

WHAT IS RC&D?

RC&D is an acronym for the Resource Conservation and Development Program. This program exists to assist local citizens, primarily in rural areas, in the social, economic and environmental betterment of their communities.

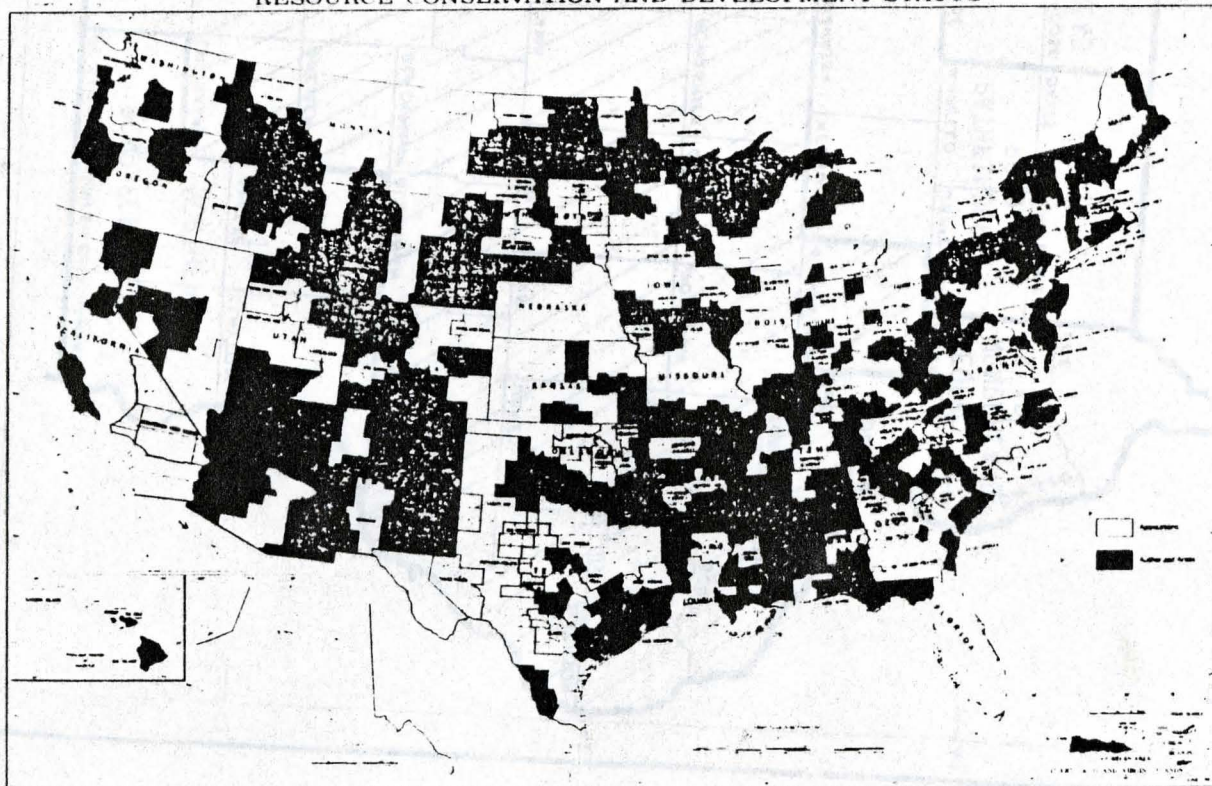
Please note that the key word here is local. RC&D cannot work without local leadership and initiative. RC&D project areas only exist where local citizens have identified common resource problems and joined together to solve those problems. RC&D project areas are provided technical assistance when authorized by the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

RC&D was created by a provision of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-703). It is currently authorized under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98). It is administered by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

RC&D project areas cover about 60% of the land area of the U.S.. Currently there are 192 RC&D areas authorized in 49 states (fig. 1).

There are six RC&D areas in Iowa covering southern, southwest, and parts of northeast Iowa (fig. 2). There are also RC&D project areas in adjacent Northwest Missouri.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT STATUS



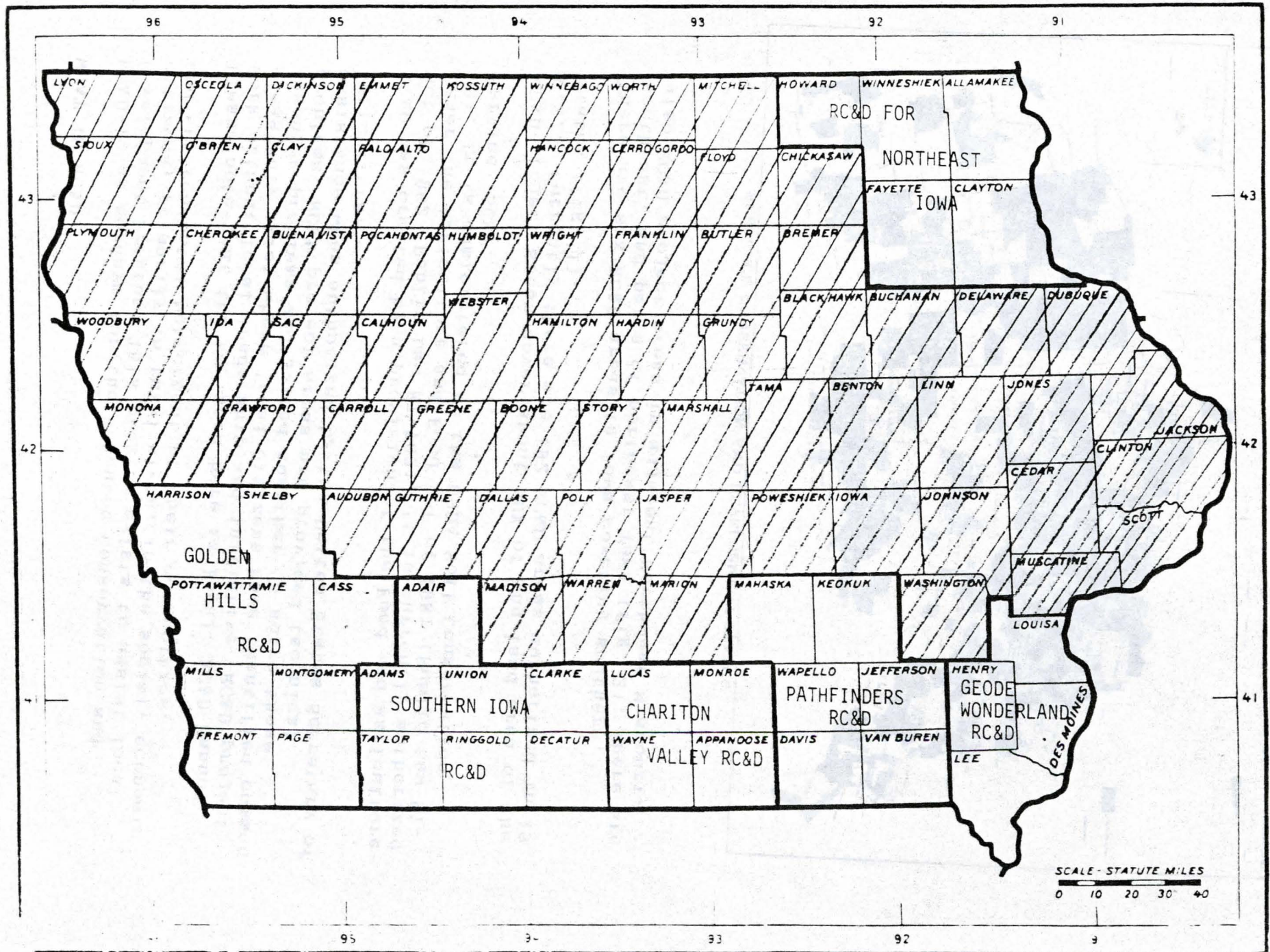


Figure 2

THE GOLDEN HILLS RC&D

The Golden Hills RC&D includes eight counties (nine soil conservation districts) in Southwest Iowa. Altogether, this area covers over a million acres of land, and is home to about 190,000 people. Figure 3 shows the boundaries of the Golden Hills RC&D and the counties and communities that are included.

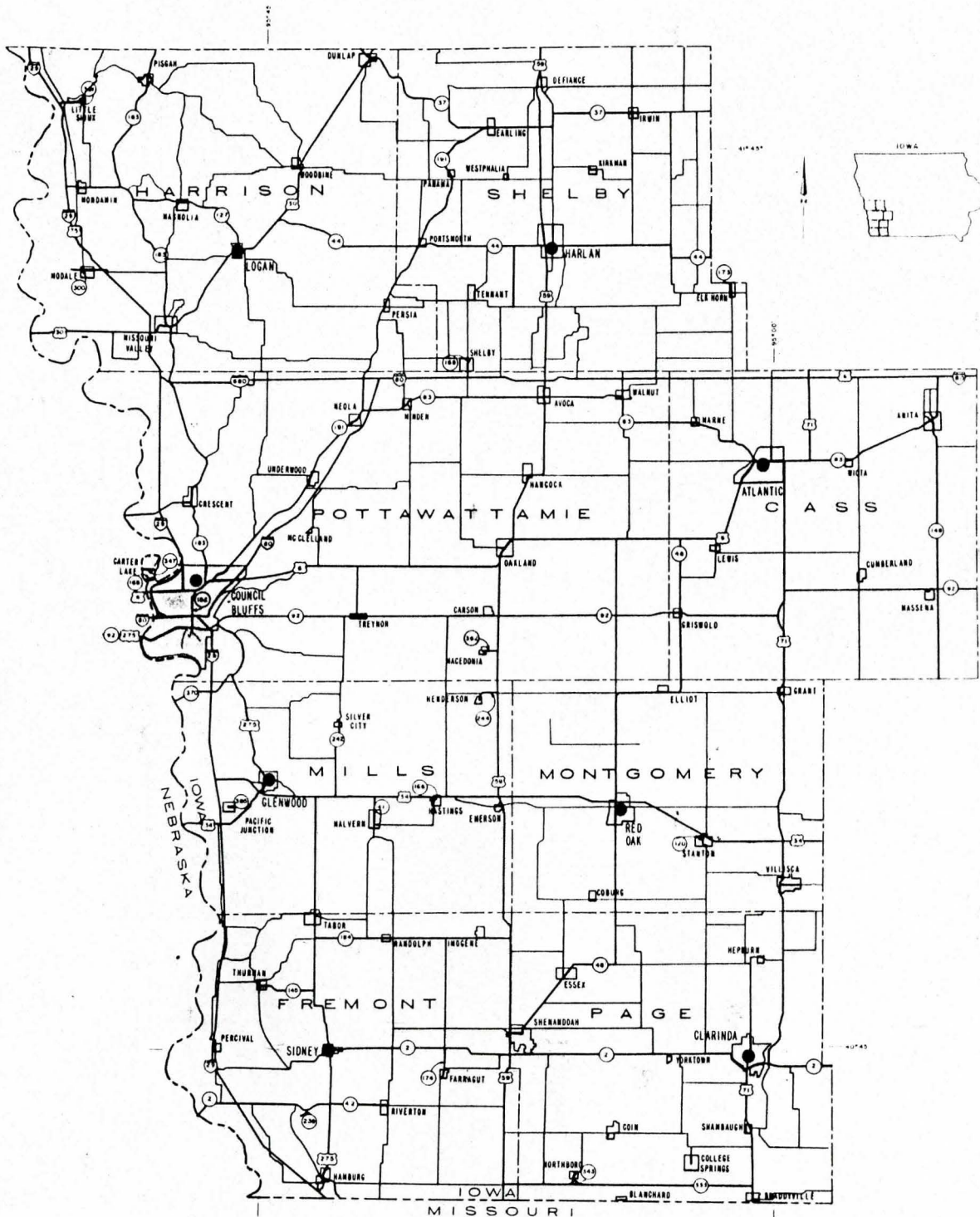


figure 3

The idea for an RC&D area here emerged in the early 1970's. Soil Conservation Districts and county governments joined together in 1977 to submit an application for RC&D assistance. The application received the endorsement of the Governor and the SCS State Conservationist. After several more years of effort by local citizens and their elected officials, authorization for operation was approved in 1981.

Original Executive Board members for the Golden Hills RC&D included Walter Wear, Harrison; Wayne Hansen, Shelby; C.W. McManamy, West Pottawattamie; Robert Bingham, East Pottawattamie; G.M. Baier, Cass; Albert Washburn, Mills; Robert Cerven, Montgomery; Robert Smith, Fremont; and George Annan, Page.

Many of the first measures (projects) taken on here centered on erosion control, particularly control of large gullies. Structures for gully erosion control were built in a number of locations in several different counties. Other projects featured control of sheet and rill erosion in entire watersheds. A notable example of this was the Arrowhead Lake Project that totally treated the watershed of a lake in a county park. This project has been used as a demonstration area, and as part of the SCS's Golden Anniversary celebration in 1985.

In recent years, greater emphasis has been placed on non-structural projects, including those centered on economic development. This was in part due to insufficient funds to cost-share many structural projects, but in large part was due to the economic pressures felt in the Golden Hills area through much of the 1980's.

A thorough discussion of the priorities and projects of the Golden Hills RC&D can be found in the "Golden Hills Area Plan" (1983) and in the most recent "Supplement and Plan of Work".



HOW ARE WE ORGANIZED?

The District RC&D Board

The District RC&D Board is where everything starts. Each Soil and Water Conservation District in the Golden Hills RC&D Area has a District RC&D Board. The District RC&D Board is the connection between the local community and the Golden Hills RC&D. District RC&D Boards help develop ideas, decide on measure proposals, keep project sponsors informed, and elect representation to the Golden Hills RC&D Executive Board. How well District RC&D Boards function largely determines how effective the Golden Hills is in accomplishing its mission.

The District RC&D Board has five members. Two members are Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners, and one member is a County Supervisor. These three members jointly appoint two additional at-large members. All five members serve one-year terms.

Each District RC&D Board elects a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer. They also select an Executive Board representative, and first and second alternates to the representative.

District RC&D Boards should meet at least twice a year to discuss current and potential measures. However, districts that are working with or developing active measures may need to meet more frequently.

District RC&D Boards may appoint other local people to committees to work on specific projects. District RC&D Boards receive support and technical assistance from the District Conservationist serving their Soil and Water Conservation District.

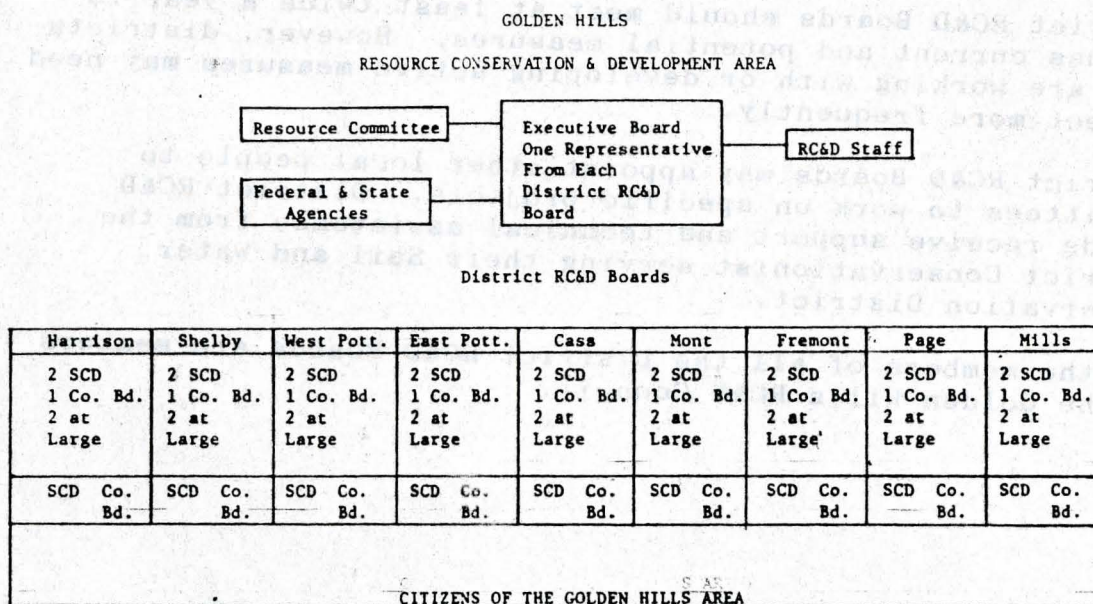
All the members of all the District RC&D Boards are members of the Golden Hills RC&D Council.

The Golden Hills RC&D Executive Board

The Golden Hills RC&D Executive Board is composed of one representative from each of the nine district RC&D boards. It generally meets bi-monthly, usually on the third Monday evening of the month. Figure 4 shows the relationship of the RC&D Executive Board to the District RC&D Boards.

The Executive Board acts on measure proposals submitted by the District RC&D Boards, and set priorities and policies of the RC&D. Executive Board members keep District Boards informed of executive board actions. Executive Board members receive support and technical assistance from the RC&D Coordinator.

The RC&D Executive Board elects a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer. These officers are selected by the Executive Board members from their own ranks. Terms of officers are for one year, and officers may be re-elected. See the Golden Hills RC&D By-Laws for additional details.



SCD-----Soil Conservation District
Co. Bd.---County Board of Supervisors
at Large--Citizen member selected by
the other 3 members 8-81

Figure 4