

Clarke County Soil Conservation District

FORWARD

We, the Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District wish to thank the people of the district for their very fine support in helping carry out the best District program.

We wish to thank all agencies and organizations for their very fine support to the district.

We are in an energy crisis and I am sure if everyone carries his load in conserving our natural energy we will surely succeed.

Adrian Fuller, Commissioner

District Activities

We, the District Commissioners would like to summarize some of the highlights of the past year, so that you may better understand the activities of the district.

JULY

David Johannes attended the three week conservation camp at Springbrook State Park. He was sponsored by the Clarke County Soil Conservation District and Clarke County State Bank.

Commissioners attending the regional meeting at Bedford were Doyce Miller and Adrian Fuller.

AUGUST

The District had a very fine booth at the County Fair. Soil Loss Limit Regulations were approved by the District and the hearing was held with the State Committee.

Merrill McCarty was elected to serve on the R.C. & D. board for the coming year. The Commissioners visited with the County Supervisors on the proposed soil survey for the county.

Keith Ticknor discussed the annual plan of operations with the commissioners.

SEPTEMBER

The commissioners and youth of the area set up plans to organize a Youth Board as part of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District.

Mrs. Norma Anderson, Osceola, Mrs. Maxine Kimball, Osceola, Ronald Henry, Woodburn, Everett Fenn, Murray, and Dr. Fred Wood, Osceola, were appointed Assistant Commissioners for the coming year.

The educational booklet "The Earth, Our Home in Space" was ordered and distributed as needed.

Doyce Miller, Adrian Fuller, Richard Gonseth and Keith Ticknor attended the Annual Commissioners Conference held in Des Moines.

OCTOBER

The District sponsored teachers conservation workshop and two teachers took part, they were Paul Chestnut and Lola Hunt.

Adrian Fuller distributed the proclamation sheets for the Soil & Water Conservation Week.

Terry Bonnett and John Davenport, Youth Board members, reported on their election of officers.

Surveying of the White Breast Watershed was completed.

The R.C. & D. project at Clarke Community school was approved.

NOVEMBER

The Youth Board announced plans for a tree planting project for 1973.

DECEMBER

Richard Gonseth, Keith Ticknor and Adrian Fuller attended the meeting held at the Adult Evening class at Murray, for the purpose of discussing the new conservancy law and to answer any questions.

JANUARY

The Commissioners Annual Short Course was attended by Doyce Miller, Norma Anderson, Richard Gonseth and Keith Ticknor.

A pot luck dinner was held at the fair grounds in honor of Kenneth Henry, winner of the Register and Tribune contest.

FEBRUARY

Doyce Miller attended the National Association of Conservation Districts annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Election of officers was held in the White Breast watershed.

MAY

Soil Stewardship booklets were distributed to all churches in the county by Adrian Fuller.

JUNE

The election was held in the district. Richard Gonseth was elected for a six year term, Merrill Thornton for a six year term and Adrian Fuller for a four year term.

Assistant Commissioners appointed for the next year are Ronald Henry, Everett Fenn, Mrs. Norma Anderson, Mrs. Maxine Kimball and Dr. Fred Wood.

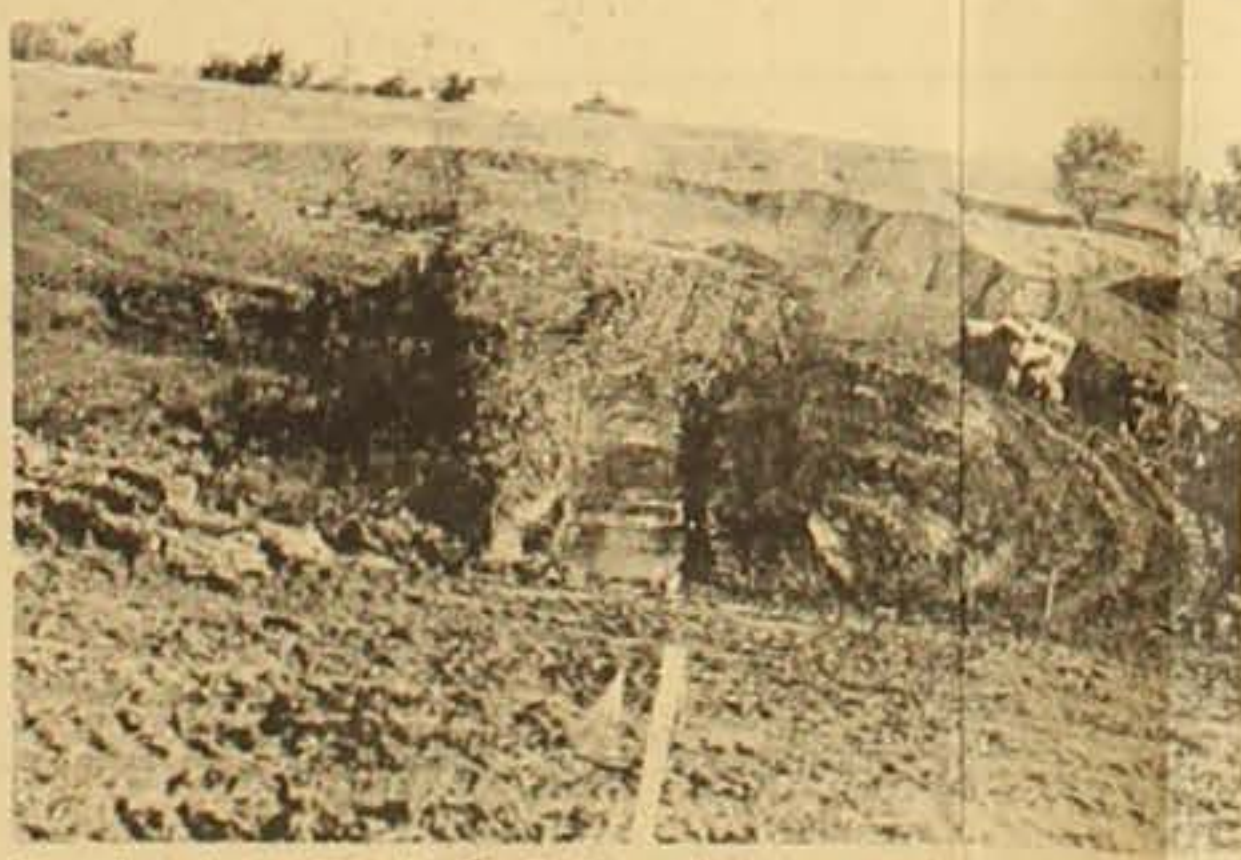
Watershed Activities

A lot of water has gotten down the creek and under the bridge (sometimes over the bridge) this past year. With water levels reaching near record highs, several times, the need for the watershed program was never more evident. Many thousands of dollars of damage to crops, roads, fences, bridges and farm land has been left behind.

The National Environmental Policy Act and the environmental impact statement has shown its effect on the watershed program in the form of delays and slowdowns. Having to review already approved watershed projects and write environmental impact statements for them has increased the serious backlog of watershed planning. Communities, such as Clarke County, who are wanting watershed project help to meet the problems of flood prevention and water supply needs are having to wait longer. These frustrating delays do have a bright side. They give the local people more time to broaden and expand their visions so that a more complete plan will result.

The two organized watersheds in Clarke County have been delayed in their progress. The work plan being developed for the White Breast watershed has fallen behind schedule approximately one year. The Long Creek watershed is still awaiting its turn for planning.

Even with the slow down in watershed progress, the county watershed boards have continued with their responsibilities. The White Breast watershed directors completed the land treatment survey and this is being analyzed now. The Long Creek directors also made good progress on a land treatment survey.



Converting a deep eroding gully at the Clarke Community School into a pond for use by students and teachers as an outdoor



The Conservation Youth Board planted 14 green ash trees on West Cass street. This was the beginning of a continuing street tree planting project. These participating in the

planting are Debbie Martley, Kathy Carroll, Chris Baker, Greg Kent, Darci Kent, Tim Pontier, Larry Hamilton, Jim Fors, John Davenport, and Bart Emery.

District Accomplishments

FARM PLANNING AND SERVICING

Activity	Unit	Fiscal 1973
District Cooperators	No.	38
Landowners or operators Assisted	No.	282
Landowners or operators applying practices	No.	145
Conservation and Resource Plans	No.	34
Conservation Plans Revised	No.	5
Inventories & Evaluations prepared	No.	8
Group Plans	No.	5
Office Callers	No.	971
Telephone Calls	No.	757

CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

Critical Area Planting	Ac.	61
Pasture Planting	Ac.	1200
Ponds & Erosion Control Structures	Nol	44
Diversion Terraces	Ft.	4255
Farmstead Windbreaks	Ac.	1
Grassed Waterway	Ac.	78
Pipeline	Ft.	8669
Open Drainage Ditch	Ft.	1797
Spring Development	No.	4
Tree Planting	Ac.	17
Land Adequately Treated	Ac.	1882

District Operates With 2 Budgets

The District operates with two budgets provided by the State Soil Conservation Committee from State Appropriations.

1-M Budget	
1972-73 Appropriation	\$ 700.00
Commissioners expenses (mileage, meals)	\$ 323.37
Office Supplies	86.15
Printing	143.80
Material for Demonstration	40
Office expense	191.19
Total expended	\$ 654.91
Released	\$ 45.09
2-M BUDGET	
1972-73 Allocation	\$14,382.00
Gross Salaries	\$12,834.00
District's share - F.I.C.A.	713.49
District's share - I.P.E.R.S.	449.19
Health Insurance Credit	328.00
Life Insurance Credit	67.28
Travel	6.00
Total expended	\$14,358.06
Released	23.94

District Fund

The District fund is not appropriated, so we must depend on donations from our cooperators, businessmen and friends to supply this fund.

The District fund is used to pay State and National dues, which amounts to \$250.00, activities such as local awards, conservation booklets for schools, membership in the Soil Conservation Society of America, Osceola Chamber of Commerce and other expenses which cannot be taken from the state budget. The balance on hand July 1, 1972 was \$136.91, receipts were \$846.17, expenditures were \$905.79, leaving a balance on hand June 30, 1973 of \$77.29.

RC&D Activities

RC&D, Resource Conservation and Development, includes a great number of varied activities. Since its beginning in the seven counties of Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold, Union, Adams, Taylor and Adair, it has been found that the development of natural resources and human resources can not be separated. Because of this, many changes have taken place in the organization so that all problems can be dealt with. It was also found that many problems of the counties were too great for the county to solve by itself, but by working cooperatively with the other counties, in a regional approach, real progress can be made.

The Clarke County RC&D Board members, Bob Toland, Chairman, Jack Jeffreys, Vice-Chairman, Melvin Goeldner, Secretary-Treasurer, Merrill McCarty, Elva Wolfe and Clayton Scott have spent a great amount of time representing Clarke County's interests in the seven county area. This year the RC&D board incorporated, gained certification as a Regional Planning Agency and received authority as a clearinghouse (A-95 review) for all projects receiving federal funds.

With this foundation to work from, Pat Lana was hired as a Regional Planner for the area. He has started the Area Agency on Aging, the Rural Water Study Committee, an investigation of a Regional Housing Authority, and has coordinated many other RC&D activities.

This year many soil and water related projects received funding through the RC&D. Here in Clarke County the erosion control dam at the Clarke Community Schools was approved and let for bids. Low bidder was Frank Adams of Thayer with a bid of \$7991.30 for construction of the dam, fencing, mulching and seeding.

The development of a rural water system for the area has been the number one priority of the RC&D since its beginning. We moved considerably closer to attaining

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

Soil Conservation Service Personnel Assigned
Keith A. Ticknor District Conservationist
T.J. Laing Conservation Technician

Area Personnel

Erwin O. Augst, Shenandoah Area Conservationist
Richard W. Birchmier, Shenandoah Civil Engineer
Lawrence L. Dorgan, Creston Civil Engineer
Herbert M. Kayser, Creston, RC&D Project Coordinator

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Arlene Garner District Clerk
Dale Chidester Conservation Aide

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Richard Gonseth Chairman
Doyce Miller Member
Adrian Fuller Member
Merrill McCarty Member
Merrill Thornton Member

ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONERS

Everett Fenn Ass't Commissioner
Ronald Henry Ass't Commissioner
Mrs. Norma Anderson Ass't Commissioner
Mrs. Maxine Kimball Ass't Commissioner
Dr. Fred Wood Ass't Commissioner

Bill Sirowy County Extension Director

this goal during the past year. A rural water committee, with representatives from each of the seven counties, was established and has been successful in working together towards a seven county rural water plan. They will be conducting a survey of all rural people to determine the water needs.

Other projects in the planning stage include a land treatment project above the Osceola City reservoir, road side erosion control and the development of East Lake Park.



Erosion in the county road ditches is a serious and widespread problem in the county. A survey of the county roads to locate serious erosion areas is being conducted. With

financial assistance from RC&D in cooperation with the Board of Supervisors, plans are being made to correct this erosion.

State Cost-Sharing

This year showed both a loss and a gain. We saw the loss of REAP cost-sharing which has slowed the application of soil conservation practices. Then the Iowa State Legislature appropriated 1.5 million dollars to the State Department of Soil Conservation to be used for the installation of permanent soil conservation practices. Clarke County was allocated \$10,000 of this money.

The District Commissioners are assigned the responsibility of receiving applications and using this money so that it will do the most good towards conserving soil and preventing erosion. The funds will be used to cost-share, with landowners 50 per cent of the cost of installing permanent practices.

Clarke County will receive \$10,000 for each fiscal year, 1974 and 1975.



Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of dirt are now in place, making up the dam that will create a 1.5 acre pond. Funds, in the amount

of \$8,300, were obtained from the Southern Iowa RC&D for building the dam, seeding, mulching and fencing.