

## Regionalism Brings Many New Agencies into Area; Groups Defined

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State and Local planning in the region. ARPDC is not restricted to any segment of the population or economy. Its mandate is to stimulate economic growth in the Albemarle area. Broadly stated, the purpose of ARPDC is to plan, promote and carry out a diversified development program designed to help the people of this area obtain a standard of living that equals that of people in other sections of the country. It is a planning district commission, an organization of cities and counties which have joined together to plan and carry out

cooperative development projects. ARPDC serves as a channel of communication between local governments and Federal and State Agencies, collects and analyzes economic data on the region, acts as a clearinghouse for Federal Grant Applications, plans for the orderly growth of the towns and counties of the area and promotes and conducts programs for economic and social development of the entire area.

Resource Conservation And Development A Resource Conservation

and Development project is a locally initiated and sponsored activity to expand the economic opportunities for the people of an area by developing and carrying out a plan of action for the orderly conservation, improvement, development and wise use of their natural resources.

A RC&D Project is applicable where the acceleration of current conservation activities plus the use of other authorities will provide additional opportunities to local people.

Hard core of the RC&D Project is its natural resources, and the project

measure proposals that sponsors receive will form a wide diversity of interests. Sponsors then are in a position to coordinate and assure the orderly fitting together of a diverse interest and endeavors into a compatible forward moving program. Inasmuch as resources must be managed and used by and for people, many project measures will deal with related endeavors so that the rewards of the good resource management can be more fully realized.

RC&D Project approach is designed to help people of rural areas realign and speed up resource conservation and development of their natural resources and thus strengthen the economy and enhance their opportunities for good living. Consolidation of leadership and coordination, cooperative efforts of local people and cooperating local, state and federal agencies make possible genuine and significant rural areas development.

### North Carolina Rural Fund for Development

NCRFD is a limited purpose agency funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity to operate in 30 eastern North Carolina counties. Ten of these counties compose your economic development district. The work program calls for them to assist predominately low-income cooperatives and credit unions with technical assistance, membership and board training and small supplemental loans and grants where no other funds are available.

Now, in the area, they are working directly with four credit unions: Chowan County Credit Union, Gates County Credit Union, Pasquotank County Credit Union and Perquimans County Credit Union and two farm cooperatives: Albemarle Cooperative Association and Chowan Produce Exchange. In addition, in our area, they are also working with the division of Continuing Education—East Carolina University—in establishing a Sea Food



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### BANK OF EDENTON

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spotted over the coastal regions of the Atlantic Seaboard. During the first months of this year the old building at Broad and King was completely renovated inside. There are now three Peoples Bank locations in Edenton for the convenience of its customers.

The motto of Peoples Bank is "Growing and Serving in Northwestern North Carolina" and Peoples Bank makes this a solemn pledge to the people of Edenton.

Cooperative around Tyrrell, Dare and Hyde Counties. They also have funded for administrative purposes, in conjunction with the North Carolina Migrant Project, East Carolina Industries, an economic development project working with migrant and seasonal laborers in Hyde and Tyrrell counties.

NCRFD operates out of a central office in New Bern, North Carolina with satellite offices in Edenton and Whiteville. They operate with a staff of six and have technical assistance contracts with U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers Cooperative Service and the Cooperative League of the USA.

## Rural Environment Program Set

Americans are becoming increasingly concerned about the quality of their environment. They are distressed to find the air they breathe carries with it dust, exhaust fumes, and chemicals. They are disturbed that many of their streams, rivers, and lakes are now so polluted that they are no longer safe for swimming, fishing, or as a source for drinking water.

Commenting on these problems in his 1970 message on the environment, President Nixon said: "The environmental problems we

have are deep-rooted and widespread. They can be solved only by a full national effort embracing not only sound, coordinated planning, but also an effective follow-through that reaches into every community in the land. Improving our surroundings is necessarily the business of us all."

In recognition of the need to clean up agriculture's contribution to pollution problems and to help in the restoration of the environment, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is intensifying its conservation

and anti-pollution activities. In this vital effort, the new Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP), successor to the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), offers incentive cost-sharing assistance.

The major purpose of REAP is to improve the quality of life for all people. This will be accomplished by helping farmers and ranchers to prevent or abate agriculture-related pollution

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