

*Clyde Steele*

Marquette County  
Soil & Water Conservation District  
Held: February 16, 1978  
Ramada Inn

Chairman Henry DeGroot called the meeting to order at 6:45.

Present were SCD Directors- Henry DeGroot, Joe DeGroot, Henry Adams, Sulo Harkonen, and Toivo Mitchell. Also, District Conservationist- Dave Ottoson; District Aide- Inga Petaisto; County Extension Agent- Augie Blome; County Health Department- Al Budinger; Marquette City Engineer- Mike Etelamaki; the County Environmental Committee- Sally May, Orvo Krock, Clyde Steele, and Pat Farrell.

Henry DeGroot spoke that the District has been fortunate through the CETA Program to have hired a forester to service forest landowners with management plans.

Dave Ottoson gave a report on the progress of the MID-Forestry Project. Harkonen mentioned the Project is making a special effort with absentee landowners who have used their land primarily for recreation. Their response to the Project has been a willingness to cooperate.

Ottoson asked if the County was currently preparing an inventory on county lands. Farrell stated his cartography class is doing an inventory (from existing data) which would include soils, vegetation, and location.

Ottoson suggested the District Forester- Jim Schultz, possibly could "walk over" the land and inventory areas of low stocking, estimates of stumpage on the land, and other criteria. His CETA position expires in July and he possibly could assist the county if the position is extended.

Farrell said this would have to be checked with the Forestry Commission as the county forest lands are under their supervision. It should also be checked to see if a management plan has already been done.

Sally May said the SCD could request a renewal of this position if CETA funds are available when this position runs out.

Dave Ottoson mentioned that the Soil Conservation Service has completed the soil survey and report of the "Growth Corridor" and the District will host a meeting with all affected governmental units to present the report and how to use it.

The Environmental Committee was briefed on the School Conservation Program presented by Inga Petaisto. She stated she has presented her program to 15 schools so far, (primarily in the 5th and 6th grades) and by the amount of questions asked, there has been a lot of interest in conservation.

It was also mentioned that the District was awarded the Visible Conservation Award in the U.P., for applying conservation practices on the land. Most of the District's accomplishments were through the RC&D Program of which the County Board of Commissioners are co-sponsors with the SCD.

Harkonen (also Marquette County RC&D Council Chairman) stated his concern that the proposed budget has drastically reduced RC&D funds from \$31 million to \$6 million. He explained that the RC&D is a U.P. wide project and could represent the needs of the county (the guidelines of RC&D are broad).

Ottoson reported that so far, Ishpeming Ski Hill, Tourist Park, Presque Isle, Chocolay River, Washington Park, and the County Road Project have nearly all been completed. All these projects were for erosion control.

Clyde Steele, who attended a RC&D Tour last September, commented that the jobs were well done and are solving the problems intended. Ottoson stated that the DNR did the work on the Chocolay, and the Marquette City Recreation Dept. did the work on city lands, and both did high quality work.

After dinner, Henry DeGroot opened up a discussion on Act 347 by reading an article on the Act. He read that agencies should be assisting each other to make the Act more effective, and violaters need help rather than punishment.

Al Budinger commented on the Act county-wide. The Health Dept. is issuing permits based on a site plan. Most developers are aware of the Act, but some earth movers are not. All construction need building permits and are told of Act 347. Some of the biggest offenders are earth movers who start filling, grading, etc. without a 347 permit. Also some very fine soils remain in suspension for long periods. Detention basins catch most of the silt, but water overflowing the basin is still discolored, creating a problem. Also, manpower for enforcement is a problem.

Etelamaki stated they are starting to get into a permit system. At present, he does not have the manpower for inspection. Possibly a CETA position could assist on inspection. He also mentioned there is a lack of education in the City.

Augie Blome, Extension Agent, said his office can and will assist on education of Act 347.

Farrell mentioned that the County could handle 347 if the City does not have the manpower.

Etelamaki stated he will submit a fee schedule this spring. Farrell expressed the entire inspection fee should cover the cost of enforcing the Act.

Section 208 was mentioned and what effect it would have on 347. Farrell and Adams received a copy of the 208 plan and public hearings are being set up. There possibly may be monies for enforcement.

#### Other Comments:

Farrell mentioned mines and forestry were exempt from 347.

Budinger brought up that agriculture will be covered in 1979 and would have to follow an acceptable plan. Ottoson said that conservation plans and revisions will be developed on high priority farms.

May asked if Budinger could meet with Sands and Marquette Townships to inform the Twp. Boards of 347.

Ernie Hall, DNR, couldn't make this meeting, but he conveyed that Act 347 was working pretty well in Marquette County considering the circumstances and lack of manpower.

The SCD honors a person in "conservation" each year at the Ishpeming Kiwanis Club Awards Banquet. Possibly this person could be someone who has done a good job in erosion control.

Drainage problems came up. Farrell stated streams in the Marquette area were being used as drainage-ways. Etelamaki said there will be problems in future years as more development takes place. Some culverts carrying creeks are already too small. He said there is no delineation of watersheds in the City or Marquette Twp., or other factors used for design of drainage. Harkonen stated this could possibly be a RC&D project.

Many other environmental problems were discussed- Badger Creek and other small streams in the city and township, problems created by large developments, mine tailing basins, work by utility companies, and others.



Sally May said she and Steele will be attending a meeting in Lansing on environmental concerns. They would convey the concerns of this group.

Henry DeGroot summarized the meeting. It was decided to look into the following:

- 1) Use of CETA or other programs to boost manpower for enforcement of Act 347.
- 2) Make people aware of Act 347. Budinger, Blome, and the SCD will get together for a Conservation Award and other possible education projects.
- 3) Discuss possible RC&D involvement in a study of drainage in the City and Marquette Township.
- 4) The SCD will assist in solving and giving technical assistance on erosion problems anywhere in Marquette County.