

1973
DISTRICT MINUTES

Number of Meetings Held
Regular - 12
Special - 4

Official Action Taken
Motions - 98

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS

A. Single Outstanding Achievement

The Hardin Soil Conservation District Commissioners and staff planned and produced an audio-video program entitled: "A LOOK AT SOIL CONSERVATION IN HARDIN COUNTY". The enclosed pamphlet explains the program, equipment and how it happened.

The 20-minute audio-video program has been reproduced by the Regional Educational Media Center at Marshalltown and is available for showing at all schools in Area 6.

The program was presented three days at the Hardin County Fair, one day at the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners Annual Conference in Des Moines and at an SCS student training session. The program has been shown to Iowa Falls High School and Ellsworth Community College students.

B. District Activities

The Hardin Soil Conservation District has expanded new ways to promote natural resources conservation education for students, teachers and the general public. The district has worked hand-and-hand with the Hardin County Conservation Board, Hardin County Extension Service, Hardin County Farm Bureau, Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Falls High School, Regional Six Educational Media Center, Pine Lake Wildlife Club and several private groups, organizations, and individuals to carry out a successful soil and water conservation program in Hardin County.

New educational programs this year included a ten-session adult education class at Ellsworth Community College entitled "Environmental Quality in the 70's". This session was programmed after the Soil Conservation Society of America's "Environmental Quality and the Citizens-A Teaching Guide for Adult Education Courses Related to the Environment". The program was very successful with a large attendance. William H. Schmidt, Biology Department, Ellsworth Community College presented a paper on the adult education class at the 1973 SCSA Annual Conference at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Also new, was a program entitled "To Have An Outdoor Classroom At Your School" for all Hardin County teachers. The teachers toured the Iowa Falls High School Outdoor Classroom and the Hardin County Conservation Board outdoor classroom plantings. The goal of the Hardin Soil Conservation District is to have an outdoor classroom at each school or available for each student in Hardin County. Three outdoor classrooms were established in 1973. Several other schools are planning outdoor classrooms or using county parks until they can establish an outdoor classroom.

A new soil judging contest called the Iowa Valley Soil Judging Clinic was started in the fall of 1973. This successful event was co-sponsored by the Agricultural Division of Ellsworth Community College, Hardin County Extension Service, and Hardin Soil Conservation District.

An organized well-attended terrace maintenance meeting proved to be a successful method to discuss maintaining new and old terrace systems with landowners and operators. Hardin County has a large number of grassed backslope terraces and interest is increasing.

All mayors, council members and city attorneys in Hardin County were invited to attend a meeting to discuss "Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinances for Construction Sites". The program created interest and concern for soil erosion ordinances, mostly city officials became more informed on services offered by the Hardin Soil Conservation District.

A publication entitled "Soil Facts" was prepared and distributed as handout material at each educational program presented. There were 30 educational programs given during 1973, with over 1,000 persons attending.

Thirty-five news releases were written and released throughout the year to one radio station at Iowa Falls (KIFG) and seven newspapers.

The educational booklet entitled "The Earth Our Home in Space" and published by the Soil Conservation Society of America was distributed to all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students in Hardin County. Each teacher also received a teacher's guide to correspond with the booklet.

The 1973-1974 Hardin County Agricultural Directory was prepared and distributed to all Hardin County landowners and tenants as a courtesy of the Hardin Soil Conservation District.

The Hardin Soil Conservation District Long Range Plan of Action was revised to recognize natural resource needs, problems and opportunities existing within Hardin County. It is a policy of the commissioners to review the Hardin County Soil Conservation District Program and Work Plan every two years and revise if and when necessary. The revised plan was distributed to many of the Hardin County governmental agencies listed in Section VIII of the long range plan.

The first step was taken to determine interest in a resource conservation and development project. The Marshall County Soil Conservation District Commissioners were invited to a meeting in September, 1973 and the proposal was discussed. The RC&D Project should involve Marshall, Tama, Poweshiek and Hardin Counties.

The Hardin Soil Conservation District commissioners continually search for new ideas and improved methods and programs to strengthen the Hardin County Soil and Water Conservation Program even more than it is now.