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# 208 bulletin

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Number 10

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

June 14, 1976

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## Agriculture and the Control of Water Pollution

The role of the agricultural sector in controlling water pollution was the topic of a speech given in Hawaii by Eckardt C. Beck. Mr. Beck, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water Planning and Standards, spoke to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

Praising the extensive work done by local conservation districts, Beck noted the successful cooperative efforts of 40 State sediment control institutes. He added that NACD is developing a plan for manpower development and training to aid the Water Quality Management Program. "This study is well underway..." said Beck.

Beck outlined other instances of cooperation. He said that several of the 208 areawide planning agencies have entered into a variety of contractual relationships with soil conservation districts or with a regional organization of conservation districts. "The Dane County Soil and Water Conservation District has a working program with the Dane County Council of Governments within the 208 program," he said. "Other areawide agencies such as Suffolk County, New York; Lake County, Illinois; and Yellowstone Valley, Montana, have all initiated or completed planning agreements with soil and water districts or regional associations of districts."

Several States have begun to develop formal relationships involving soil and water commissions, within the State water quality planning and management process for both designated and non-designated areas, he added. Florida, Iowa, Wisconsin, Maine, Colorado, South Dakota, Mississippi, and Oklahoma are among these States.

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"In the future, we see the districts being involved in the 208 process in a variety of activities, for example, in the delineation of future sewer service areas," he said.

"We will need your assistance in determining where there are nonpoint source problems, what their estimated magnitude is, and how to develop priorities for program solutions."

Beck also said that the districts could expand their important role of Federal and State interagency coordination. He felt there would be an acceleration in the districts' concern and role in sediment control from roadsides, as well as from land being held for development and land being developed.

"We see the districts, together with the Soil Conservation Service, expanding or reviewing their management practice systems to encompass best management practices for water quality needs."

#### Formation of an Urban Planning Task Force

EPA's Office of Research and Development has formed an Urban Planning Task Force to provide a focal point to coordinate activities and provide assistance and technological support to the agency's 208 program.

Located at the Municipal Research Laboratory in Cincinnati and directed by John M. Smith, this 6-member task force will act as liaison between EPA's Office of Air, Land and Water Use (OALWU) research program and the operating programs responsible for implementing Section 208 of PL 92-500. The task force will first summarize and accelerate the delivery of pertinent research results to the designated 208 agencies and related user communities. The task force recently completed a two-month survey of 208 planning needs which included agency visits, telephone interviews, and discussions and meetings with Regional 208 coordinators, 208 contractors, and other agency personnel.

As a result of this survey, along with a complete review of the OALWU related research programs, the task force will prepare an "Areawide Assessment Procedures

Manual" (AAPM) to provide a critically needed technological guidance for areawide planners in a readily useable form. The AAPM will contain data base inventory and problem identification, procedures for urban and non-urban pollutant source and load assessment, analysis of stream impacts, and evaluation and selection of control alternatives. In addition to this information, the AAPM will also contain twelve separate appendices including a model applicability summary, land use data bases and methods, monitoring requirements, best management practices and a major appendix summarizing structural cost information and methods. The AAPM will be published in three separate volumes. Portions of the first two volumes will be available after July 15 and the third volume will be ready by September 15, 1976.

208 Official  
Encourages  
Implementation

Mark Pisano, director of EPA's Water Planning Division, discussed implementation of 208-generated plans recently at a conference for local officials.

Speaking to local officials and 208 members, he charged that the program is failing to develop a commitment to implementation. He said that most agencies are working at full speed developing detailed work plans, projecting population figures and land use, and developing alternatives. Agencies are doing what they have done for years Pisano pointed out; they are developing plans which may or may not be implemented.

Pisano emphasized that the process of developing commitment must start the day someone begins to think about being designated. Once the funding grant is obtained, he said, implementation must become the number one priority. "Obviously the plan must be technically sound," the EPA official commented. "But, as we all know, there are thousands of technically sound plans that have gone nowhere."

Pisano listed a series of questions which must be addressed as a program for implementation is developed:

- 1) Who are the community, local and State leaders who will play a significant role in the success of the program?

2) Are their major interest environmental?...economic?...re-election?

3) Are their interests being met?

4) Are leaders and nonleaders participating in plan development? Or are they being used as rubber stamps by the planning staff?

5) Have the program's supporters been identified? How about potential supporters? Is the support being strengthened?

6) Does the developing plan allow for compromise and bargaining, especially with those who could block it?

7) Have Regional Planning Agencies and Councils of Government made concerted efforts to strengthen relationships with localities?

8) Are State Administrators and legislators being brought into the process now?

Pisano pointed out that the answers to these questions are the deciding factors of a plan's implementation. "Developing a commitment to implementation is the most difficult task facing us," he said. "Unless we devote substantial resources to it and unless we begin working on it now, it will elude us...I firmly believe that it has to be our number one priority."

#### Urban Storm-water Impact Studies

The EPA Office of Research and Development through the Municipal Environmental Research Laboratory in Cincinnati is attempting to locate potential sites for projects to determine the pollution effect in receiving waters from separate and combined sewer loadings. Priority will be given to sites within 208 planning areas and additional funding will be provided to support the collection of receiving water impact data.

To qualify for consideration as a study site, the project location should have:

- \* Receiving water conditions that will allow correlation between impact and pollution loads

- \* Sources and receiving waters accessible for monitoring
- \* Some evidence of pollution impact due to separate or combined discharges

Other desirable characteristics of a site include:

- \* The potential for a dissolved oxygen sag to occur as a result of the intermittent load
- \* Cooperating organization that has need for the impact data
- \* Receiving water conditions that will enable field verification of water quality prediction models

The project is primarily a field study to collect real time urban stormwater and receiving water data over a one to two-year period. This will require storm related sampling to determine hydrographs and pollutographs for major discharges and the receiving water response to such loads. For additional information, call John English, NERL, Cincinnati (513) 684-7613.

#### Innovative Meetings in Florida

Innovative 208 meetings recently held in Palm Beach and Dade County, Florida provided an opportunity for local elected officials to meet with their Congressmen and discuss 208 planning objectives.

EPA Region IV representatives on hand to field questions during the sessions were Frank Reed, Regional Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer and Scott P. Berdine, 208 Project Officer.

The local 208 agencies coordinated with Congressional representatives in mailing invitations and acquiring meeting space. This cooperation helped generate attendance of local officials; more than half of the governmental units in each planning area were present and involved in the sessions.

Wastewater  
Facilities/  
Construction  
Grants  
Workshops Set

Several sessions on Wastewater Facilities/Construction Grants are scheduled this summer. They will be held in Chicago, June 17-18; Knoxville, July 16-17; Dallas/Ft. Worth, July 21-22; Washington, August 12-13; Atlanta, August 26-27; and San Francisco, September 1-2. The workshops, designed for local leaders, are being sponsored jointly by the National Association of Counties, The National League of Cities, and The International City Management Association.

The opening day sessions will be on the Washington perspective and the Intergovernmental perspective, and include a city-county dialogue and a feedback session. Planning, financing, Federal regulations, and EPA regional administrative procedures are to be discussed on the second day. For more information and registration materials contact the Construction Grants Project Manager at the national headquarters of any of the sponsoring associations.

The relationship between the areawide plan and plans for individual facilities is fundamental to the Water Quality Management Program.

The 208 staff is responsible for working closely with local officials to see that the ongoing facility planning is consistent with the areawide program. Close coordination developed early in the planning process is essential for implementation of sound programs.

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