

Aug. 6, 1963

Preliminary Nod To 2 Watersheds In Davis County

Preliminary approval has been given two Davis county watersheds—Carter Creek and North Wyacondah — the first major step in a bid for federal construction money.

The next step is a Soil Conservation Service technical study to determine if watershed development is economically feasible. The dollars-and-cents values from benefits must exceed the costs before final approval is given by the government.

Lyall Michell of Fairfield, area SCS conservationist, emphasized the preliminary approval by the State Conservation Committee merely places these watersheds on the list for further study and does not insure they will move finally to the construction stage.

Verle Arnold, local SCS work unit conservationist, said that a favorable cost-benefit study would mean development of an operational work plan, which would be submitted to Congress for fund appropriations.

Carter Creek is a 24,480-acre watershed in Davis and Appanoose counties. Carter drains into Fabius Creek below the Iowa border. It includes all or parts of 180 farms. The major problem is gully erosion and bottomland flooding.

North Wyacondah is located in Davis and Van Buren counties, but the bulk of the watershed extends into Missouri. Of some 71,400 acres in the watershed, only 22,226 acres are in Iowa.

The North Wyacondah drains into the Mississippi River. Gully and sheet erosion, along with lowland flooding, are the major problems. All or part of 145 Davis and Van Buren county farms are within the watershed.

The announcement of preliminary approval for North Wyacondah's development as a watershed coincided with the Corps of Engineers report that a federal flood control program on the North Wyacondah would not be feasible.

This finding, however, does not rule out watershed development.