



Upper Willamette Resource Conservation & Development Project

1307 Lincoln St., Eugene, Oregon 97401

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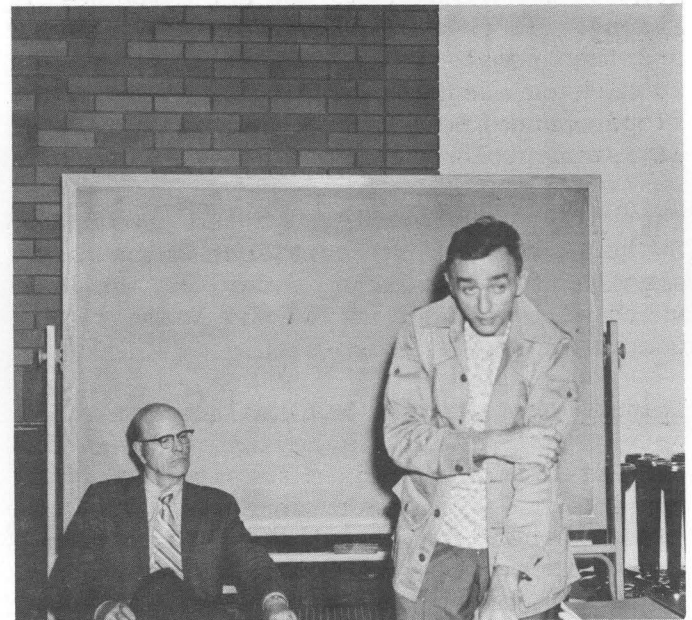


NEWPORT QUARTERLY MEETING

The RC&D Sponsors quarterly meeting on February 17 in Newport was termed a success by President Nash. Each resource committee presented their goals for 1972, emphasizing their continued interest in proper resource development in the Project Area.

Coastal and Willamette Valley planning efforts were presented during the noon luncheon at the Marine Science Center by Wilbur TERNYIK and David PEDERSEN. "We are assisting the existing counties and COG's in coordinating toward a sound coastal plan," said Chairman TERNYIK of OCC&DC. He continued, "Our mandate says our first two years' effort should be directed at estuaries...We have the finest Marine Studies facility in the U. S. and yet of what they are studying, very little is in the State of Oregon. It is up to the people of the coastal region to get more of the emphasis put on local studies on estuaries."

PEDERSEN, speaking on the Willamette Valley Planning Program--Project Foresight--brought out the work being done by the Local Government Relations Division of the State of Oregon. Replies to a questionnaire indicate two kinds of issues and problems that will be affecting the Willamette Valley. One is based on the continuation of present practices and policies. The other is going to be based on the assumption that decisions made in those areas will be made with an environmental point of view. "This is a partnership venture between the state and the local governments in the valley," he said. They hope to take the "issues" out to public forums.



Wilbur TERNYIK, OCCDC Chairman (right) and Project President W. G. "Buck" NASH (left).

WHO'S WHO

The Upper Willamette RC&D Project officers are: W. G. "Buck" NASH, President; DON FISHER, Vice President; H. J. KASNER, Secretary; OTTO LEEVER, Treasurer. The chairmen of the Resource Committees are: Agriculture--CLAYTON WOOD; Countryside Beautification--RON PADDÖCK; Recreation--RON BENTZ; Town & Community Planning--TOM KERR (acting); Water Development--PAUL BLAZER; Wildlife--DAVE SHELGTREN; and Woodland--MIKE ATKINSON. The Project Coordinator is LOYD A. "SWISS" BURNETT.

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Northwest of Junction City is the Hulbert Lake Irrigation Project which was constructed in 1969. Expansion of this project to include seven more farms would bring an additional 750 acres under irrigation and possible conversion to cannery vegetables, mint and alfalfa from dryland grain and grass seed cropland. The Junction City Water Control District is sponsoring this expansion and brought it to the North Lane SWCD for approval by the RC&D Sponsors.

Recently the Linn Lane SWCD received a request from the Little Muddy Water Control District for planning assistance for flood control measures on the Rowland Ditch Drainageway. It is a tributary of Little Muddy and the completion of Phase III will now furnish an adequate outlet for this small flood channel to be completed; thereby, alleviating prolonged inundation and flooding.

The city of Scio, through the East Linn SWCD, is requesting assistance in the preparation of a resource study of the area which will be used in the development of a comprehensive land use plan.

Island Park in the Willamalane Park District, Springfield, is having a bank erosion problem and needs a feasibility study and design. This park is situated on the banks of the Willamette River. The request for assistance was presented to the Project Sponsors by the Upper Willamette SWCD.

FORESTRY FORUM MARCH 27

The Linn County Small Woodlands Association and the Extension Service will cooperate in a forestry forum to be held at the Fairgrounds in Albany on the evening of March 27, reports Ralph Watts, Lebanon, president of the association.

Subjects to be covered include planting to secure survival, Christmas tree production, brush control, thinning for posts and poles, and thinning for saw logs.

Watts says that instructors will come mainly from association members who have years of experience in forestry.

SURFACE FLOODING AFFECTS YIELDS

Oregon State University Agricultural Engineer Roy H. Brooks is convinced the Willamette Valley is a sleeping giant as far as agricultural production is concerned.

Key to waking the giant, according to Brooks, is adequate drainage. He bases this contention upon the basis of research work done the past year on the Jackson farm on Highway 34 between Corvallis and Lebanon.

Project data suggest that removal of surface water from more than 600,000 acres of poorly drained Willamette Valley soils after storms through subsurface drains is the critical factor.

Water table levels had no effect on crop yield when there was no surface flooding. Yields from alfalfa and red clover planted September 2, 1970, were the same on plots with varying water table levels. Both crops yielded more than three tons per acre on the first cutting and exceeded eight tons per acre at the end of the growing season.

Shallow, closely spaced drains 18 inches deep and 15 feet apart, using two-inch diameter plastic pipe completely eliminated surface flooding and may be the most feasible drainage system for poorly drained soils like the Dayton and Concord on the Jackson farm.

LINCOLN RESOURCE COUNCIL UNDER WAY

Lincoln County Commissioners recently adopted an organizational plan which could be the first step in the establishment of a county-wide service district for water, sewerage and solid waste facilities.

Sid Knox, chairman of the steering committee which prepared the organizational plan, indicated that the 55-member council would be responsible for preparing and planning implementation of county-wide plans and to carry out public information programs regarding the activities of the council.

H I G H L I G H T S O F ' 7 1 I N T H E P R O J E C T A R E A



Project Chairmen and Executive Secretaries of the seven resource committees discussing program needs for the forthcoming year.

Pictured (l. to r.) are Michael Atkinson, "Chick" Latham, Ron Bentz, Leonard Burns, Clayton Wood, Project President "Buck" Nash, Project Coordinator "Swiss" Burnett, Ron Paddock, Dick Bonn, Dave Shelgren and Tom Kerr. Not shown are Don Fisher, Merle Cook and Clarence Parker.

EAST MUDDY IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Big Muddy Irrigation District arranged a \$100,000 FHA-RC&D loan to assist in financing the construction of the pumping facility at the headwaters of their system on the McKenzie River. Full use of this pumping plan will occur at the start of the '72 irrigation season. At the present time, it will serve water to more than 4000 acres for row crops, mint, hay and pasture, and legumes and grasses for seed production.

AREA BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST

"ABC" concluded another successful program. The committee is endeavoring to interest the League of Oregon Cities in sponsoring the contest on a state-wide basis.

RC&D "SHOW AND TELL"

Oakridge was a busy place in 1971. The Community Development Specialist along with a U. of O. graduate student, initiated a Community Attitude Survey which met with excellent community response. The results are being used by the city government, schools and service clubs to determine what the people of Oakridge feel are the top priorities to make Oakridge more livable.

In response to a request for resource data for land use planning and community development, the Soil Conservation Service assigned soil scientists in the Project Area to do field mapping and prepare a "Resource Data" report which was then presented to the City Council and Planning Department.

Summer of '71 the Oakridge Flood Prevention and Water Management project was begun and completed. This \$100,000 RC&D funded project provides relief from flooding, pollution and drainage. Mayor Ron Paddock on two occasions hosted visitors in the Upper Willamette RC&D Project Area and graphically described the impact on Oakridge of the various RC&D projects in the community.

COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP FOR LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County government and the RC&D Project co-sponsored a Communication and Public Relations workshop in September. Participants from throughout the county heard speakers, information and methods on "How to Gain Public Support for Community Development Projects."

PLANNING WORKSHOPS FOR COASTAL LANE COUNTY

Seventeen local organizations including the RC&D Project and Lane County sponsored three planning workshops for residents of coastal Lane County. The purpose of the workshops, which were held in October and early November, was to bring together people concerned about the management of resources, their use and misuse, economic opportunities in the coastal area, community needs and coordination of planning efforts. As a result of this workshop, coastal people are now seriously discussing the formation of a Western Lane Planning Commission.

M O R E H I G H L I G H T S

SIUSLAW RIVER CLEANUP

Dick Bonn, RC&D biologist, coordinated a massive cleanup of 35 to 40 miles of the Siuslaw River and its tributaries. Participants included a number of local, state and federal agencies along with Boy Scouts and other civic groups and individuals.

BLM SOILS MAPPING ALL BUT COMPLETE

An accelerated mapping program in conjunction with RC&D of Bureau of Land Management lands in Lane, Linn, Benton and Douglas Counties is all but complete. A few scattered acres remain to be mapped.

The project, initiated in late 1965, utilized SCS soil scientists in mapping some 243,500 acres of BLM land.

The two main purposes for gaining this soils information are for timber management and selection of potential recreation sites.

PLANNING FOR PEOPLE IN LANE COUNTY

"Planning for People" was termed a success by Tom Kerr, Senior Planner for the Lane County Planning Department. The program was designed to provide an opportunity for rural people to make recommendations on the development of a land use plan for rural Lane County.

Local people in 21 areas of the county met on three separate occasions to finalize recommendations for the county plan. Lane Extension Service, who had the primary responsibility for conducting these sessions, held 41 meetings in 14 separate areas. Also, participating in the planning and carrying out of this program were the Lane County Planning Department and RC&D staff.



PERIWINKLE PROJECT

Periwinkle Creek, which is an RC&D Project, is a joint effort between the Grand Prairie Water Control District and the city of Albany. Each will develop about two miles of waterways to accommodate drainage of surrounding lands and flood control during major storms. In addition, the city of Albany is planning to develop a system of parks, waterways and bicycle paths along their portion of the waterway.

Notifications of intent to apply for federal aid have been forwarded to the District COG and state offices.

This is the first water-based recreation measure in the Upper Willamette RC&D Project.

LITTLE MUDDY--NO MORE A MENACE

In the December Soil Conservation magazine one of the feature articles has been written by Lynn Barnes, chairman of the Little Muddy Water Control District. For two months articles from local non-government leaders of RC&D projects have filled this publication. We've summarized this article on the Upper Willamette RC&D Project as follows:

Where Little Muddy Creek flows, it flooded not once but two, three, four or more times. The floodwater washed away fertilizer and cut down on seed yields. Many times it drowned out a newly established stand of grass and made pastures unusable for days. Flooding damaged farm fencing and roads. School buses, mail trucks--everything and everyone had to go around the floodwater.

Because of the size and cost of this RC&D project--about \$600,000--it has been spread out over a 4-year period. When the work is completed this summer, higher return crops can be grown, if markets are available. Now when the heavy rains fall, the creek stays within the banks where the channel has been improved. There are fish in the creek--bass, perch, catfish and carp--and the channel curves gracefully through the countryside. As Lynn Barnes says, "The good part is we accomplished our task with patience, communication and understanding. It is a process we heartily recommend."



Plant Materials Workshop--Participants viewing field plantings at workshop sponsored by Upper Willamette RC&D Woodland Committee.

EMPHASIS ON EROSION CONTROL

How do you treat severe critical areas along steep slopes, slide areas, etc.? Show us some species highly palatable for upland game and varieties that will discourage inroads of elk and deer. Do you have examples of aquatic plants for pond and reservoir planting?....Questions such as these were plentiful at a tour of the Corvallis Plant Materials Center by the RC&D Woodland Technicians and guests in July. The information given by Bill Billings, Plant Materials Specialist, proved of great value to these representatives from private industry, BLM, USFS and Oregon State Department of Forestry.

On September 15, 1972, a field review of critical area stabilization work is being planned by the RC&D Woodland Technicians in the McKenzie Area as an incentive to all participants in their woodland management programs. This area has many ownerships and management plans, and the tour will cover what is established, some operation seeding, "success and failure," samples of seed and fertilization application and some that has been mulched last fall.

FLOOD PLAIN EVALUATIONS

Frank Reckendorf, geologist with the USDA River Basins Survey Staff has been working in the RC&D area. As a result, Lane County has received a draft copy of a general flood plain map of the entire county area. It is not meant to be a map for zoning but to be used (1) to show the flood plain problem in the Comprehensive Plan, and (2) to indicate areas where further detailed studies may need to be made to initiate flood plain regulations. It will have to be reviewed in Washington, D. C., but in the meantime, the county will have a copy for reference.

A request from the county was also received to examine a potential development area out in the Thurston Road section, east of Springfield. A reconnaissance investigation was made to assist the county in making land use decisions.

On the River Road request, all the survey field investigation has been completed and is in the hands of the county so they can use this preliminary material in determining floor elevations.

WATER USE INVENTORY

Quentin Bowman, Natural Resources representative of the State Water Resources Board, indicated that the board is utilizing technical task forces in Lincoln and western Lane Counties to complete a water use inventory. This is the first phase of work being done to assist local planners in their work according to Bowman. One meeting was held in Florence on January 25 and another is scheduled for March 15. In Lincoln County a work session was held on February 29. This planning endeavor is being directed by Bowman throughout the Oregon Coastal Region.

WERTH HEADS COMMITTEE

Harold Werth, Benton County Extension Agent, is the new Chairman of the District IV Rural Development Committee, a group consisting of representatives of county, state and federal agencies in agriculture and forestry in Benton, Lincoln and Linn Counties. Other new officers are Frank Gurgurich, SCS, Harrisburg, Vice Chm. and Lee Allen, ASCS, Corvallis, Secretary.

ORCHARDISTS STUDY DISPOSAL OF ORCHARD PRUNINGS

It seems to be a fairly well accepted fact that the southern end of the Willamette Valley has a tremendous potential for air pollution because of the meteorological and geographical configurations. The Lane County Extension Service, in cooperation with the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority advisory committee, is examining the contribution of burning orchard prunings to this overall pollution load.

Lane County Extension Agent Duane Hatch has estimated that there are about 4300 tons of prunings removed annually from the county orchards. With a 70 percent dry matter content, approximately 3,000 tons must be handled annually. Based on experiments in California, burning this amount of wood would put an estimated 22 1/2 tons of fine carbon particulate and 225 tons of carbon monoxide into the air. The prunings are disposed of over a period of four to six months, however, and the contribution in any given time is relatively small.

Hatch arranged a January demonstration at the Jack Bush orchard north of Coburg to demonstrate other methods of brush disposal. Of major emphasis was the Wayne chipper which was furnished by Mulkey's Spraying Service. Mulkey prunes trees commercially and he uses the chipper for disposing of the brush.

Many problems must be faced and solved before chipping of prunings can be an attractive alternative to orchardists. Chippers are very expensive machines costing from \$4,000 to \$5,000 each. Labor and time to handle prunings to enable chipping is unknown but would be substantially more than present methods of getting prunings into a burn pile.

With the cooperation of the Lane County ASCS Committee, a pilot program has been set up for cost sharing on disposal of orchard prunings other than by burning. It is hoped that several orchardists will participate in this pilot program so that more and better information can be available to enable orchardists to make a decision on how best to eliminate the pollution problem.

This newsletter is a quarterly publication edited by the Community Development Specialist assigned to the Upper Willamette RC&D Project by Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service. The Project is designed to accelerate resource development in the 3-county area of Lane, Lincoln, Linn and Benton Counties.

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