

MINUTES OF MEETING
MILLS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE
MALVERN COMMUNITY BUILDING
MALVERN, IOWA.

April 2, 1949

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman, J. M. Steele, at 2:00 p.m., with fifty-five farmers present.

Chairman Steele introduces the Farmer Group that were responsible for setting up the meeting:

Harold Grindle
Clay Estes
Guy Grindle
Frank Stevens
Bus Summers
Harold Isom
Everett Gipe.

Chairman Steele explains that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss flood control on the Nishnabotna River.

Chairman Steele introduces T. J. Powell, District Conservationist, of the Soil Conservation Service in Southwest Iowa.

Mr. Powell tells of the preliminary survey made of the Nishna watershed by the SCS and U.S. Engineers in summer of 1948. Explains by use of map, that the Nishna is one of the major tributaries to the Missouri River in this section, and that it drains 29,000 sq. miles, flowing through 10 counties.

The proposed method of handling flood control is a cooperative program by the S.C.S., Forest Service, and the U.S. Engineers. The S.C.S. and Forest Service planning the work on the upper watershed, and the U.S. Engineers planning the levee and work on the main stream.

It is proposed that development work will be done on the small watershed plan. Example - On a watershed of ten farms, 70% of the farmers must request assistance, and 70% must adopt a conservation plan on their farms. When 70% of the recommended practices have been established, then flood control funds may come in for needed flood control structures. The farmer group must agree to maintain all structures.

Mr. Powell restates the point that water in upper watershed must be held where it falls.

General discussion, with many questions from the farmers in attendance.

Joe Robbins of Anderson Twp states that even though they have a conservation plan on their farm, they continue to be flooded by run-off waters from the upper watershed and that he is convinced of the need of more conservation in the hills.

Harold Grindle of White Cloud Twp discusses the expense of flood control work by the individual farmer and states that cost is prohibitive. Mr. Grindle further states, "If the U.S. Engineers could do the work of dredging and dikeing on the river and if the Soil Conservation Service could assist us on the connecting drainage, we could get the job done."

Clay Estes of White Cloud Twp asks, "Why can't the uncooperative farmer be forced to go along on such a worthwhile program?" Mr. Powell replies, "The program must be democratic, and no moves can be made unless 70% of the farmers wish to cooperate."

Earl Bass of White Cloud Twp asks, "What percentage of control of flood waters can be accomplished by upland conservation practices?" Mr. Powell replies, "Factual data shows that from 30% to 50% of the run-off waters can be kept on the hill soil."

Zeno Bass of White Cloud Twp asks that in flood control plans, consideration be given to the lengthening of highway bridges, as they form bottlenecks at present and cause considerable damage in additional flooding of farm lands.

Mr. Powell closes and compliments the farmers on their interest and fine meeting.

Chairman Steele introduces Barr Keshler of Shenandoah, Iowa, Secretary of Nishna Valley Flood Control Association.

Mr. Keshler states that, without doubt, the Nishna Valley is one of the most productive valleys in the United States. Floods of the past are discussed, and the point brought out that highway bridges have been serious bottlenecks, and have caused extensive damage in many cases.

Keshler tells of origin of the Nishna Valley Flood Control Association in 1948, and tells how the Association assisted in the compilation of the Nishna survey, which became a part of the Missouri Valley Flood Control Report.

Mr. Keshler reported that the Missouri Valley Flood Control Report was completed by the Soil Conservation Service and the U.S. Engineers, and was delivered to Secretary of Agriculture Brannon in Washington, D. C., on January 3, 1949. To date this report has not left the Office of Secretary Brannan.

Mr. Keshler states that several small watersheds in Page, Fremont, Montgomery, and Mills Counties are ready to go, everything depends upon the Missouri Valley Flood Control report being submitted to Congress, where approval and appropriations might be made available.

Mr. Keshler reports that the farmers of the Nishna Watershed are behind the plan far above the needed 70%, and our conservation practice program has demonstrated that run-off water can be controlled.

Chairman Steele introduces Merrill Langfitt, Farm Service director of Radio Station K.M.A.

Mr. Langfitt speaks on the need of farmer action, and for group action such as shown by this group of Mills County farmers.

Brief discussion on the proposed M.V.A. plan.

Mr. Langfitt stresses need for cooperation between hill farmers and bottom-land farmers.

Mr. Langfitt compares the fertility of the Nishna Valley to foreign countries, that he has been in, with emphasis on conditions in Greece, and closes by complimenting the Mills County farmers on their action.

Chairman Steele discusses need for action by the assembled group.

Motion by Clay Estes of White Cloud Twp., that J. F. Wearin, Jr., Chairman of Commissioners of the Mills County Soil Conservation District, prepare a resolution from this group requesting that the Missouri Valley Flood Control Report, which includes the Nishna Valley Report, be submitted to Congress at once. That copies of such resolutions be submitted to Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, the U. S. Engineers, our Congressman and Senators. Seconded by Guy Grindle. Carried.

A discussion was carried on regarding the formation of the Mills County Flood Control Committee.

Harold Grindle of White Cloud Twp., nominates Forrest Chantry as Chairman of the Mills County Flood Control Committee. Seconded by Harry Nelson of White Cloud Twp. Motion that nominations cease. Seconded. Mr. Chantry receives the unanimous vote and is declared elected as Chairman.

J. F. Wearin, Jr., of Indian Creek Twp., moves that Chairman Chantry submit the resolution approved by the group, and that the names, address, and location of those present be added as signators. Seconded by Earl Bass of White Cloud Twp. Carried.

Chairman Chantry announces that the seven originators of this meeting will serve as the Committee Board of Directors for the present.

Motion that J. M. Steele of Malvern, be elected Secretary of the Mills County Flood Control Committee. Seconded. Motion that nominations cease and that J. M. Steele be declared elected as Secretary. Seconded. Carried.

At 3:30 p.m. the Chairman adjourns the meeting, and a lunch of coffee and doughnuts, furnished by Malvern Commercial Club, was enjoyed by all.

Approved:

F. R. Chantry
F. R. Chantry
Chairman

J. M. Steele
J. M. Steele
Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Harry A. Nelson, Malvern, Iowa.	Alfred Hummel, Henderson, Iowa.
Bernard Scott, Malvern, Iowa.	Adolph Schultz, Malvern, Iowa.
A. M. Scott, Malvern, Iowa.	M. J. Bruce, Hastings, Iowa.
F. A. Wortman, Malvern, Iowa.	H. F. Clark, Malvern, Iowa.
Earl Bass, Malvern, Iowa.	R. L. Hale, Malvern, Iowa.
J. W. Baer, Malvern, Iowa.	R. H. Wilson, Randolph, Iowa.
James C. Beattie, Malvern, Iowa.	Fred Newell, Malvern, Iowa.
O. R. Hyde, Hastings, Iowa.	Jess Phelps, Hastings, Iowa.
Frank Stevens, Malvern, Iowa.	Jared Woodfill, Strahan, Iowa.
O. C. Grindle, Malvern, Iowa.	F. D. Smith, Malvern, Iowa.
Guy Grindle, Malvern, Iowa.	Basil Clay, Malvern, Iowa.
Clay Estes, Malvern, Iowa.	Harold Grindle, Malvern, Iowa.
Zeno Bass, Malvern, Iowa.	Curtis Chisman, Malvern, Iowa.
Paul Roenfieldt, Glenwood, Iowa.	Roy W. Courtier, Malvern, Iowa.
J. W. Hathaway, Malvern, Iowa.	J. C. Allely, Hastings, Iowa.
W. E. Wilson, Hastings, Iowa.	Ira L. Turner, Malvern, Iowa.
Fred G. Gemmell, Malvern, Iowa.	F. J. Steele, Strahan, Iowa.
Joe M. Robbins, Hastings, Iowa.	Fred O. Herzog, Malvern, Iowa.
Ed Piper, Malvern, Iowa.	Glen Greedy, Sidney, Iowa.
Cecil Greedy, Sidney, Iowa.	R. H. Golden, Sidney, Iowa.
F. R. Chantry, Malvern, Iowa.	John Waller, Malvern, Iowa.

Clifford Robbins, Malvern, Iowa. Robert Benton, Tabor, Iowa.
Wendell E. Lambert, Hastings, Iowa. E. W. Burdic, Malvern, Iowa.
J. F. Wearin, Jr., Hastings, Iowa. N. P. Crink, Malvern, Iowa.
E. U. Benton, Malvern, Iowa. J. M. Steele, Malvern, Iowa.
Ray Hilton, Malvern, Iowa.