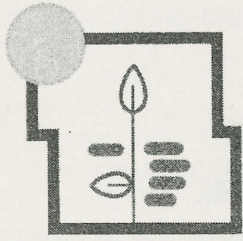


JANUARY 2010



BLACK HAWK

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A Word From the Chair....

By Sherman Lundy,
Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District Chairman

In addition to serving as a Commissioner for Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District, I have been appointed to the State Soil Commission. One of the tasks at the State Level is to work with the NRCS and the Legislators to secure good farm programs for all of the operators in Iowa. Topics including Buffer Strips, Continuous CRP, Wetland Preserves, Strip Tillage, and No Till are among the many issues under consideration. What is important for the Commissioners at the County level and even the State Soil Commission is to hear from the operators in the field regarding their concerns and the kinds of programs that lead to good conservation practices and better farming techniques. With the increase in heavy rainfall in Iowa, we certainly need to consider buffer or filter strips along with grass waterways in fields where those practices will help to infiltrate the water and prevent soil erosion. We strongly encourage all operators to contact their Commissioners and the NRCS office to let them know they support these practices and the need for cost share to cover the implementation of these practices. This is the information we can convey to the Legislators to support conservation as an investment in Iowa's Farm Future.

Also, we would like to thank all of the schools who participated in the Poster Contest this past spring. Hopefully, more schools and students will enter the Poster Contest with their entries supporting conservation.

How Do I Measure Up?

By James Gillespie
Bureau Chief

Iowans have faced a lot of challenges this past year, but have stepped up to confront those challenges and taken conservation to heart. Protecting the soil and water of this state are ever apparent by looking at the landscape and water quality.

Over 95% of this land is in private ownership and most of it is used for some form of agricultural production. The balance is in urban, roads, utilities and infrastructure that keep our people and commodities moving. All of these things are needed because I don't think there are many other states or parts of the country that rely on all of their land and its resources to do this.

That is why it is so important that all of us (rural and urban) alike do all we can to protect the soil and water. You all have tremendous resources available to you locally in your Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist you with your conservation needs. These people have both the technical assistance and financial opportunities that can help address your concerns.

Your district has over 50 years of expertise in working with soil and water resources and the sound technical solutions to resource concerns. If you have a conservation plan, it is a great time to review it to see if it still addresses all of the resource concerns and your land use objectives. If you don't have a plan or can not find yours, contact the local office for assistance.

As you begin this next year, (2010), take some time to walk around your property, looking at your land use decisions, and are there some conservation needs that need to be addressed. Do you have erosion occurring and is that sediment leaving your property? Have you identified your land with the watershed that you live in, and are you having any impact on that watershed from your land?

If you had to evaluate your own resource issues, how would you say I'm doing? What would your peers think of what I'm doing? Am I doing all I can to protect the soil and water, while maintaining the productivity and use of my property?

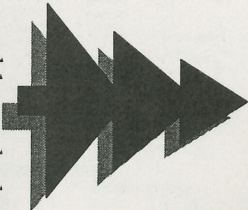
EVALUATE YOURSELF AND YOUR LAND USE TO SEE HOW YOU MEASURE UP!

Reap Money Available

By Elaine Hammer

Now is the time to apply for assistance to plant trees, improve an existing timber stand, or to establish some wildlife habitat.

We can assist you with any of the following practices:



Farmstead Windbreak – Must be a minimum of 3 rows – 2 rows conifer trees and 1 row shrubs or 3 rows conifer trees. Cost share is 75% of actual cost not to exceed an actual cost of \$25/tree and \$4/shrub. The maximum amount of cost share is \$1500/windbreak.

Field Windbreak – Minimum of 1 row trees or shrubs. Cost share is 75% of actual cost not to exceed \$450/acre.

Tree Planting – There is a 3 acre minimum for this practice. Cost share is 75% of actual cost not to exceed \$450/acre which includes establishing ground cover, trees and tree planting operations, weed and pest control and mowing, disking and spraying.

Timber Stand Improvement - This has a 5 acre minimum. Cost share is 75% of actual cost not to exceed \$120/acre for thinning, pruning crop trees, releasing seedlings or young trees.

If you have considered doing any of these practices, now is the time to give our office a call and we will be happy to assist you in planning your project.

Applications for cost share are available at our office or on line at <https://idals.iowa.gov/FARMS>.

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) Revised

By Julie Falcon

The '08 "Farm Bill" established a new program, CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program). This is not to be confused with the '02 program with the same acronym but a different name-Conservation Security Program. They are similar but yet different.

The purpose of the new CSP is to encourage producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by installing and adopting additional conservation activities. This program also motivates applicants on improving, maintaining and managing existing activities.

Some of the highlights of the new CSP are:

- Continuous sign-up, no time window to apply
- Applicants must be listed as an operator on FSA records
- A list of questions will be answered to complete a ranking process
- Applicants will be ranked twice a year
- Open to eligible land, no specific watersheds
- Non-industrial private forest land is eligible
- Contract length of 5 years with the average rate of \$18.00/acre
- On site field verification is completed before contracts are signed

If the new CSP is something of interest and you would like more information, please contact this office to be put on our mailing list for an upcoming CSP workshop.

CONGRATULATIONS TO IOWA FOR CELEBRATING 70

YEARS OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS!



2009 Annual Report State Conservationist Column

By Richard Sims, State Conservationist

This year was full of new conservation-related opportunities offered by USDA. And Iowa farmers responded with great interest. The first, and probably most anticipated, was the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Originally Iowa NRCS was allotted 360,000 acres for this first CSP sign-up. Based on your statewide response, Iowa was granted an additional 56,000 acres for a total of 416,000 acres.

We are still in the process of finalizing our first round of CSP contracts from the 1,100 applications submitted by the funding cutoff deadline. The new CSP sign-up is statewide and continuous. So if you did not turn in application this time, it's not too late. The second date for a funding cutoff has not yet been announced by USDA. But we would anticipate something in February or March.

A second new opportunity was the Organic EQIP Initiative, which was also available statewide.

Originally Iowa was provided about \$1 million to provide financial assistance to help producers transition to organic production, but interest was so high Iowa received an additional \$2 million. So Iowa organic producers received more than \$3 million to assist them implement conservation practices.

A third new opportunity was announced this year, the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Iowa is one of 12 states selected for the MRBI, which will help producers implement conservation practices that help avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff. Only producers in a few small watersheds will be able to participate this year after NRCS selects the MRBI proposals to implement. However, the MRBI will provide opportunities this year and in future years for additional producers to implement conservation practices which address nutrient runoff. Please visit the Iowa NRCS website (www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov) for updates on the MRBI.

Iowa is traditionally a top state in conservation implementation. And you are the major reason for that. Our accomplishments are only a reflection of your commitment to do more to protect our state's soil and water. You can learn more about our shared accomplishments by viewing the online slide show at the following link <http://www.flickr.com/photos/43873399/@N05/sets/72157622668751746/show/>

Even with these great accomplishments, as State Conservationist I have asked NRCS staff to focus on three main areas to make improvements: conservation planning, expanding valued partnerships, and managing our financial contracts. All of these priorities will help our staff help provide better customer service to you.

Anyone in agriculture is used to challenges—some of which are unexpected. This year we know we will face challenges created by the state's current financial crisis. It will touch many, if not all, of our districts. The Conservation Partnership will do it's best to maintain our level of customer service throughout this difficult time, but in some cases we will not be able to respond as quickly as we could in the past. I ask for your patience and understanding as we make adapt to best tackle these challenges.

Thanks for all you do and wishing you a healthy and successful 2010.

Spring Stormwater Conference to be held February 17th

By Phillip Schuppert

The Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding its annual stormwater conference on February 17th in the Center for Energy and Environmental Education on the University of Northern Iowa Campus. Speakers for this year's conference are to include Roger Bannerman of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Center on Sustainable Communities, Monica Smith from Robinson Engineering, and a panel discussion with the partners of the Dry Run Creek Watershed Improvement Project including the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District, the University of Northern Iowa, and the City of Cedar Falls. The topics for this year's conference are focused around infiltration practices, low-impact development, and stormwater policies and studies conducted by the Wisconsin DNR. This workshop will be most helpful to people in the development, policy, planning, and engineering fields, or those with a general interest in stormwater management. The cost of attendance is \$40 if registered prior to January 30th or \$50 if registered after.

Quick Facts

- Agriculture adds \$72.1 billion to the state's economy, or 27 percent of the State's total.
- 91% of Iowa's land is privately owned. What landowners do on their land impact all Iowans.

1. 2007 Census of Agriculture by the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers
2. Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Sustainable Funding for Iowa's Natural Resources A Promise to Iowa

Iowa voters will have a historic opportunity on November 2, 2010 to vote for Iowa's Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment, and the Conservation Districts of Iowa has endorsed this important effort. The amendment would, for the first time in Iowa's history, establish a constitutionally protected trust fund to preserve Iowa's natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Specifically, the amendment will create the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund which will provide a permanent, reliable and accountable revenue source to improve water quality and natural areas in Iowa, including fish and wildlife habitat and parks, trails, in addition to aiding in conservation of agricultural soils and restoring wetlands to protect against future flooding.

A vote for Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Amendment is a vote for the creation of the Trust Fund – not a vote for a tax increase. Revenue for the Trust Fund will come from allocating 3/8^{ths} of one cent from sales tax revenue the next time the Iowa legislature raises the state sales tax. This funding recommendation was based on over three years of research and study conducted by a legislative advisory committee. The advisory committee concluded that those funds, in addition to annual state budget allocations, would meet current needs. Once created, the Trust Fund will be managed responsibly, including open, public competition for funding, mandatory audits and citizen committee oversight.

The anticipated influx of \$150 million per year will be constitutionally protected and these funds will be used for: protecting sources of drinking water; protecting, improving, and restoring the water quality of Iowa's lakes, rivers, and streams; conserving Iowa's agricultural soils; preserving working farmland; conserving natural areas, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat' restoring wetlands to protect against floods

This sustainable funding is considered critical given the need to protect our soil and water for future generations. The funds are expected to be allocated as shown on the following chart.

Expected Allocation of the Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund

Program(% of total \$)	Current Annual State Spending	Expected Increase in State Spending	Impact on Your SWCD
Soil and Water Conservation (20%)	\$14,550,000	\$30,000,000 additional for soil conservation programs	SWCD direct benefit, increased cost share program funds
(IDALS-DSC)			
Watershed Protection (14%)	\$5,000,000	\$20,000,000 additional for watershed work	SWCD direct benefit, increased watershed funds
(WIRB)			
Natural Resources Management (23%) (DNR)	\$13,165,000	\$35,000,000 additional for state parks, wildlife areas and recreational areas	SWCD potential benefit, possible watershed collaboration
Resource Enhancement and Protection (13%) (REAP)	\$18,000,000	\$20,000,000 additional for natural, cultural and recreational resources	SWCD direct benefit, increased cost share program funds
Lakes Restoration (7%)	\$8,600,000	\$10,000,000 additional for lake restoration needs	SWCD direct benefit, increased watershed project funds
Trails (10%)	\$2,000,000	\$15,000,000 additional for walking, biking and water trails	SWCD potential benefit, possible watershed collaboration
Local Conservation Partnership Program (13%)	\$0	\$20,000,000 for education and habitat protection at the local level	SWCD potential benefit, new program delivered locally
Total (100%)	\$61,315,000	\$150,000,000 additional	Iowans Win!

The Iowa Legislature has followed the mandated steps required before Iowans are able to vote for the Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.

- **Step One:** The 2008 Iowa Legislature passed a bipartisan joint resolution (90%) to establish the trust fund.
- **Step Two:** The 2009 Iowa Legislature passed (90%) the same bipartisan joint resolution.
- **Step Three:** Iowans vote November 2, 2010 to establish the trust fund.

Currently 61% of the public is in favor of establishing this important trust fund. This percentage is certain to increase when Iowans acknowledge that Iowa's rural landscape forms the backbone of our nation's multi-billion farm economy. The rich soils and waters yield an abundance of corn, soybeans and livestock. It is also an area of innovative farming systems, where high-tech agriculture and alternative production systems coexist. Enhanced and expanded efforts through resource specialists can provide outreach and continuing assistance to landowners linking them to federal and state conservation programs.

Urban Conservation Starts with “U”

By Phillip Schupert

When many people think stormwater management and flood control their minds go instantly to large-scale public projects. Levees, detention basins and other large projects are the most visible ways in which we work to control the water that falls on our land. While these structures can have an immediate, and often significant effect on the flows in our rivers and streams, they do very little to address the impacts of smaller rain events which occur frequently during the spring and summer here in Iowa. These frequent storms, in combination with our storm sewer systems, result in very flash stream flows which erode our banks, sweep away plantings, and wash out wildlife habitat. The additional sediment reduces water quality and clarity, and may make the stream inhospitable to wildlife. Management of these small-scale rains cannot be accomplished to the installation of a few large-scale practices, but instead through the widespread adoption of small-scale, backyard conservation efforts.

These efforts can be as simple as aerating or adding compost to our lawns, planting native gardens, or in some cases, installing a practice specifically designed for the management of rainwater.

Raingardens vary in size and design depending on the area they are draining and the soils in which they are being built. In essence, the soils within the installation area are tilled or amended in such a way that maximizes the pore space in the soil, allowing it to soak up and drain away water that would otherwise be draining directly into the creeks through storm sewers. Custom seed mixes with native flowers and grasses grow well in these, making them an excellent amenity to home landscaping. Technical and, in some cases, financial assistance is available for these practices from the local conservation district, and in many cases, these can be built by the savvy homeowner as a weekend project. For more information about raingardens and other backyard conservation opportunities, see the Iowa NRCS website at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/features>.

Conservation Can't Wait

Your legislative support over the years has empowered Iowa's locally led Soil and Water Conservation District programs to set the standard for the nation. Great strides preserving and improving our natural resources have been made in the last 70 years. But since the cultivation of Iowa's rich prairie soils we have lost half of our soil organic matter. When our soil's ability to produce food and fuel is compromised, it can't be replaced.

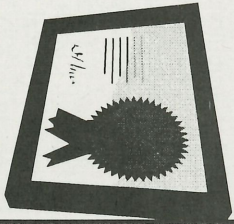
- Farmers need to recognize the need to reverse this devastation, but it can't be done alone:
- \$18.6 million in requests for targeted watersheds and individuals cost-share projects are un-met
 - IDALS technical field staff for design and layout of practices has been reduced in half
 - Iowa lost an additional \$10 million in federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) dollars because of inadequate staffing.

We recognize these are tough times for everyone but because it takes 500 years to build an inch of topsoil, support for conservation can't take a year off. Please continue to support these vital conservation needs.

Sincerely,
Tim Palmer, CDI President Jody Kerns, State Soil Conservation Committee Chair

Congratulations to Leslie Grundy, BHSWCD's State Secretary For Obtaining October's Employee of the Month

We would like to take this time to congratulate Leslie Grundy for receiving the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Employee of the Month Award for the month of October. She was presented with the award by Paul Valim on November 10, 2009. Sherman Lundy, BHSWCD Chair, nominated Leslie for this award. Keep up the good work!



Quick Fact
Agriculture and ag-related industries directly and indirectly employ one of every six Iowans, or 17 percent of the state's workforce. (2007 Census of Agriculture by the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers)

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

By Julie Falcon

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who would like to treat soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides assistance to agricultural producers in a manner that will promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental requirements.

The EQIP program is a continuous signup program which means applications are taken throughout the year with periodic ranking cutoff dates. Our first ranking cutoff date is January 29, 2010. All applications are ranked by a series of questions and points are assessed before contracts are awarded. We are working to make our selections in time for spring construction season. One thing to keep in mind before deciding if EQIP is for you is that at least one practice must be started with the first 12 months of signing a contract.

The list of eligible practices is lengthy but the more frequently used practices are: Waste Storage Facility, Residue and Tillage Management for No-till or Strip-till, Cover Crop for Summer Construction, Grassed Waterway, Fencing for Livestock, Pasture and Hayland Planting, and Prescribed Grazing. There are two new practices being added to the Black Hawk County EQIP program this year. The first one is Conservation Crop Rotation for the farmer looking to go organic. This provides transitional organic farmers incentives to offset costs incurred by converting to organic farming methods. The second one is Denitrifying Bioreactor. A Denitrifying Bioreactor is a structure containing a carbon source installed to intercept subsurface drain (tile) flow or ground water, and reduce the concentration of nitrate-nitrogen.

For more details on EQIP or the practices that are available contact this office at 319-296-3262 or visit <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/stateeqip.html>.

Don't Risk Losing USDA Benefits and Program Eligibility - Stay in Compliance

By Shaffer Ridgeway

Since 1995, people receiving USDA benefits have been subject to the conservation provisions and are expected to actively apply a conservation system on all highly erodible lands (HEL) that are used to produce annually tilled agricultural commodity crops. This includes controlling ephemeral erosion, the small ditches that form in some fields after a rain event. In Black Hawk County most of the time HEL is not the issue, it is tiling in potential wetlands. Wetland conservation provisions of the 1985 and subsequent Farm Bills and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act require landowners and producers to protect wetlands on land they own or operate.

Being that the land has been wet for the last two years, I have noticed a lot more tiling going on in the countryside. As you are now making decisions about next spring, I wanted to remind you about compliance. Before beginning spring tillage or tile make sure to take a look at your Conservation Plan or Certified Wetland Determination. Just because you're able to farm through an area does not mean it is not a wetland. If you are not sure whether or not you have a determination completed check with your local Farm Service Agency. It is the responsibility of both landowners and operators to make sure they stay in conservation compliance.

Farmers should also carefully consider their conservation systems when applying fertilizer including manure application. They should keep in mind that residue levels and over applications could cause you to be ineligible for some USDA programs.

These USDA programs include, but are not limited to: Commodity Credit Corporation Storage Payments, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Farm Loan Program, Loan Deficiency Program (LDP), Price Support Loans, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

NRCS performs annual status reviews on a number of tracts to determine compliance with HEL and wetland conservation regulations. Usually in April we will know the number of tracts that will require the fields to be reviewed.

At any time if you have questions about wetlands, HEL, and staying in Compliance please stop in or call the office at 319-296-3262.

BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT OF REVOLVING FUNDS JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009			
REVOLVING FUNDS			
RECEIPTS			
FY08 Allocation	2000.00		
Reimbursement from 1M	380.27		
Interest from Dry Run Creek	3403.56		
Reimbursement from 319 Grant	480.27		
Reimbursement from UMC for Newsletter	1500.00		
Contributors Club	35.00		
Flag Purchases	20.00		
1M to purchase supplies	2045.00		
Forestry Suppliers, overpayment	2.93		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	9867.03		
EXPENDITURES			
Black Hawk County Courthouse, 2 plat books	42.00		
Bremer SWCD, meals for contractors meeting	45.80		
Julie F., reimbursement for meals	21.32		
for burn workshop	262.56		
Penalty from IRS for late payment	501.17		
Staples, supplies	94.07		
Creative Impact, envelopes			
		Creative Impact, Creative Impact, Sammy Soil coloring books	246.15
		CDI, tattoos	71.00
		Best Buy, laptop	499.99
		1M	900.00
		Veridian Credit Union, savings bond for poster contest	50.00
		Wal-Mart, supplies	37.10
		Waterloo Courier, expense for job advertisement	380.27
		Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, registration fee for Phillip S. Copy works	100.00
		Emily N., reimbursement for supplies, Earth Day	35.18
		Jama C. Runyan, Accounting Fee	9.05
		Sandeels, date stamp	150.00
		Special Occasions, table rental	15.00
			20.31
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3570.97		
BEGINNING BALANCE JULY 1, 2008	1915.25		
RECEIPTS	9867.03		
DIVIDENDS	46.54		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	11828.82		
LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3570.97		
BALANCE JUNE 30, 2009	8257.85		
BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT OF ANNUAL USE OF 1M FUNDS JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009			
1M ACCOUNT			
RECEIPTS			
FY 09 Allocation	4075.00		
Revolving Fund	990.00		
Land of Legacy letters, reimbursement	136.76		
Upper Miller Creek, reimbursement for newsletter	1010.76		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6212.52		
EXPENDITURES			
CDI dues	825.00		
Cedar Valley RC & D dues	200.00		
Iowa Show Production Fee	150.00		
NACD membership fee	200.00		
Best Buy	29.94		
Creative Impact, newsletters	1010.76		
		Post office, mailing of newsletters	700.00
		Post office, annual postage fee	180.00
		Sandeels, plaques	87.00
		Sandeels, crayons	165.00
		Winnesnick SWCD, conference registration fee	48.00
		Blain's Farm & Fleet	10.25
		Jerl T. reimbursement	77.22
		Jon Mixdorf, mileage reimbursement	175.50
		Staples, office supplies	7.56
		Staples, computer software	149.99
		Siegel's, table throw	182.15
		Revolving Fund, reimbursement	2045.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6243.37		
BEGINNING BALANCE JULY 1, 2008	17.99		
RECEIPTS	6212.52		
DIVIDENDS	18.59		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6249.10		
LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6243.37		
BALANCE JUNE 30, 2009	5.73		

BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT OF ANNUAL USE OF TECHNICAL FUNDS JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009		BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT OF UPPER MILLER CREEK FUNDS JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009	
<u>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</u>		<u>UPPER MILLER CREEK</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
FY09 Allocation	5098.20	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$0
Reimbursement from Upper Miller		<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
for taxes	3579.85	Employee Payroll	7401.70
Reimbursement from 319 for taxes	9979.04	IM fund, newsletter	1010.76
Revolving Fund	1890.00	Black Eagle Farms roadside	
		buffer payment	630.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	20547.08	Earl Steimel roadside buffer payment	162.00
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		Youngblut Farmland roadside	
Employee Payroll	5713.31	buffer payment	252.00
Revolving Fund	1500.00	William Youngblut roadside	
IPERS	3918.42	buffer payment	90.00
Veridian Credit Union, taxes	2026.10	Henry Shepard roadside	
State of Iowa Treasurer	4980.11	buffer payment	180.00
Iowa Workforce Development	150.89	Technical Assistance, tax reimbursement	3579.85
Iowa Department of Revenue	7747.92		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	26036.75	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	13306.31
BEGINNING BALANCE		BEGINNING BALANCE JULY 1, 2008	17862.74
JULY 1, 2008	16585.17	RECEIPTS	\$0
RECEIPTS	20547.08	DIVIDENDS	79.21
DIVIDENDS	89.02	TOTAL RECEIPTS	17941.95
TOTAL RECEIPTS	37221.28	LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURES	13306.31
LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURES	26036.75	<i>BALANCE JUNE 30, 2009</i>	<i>4635.64</i>
<i>BALANCE JUNE 30, 2009</i>	<i>11184.52</i>		
BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT OF 319 GRANT FUNDS JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009		Phillip Schuppert, mileage reimbursement 257.45 Phillip Schuppert, reimbursement for IOWATER conference 125.00 Phillip Schuppert, reimbursement for printing cost 13.23 Dry Run Creek, reimbursement for speaker fee, stormwater workshop 1562.00 Washington SWCD conference registration fee 61.00 Rebecca Kauten's Payroll 177.66 Reimbursement to revolving fund for job posting to Courier 480.27 Balance adjustment 380.27 Technical assistance for taxes paid 9979.04	
<u>319 GRANT</u>		<i>Continued on page 8.....</i>	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Salary/Benefits	42,486.07		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	42,486.07		
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Veridian check order	13.30		
Employee Payroll	19,738.56		

<i>Continued from Page 8....</i>		1708.74	
Insurance Premium			
IECA Great Rivers Chapter		75.00	
Conference, Phillip		16.78	
Wal-Mart, office supplies		25.01	
Fed-Ex		146.04	
Staples, office supplies		124.87	
Copyworks		16.64	
Postmaster			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	34,900.86		
BEGINNING BALANCE			
JULY 1, 2008	1842.55		
RECEIPTS	42,486.07		
DIVIDENDS	12.05		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	44340.67		
TOTAL LESS EXPENDITURES	34900.86		
<i>BALANCE JUNE 30, 2009</i>	<i>9439.81</i>		
BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT OF ANNUAL USE OF DRY RUN CREEK FUNDS JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009		BLACK HAWK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT OF ANNUAL USE OF DRY RUN CREEK SAVINGS FUNDS JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009	
<u>DRY RUN CREEK</u>		<u>DRY RUN CREEK SAVINGS</u>	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
Dry Run Creek Savings	54846.50	Vendor Registration Fee	150.00
319 Grant, reimbursement for		Donation for conservation scholarship	100.00
speaker fee for stormwater		Conference registration fees	850.00
workshop	1562.00	City of Waterloo for stormwater workshop	800.00
Remaining of WIRB funds	232,649.81	Pioneer Hi-bred International Inc, scholarship donation	100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	289,058.31	City of Cedar Falls for stormwater workshop	800.00
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		TOTAL RECEIPTS	2800.00
Employee Payroll	2674.31	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
Rebecca Kauten reimbursement		Transfer to Dry Run Creek Checking	54846.50
for supplies	61.99		
Rebecca Kauten reimbursement		BEGINNING BALANCE JULY 1, 2008	54784.97
for lysimeters		RECEIPTS	2800.00
(charged on her credit card)	2211.86	DIVIDENDS	97.90
Hygienic Laboratory	5116.00	TOTAL RECEIPTS	57682.87
Benjamin X courier services	41.93	TOTAL LESS EXPENDITURES	54846.50
Hartman Reserve	2220.62	<i>BALANCE JUNE 30, 2009</i>	<i>2836.37</i>
Tax underpayment	50.99		
University of Northern Iowa, Dry Run			
Creek surveys	1500.00	Wild Horse Ridge project	60,000
Revolving fund, interest earned	3403.56	Forestry Suppliers, monitoring equipment	2275.00
McLeod Lot, WRC lot, BCS bio-retention		Staples, supplies	839.96
cell payment	109,560.00	Global Water, flow sampling system	3326.25
		Hach Company, 2 flo-meters	6899.95
		Vizability, annual fee & solar panel	4615.50
		GKY & Assoc., first flush sampler systems	1060.00
		Signs by Tomorrow, Dry Run Creek signs	690.00
		Hy-Vee, meals for stormwater workshop	723.20
		ISU, fee for speaker at stormwater workshop	281.00
		ISWER, fee for speaker at	
		stormwater workshop	500.00
		TOTAL EXPENDITURES	208,052.12
		BEGINNING BALANCE JULY 1, 2008	6312.99
		RECEIPTS	289,058.31
		DIVIDENDS	155.76
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	295,527.06
		LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURES	208,052.12
		<i>BALANCE JUNE 30, 2009</i>	<i>87474.94</i>

Winter Storm Tips

Add the following supplies to your disaster supplies kit:

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways
- Sand to improve traction
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.

Prepare your home and family

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water; if drains on flat roofs do not work.

Prepare your car

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.
- Exhaust system - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
- Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights - check for serviceability.
- Oil - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- Thermostat - ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- Install good winter tires. Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.
- Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes: a shovel, windshield scraper and small broom, flashlight, battery powered radio, extra batteries, water, snack food, matches, extra hats, socks and mittens, first aid kit with pocket knife, necessary medications, blanket(s), tow chain or rope, road salt and sand booster cables, emergency flares, fluorescent distress flag,

Reference

U.S. Department of Homeland Security | Federal Emergency Management Agency
http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi_before.shm, June 4, 2009

We Need Your Support

The Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District helps you and your neighbors conserve our most valuable natural resources—our soil and water. We believe that promoting soil and water conservation is everyone’s job and we invite you to help. Although outside funding is received for certain urban and rural programs under our purview, there are several projects and activities performed by the office staff and District Commissioners that we must rely on local contributions to fund. Examples of these include conservation for schools, local conservation awards, the district newsletter, and conservation field days. Beginning this year, to further show our appreciation to those contributing, a certificate will be issued to those contributing. Sponsorship, Stewardship, and Conservationist levels (\$25 or more).

PLEASE CONSIDER A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO HELP OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS. THANK YOU.

Sherman Lundy, Chairman	Jon Mixdorf, Vice-Chairman
Fred Weber, Commissioner	Jeri Thornsberry, Treasurer
	Paula Even, Commissioner

I want to support the **Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District**. I have enclosed a check to join the **2010 Contributors Club** at the following level:

- _____ Sponsorship Level (\$25—\$49)
- _____ Stewardship Level (\$50—\$74)
- _____ Conservationist Level (\$75 & above)
- _____ Other amount \$ _____

Name (s) _____	Phone _____
Address _____	City _____
State _____	Zip Code _____
E-Mail _____	

Please make checks payable to:

Black Hawk SWCD
2950 Southland Dr, Ste. 2
Waterloo, IA 50701

YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Wetlands

By Dan Borchardt

Wetland restoration provides a large number of benefits to the environment and is viewed more important now than ever. There are many types of wetlands including fens, wet meadows, marshes, lakes, ponds, streams and various other wetlands that all play a vital role in the natural world.

Restored or natural wetlands function like a large sponge holding water and slowly releasing water back into streams or recharging groundwater. This function serves three valuable roles to improve water quality and to decrease flooding. By holding water for long periods of time, sediments in the water can settle out rather than being washed into streams and rivers. In addition, the plants within the wetlands will utilize the excess nutrients in the water which decreases the number of pollutants entering our streams and groundwater. And finally, the slow release of water will help decrease the severity and length of a flood event.

Wetlands also provide valuable habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for people. Wetlands provide a diversity of habitats that support many species of plants and both game and non-game animals. These areas afford countless opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy, including hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking, educational programs and numerous other natural experiences.



People have highly altered and eliminated wetlands through agriculture and urbanization. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers two easement programs, the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) that restore and protect wetlands. Both programs are geared towards lands that are less productive or have frequently saturated soils. The program goals are to take land out of production and put them into an easement, where the landowner retains ownership of the land, but cannot farm it, eliminating the need for future disaster and crop insurance payments, as well as decreasing the amount of agricultural inputs on the land. Both programs have continuous signup, meaning a landowner can enroll anytime. WRP has annual program funding, while EWP funding is only made available after a major flood event such as 2008 or 1999.



WRP requires 50% of the soils to be hydric (wet) soils occurring on farmed wetlands and converted wetlands or degraded wetlands associated with agricultural practices. The primary goal of WRP is to maximize wetland and wildlife potential on the easement to achieve the optimal benefits.

EWP does not require hydric soils or previous crop history, but requires that the land must have been damaged in the past year or floods 2 of the last 10 years. Although cropping is not required, land under agricultural production does receive higher consideration when choosing sites. The primary emphasis of EWP is to retire

frequently flooded lands and restore the floodplain function, with the added benefit of restoring wildlife habitat.

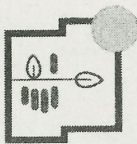
With current concerns about flooding and water quality, increased funding will be made available in the next couple years, allowing more WRP easements to be funded in the future. Besides permanent easements, there are a variety of Conservation Reserve Programs such a filter strips, riparian buffers, and wetland programs that will benefit water quality and wildlife. If you have land that can benefit from one of these programs or just an interest in putting conservation on the land , please contact your local NRCS office or conservation organization.

Black Hawk SWCD Commissioners:

Sherman Lundy, Chairperson
Jon Mixdorf, Vice-Chairperson
Paula Even, Commissioner
Fred Weber, Commissioner
Jeri Thornsberry, Treasurer

Assistant Commissioners:

Kathleen Scholl, Assistant Commissioner
Brett Meyers, Assistant Commissioner
Vern Fish, Assistant Commissioner



Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District
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Current Staff Members:

Shaffer Ridgeway, District Conservationist
Julie Falcon, Soil Conservationist
Elaine Hammer, Soil Conservation Technician
Phillip Schuppert, Watershed Coordinator
Leslie Grundy, State Secretary

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