

**IDA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

***2001
Annual Report
7-1-00 - 6-30-01***

5973 State Highway 175
P.O. Box 237
Ida Grove, Iowa 51445

Phone: 712-364-2124

PERSONNEL

COMMISSIONERS

Wally Johnson, Washta
Chairperson

Lloyd Rickers, Kiron
Vice-Chairperson
Representative,

Sioux Rivers RC & D Board
Marc Johnson, Battle Creek
Representative,
Little Sioux Works Committee

Tom Odgaard Ida Grove

Lynn Hare, Ida Grove

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Joyce Johnson, Washta

STAFF

Lorne Miller
District Conservationist

Jerry Sindt
Soil Conservationist

Randy Sohm
Soil Conservation Technician

Carl Lee
State Soil Conservation Technician

Arlis Bahnsen, *State Secretary*

Lorraine Johnson
Soil Conservation Technician

Darwin Henke
Soil Conservation Technician

Jerry Jensen
Watershed Inspector

BATTLE CREEK WATERSHED GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT

Peg Peters, *Information Specialist*

VOLUNTEERS

La Vonne Murray, Ida Grove
Myrle Nielsen, Battle Creek

As commissioners of your Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this 2001 Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

IDA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2001 AWARD WINNERS

Scholarship Award Marissa Hammer

District Poster Contest Division 2 (Grades 2 & 3)

1st Place - Adrienne Burk

2nd Place - Mary Ellis

3rd Place - Aaron Rohlk

Honorable Mention:

MaShayla Luft

Mandi Hare

Joshua Lansink

Division 3 (Grades 4 - 6)

1st Place - Andrew Ellis

2nd Place - Clare Ellis

3rd Place - Kelsey Leonard

Regional & State Winner (National Contender)

Andrew Ellis

COOPERATORS

A District Cooperator is a landowner who has entered into a cooperative agreement with the District for the purpose of planning, applying, and maintaining the necessary soil and water conservation practices on his/her land.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - FY 2001 (July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001)

The Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioners meet monthly at the district office. All meetings are open to the public. (Open Meeting Law)

JULY 2000

District commissioners performed the annual audit of District books and found them to be in order. The District sponsored a booth at the Ida County Fair. Commissioners approved the use of Iowa Financial Incentive Program funds to piggyback with Little Sioux funds for Erosion Control Structures at the rate of 10% raising total cost-share to 75%. Marc Johnson attended the Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project Advisory Committee Meeting and Wally Johnson participated in a Watershed

Works meeting at Buena Vista College on locally led conservation.

AUGUST

Chris Jennings, Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project Coordinator, introduced Farm*A*Syst materials to commissioners and requested that they utilize and evaluate materials in their farm operations. Tom Odgaard was appointed Ida County SWCD Assistant Commissioner. A farewell dinner was held for Carol Thomson, Soil Conservation Technician. The District will apply for a grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to promote the Conservation Reserve Program Buffer Initiative Program and will match funds from a second grant for the promotion of CRP Buffers. Mary Gross, Mayor of Holstein, was appointed to the Sioux Rivers RC & D board.

SEPTEMBER

Commissioners attended the Annual Conference in Des Moines. The District submitted over \$220,000 in Little Sioux Project Agreements for construction of Erosion Control Structures, terraces, and Sediment and Water Control Basins. Commissioners attended the Ida County Conservation Board 40th Anniversary celebration at Crawford Creek. The District agreed to sponsor two Ida County teachers for the Food, Land & People Workshop. The District will receive approximately \$3,000 through a cooperative agreement with USDA-NRCS for funding for technical assistance.

OCTOBER

Miller reported that Ida County has a critical water situation and therefore has been declared a disaster county. Cost-share for livestock wells may be available through Farm Service Agency.

NOVEMBER

The Oath of Office for Commissioner was administered to Tom Odgaard following the election. Commissioners attended the Fall Regional Meeting in Sibley.

DECEMBER

Wally & Joyce Johnson, Marc & Lorraine

Johnson, and Jennings attended the Iowa Watersheds Conference in Osceola. Commissioners and staff held their Annual Meeting and Christmas dinner. Jennings reported on new livestock and manure management regulations. Effective immediately, the District will charge \$20/tract to calculate Corn Suitability Ratings. The change will facilitate the maintenance of District equipment and upgrading of software.

JANUARY 2001

Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project Coordinator, Chris Jennings, has accepted a position at the University of Illinois. Information Specialist, Peg Peters, will remain in her position until the end of the Project. Little Sioux Funds are currently available for construction of conservation practices. A farewell dinner was held for Jennings.

FEBRUARY

Miller encouraged commissioners to promote the 75% cost-share available for conservation practices through the Little Sioux Watershed Flood Protection Project. Erosion Control Structure rehabilitation information has been forwarded to Des Moines for consideration. Payroll of intermittent employees will be handled through the District. Lloyd Rickers attended the monthly Sioux Rivers RC & D meeting. Commissioners completed a Nutrient Management Survey.

MARCH

A request has been made to the Division of Soil Conservation to extend the Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Program for one year. The District will record all Maintenance Agreements starting with the new construction season this spring. The recording fee will be paid by the landowner. District will support the Envirothon and agreed to sponsor a 4-H youth to attend the 2001 Iowa 4-H Conference in Ames. The District entered an agreement with Pheasants Forever to obtain funding to promote CRP buffers with matching District funds. Marissa Hammer of Holstein was selected to receive the Dis-

trict Scholarship. Her application was forwarded to compete for the regional scholarship. An updated Commissioner Handbook was given to each commissioner. Wally & Joyce Johnson reported on the Ag & The Environment Conference they attended. Commissioners attended the Spring Regional meeting. Commissioners and staff attended the Pheasants Forever Banquet and the District sponsored a booth at the banquet.

APRIL

Darwin Henke returned to intermittent employment in the Ida Grove Field Office. Commissioners are concerned about the major budget cuts being considered by the Division of Soil Conservation. Arlis Bahnsen, District Secretary, was awarded Employee of the Month by James Gulliford, Director of the Division of Soil Conservation. Miller participated in the Fifth Grade Tree Planting.

MAY

Jerry Sindt, Soil Conservationist, returned to the Ida Grove Field Office after a two-year detail to Buena Vista County to complete a water protection project. The District sponsored the annual Outdoor Classroom. All sixth graders in the county were invited to attend. The Battle Creek Watershed Groundwater Protection Project has received approval for extension through December 2001. The District completed spring tree plantings with approximately 11,000 trees being planted. Poster contest winners were selected and cash prizes were awarded. Winning posters were forwarded for regional competition. Commissioners set general guidelines for use of the tree planter, which is co-owned with the Ida County Conservation Board and Ida County Pheasants Forever. Payroll software was purchased.

JUNE

Commissioners attended the Sioux Rivers RC & D Annual Meeting and Picnic.

Ida County Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2001

October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001

Individuals Assisted	1,662
Cropland Protected Against Excessive Erosion (acres)	6,709
Acres Treated with Erosion Control Measures	11,688
Farmstead Windbreaks	6
Terraces (feet)	81,663
Waterways (acres)	56.5
Grade Stabilization Structures	4
Water & Sediment Control Basins	32
CRP 23rd Signup Applications	42
CRP 23rd Signup Applications Approved (352.4 acres)	42
Riparian Buffer Strips	5
Shelter Belts	10
Wetland Restoration Enhancement/Creation	20 acres

EEO STATEMENT

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call 202-720-7327 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD).

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DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT

(July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001)

1-M	\$ 4,643.80
Expenses: Printing,	
Office, Commissioner	<u>4,870.80</u>
Balance paid by District	\$ (227.00)

3-M Cost-Share Funds	
(00-01)	\$ 51,602.00
Obligated & spent	<u>51,602.00</u>
Balance in fund	\$.00

REAP - Practices Funds	
(2001)	\$ 8,857.51
Spent	<u>8,857.51</u>
Balance released to state	\$.00

REAP - Forestry/Native	
Grasses (2001)	\$ 1,849.00
Spent	<u>1,804.00</u>
Balance released to state	\$ 45.00

Little Sioux River Flood	
Prevention Project Funds (2001)	
Obligated or spent	\$ 199,890.83

Watershed Maintenance Funds	
Checking 7/01/00	\$ 4,905.84
Income	2,678.70
Expenses	<u>2,754.38</u>
Balance 6/30/01	\$ 4,830.16

Watershed Funds CD's	\$ 118,507.89
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General Funds	
Checking 7/01/00	\$ 9,941.94
Income	36,550.26
Expenses	<u>40,282.22</u>
Balance 6/30/01	\$ 6,209.98

General Funds CD's	\$ 28,923.07
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