

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District 58th Annual Report



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Personnel during 2003



COMMISSIONERS- Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are Maureen Fosdick (Franklin Township), Ron Snyder (Burlington), Bob Hinson (Tama Township), Todd Heckenberg (Benton Township), and Don Lounsbery (Pleasant Grove Township).

COMMISSIONERS

Donald Lounsbery, Chairperson
Todd Heckenberg, Vice-Chairperson
Jeff Bergman (through April)
Robert Hinson (started August)
Maureen Fosdick
Ronald Snyder

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Frank Hedges, Arlyn Musselman,
Bradley Weiss

OFFICE STAFF

Shiloh Bradley, District Conservator (started May)
Sindra Jensen, Acting District Conservator (March-April)
Terrance Rudolph, District Conservator (through February)
T.J. Mathis, Soil Conservator (started December)
Troy Deumeyer, Soil Conservator (through January)
John Horan, Soil Conservation Technician • Jamie Grimes, State & District Secretary
Deedra Warner, District Employee

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)

Bruce Trautman, Area Conservator • Shawn Dettmann, Area Resource Conservator
Mark LaVan, Resource Soil Scientist • Sue Long, Civil Engineer
Amy Elmore-White, Civil Engineering Technician • Kerry Richards, Computer Specialist
Suzette Betts, Area Administrative Coordinator • Kevin Andersen, DNR Private Lands Biologist

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP - DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION (Des Moines)

William Ehm, Director • James Gillespie, Chief Field Services Bureau
Paul Valin, Field Representative • William McGill, Chief Financial Incentives Bureau

Revolving Funds Account

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD regular checking account from July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003:

Balance on hand, July 1, 2002		\$4,455.58
Receipts:		
Miscellaneous Sales	32.50	
Checking Account Interest	18.58	
Donations	25.00	
Dues Reimbursement	575.00	
1M Reimbursement	1,339.00	
TOTAL	\$1,981.08	

Disbursements:

Postage	199.00	
Office Supplies & Expenses	157.20	
Awards & Gifts	101.74	
Commissioner Travel	615.10	
Poster Contest Prizes	155.00	
Soil & Water Stewardship Week materials	44.44	
Dues	1,150.00	
Subscriptions/Memberships	125.00	
Scholarships	1,800.00	
Commissioner Tour	55.00	
Marketing - Boulevard of Trees	35.30	
Marketing- Front Door Sign	95.00	
Marketing- Notre Dame butterfly garden donation	25.00	
Film Processing	45.97	
TOTAL	\$4,803.75	

Balance On Hand, June 30, 2003 \$1,632.91

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD special projects/payroll account from July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2002		\$14,012.13
Receipts:		
Account Interest	63.61	
Pheasants Forever	3,000.00	
TOTAL	\$3,063.61	

Expenditures:

Workman's Comp Insurance	291.00	
Federal Tax	733.28	
State of Iowa- Tax	69.00	
State of Iowa- buffer funds returned	845.36	
Unemployment Insurance	25.60	
Marketing- pens	172.35	
CDI- employee match	5,000.00	
Payroll	3,709.27	
TOTAL	\$10,845.86	

Balance on Hand, June 30, 2003 \$6,229.88

Des Moines County SWCD Budget

July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003 Expenditures of funds provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for Commissioners' Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP), Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) and Public Owned Lakes (POL).

1M Budget & Operating Expenses

Allocation	\$1,905.00	
Commissioners Expense	765.90	
Office Expense (includes postage, subscriptions & bophs)	519.66	
Printing	44.44	
CDI Dues	325.00	
NACD Dues	250.00	
Balance -0-		

REAP Practices 2002-03

Allocation	\$3,899.93	
Tree Planting, 10.8 ac completed	3,899.93	
Balance -0-		

IFIP 2002-03

Allocation	\$12,961.00	
Terraces, incomplete	12,961.00	
Balance -0-		

IFIP 2001-02

Allocation	\$73,145.00	
Terraces, 15,520 ft completed	44,242.60	
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 13 completed	12,557.69	
Terraces, incomplete	14,877.50	
Grassed Waterways, incomplete	1,383.00	
Balance	84.21	

IFIP 2000-01

Allocation	\$85,648.43	
Terraces, 23,410 feet completed	63,243.78	

Terraces, incomplete	6,211.00
Grassed Waterways, 8,410 ft completed	7,534.88
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 4 completed	5,308.77
Grade Stabilization Structure, 1 completed	3,350.00
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2002-03

Allocation	\$7,854.76
Terraces, 1,760 ft completed	7,854.76
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2001-02

Allocation	\$7,524.38
Terraces, 1,760 ft completed	7,524.38
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2000-01

Allocation	\$8,056.32
Terraces, 1,200 ft completed	8,056.32
Balance	-0-

District Activities During 2003

January

-Election of Officers for 2003 resulted as follows: Chairperson- Donald Lounsbery; Vice Chairperson- Todd Heckenberg.
-Appointments for 2003 resulted as follows: Secretary- Jamie Grimes; Treasurer- Grimes; Co-Treasurer- Jeff Bergman; Assistant Commissioner- Arlyn Musselman; RCAD Executive Board- Lounsbery, Maureen Fosdick (alternate); Flint Creek Advisory Board- Heckenberg; 206 Project- Ron Snyder; REAP- Bergman; Education/Contests/Awards Committee- Fosdick, Snyder; Fund Raising Committee- Snyder; Marketing Committee- Fosdick; Annual Plan of Work Committee- Bergman, Heckenberg; Legislative Committee- Snyder, Lounsbery; Urban Conservation Committee- Snyder, Bergman.
-Brookway Family LLP was chosen as recipients of the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.
-Membership to 1000 Friends of Iowa was renewed.
-Soil Conservatorist Troy Deumeyer's last day was January 10.
-Deedra Warner, District Employee, started January 8.
-Civil Rights were reviewed.

February

-Annual Report was printed in Mediapolis News.
-Frank Hedges and Brad Weiss were appointed Assistant Commissioners.
-Fosdick and Snyder attended "Life as a Commissioner" training.
-Terrance Rudolph, District Conservatorist, last day was February 7.
-Sindra Jensen, Soil Conservatorist at the Atlantic Field Office, started as Acting District Conservatorist on February 18.
-CDI dues were paid.

March

-Soil and Water Stewardship week Itanies were distributed to the ministerial board.
-Diana Davis was chosen as the local recipient for the CDI Auxiliary scholarship.
-Snyder attended the Spring Regional Meeting in Fairfield.
-Warner and Grimes presented information during a fifth grade career fair at SCC.
-A \$700 donation was given to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for a scholarship.

April

-Soil and Water Stewardship week was April 2-7-May 4.
-Winners were chosen for the Poster Contest.
-Jensen's last day was April 11.

May

-Weiss presented the local scholarship at Mediapolis High school.
-Shiloh Bradley started as District Conservatorist on May 5.
-Dale Schmeiser started as a volunteer on May 19.
-NACD dues were paid.
-Winners were chosen for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program.
-Bergman resigned as a District Commissioner.
-Snyder was appointed Co-Treasurer.

June

-Dennis Petersen was chosen as the local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award.
-A donation was made to Sharon Sommerfelt, local teacher winner, for the butlerly garden at Notre Dame.

July

-The SWCD had a booth during the Des Moines County Fair, July 24-July 29.
-Schmeiser's last day as a volunteer was July 25.
-The meeting date was changed to the 4th Wednesday of the month.

August

-Robert Hinson was appointed by the State Committee to fill the District Commissioner vacancy.
-Fosdick and Heckenberg completed the annual audit of the District books.
-Snyder attended the Fall Regional meeting in Oskaloosa.
-The SWCD entered into a joint agreement with the Board of Supervisors for cost share to seed borders along county road ditches.

September

-A new ranking process for cost share projects was implemented.
-A \$50 scholarship was given for a local teacher to attend a Food, Land & People workshop.

October

-Additional NACD dues were paid.

November

-Participated in "Boulevard of Trees" at Westland Mall.
-An annual tour was conducted of completed practices.
-The awards supper was held at Ryan's Steak House following the tour.
-Snyder attended Annual Conference in Marshalltown.
-Mailed a newsletter and fund raising request to all landowners and producers.

December

-T.J. Mathis started as Soil Conservatorist on December 15.
-Local work group met December 15 to discuss EQIP.
-Participated in "Boulevard of Trees" at Westland Mall.

District Accomplishments

July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003

	Amount	Unit
New District Cooperators on 491 acres	3	no.
Individuals or Groups Assisted	1,046	No.
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	20	Acres
Terraces Constructed	12,350	Ft.
Water & Sediment Control Basins Constructed	15	No.
Pond/Grate- State Constructed	2	No.
Wetland Restoration Completed	6	Acres
Tree Plantings Completed	11	Acres
Field Windbreak Established	2	Acres
Riparian Forest Buffers Established	4	Acres
Filter Strips Established	144	Acres
Contour Buffer Strips Established	3	Acres
Shallow Water Areas Established	82	Acres
Farmable Wetlands Established	44	Acres
CRP Contracts Completed	54	No.

SWCD Scholarship Recipient

Diana Davis of Mediapolis was chosen as the 2003 recipient of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship. This scholarship is sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and CDI Auxiliary.

Diana was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. Criteria considered in judging the applications included scholastic achievement, need and leadership, which include service, character and self-motivation.

Diana graduated from Mediapolis High School and is currently attending Iowa Wesleyan College. She is the daughter of Brad and Merle Ann Davis.





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District Donates Scholarship



Scholarship Recipients: Front-Brandon Wellman, Alex Ruebush, Cory Strothman, Corbin Remich, Mathew Mason, Back-Joe Bell, Brady Schmidt, Ron Ludington, Blake Bessine, Brandon Jones, J.R. Casteel, Drew Pence, Jon Fecht.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District donated \$700 to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for the 2003-04 school year. The Foundation was established to assist students enrolled in agriculture programs at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington.

Other organizations who made contributions towards the 2003-04 scholarship fund were Bank of Stronghurst, Burlington Bank & Trust, Creelman Research Farm, Curt Thomas Memorial Fund, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Lee County Bank & Trust, Raritan State Bank, Twomey Company, and Vantier Farm Market.

The Gift of Trees

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa Auxiliary, sponsored a poster contest for all students in the county. The theme was "Food for the Future." The contest consists of five divisions: Division 1 is kindergarten and 1st grades; Division 2 is 2nd and 3rd grades; Division 3 is 4th-6th grades; Division 4 is 7th-9th grades; and Division 5 is 10th-12th grades. Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.



First place in Division 1 was Megan Ash, who is home schooled.



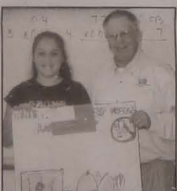
Second place in Division 1 was Shelby Coleman, Notre Dame Elementary, shown with District Commissioner Ron Snyder.



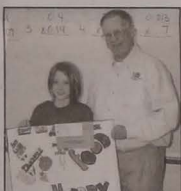
Third place in Division 1 was Danielle Williams, Notre Dame, with Snyder.



First place in Division 3 was Marcela Vela, Blackhawk School, with Snyder.



Second place in Division 3 was All Martin, Blackhawk School, with Snyder.



Third place in Division 3 was Jessica Bowers, Blackhawk School, with Snyder.



First place in Division 4 was Travis Ash, who is home schooled.



Second place in Division 4 was Michael Fosdick, Mediapolis School.



Third place in Division 4 was Dustin Ravelin, Horace Mann, Ron Snyder.



Division 5 first place went to Rachel Fosdick, Mediapolis School.

Notre Dame Teacher Chosen as SWCD Teacher of the Year

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District chose Notre Dame Elementary Teacher Sharon Sommerfelt as the local winner in Division 1 of the 2003 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.

The purpose of the award is to recognize public or parochial school teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources. Division 1 consists of teachers in grades kindergarten through 6.

The SWCD chose Sharon as their local winner because of her cooperation with their annual poster contest and her hands-on teaching techniques with her students on conservation activities, including a new butterfly garden in the courtyard of the school.

In recognition of Sharon's award, the SWCD made a donation for the butterfly garden at Notre Dame.



Sharon Sommerfelt works with her first grade students to plant milkweed in the newly constructed butterfly garden at Notre Dame Elementary in Burlington.

Local Landowners Chosen For Conservation Awards



Local award winners are Randy Higdon, William Walker, and Dennis Petersen, Jeff Bergman is also pictured receiving a certificate for his years of service as a District Commissioner.



Wayne Wasson was the local winner in Division II.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected four local landowners as District winners for the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and Woodland Owner of the Year.

The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and consists of three Divisions. Rand Higdon, Danville, and Wayne Wasson, West Burlington, were selected as winners in Division II. This division is for tenant-operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

William Walker, Mediapolis, was selected as the winner in Division I. This division is for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

Additionally, the District chose Dennis Petersen, Mediapolis, as local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. This award, co-sponsored by the Forestry Division of the Iowa DNR and Conservation Districts of Iowa, is designed to recognize individuals who are doing an outstanding job of woodland management.

The award winners were recognized during a banquet held in November at Ryan's Steak House in Burlington.



Shiloh Bradley, District Conservationist, and T.J. Mathis, Soil Conservationist, started working at the Burlington Field Office during 2003.

New Employees

Shiloh Bradley and T.J. Mathis joined the staff of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office during 2003.

Shiloh started May 5 as the District Conservationist. Shiloh, originally from Freeport, Illinois, graduated from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. She came to Burlington from Charles City and has worked in various offices in Iowa and Missouri. Shiloh and her husband Chris, who is a Soil Conservation Technician in the Washington Field Office, reside near Sperry with their 1-year-old daughter, Rachel.

T.J. started December 15 as the Soil Conservationist. T.J. was born in Mt. Pleasant but has lived the majority of his life in Anita, Iowa. He graduated in 2002 from Iowa State University with a degree in Forestry. T.J. started his NRCS career in the Ft. Dodge field office. T.J. currently lives near Mediapolis with his black Lab, Bailey. If you haven't had the chance to meet either Shiloh or T.J., yet stop in the NRCS office and say hi!

New Road Ditch Program Initiated

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the Roadside Management Department, has initiated a pilot project to reduce the amount of soil erosion entering road ditches in Des Moines County.

The funding for this project will come from the SWCD and Des Moines County. This project is incentive based and will be used to install field borders along county roads.

- Some specifics of the project include:
- Field borders will be a minimum of 30 feet.
 - The landowner will submit an application at the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office.
 - The cost share rate will be 75%, not to exceed \$40 per acre for cool season grasses.
 - The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will review applications and approve funding for qualified applicants based on the available funds.
 - Upon approval, landowners will install practice according to NRCS specifications.
 - The landowner will be bound by a 10 year maintenance agreement.

If you are interested in this program, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221 or Roadside Manager Jeff Chase at 319-753-8720.

30 Years of Cost Share and Iowa's Water Quality

By Bill Elm, IDALS - DSC Director

There has been a lot of attention leveled at water quality in recent years. A lot can be learned by studying our lakes, rivers and streams; but in order to truly understand what is happening with water quality in a state like Iowa, it is necessary to turn around and look upstream. What happens on the landscape has a huge impact on the water downhill from that landscape.

Of the 157 impaired waters in Iowa on the 1998 list, well over half were included because of sedimentation problems. Keeping the soil where it belongs is not new to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). In fact, it has been the focus of Districts for well over 60 years.

In 2003 during Soil and Water Stewardship Week, November 16-22, we celebrated 30 years of the "first in the nation" soil conservation Financial Incentives Program. Over its lifetime, the State of Iowa has invested over \$150 million in financial incentives to assist landowners to protect their farms from the damaging effects of soil erosion. Those same landowners have invested an equal amount from their own pocketbooks, stimulating tremendous economic activity in local communities throughout Iowa.

The Division of Soil Conservation estimates that we have stopped over 18 million tons of fertile topsoil from escaping our fields in that 30 year time frame. That is enough precious black soil to provide a six-inch layer over 20,000 football fields. Put another way, the soil saved in a lifetime of the Financial Incentives Program would cover all four lanes of an interstate highway stretching from California to New York. Of course a good share of the lost soil may have found its way to our state's waterways, so in effect, SWCDs have been a partner in improving water quality for years.

Improving water quality isn't difficult to understand. Placing waterways, terraces, grade stabilization structures, and diversions in the right locations, save soil and preserve water quality. Reducing tillage and leaving crop residue on the soil surface improve soil quality and reduce the movement of soil as well. In the end, soil conservation work means that less sediment makes it way to the water.

We can't go wrong. By investing in soil conservation, we get the best of both worlds: we improve the productivity of our farms and keep sediment out of our water. That's a win-win scenario where everyone benefits.

(Side note from Des Moines County SWCD- we have received approximately \$1.5 million in Iowa Financial Incentives since 1973).



The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District set up a booth during the Des Moines County Fair in July. Information about programs, backyard conservation, and SWCD history were available. Additionally, pencils, latipos and coloring books were given away. Two door prizes, donated by Wal-Mart and Target, were also given away.



Dale Schmeiser of rural Burlington volunteered in the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office during May-July, 2003. Dale donated 341 hours during that time period and was put to work on various projects including CRP status reviews, field surveys, and soil loss computations. If you would like more information on becoming a volunteer, please contact the office at 319-753-6221.

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