

Annual Report of Morrow Soil & Water Conservation District

Morrow Planning Commission

Dorris Graves - Chairman; Alma Green - Secretary; Ernest Jorgensen - Irrigon; Max Helberg - Irrigon; Roy Lindstrom - Ione; Orville Cutsforth, Jr. - Heppner; Virginia Grieb - Lexington; Ed Dick - Heppner.

Soil Conservation & Land Use Planning at the Local Level

By DEL SMITH Morrow County Planning Coordinator

The renewed, or recently re-awakened, emphasis on proper land use may finally

provide the kind of support from the public which could result in goals being reached that many conservationists had established years ago. Well conceived, locally formulated, comprehensive plans such as the Morrow County Comprehensive Plan are examples of this trend. Perhaps the over-reaction on the part of some individuals and groups has served to point up the need for constant attention to these goals and hopefully the pendulum will never swing entirely back to the complacent "who needs it" position.

The Morrow County Comprehensive Plan adopted early in 1972 is the product of many hours of work by citizens throughout the County. This plan calls attention to the need for additional guidelines to help in the future development of the County. The Morrow County Zoning Ordinance, prepared by the Planning Commission and adopted by the County Court in

June, 1972, was the next step in the series leading toward proper land use controls. The Proposed Subdivision Ordinance for the unincorporated portions of Morrow County is presently being studied by the Morrow County Planning Commission and will be discussed at public hearings in the near future. It too, when adopted by the County Court, will be another tool for use in the never ending process of proper land use.

It now appears likely that some form of regulatory legislation will be enacted by the present State Legislature dealing with land use policy, and certainly more specific "guide-line" legislation will follow at the Federal level. This seems to be the logical progression of events as long as local units of government remain free to feed community wishes and needs into the State and Federal computers. Rural entities of government that fail to keep abreast of their own needs or plan their own destinies will therefore become more and more susceptible to ultimatums from the next higher level of

authority. The members of "rural America" for the most part can, and do, see the necessity for proper land use, conservation of all natural resources, and long range planning to make the best of these resources. However, even a brief study of statistics reveals the overwhelming numbers in "urban America" that must be made aware of, and favorably indoctrinated in, these goals for the common good.

The Morrow County Planning Commission members as well as the Advisory members of the Commission who represent local, state, and federal divisions of government have a time consuming, and often thankless, task which is performed on their own time and at their own expense. They are all dedicated citizens of Morrow County who exemplify "community spirit and action" in its purest form. They heartily endorse the continuing efforts of the Soil Conservation Districts of the County to "get the soil conserving practices on the land" at a point in time

when too many acres of our soil resource have already been mined rather than properly farmed.

Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District

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