

POLICIES DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(Taken from the Work Plan and minutes of the District Commissioners Meetings since the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District was formed.)

The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District will look to the County Extension Director and the Iowa Extension Service for guidance and assistance in planning and carrying out the educational program.

The District commissioners will direct and coordinate with the assistance of the Extension Service the educational activities of the district. They will help conduct educational meetings and present the philosophy of the district.

They will also assist to organize farm planning groups and establish priorities for farm planning. Review and approve farm plans.

Assistance will be given to farmers in planning proper land use, drainage and erosion control practices. Any farmer wishing assistance will make written application to the District Governing Body which will review and pass on all such requests. Preference will be given to groups of farmers within any neighborhood who are accustomed to working together or who have similar conservation problems. Groups may consist of from six to 16 or more farmers. Planning groups will organize and select a leader who will call all group meetings and act as representative for the group.

The ~~written~~ written application of the group will be the basis for establishing priority. Priority for work will be based upon willingness and interest of the group, date application is received and the general distribution of work over the district.

Farm planning will be conducted through group meetings supplemented by conferences with individual farmers out on their own land. A soil conservation survey and land use map will be used as a guide in preparing conservation plans on the farm. Consideration will be given to the adjustments needed in livestock and other farm enterprises. The farm plan will include the proper land use for each area, application and use of lime and fertilizer, effective erosion control and drainage measures and a schedule to show the sequence and time for applying the various measures.

After the conservation plan has been developed by the farmer with the assistance of the technician it will be submitted to the district commissioners for review and approval. In so far as possible, establishment and maintenance of the plan will be carried on through the groups.

Reports requested by the State Soil Conservation Committee, the United States Department of Agriculture and other cooperating agencies will be prepared and submitted in accordance with the agreements and understandings. Local representatives of the cooperating agencies will assist the commissioners in making these reports.

The adequacy of the work plan for carrying out operations of the district will be determined from time to time and necessary revisions will be made at least every six months.

February 14, 1946

It was moved by Blaul and seconded by Cling that the term of the Chairman and Secretary be two years. Motion carried.

February 25, 1946

Proposed copy of standard form of application for assistance was presented. It was moved by Blaul and seconded by Cling the form be adopted. Motion carried.

August 2, 1946

It was moved by Blaul and seconded by Cling that the work plan be adopted as read. Motion carried.

Obsolete. It was moved by Cling and seconded by Blaul that the technicians of the Soil Conservation Service be authorized to set up starting practices on farms where they will be of demonstrational value. Farmers should request assistance in writing. Motion carried.

December 6, 1946

It was moved by Blaul, seconded by Cling that the District adopt the Iowa form of Farmer-District Cooperative Agreement (PB-1184SP)

March 21, 1949

The group discussed the agreement with owner of the whirlwind terracer for rental of machine to farmers with soil conservation plans. It was moved by Blaul and seconded by Gieselman that the chairman of the District be authorized to sign the agreement. Motion carried.

November 22, 1949

Moved by Blaul that chairman be authorized to approve and sign vouchers to cover payroll of aids and clerks in line of official budget. Seconded by Gieselman. Motion carried.

May 3, 1951

Moved by Redfern, seconded by Jamison that the following resolution be adopted. "The commissioners of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District recommend that some plan be devised and included in 1952 Agricultural Conservation Program whereby payments be made only to farmers who are developing sound conservation programs on the capabilities of the land and its needs." Motion carried.

July 31, 1951

Moved by Jamison, seconded by Redfern that the commissioners approve the use of the new agreement for those who need assistance but are not ready to complete farm plan. Motion carried.

November 26, 1951

A motion was approved to maintain only one copy of the farm plans in the SCS office instead of two.

October 27, 1952

Work load for SCS personnel was discussed. First priority was given to follow-up on farm plans now in existence.

September 29, 1953

An agreement for Intermittent use of Transportation and Other Equipment was discussed and signed by the District Governing Body.