

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Establish steering committee to discuss RC&D district

At a meeting Tuesday night for forming a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program in Davis County, a three-member temporary steering committee was established.

That committee will soon meet with steering committees of Van Buren, Jefferson, Wapello, Mahaska, and Keokuk counties to decide if they want to go ahead with the presently proposed six-county RC&D district of Area 15.

That local steering committee will then report back here, if it is decided to go ahead with it, and a larger steering committee here will be formed.

RC&D is a program to promote and encourage orderly rural development for economic growth and to help local people to help themselves, Verle Arnold of the local Soil Conservation Service said. He added that it was geared to natural resources of water, soil, and forestry.

Wayne Birchmier was selected as the member at large to represent Davis County. Yet to be decided will be one member of the Davis County Board of Supervisors and one Soil Conservation District Commissioner on the steering committee.

William D. Byers, of the Ottumwa Extension Office, discussed background of both Regional Planning and the RC&D. Eldon Weber of the Soil Conservation Service in Fairfield, showed slides and explained what RC&D is and what it

can do. Bruce Bullamore, Regional Planning Director of Area 15, explained the tie-in of RC&D to the Regional Planning organization.

Roger Musselman, local Extension Service director, said that the Regional Planning helps with the planning but the RC&D is the "action" group that has to get sponsored and started locally. He added that there is no set rules to follow but that local people decided what they wanted and then developed a plan to do it.

Arnold said the RC&D is a chance

for getting state and federal assistance—money and know how.

If local work on the project is continued, the RC&D will provide one Soil Conservation Service co-ordinator to be assigned to this area.

Arnold explained that all six counties of Area 15 don't have to be included to start the RC&D project and he says it will take a while to get going. He also noted that the RC&D have to come up with projects that will benefit the public rather than just one person.