

Malvern, Iowa
June 9, 1977

Honorable Robert Bergland
Secretary of Agriculture *12-14th St. S.W.*
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

We have followed your successful career with interest. It is gratifying to know a man with practical farming know-how is in a position to intelligently approach modern problems in the food production process.

In southwestern Iowa 9 soil districts have been giving much thought to forming the Golden Hills Conservation and Development Area knowing that erosion, development and beautifying do not begin and end at county lines. Many of our plans can be structured to benefit this entire part of Iowa.

Since I am the only woman serving on this project, you might be interested that I am a member of a century farm family who have owned and lived on this farm for 103 years. We are hoping to build and improve to conserve the natural resources for future generations.

It is my understanding that our application for approval has been endorsed by state Conservationists and Governor Ray. At the present time we have submitted our application to you for your consideration. We do hope it meets with your approval and that very soon we will be able to take action in solving projects now being considered by us. Water shortage, erosion, recreation needs, bridge replacement and improving rural environment will take top priority with us.

We are pleased that the nine soil conservation districts and eight county board of supervisors have joined together to sponsor this application. The support of the Southwest Iowa Planning Council, the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, and the many local organizations and agencies provide a strong base for cooperation and growth.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration of our important farm people project. We are trying to help ourselves and the whole nation to save our precious land. Funding is vital for implementation.

Much success in the future to you. May your important position be gratifying as you realize improvement and progress.

Sincerely,

Viola Hathaway
Secr. Mills R. C. & L.

The Mills County R.C. &D. met at the Court House June 7, 1977 at 9 A. M. with Austin Bass presiding. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Grissom requested the appointment of a person to assist with a bridge inventory and another for the soil conservation update. Monte Burr in his work with the engineer's office will bring the bridge inventory to the present time and Virgil Curtis, past ASCS commissioner will serve on the soil practices and erosion control committee. Their names are to be submitted at the area meeting in Oakland June 7th at the evening meeting.

Various projects in the planning stages, water rights, inflationary trends and bridges were discussed. Progress in erosion control, dams and related procedures were explained.

It was requested that the secretary write a letter to the Honorable Robert Bergland, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on behalf of Mills County calling to his attention our Area's application for approval thus bringing our plans closer to funding as the money becomes available.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting to be called as business requires.

Also attending were Dave Snow, Virgil Curtis, Walter Marshal, Mike White, Red Oak, Soil Conservation assistant. and Viola Hathaway.

Viola Hathaway, Secr.