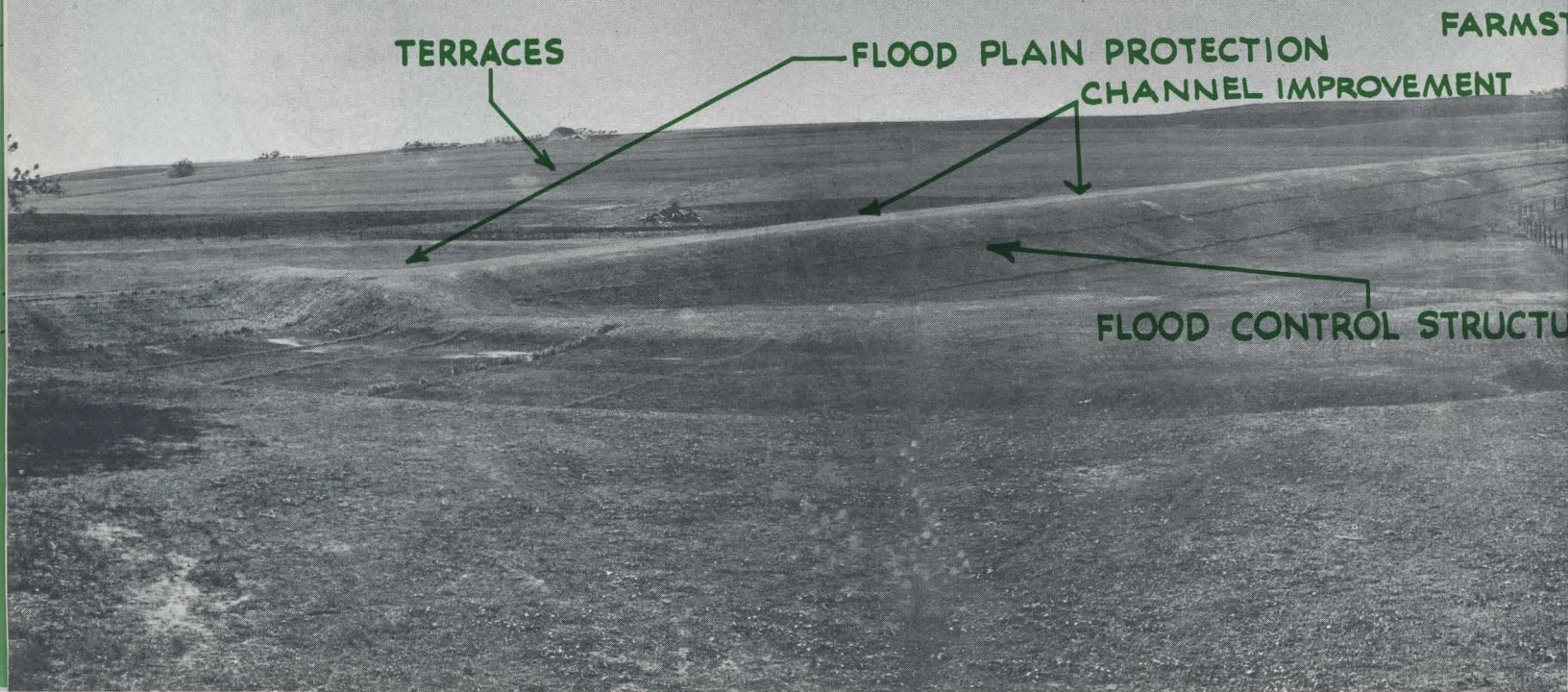


WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Join with my neighbors to make this a more prosperous and happy community.
2. Start now to establish a good farm conservation land treatment program.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

A GRASS ROOTS ANSWER TO WATER PROBLEMS



HEAD WINDBREAK
CONTOUR FARMING


GRASSED WATERWAY

STEEP ERODED LAND
LAND SEEDED TO
GRASS

IMPROVED
GRAZING LAND

WATER STORAGE
RECREATION AREA

RE

The background of the page is a green-toned illustration of a rural landscape. It features a winding river or stream that flows from the top left towards the bottom right. The landscape is divided into various fields and pastures, some with contour lines indicating topography. There are several small clusters of buildings, likely representing towns or farmsteads, scattered throughout the scene. A prominent white rectangular box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the illustration, containing text.

For more information on watershed organization and conservancy districts see the following University of Nebraska College of Agriculture Extension Service publications:

CC 175—Questions and Answers about Watershed Conservancy Districts in Nebraska.

CC 176—The Watershed Program in Nebraska.