

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Council Bluffs, Iowa

1973

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
Soil Conservation District
Box 936, Room 238 Federal Bldg.
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
Phone 328-2489

THIRD CLASS

FOREWORD

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District takes this means to report the accomplishments in Soil and Water Conservation during the year 1973.

What a year it was! One of the problems was that there was no money from REAP for cost-sharing funds. But what with conservation minded land-owners, there were a few instances where they went ahead with previous plans and picked up 100% of the tab, conserving the soil and water. Our hats off to these people!

However, by midseason, funds from state appropriations came through. By this time some contractors did not have operators for all machines, so land owners found it difficult to get projects started. Many applications had to be cancelled because of the winter season.

The District and its farm cooperators are equally concerned about all types of conservation. Now more than ever, we must become aware of the ways of keeping our streams and creeks pure. Feedlot run-off can be controlled. Chemicals applied to the land can be kept in place with proper practices.

SCS has plans to solve these and many other problems.
Come see us---at the Federal Building.

C. Clint Goos, Commissioner
West Pottawattamie SCD

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman, 1222 Harrison St., Council Bluffs
Derald Blois, Vice-Chairman, Honey Creek
Floyd Fischer, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs
Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner, Rt. 1, McClelland
Clint Goos, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner, Carson
Stanley Grote, Assistant Commissioner, 367 Kenmore, Council Bluffs
Phillip Lustgraaf, Assistant Commissioner, Rt. 4, Council Bluffs
Cliff Johnson (County Extension Director) District Secretary

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs Oneta Riggs, State Clerk
Leslie Betts, State Aid

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Cal Cox, District Conservationist
Donald Barnhart, Conservation Technician
Leon Foderberg, Area Conservationist
Norman Koester, Area Engineer

DISTRICT PROGRESS

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	Goals for <u>1974</u>
NEW COOPERATORS	32	19	20
FARMERS ASSISTED	300	207	280
FARMERS APPLYING PRACTICES	145	77	140
CONSERVATION PLANS PREPARED	29	14	20
CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED	21	14	25
GROUPS ASSISTED	8	1	6
GROUP CONSERVATION PLANS	3	0	3

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

TERRACES	21,985 feet
STRUCTURE FOR WATER CONTROL	3
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE	1
CRITICAL AREA PLANTING	26 acres

OTHER ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS HELD	14
NEWS STORIES PUBLISHED	12
OFFICE CALLERS	429
PHONE CALLS	993
RADIO TALKS	6
TELEVISION SHOWS	1
TALKS TO SCHOOLS AND CIVIC GROUPS	8

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 1973 Budgets

Soil Conservation Districts receive funds from the State of Iowa to assist them in carrying out local programs. These funds are allocated to districts (sub-governmental units) by the Department of Soil Conservation on a need basis evidenced by work loads and budgets submitted by district commissioners.

The allocation is broken down into two separate funds. They are the 1M Budget used for commissioners expenses, office supplies, printing and other office expenses; and the 2M Budget which is used to employ a clerk and part-time employee to help with field work.

1M Budget

ALLOCATION	\$ 700.00
COMMISSIONERS EXPENSES	
(mileage & meals)	390.84
OFFICE SUPPLIES	251.01
OFFICE EXPENSE	21.75
PRINTING EXPENSE	34.50
MEETING EXPENSE	1.90
 TOTAL EXPENDED	 700.00
	<u>\$ 700.00</u>

2M Budget

ALLOCATION	\$5499.00
SALARIES - Clerical and	
Technical	4920.20
CLERKS TRAVEL	51.70
DISTRICTS SHARE OF	
IPERS & SOCIAL SECURITY	445.88
STATE EMPLOYEES INSURANCE	33.69
 TOTAL EXPENDED	 5451.47
Returned to Dept. of	
Soil Conservation	47.53
	<u>\$5499.00</u>

The District has a revolving fund to help them finance programs for which the 1M and 2M budget funds cannot be used. Some of the programs are: Conservation education materials, information programs, and dues to State and National Associations of Soil Conservation Districts:

Working Balance 12/31/72	\$ 321.31
1973 Receipts	911.42
1973 expenditures	775.67
Balance on hand 12/31/73	457.06

WORKING WITH
CITY GOVERNMENT

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District had two Resource Plans on the Missouri Riverfront Development Program for Iowa & Nebraska, "Task Force Report for Sub-Element 602 - Watershed Protection & Development Studies" and "Sub-Element 603 - Alternative uses of Privately owned Rural Lands".

The West Pottawattamie District has also had three Inventory & Evaluation's: Indian Creek Watershed, Simon Run Watershed, and North Pigeon Watershed.

Resource Plan "Land Use Guide for Council Bluffs" is still in popular demand. This Resource Plan was published by the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture - Soil Conservation Service, to draw public attention to urban conservation problems and ways to handle these problems. Requests for copies of this Resource Plan have come in (and are still coming in) from all over the United States*. We have placed this book in Doctor offices, Real Estate Offices, Planning Agencies, and the Public Library, where there would be easy access to it by the public. More than two thousand copies have been distributed. Articles on this booklet have appeared in such National Publications as "Environmental Comment", "National Soil Conservationist", and "National Home Builders Association".

The following is a quote from Lynn Betts, Information Specialist, Soil Conservation Service in Des Moines: "Thought you would be interested in fact that Carolyn Johnson, Current Information Chief, Information Division in Washington called and asked for a copy of the West Pottawattamie "Land Use Guide". She talked about the wide and extensive use of the guide there, and was very complimentary about its contents. More nice comments on a good job." This is only one of the many compliments the District has received on this Resource Plan. This booklet is available at the District Office.

* California, Indiana, Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Virginia, Nebraska, Michigan, South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas, New Mexico, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland, Texas, Washington D.C., and Iowa.

WORKING WITH THE
POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The District Commissioners are pleased with the Memorandum of Understanding between East and West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation Districts and the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors. This Memorandum and the subsequent approval of a Standard Soil Survey for Pottawattamie County, between the two Districts and the Board of Supervisors, are considered the two outstanding achievements.

The one outstanding achievement lies in the accomplishments achieved through the good rapport of the District and the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors.

Through their efforts, the District has obtained approval from the County for a Standard Soil Survey. This is a great accomplishment in that it has taken approximately twelve years to get. This will be an effective tool in carrying out the revised zoning ordinance, and planning urban growth.

The agreement signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, is one more example of the good rapport between County and District. The two offices have agreed to work together in solving the problems caused by soil and water erosion.

The district has agreed to such things as providing a guide for proper land use patterns; interpreting available soil surveys; and analyzing water disposal, drainage, erosion and sediment problems and recommend conservation measures for their solution, assist in securing floodage rights from property owners where water impoundment may occur.

The County has agreed to observe principles of sound soil and water conservation, giving consideration to the need for water disposal and drainage, erosion control measures, stabilization of sediment producing areas, proper disposal of pollutants and beautification; and consult the District for technical recommendations concerning existing soil and water management problems, such as flooding, erosion, and siltation.

The two accomplishments have been goals of the district for the past fifteen years.

WATERSHED REPORT

A watershed is a tremendous asset in the community. Its progress depends upon the forethought and cooperative effort of the people living in the watershed.

Some watersheds have been completed and many are in the planning stage:

Ryan-Henschel Watershed will be completed and closed out in 1974 with the completion of two road structures, in cooperation with the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors.

Indian Creek Watershed easements are now all completed and the contract for 11 structures will be signed in the spring of 1974. This will complete Indian Creek Watershed and add some protection to the city of Council Bluffs.

Simon Run Watershed Work Plan Completed. The Simon Run Watershed Directors are in the process of obtaining easements and the first contract to construct 4 structures is scheduled for 1975.

North Pigeon Watershed had much activity with its first contract (\$204,968.55). Six structures were included in the first contract. Two structures were tied together to make 5 structure locations, which were completed in the summer of 1973. The next contract, scheduled for 1975, would put this watershed well on its way to completion.

Twin Ponies Watershed study completed and awaits work-plan in 1974. Meetings here continued to show interest in this watershed.

Mamie Creek has again shown more interest with hopes of progressing toward a work plan.

It is easy to observe the tremendous advantages of a well developed watershed. Good upland treatment will retard water and soil runoff, which in turn will make better crops. Watersheds prevent flooding bottom land and filling drainage ditches and gullies, and has a well kept eye-appealing characteristic.

Large lakes for wild life and recreational purposes are very attractive and contribute to the conservation effort in the community.

Floyd Fischer, Commissioner
West Pottawattamie SCD

DISTRICT COST*SHARE

This year (73-74) the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation set up its own program for Cost-Share Assistance to farmers. This program was set up to share the cost of installing erosion and sediment control practices with farmers.

Any farmer can apply for and receive cost-share assistance, providing he is a cooperator, or will enter into a cooperative agreement with the Soil Conservation District. The agreement says that you intend to develop and follow through with a conservation plan for your farm. You must also agree to maintain those practices for which you receive cost-share assistance.

When signing up for assistance, you are to state a designated completion date. If at the end of this period your work isn't finished, your application will be cancelled, unless you make a written request prior to that date, for an extension of time, and it is approved by the commissioners.

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District was allocated \$15,700 for Fiscal Year 1974. This is being used for cost-share assistance in terracing for farmers, and is allocated on a first come-first serve basis, with priority going to those in Watershed areas.

It is the duty of the District Commissioners to allocate the funds, keep a record of the applications and the estimated cost of each project. After the project is completed, the applicant is required to submit to the district, four copies of the receipt, signed and dated by the contractor, showing work completed. The commissioners will then authorize payment and the applicant will then be notified when his check arrives so that he may come to the district office to sign a receipt and receive his check.

When signing up for cost-share assistance, the State Clerk will be happy to explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.

CONTESTS

The Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program is presented each year. Local winners are chosen by a committee from the Districts Governing Body. The names of the local winners are then submitted for the regional contest.

The Awards winners in the three divisions are as follows:

Harvey Moss, Macedonia, has applied and maintains 220 acres of contour farming: .4 acre of waterway and 7.2 miles of terraces. (Division I--Owner operated or family operated farm).

Harry Nusser and Loren Nusser, R.R. #2, Council Bluffs, have applied and maintains 118 acres of contour farming; 2.3 acres grassed waterway; 1.5 miles of terrace; and 1 erosion control structure. (Division II--Tenant operated farm).

Gerald Forristal, Macedonia, Iowa. Was also a Regional Winner. Has applied and maintains 2.3 miles of terrace; and 416 acres of contour farming. (Division III--New Cooperator within the last two years).

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District in cooperation with the State and Local Environmental Education Council, sponsored the 1973 Fall Teachers Workshop at Camp Hitchcock, October 13-14. Scholarships of \$71.00 were awarded, and the registration fees for the teachers from this area were paid. A total of 43 teachers attended the workshop. The teachers from this area are as follows:

Donna Sorenson	Hoover School
Mrs. Mirl Knott	Gunn School
Lloyd Gere	Gunn School
Jan Kamtz	Gunn School
Bill Desmarais	Carter Lake School