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Upper Willamette

Resource Conservation & Development Project Newsletter

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

RC&D AREA OFFICE -- 954 13TH AVENUE WEST, EUGENE, OREGON 97402 -- PHONE: 687-6454
NEWSLETTER - Volume X, No. 2 - August, 1978

RC&D OFFICE MOVES!

The new address of the Upper Willamette RC&D Area office is 954 13th Avenue West, Eugene, Oregon 97402; our phone number is still 687-6454.

Ralph Cleveland, district conservationist with the Lane County Soil Conservation Service office next to the fairgrounds, rearranged and consolidated desks, tables and people to accommodate both program offices for our July 15th move.



MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY RC&D

The Mid-Willamette Valley RC&D Area has a new office and staff. It is now located with the Mid-Willamette Council of Governments in Salem and the new address is:

Mid-Willamette Valley RC&D Area
Senator Building - 4th Floor
220 High Street N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301
Phone: 588-6177

Dave Anderson, who has been the RC&D coordinator with the Upper Willamette RC&D in Eugene, is now working half-time with the Mid-Willamette RC&D Area and will be in the Salem office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Donna McElory has been hired by the Mid-Willamette COG to work full-time with the RC&D program and assist in the clerical work of the office. She will also be busy contacting individuals, groups, and cities throughout the three counties to determine

their needs for resource conservation and community development. Anyone requesting assistance or information about the RC&D program can call either Dave or Donna at 588-6177 in Salem.

Two projects are being studied for possible RC&D funding. One is a flood prevention project at Sheridan which has been on the sponsors' priority list for several years. An updated cost estimate has been requested which will be used by an SCS economist to determine whether or not the project is feasible. The second project is the development of public water-based recreation on Barnick Pond north of Salem. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Marion County Parks & Recreation Department are presently evaluating needs and determining priorities.

The Mid-Willamette Valley RC&D Area is sponsored by Marion, Yamhill and Polk counties, Marion, Yamhill and Polk Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and the Mid-Willamette Council of Governments. The RC&D Area is administered on the local level by an executive board made up of representatives of the sponsors. They are:

Myron Harper, President, Marion SWCD
Walt Gjersvold, 1st Vice President, Polk County Commissioner
Vern Stephens, 2nd Vice President, Yamhill SWCD
Constance Moore, Secretary, Yamhill SWCD
Stan Christensen, Treasurer, Yamhill SWCD
Pat McCarthy, member, Marion County Commissioner
Colin Armstrong, member, Yamhill County Commissioner
Wes Vost or Hugh Muller, member, Polk SWCD
Joel Mathias, COG, Aumsville City Manager

AGRICULTURE, HOME ECONOMICS, AND 4-H CLUB WORK

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND OREGON COUNTIES COOPERATING

ASSOCIATED MEASURES

RC&D Sponsors at the April 27th quarterly meeting in Corvallis approved two associated measures:

Representatives of an Organic Farmers Coop requested support in obtaining a cooler to aid their farmers' market project.

Others from a Small Farmers' Coop requested support for establishing a research center at the Lynn Miller farm, Junction City, to demonstrate the viability of small scale agriculture.

At the June 29th quarterly meeting in Newport the Sponsors accepted three additional Associated Measures:

A request from the Upper Willamette Economic Development Corporation of Oakridge was made for support in obtaining U. S. Dept. of Commerce, Economic Development Administration loan funds to establish long-term employment opportunities in the Oakridge-Westfir area.

The McKenzie River Cooperative requested support of a labor intensive project to increase small woodland efficiency through the use of forest "by-products" and hardwoods.

The Lane Economic Development Council and the Organically Grown Cooperative requested support of their proposal to hire a marketing coordinator and developer.

NEW PROJECTS

New projects needing RC&D funding and/or technical assistance were also approved at the June 29th meeting:

The Dept. of Fish & Wildlife plan to improve Habitat adjacent to Fern Ridge Reservoir for waterfowl and upland game birds. Land will be improved through drainage, shaping and terracing.

Willamalane Park District is seeking assistance and support to extend the bikeway system between Island Park in Springfield and Alton Baker Park, Eugene.

Willamalane Park District also requested assistance to improve public access to the

McKenzie River and preserve areas of special interest within the Springfield area.

CURRENT PROJECTS & COMPLETIONS

South Beach Marina RC&D Project--The breakwater, dredging of the boat basin, shore protection and boat ramp have been completed. The Architectural & Engineering (A&E) design contract will be completed soon and bids are expected to be let for Phase II in early 1979 for moorages, etc.

The South Priceboro Flood Project, which was expected to start this summer has been delayed until 1979 because of budget restrictions.

Fall Creek Critical Area Treatment--Seeding of approximately 10 miles of roadbanks in the Fall Creek Watershed, Lincoln County, was completed early this year. The grass, applied with a hydro-mulcher, is growing well and will reduce sediment in Fall Creek and improve water quality at the Hatchery.

Heceta Critical Area Treatment--European beach grass has been planted on 59 acres of sand dunes near Florence. These plantings will help protect the Florence Airport, Rhodo Dune Golf Course and a water line of the Heceta Water District.

North Lake Creek Flood Project--The formation of a conterminous Water Control District and subdistrict is underway.

North Santiam Irrigation--Aerial photo coverage has been supplied to the steering committee. This will assist them in identifying what land and how many potential acres might be included in the irrigation project.

Harrisburg Flood Prevention--An economic evaluation is being prepared to determine if the proposed project is feasible.

NEXT RC&D QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, October 26

7:30 p.m.

Extension Auditorium

950 13th Avenue West

Eugene, Oregon



Siletz, Oregon, has a community garden project in addition to several activities being carried on under the Siletz Indian Council. Special project funding has been made available to the Council through the Federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to assist youth and others in finding employment.

The garden project not only provides work experience for youth in the community but also fresh vegetables to local and senior residents. Comprehensive Youth Programs (CYP) under CETA are also being used at the Siletz Community Center to carry on with the crafts of basketry and beadwork and to prepare historic sketches of Indian customs and experiences as related by the tribe's senior citizens. Still other young people have aided the Siletz community through a project to clear years' of brush growth from the historic cemetery at Siletz, making it an attractive, park-like setting.

CRAB WASTES FOR FERTILIZER

A new agricultural cooperative in Newport that is promoting use of crab and shrimp wastes on farm and garden soils has also supplied a 6 ton per acre application to the Siletz gardens.

According to John Fitzpatrick, Extension Agent in Lincoln County, the cooperative applied some 1000 tons of this material to farm and nursery lands in 1977. As much as 10 tons per acre was used for nursery crops, while 6 tons/acre is suggested for farm acreage. A 6 ton application is considered

to be a near optimum level for plant growth and physical handling of the waste material. It cost \$12.00 per ton to have the material delivered in the vicinity of Newport, and it has a value for its nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer content of \$12-\$15 per ton.

A bulletin entitled "A New Look at Old Fertilizers" is available from the OSU Extension Service bulletin clerk or county Extension office, which describes the value and application of the shrimp and crab waste material.

RURAL CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Detailed proposals are expected in 1978 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will spell out how farmers will be able to get federal cost-sharing assistance to help solve water pollution problems caused by agricultural activities.

According to recent announcements from the Environmental Protection Agency ("Northwest Environment," May 1978), a total of \$600 million (\$200 million in Fiscal Year 1979 and \$400 million in FY 1980) has been authorized by Congress for the cost-sharing funds under the new Rural Clean Water Program created by the 1977 Clean Water Act.

The program allows the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into 5- to 10- year contracts with rural landowners and farm operators to help pay for installing and maintaining best management practices to control agricultural "nonpoint" source pollution and to improve water quality without any sacrifice in agricultural production.



FARMER-TO-CONSUMER-ACT OF 1976

The Oregon State University Extension Service has obtained funds through the Farmer-to-Consumer Act of 1976 for a project to compile lists of direct markets in Oregon, create marketing associations, and develop educational programs about direct marketing methods.

The increased interest and growth in direct marketing of fruit and vegetables from small farms may also result in better utilization of small, urban-fringe parcels of land often inefficiently used.

BUYERS' GUIDES

Fruit and vegetable produce from small farms and large gardens is being marketed increasingly through roadside stands, direct farm sales and U-pick operations.

A valuable contribution to bringing local produce and buyers together has been the "Buyers' Guide" of the Fresh Market Growers of Lane County. The Fresh Market Growers is a group of farmers and consumers who have

organized in the interest of small farm enterprise and the desire of an increasing number of buyers to drive to the country for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Copies of the guide are available through the OSU Extension office at 950 W. 13th Eugene.

The Mid Willamette Growers Association of Corvallis has also prepared a list of fruit and vegetable growers for the Benton and Linn County areas. These buyers' guides are proving very helpful in directing people to U-pick and direct sale outlets for farm fresh fruits and vegetables.

While the Lane County Fresh Market Growers prepared and published their guide in cooperation with the Lane County Extension Service, the Mid Willamette Growers publication was made possible by a grant from the National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, Montana. The Benton-Linn buyers' guide is available at the Growers' Market, 1007 SE 3rd Street, Corvallis, and the Farmers' Market planned for each Saturday, 10:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Water and Broadalbin Streets parking lot, Albany.

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

There are some 23 water control and irrigation districts within the upper Willamette Valley area of Benton, Linn and Lane counties.

The location of these districts has been mapped by a team of CETA employees assisting with a water management plan which includes identification of both completed and pending channel or irrigation improvement projects.

Working through the Linn Extension and RC&D offices, Robert Cummins, Ron Youngman, and Steve Brewer have contacted many directors of the districts, searched for legal descriptions and gathered information on major work each district has done or plans to do. The report is expected to show where additional projects are needed, in what priority, and through which district or future district they might be accomplished.

The Agriculture & Water Committee of the RC&D has indicated interest in calling directors of these districts together during the fall or winter of 1978-79 to review major flood control and drainage needs.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT POSITION ENDS

Limited RC&D funding and the continued need for projects within the four Oregon RC&D areas will mean the loss, as of September 30th, of the Extension Agent assigned part-time to the Upper Willamette RC&D Area.

The position, which was held initially by Clarence Parker and later by Turner Bond, has been held since 1973 by Jack Wood of the Linn County Extension staff.

According to Guy Nutt, SCS conservationist for Oregon, the approximately \$10,000 of annual funds allotted for the part-time work of a secretary and Extension Agent will be used to give some stimulus and encouragement to the other, less funded project areas.



JACK H. WOOD

UPDATE: WILLAMETTE GREENWAY

Roger Ellingson of the Oregon State Parks Division and Greenway Planning Coordinator for Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, has informed us of current plans and priorities for the Willamette Greenway.

According to Roger, "Most lands within the Greenway boundary are still in private ownership, and trespassing is still illegal on these lands. Our development program should help alleviate this continuing trespass problem." State park property which is open for public use will eventually have signs which so indicate and will be identifiable from the river and/or from an upland access point. It is presently planned to place signs on 43 of the 70 existing parcels by the end of the 1978 summer.

Also included in the development plans for 1978-79 are provisions for 25 self-contained chemical toilets, 25 fire rings, and 10 picnic tables to be distributed among 25 parcels ranging from river mile 30 to 200 (approx. Oregon City to Dexter Lake). Crews are presently busy with miles of fences and hiking trails. A practical guide to the location and facilities available on these sites is currently being produced and should be ready for distribution by late summer.

The agency is not acquiring parcels at this time except those given as gifts. Efforts have been directed instead at developing parcels already owned.

The five state parks created by the legislature are in varying stages of realization:

--Mt. Pisgah has been turned over to Lane County as a county park;

--Molalla, Lone Tree Bar and Dexter are in early stages of development with roads, fences, wells, etc., going in first.

--Bowers Rocks has been put on the back burner.

MEADOWFOAM OIL STILL POSSIBLE

Two years ago the RC&D Newsletter reported on the study of Meadowfoam as a welcome addition to cropping alternatives available for wet, heavy soil. Meadowfoam, as you may recall, was found to be the source of an oil which can be used in place of sperm whale oil.

Thanks to a recent grant of \$50,000, progress continues to be made in this area. The grant, which comes from the Pacific Northwest Regional Commission on Economic development, will allow for partial funding of oil extraction research at the Bohemia plant near Coburg and plant culture and yield research at OSU. Wheeler Calhoun of OSU and Frank Trocina of Bohemia, heads of the respective research projects, agree that it may be another 5 or 6 years before Meadowfoam is ready for commercial production on Willamette Valley farms.

CLARION MAKES DEBUT

The Fall Creek Clarion, created and edited by project coordinator Dave Anderson and project secretary Jeane Hutcheson, served as a refreshing format for reviewing the Fall Creek Coordinated Resource Plan. Information for the Clarion was contributed by Joe Lebo, Norm Marsh, A. J. Demaris, Gene Stewart, Charles Phillips, Gene Klinger, Del Skeesick and Joe Pesek, and provided readers with the current status of various problems identified in the Plan. The following items were discussed:

- Fall Creek Road: Lincoln Co. has turned engineering over to the State of Oregon. Surveying is underway and rights-of-way will be obtained at its completion.
- Tansy Control: New cinnabarmoth colonies have been established in the watershed and a tansy control plan will be part of the overall Forest Service plan for the National Forest.
- Rock Quarry: Georgia-Pacific is planning to reactivate the area's old rock quarry.
- Helipond: Willamette Industries and BLM continue to work on development of a helipond site. (Pontoon helicopter landing).
- Fall Creek Fish Ladder: The USDA Forest

Service will finance building of a new fish ladder at the Falls. Construction is planned for FY 1980.

- Erosion Control: Approximately 10 miles of erodable roadside will be seeded by Willamette Industries.
- Upland Game Bird Information: Packets which contain descriptions of bird habitat, life histories, etc., were sent to interested local landowners this past year.
- Field Renovation for Wildlife Forage: Approximately 10 acres of open area owned by the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife were seeded for wildlife forage.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Memorandum of Understanding between Lane Council of Governments and the Upper Willamette RC&D Area was signed on June 6, 1978. A similar agreement is pending with Area IV COG for Benton, Lincoln and Linn counties.

These memorandums acknowledge that there is a mutually supporting concern for many planning and development activities by the membership of both the COG's and the RC&D Sponsors.

This newsletter is a quarterly publication edited by the Community Development Specialist assigned to the Upper Willamette RC&D Area by Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service. RC&D is designed to accelerate resource development in the 4-county area of Lane, Lincoln, Benton and Linn counties.

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