

2005-2006 CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

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District Commissioners

Standing L-R: Tom Bindner, Marcus; Tom Oswald, Cleghorn; Randy Husman, Aurelia; and Bruce Amundson, Larrabee. Seated L-R: Ginger Vietor, Aurelia (Assistant Commissioner); and Pam Pierce, Cherokee. Linda Bindner, Marcus (Assistant Commissioner) – not pictured.

Cherokee County SWCD Commissioner Bruce Amundson Retires

The Cherokee County SWCD Commissioners and staff would like to thank Bruce Amundson for his 8 plus years of service as a commissioner. Bruce chose not to run for reelection this fall. Amundson has served on the board since August 1998 and was Chairman from 2001 through 2004. Amundson provided strong leadership to the District and committed many hours of volunteer time to advance the District and enhance conservation in Cherokee County. He and his wife Donna farm north of Larrabee.

We the Commissioners of the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District are pleased to present this Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs. We hope our cooperative working relations continue as we work to protect our natural resources.

The district is always ready to assist you with any conservation problem you may have.

Along with the landowners and operators in the county we would like to thank the government agencies, news media, schools, and individuals that have assisted in the promotion and application of soil and water conservation.

Cherokee County District Commissioners



Grade Stabilization Structure funded with Little Sioux Flood Prevention Funds

PERSONNEL

Commissioners

Tom Oswald, Chairman	Cleghorn
Randy Husman, Vice-Chair	Aurelia
Pam Pierce, Co-Treasurer	Cherokee
Tom Bindner, Co-Treasurer	Marcus
Bruce Amundson	Larrabee

Assistant Commissioners

Linda Bindner	Marcus
Ginger Vietor	Aurelia

Field Office Staff

Renee Braun	District Conservationist
Julia Gubbels	Soil Conservation Tech.
Randy Jipp	State Technician
Brian Lee	District Program Specialist
Amy Johnson	Intern
Tracy Rasmussen	State Secretary

Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District

And

Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments

(October 1, 2005– September 30, 2006)

Comprehensive Nutrient Mngt Plan	2 no.
Conservation Cover	111 ac
Conservation Crop Rotation	4472 ac
Contour Farming	562 ac
Field Border	9980 ft
Filter Strip	39 ac
Grassed Waterway	34.6 ac
Nutrient Management	1724 ac
Pest Management	454 ac
Residue Management, Mulch Till	1795 ac
Residue Mngt, No-Till/Strip Till	386 ac
Subsurface Drain	51,781 ft
Terrace	117,645 ft
Underground Outlet	264 ft
Upland Wildlife Habitat Mngt	91 ac
Wetland Restoration	25 ac
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mngt	25 ac
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Estab.	2543 ft
Early Successional Habitat Dev. Mgmt	13 ac
Sediment Basin (part of waste storage system)	8 no.
Waste Storage Facility	3 no.
Water & Sediment Control Basin	19 no.
Grade Stabilization Structure	1 no.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are the primary source for financing educational and promotional activities. We would like to thank the following contributors who donated money from October 2005 through September 2006.

- Bruce & Donna Amundson, - Larrabee
- Dale & JoAnn Backhaus - Aurelia
- Keith & Joan Ballantyne - Cherokee
- Bomgaars Supply - Cherokee
- Cherokee State Bank - Cherokee
- Mike & Pam Cronin - Cleghorn
- Farmers State Bank - Marcus
- Gustafson Realty - Cherokee
- Heritage Bank - Holstein
- Herrick, Ary, Cook, Cook, Cook & Cook - Cherokee
- Flossie James - Aurelia
- Livestock Production Center, Marcus
- Lundell Construction Co. Inc. - Cherokee
- Marvin Flewelling Earthmoving - Moville
- McGuire Auction Co. Inc. - Holstein
- Sand Seed Service, Inc. Marcus
- Stalcup Ag Service, Storm Lake
- Western Cherokee Mutual Insurance Assoc. - Marcus

In Kind Contributions \$6658.49

Financial support for program delivery
\$12,845.00

\$200.00 Scholarship Award

Nathan Anderson, the son of Randy and Deborah Anderson of Aurelia, was the recipient of our 2006 District Scholarship. Nathan is studying Agronomy—crop and soil science at Iowa State University in Ames.

Conservation Poster Contest “Water Wise” – Grade 4

Aurelia

Mrs. Kate Westphal &
Mrs. Mary Ann DePuma, Teachers
1st Place – Tayler Rohwer *
2nd Place – Beth Carlson
3rd Place – Mikayla Tuttle

Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn

Mrs. Jan Brown &
Mrs. Missy Utesch, Teachers
1st Place – Krista Mugge
2nd Place – Mark Peters
3rd Place – Erik Nelson

*Regional Winner (Grade 4-6) - Tayler Rohwer

All Posters were on display during June at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee.

2006 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

January

- * Officers were elected: Tom Oswald, Chair; Randy Husman, Vice-Chair; Pamela Pierce and Tom Bindner, Co-treasurers; and Tracy Rasmussen, Secretary.
- * Ginger Viotor was reappointed Assistant Commissioner.
- * District Cost-Share Policies, Cost-Share Practices, and No-Till Incentive Program were approved.
- * Tom Oswald, Bruce Amundson, and Ginger Viotor attended the Iowa Watershed Meeting in Altoona.

February

- * \$ 3133.78 out of the \$40,957.25 in supplemental cost share requested was received.
- * Assistant Commissioner Ginger Viotor visited the 4th grade classes at MMC and Aurelia to go over the poster contest. The theme this year was "Water Wise".

March

- * Commissioners sponsored a Grazing Clinic for area farmers in Aurelia.
- * The Cherokee SWCD hosted the Northwest Iowa Regional Envirothon which is an environmental competition for high schools.
- * Tom Oswald, Tom Bindner, Randy Husman, Renee Braun, and Tracy Rasmussen attended the Spring Regional in Sioux Center.
- * Annual Work Plan was approved.
- * Scholarship applications were reviewed and 4th grade posters judged.
- * Annual Report completed.

April

- * District tree sales profit benefited the Education Fund.
- * Presented 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place poster winners with cash awards, ribbons, and certificates. Also presented check to scholarship winner.
- * Pam Pierce received the Outstanding Commissioner Award.
- * Linda Bindner was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner.

May

- * Soil Stewardship Week (April 30 - May 6), was observed by supplying conservation placemats to Danny's Sports Spot in Cherokee.
- * Watershed inspections were completed in May.

June

- * 4th grade posters were on display at the Sanford Museum.
- * Tracy Rasmussen toured Schumacher's Nursery with other District Secretaries.

July

- * Field Office Staff attended All Employee Meeting in Correctionville.
- * Conservation Tour was held.
- * Tom Oswald attended EQIP Ranking Meeting in Ida Grove.
- * The first of three Locally Led Meetings was held to determine county resource concerns.
- * A letter of support for a WHIP Special Project was written.

August

- * The District had an entry in the Marcus Fair Parade. A couple of the poster contest winners along with Tom Bindner and Renee Braun road in the parade.
- * The second Locally Led Meeting was held. Resource issues were identified.
- * Tom Bindner, Bruce Amundson, and Renee Braun attended Fall Regionals at Onawa.
- * Submitted Legacy Foundation Grant Application to fund installation of conservation signs and training for Cherokee Envirothon students.
- * Performed District Audit.
- * Tayler Rohwer was selected as 2006 Region I Poster Contest Winner for grades 4-6.
- * Received \$12,338.50 in supplemental IFIP cost share funds.
- * Submitted a WHIP Special Project Grant Application for \$240,000.00.

September

- * The third Locally Led Meeting was held. We ranked resource concerns and identified responsible parties.
- * Received the first half of Farm Bill V money—\$5274.44.
- * The District paid their CDI dues.

October

- * Approved EQIP Locally Led priorities and ranking for FY07 program applicants.

November

- * Election was held. Randy Husman was re-elected as a commissioner and Joe Hueser was newly elected.
- * Tom Oswald and Tom & Linda Bindner attended the CDI Annual Conference in Ames.

December

- * Received Legacy Foundation Grant funds of \$2100.00
- * Bid retiring commissioner, Bruce Amundson, farewell and presented him with a plaque for his 8 plus years of service to the District.
- * Contribution letters were sent out.
- * Received second half of Farm Bill V money—\$5274.44.
- * Received funding for the WHIP Special Project Grant Funds for 3 year Multi-County Project. Funds awarded were \$79,950.00 yearly for 3 years.

STATE FUNDING

(July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)

IFIP 2003-04 Fund (Cost-Sharing)

Allocation	\$ 34,506.96
Total cost-share paid	34,506.96
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/06	\$ 0.00

IFIP 2004-05 Fund (Cost-Sharing)

Allocation	\$ 25,872.00
Total cost-share paid	25,716.49
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/06	\$ 155.51

IFIP 2005-06 Fund (Cost-Sharing)

Allocation	\$ 49,497.76
Total cost-share paid	32,687.32
Total approved & pending	<u>13,431.68</u>
Balance 6/30/06	\$ 3,378.76

REAP Practices Fund 2006

Allocation	\$ 8,041.00
Total cost-share paid	3,623.12
Total approved & pending	<u>733.93</u>
Returned to DSC 6/30/06	\$ 3,683.95

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses Fund 2006

Allocation	\$ 2,010.00
Total cost-share paid	1,058.44
Total approved & pending	<u>0.00</u>
Returned to DSC 6/30/06	\$ 951.56

* The funds listed above are restricted to particular farm practices or land treatments.

I-M Budget

(July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)

(Funds appropriated by the legislature to reimburse commissioners for traveling expenses as well as pay for district office supplies)

Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Expenses	\$ <u>2,080.05</u>
Balance 6/30/06	- \$ 80.05

Unable to reimburse \$80.05 in commissioners' expenses.

Local Water Protection Program

The District approved applications for \$53,271.00 in low interest loans.

Little Sioux Flood Prevention Watershed Maintenance Funds

(July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)

(Funds collected in prior years to be used for maintaining existing structures in the county)

Balance carried forward	\$ 161,215.62
Income (Interest)	\$4,320.07
Expenses	<u>\$443.08</u>
Balance 6/30/06	\$165,092.61

General Fund (Revolving)

(July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)

(For District Functions)

Balance carried forward	\$9,305.40
Income	\$12,310.39
Expenses	<u>\$13,155.75</u>
Balance 6/30/06	\$8,460.04

Education Fund

(July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)

Balance carried forward	\$897.84
Income	\$911.60
Expenses	<u>\$1220.57</u>
Balance 6/30/06	\$588.87

FEDERAL FUNDING

Little Sioux Funds

(October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006)

These funds were obligated by the federal government for projects in the Little Sioux Watershed area which is nearly all of the county. The district obligated \$352,363.25 for structures, terraces, and water & sediment control basins.

EQIP Funds

(October 1, 2005–September 30, 2006)

Funded EQIP contracts in the amount of \$211,184.77.

WHIP Funds

(October 1, 2005–September 30, 2006)

Funded WHIP contracts in the amount of \$23,761.00.

WRP Funds

(October 1, 2005–September 30, 2006)

Funded WRP contracts in the amount of \$20,832.00.

The Cherokee SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.