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Will form group to coordinate future water quality plans

A public meeting to organize a Davis County Resource Coordinating Committee will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Davis ASCS Office at Bloomfield.

Iles Heady, chairman of the Davis County Soil Conservation District, said this committee will provide an opportunity for public participation in future water quality plans.

The local committee will also select a member to represent them on each of the Conservancy District Advisory Committees which are in part in Davis County—the Southern Iowa Conservancy District and the Des Moines River Conservancy District.

Public Law 92-500, passed by Congress in 1972, and the subsequent amendments deals primarily with water quality. Section 208 of this law, pertaining to non-point pollution,

should be of particular interest to agriculture. This law gives the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to take the necessary action for improving the water quality of our nations rivers and lakes.

In Iowa, Governor Ray has assigned the responsibility for overall water quality planning to the Department of Environmental Quality. However, the non-point source pollution control planning phase has been assigned to the State Department of Soil Conservation and the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Heady indicated the local resource coordinating committee will have an opportunity to assist in identifying goals and guidelines for water

management plans, to assist in identifying rules and regulations that should be developed and to assist in developing priorities for future action programs involving water quality.

The resource coordinating committee will probably have considerable influence on future programs involving non-point as well as point source pollution control. Point pollution is that pollution that can be traced to a specific point or source. Non-point pollution is that which cannot be identified as coming from a specific source. Soil or sediment is considered a non-point source pollutant.

Anyone interested in the planning of future water quality management, should attend this meeting, Heady said.

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