

BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

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John Marsau, VCH
Teresa Schmitz

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Quinter Lichty

STAFF

Mike Webster, DC
Elaine Hammer, SC Tech
Tammy Schnock, WAE
Ben Clausen, WAE
Patricia Hunziker, WAE
Carol DeWolf, Secretary

Newsletter

HARMONY

people & places

Celebrating Soil and
Water Stewardship 1996

SOIL & WATER STEWARDSHIP

Although Soil and Water Stewardship Week was observed earlier this year, caring for the land, water, and all natural resources should be a concern to individuals all year long, whether they reside in an urban area or in a rural area.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) selects a theme each year for Soil and Water Stewardship Week and this year's theme was "Harmony: People and Places". The primary focus was the importance of individuals and communities working together to create a harmony or balance between people and places, with an important concept being the need for everyone to practice good soil and water stewardship.

According to the NACD, an increasing world population and a substantial leap in economic activity has stressed the natural world, and as a result, harmony has been destroyed. To restore harmony, they say, humans must learn to live in peace, not conflict, with nature.

Confrontations often arise over environmental issues and how those issues should be solved. People need to come together on problems and resolve them. Do not assume that "someone else will do it" or that "the government will take care of it"; to think in this way is to evade the responsibility of taking action yourself.

It may not always be wise to try and solve one environmental problem, rather, all components of a problem should be considered, as many environmental problems are linked together. Soil erosion, for example, often results in water pollution problems due to runoff. If the source of soil erosion is eradicated, the water pollution problems will be solved.

Every person requires natural resources to live. Soil and water are necessary requirements for farmers to produce the world's food supply; without fertile soil and clean water, this would not be possible.

Why be concerned about natural resource stewardship? It is imperative that every person realizes the importance of caring for the soil, water, air, and all natural resources.

Everyone can become stewards; farmers can protect the soil by utilizing wise farming methods, such as contour farming on slopes to control erosion; filter strips and grass headlands to not only control erosion but to provide wildlife cover. According to the NACD, studies have shown that conservation practices that are good for the soil also improve water quality.

Urban dwellers can care for the environment by using alternatives for pesticides and other chemicals when possible, and by using compost as a soil amendment. Proper use and disposal of hazardous household products will aid in controlling water pollution.

Stewards of natural resources are caretakers, realizing that natural resources cannot be "owned" by people; we are managers, and as such, are responsible for maintaining resources for future generations.

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

Are you concerned about saving the soil and about enhancing water quality? Would you like the opportunity to help make decisions regarding natural resources? Could you work closely with different environmental agencies, including local, state and federal agencies? Are you a registered voter?

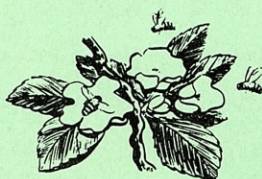
If you answered "yes" to the above questions, you may be an eligible candidate for election to the board of county soil and water conservation districts. Each conservation district is governed by five commissioners who are elected at general elections for staggered four year terms.

Commissioners are volunteer conservation promoters in their communities, and help with conservation activities such as field days, contests, publicity, and administering the district cost-share programs. Commissioner involvement includes the opportunity to influence state and national conservation programs. In addition, involvement will include activities such as approving soil conservation plans and assist with the publication of an annual report.

For more information about becoming a commissioner, contact our office.



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BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1995 ANNUAL REPORT

1M BUDGET

July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995

Total Allocation	\$ 4,300.00
Commissioners Expenses	2,218.07
Office Supplies, postage & dues	<u>2,065.67</u>
Balance	\$ 16.26

3M BUDGET

Cost Share Ledger 1994-1995

Original Allocation	\$16,660.00
Projects Completed	14,665.71
Recalled to Dept. 12/95	\$1,994.29

REAP Practices Ledger 1995

Original Allocation	\$6,266.00
Projects Completed	4,573.83
Recalled to Dept. 12/95	\$1,692.17

REAP Forestry Ledger 1995

Original Allocation	\$1,464.00
Projects Completed	1,400.00
Recalled to Dept. 12/95	\$64.00

COMMISSIONERS REVOLVING FUND

Balance 7/1/94	\$ 326.12
Deposit	6,214.10
Expenditures	6,010.94
Balance 6/30/95	\$ 529.28

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Cooperators	11
Landowners Assisted	1,119
Landowners Applying Practices	128
FSA Plans Revised (Acres)	1,698
FSA Plans Applied (Acres)	1,035
Conservation Plans (Acres)	6,841
Conservation Tillage (Acres)	6,669
Contours (Acres)	793
Cropland Treated (Acres)	7,264
Tree Planting - REAP (Acres)	28
Terraces (Feet)	25,760
Windbreaks (Acres)	12
Waterways (Acres)	64
Water & Sediment Control Basin	1
Woodland Acres Treated	40
Wildlife Wetland Habitat Mgmt (Acres)	30
Wetland Determinations	123
Site Plan Reviews	19
Government Agencies Assisted	13

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1995 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- The Krsnak-Runyan-Ward Memorial Scholarship of \$400 was awarded to Robert Rubsam from Ocheyedon this year.
- The annual contractors meeting was held on February 21 with an open agenda over lunch.
- The commissioners held their second Urban Erosion Seminar at Hawkeye Community College on February 16 with 50 in attendance.
- On behalf of the Black Hawk County engineer's office and acting as a disinterested party, the district sent a mailing to 480 residents southwest of Waterloo in a rural water service survey to determine if there is sufficient interest to pursue a rural water system in the area.
- The Mercantile Bank sponsored a booth for the district at the Hawkeye Farm Show that was held at the UNI dome on March 21, 22, 23. The district featured wetland information on their downing display and also demonstrated the groundwater flow model.
- The theme for the 1995 Soil and Water Stewardship Week was *The Living Waters* and was observed April 30 - May 7. The district furnished materials to over 150 churches in Waterloo and the surrounding area.
- The commissioners took a tour of the county to view a number of practices that the district had cost shared.
- In commemoration of the 50th anniversary for Black Hawk County, Rich Sims, AC, presented the district with a plaque at their June meeting on behalf of Leroy Brown, Soil Conservationist for NRCS.
- In August, the district and representatives from Silos and Smokestacks, Grout Museum, Corn Growers, Farm Bureau, and Iowa Farm Bureau began a program geared towards educating the urban population on what's happening in agriculture.
- At the 49th Annual Conference for SWCD Commissioners held on September 7-8 in Des Moines, Winegarden was elected president of the IASWCDC.
- A fall Legislative Tour was held on October 18 with fifteen people in attendance.

This report is published not only to show the conservation work completed, but gives us the opportunity to say thank you to everyone supporting conservation programs in the county. We especially appreciate every landowner and operator who applied a conservation practice during the past year, the local media for publicity throughout the year and everyone who helped to make our district's program a success.