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Rural Route 2, Box 106, Fairfield, Iowa 52556

CONS- Group Planning Meeting-Des Moines Co.

February 3, 1978

Eldon Weber, AC

Following is a report of the group planning meeting held yesterday at "The Pub" in Dodgeville. This is the "experimental" meeting in Franklin Lake Watershed. Howard, Sid, Oren, and I were all in attendance, plus four landowners.

The subwatershed selected consists of approximately 350 acres, with six or seven landowners. The "block planning" concept was effected using a blow-up of USGS, soils maps, plain planning maps, etc. Primary emphasis was placed on intensive row crop land recommending conservation tillage with terrace for desired control.

Howard and one of the commissioners made the initial contact to invite the landowners involved. Howard did an excellent job of followup reminder contacts to insure attendance at yesterday's meeting. One or two landowners were on vacation and one works daytime hours off the farm, so the four in attendance were all that could be expected. These followup contacts prior to the meeting are very necessary.

We showed the slide set "Tillage and Terraces" to set a background for the meeting. Howard presented the District Critical Erosion Inventory map with overlay. We explained the group approach to conservation planning and application, and presented the preliminary proposal to the group with the use of overlays, photos, etc. Cost estimates, future cost share programs, pooling agreements, 208 program, etc, were discussed.

No definite commitments were made by anyone involved, but I felt the general reception from the group was somewhat favorable. We were looking primarily for this meeting to be informational in nature and I believe this was accomplished.

Unfortunately the only tile outlet terrace system in the neighborhood is one of dubious quality constructed probably over 10 years ago. They were all very familiar with this project and do not like it at all. For this reason, I asked them to consider taking a tour to Muscatine District to review the Maroff group project in the field and perhaps interview some of the landowners involved, so they could acquaint themselves with a large project that is eight years old and working as designed. I know Ken Maroff would present a good tour. They will think this over and contact Howard when and if they wish to go.

Franklin Lake proposal was only mentioned by one of the owners towards the end of the meeting, and no great emphasis seemed to be evident.

Considering everything, we think we had a good meeting, and this approach will be used further in Des Moines District.

Stan Simmons
Engineering Technician

cc: Tom Brown and Howard Bright ✓