

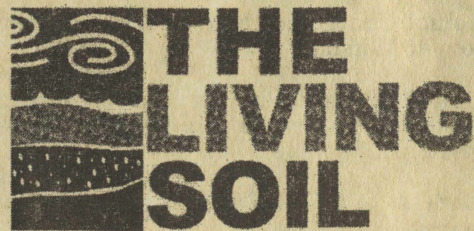
Finances

Contributions and donations are the primary sources for financing education and promotional activities. We would like to thank the following contributors.

- Builders Sharpening & Service, Cherokee
- Frank Escue, Cherokee
- Farmers State Bank, Marcus
- Gustafson Realty, Cherokee
- Lundell Construction, Cherokee
- McGuire Auction, Holstein
- Miller-Mac Realty & Insurance, Cherokee
- Vernon Peterson, Cherokee
- Schmillen Construction, Marcus

*"Civilization itself
rests upon the soil."*

-Thomas Jefferson



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

Fiscal Year 2003
October 1, 2002 -
September 30, 2003

	Number	Acres
Windbreaks & Renovations (380/650)	2	.7
Grade Stabilization Structures (410)	4	17
Grassed Waterways (412)	11	
Terraces (600)	17,450 ft.	
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) (327)	223.6	
Vegetative Filters (393)	30.3	
Slough Bill (Open Prairie/Forest Cover)	8	311.0
Filter Strips (393A)	17	
Conservation Systems Applied	2,698	
Conservation Systems Planned	24,150	
Soil Saved	36,933 ton	
Wildlife Habitat	17	

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DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT (July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003)

I-M Allocation	\$ 1,500.00
Expenses: Printing & Commissioner Expenses	<u>1,488.71</u>
Balance	\$ 11.29
3-M Cost Share Funds (02-03) (For Conservation Practices) Obligated and Spent	<u>35,104.25</u>
Balance 6/30/03	\$ 1,206.75
Little Sioux Flood Prevention Watershed Maintenance Funds Income (Interest)	7,007.12
Expenses	<u>639.94</u>
Balance 6/30/03	\$ 161,999.89
General Fund (Revolving) (For District Functions) Income:	6,383.74
Expense	<u>6,062.67</u>
Balance 6/30/02	\$ 7,381.09
REAP Funds (Resource Enhancement & Protection Practices) REAP 03 Practices Obligated & Spent	<u>630.34</u>
Released to State	\$ 342.41
Education Fund Income	\$ 561.93
Expense	<u>425.00</u>
Balance 6/30/03	\$ 586.32
	\$ 400.61

Little Sioux Funds

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 and spent \$95,097.19 for structures and terrace projects. In addition, \$653,977.85 was allocated to Cherokee County for joint projects with Cherokee County.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Soil and Water Conservation District

314 Lake Street
Cherokee, Iowa 51012

Ph 712-225-3769 • FAX 712-225-6090



ANNUAL REPORT 2003

PERSONNEL

COMMISSIONERS

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

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Rhoda Grauer	Marcus
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STAFF

Don Carrington	District Conservationist
Randall Jipp	State Soil Technician
Julia Gubbels	Soil Conservation Technician
Carol Hein	State Secretary
Karen Brewer	Experience Works Program (part-time)
Neal Bork	CRP Program (part-time)
Jerry Jensen	Watershed Inspector

As commissioners of your Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this 2003 Annual Report of conservation accomplishments. It reflects the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

30 Years of Cost Share and Iowa's Water Quality

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.

This year during Soil and Water Conservation Week, November 16-22, we are celebrating 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 pockets, stimulating tremendous economic activity in local communities throughout Iowa.

The Division of Soil Conservation estimates that we have stopped over 18 million tons of

CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

"Food for the Future"

Grade 4

Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn

Mrs. Jan Brown, Teacher
1 st Amanda Hoefling
2 nd Jessica Jacobsen
3 rd Alexandra Alderson

Aurelia

Mrs. Margene Fritz, Teacher
1 st Regan Henkel
2 nd Cody Wilson
3 rd Audrey Winterhof

Amanda Hoefling, Overall First Place Winner

Poster Contest coordinated by Julia Gubbels

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

\$200 Scholarship Award

Katie Burkhardt, Washington High School, Cherokee

fertile topsoil from escaping our fields in that 30 year timeframe. That is enough precious black soil to provide a six-inch layer for over 20,000 football fields. Put another way, the soil saved in the 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 its 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.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES 2003

The Cherokee SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District) Commissioners' meeting is the third Tuesday of each month. There were 11 monthly meetings and one conference call. All meetings are open to the public (Open Meeting Law).

- Election of officers was held on Jan. 2. Oath of office was taken by Bruce Amundson and Randy Husman. Offices are: Bruce Amundson, chairperson; Tom Oswald, vice-chair; Pamela Pierce and Tom Bindner are co-treasurers; Secretary is Carol Hein. Grauer was reappointed Asst. Commissioner. Pierce is the REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection Act) representative and Oswald the alternative. Bindner is the Little Sioux Works Committee representative and the RC & D (Resource Conservation and Development) representative. Annual Work Plan approved.

- State and Little Sioux watershed funds average costs, District Policy, No-Till, Annual Work Plan, and Contractor Check-out Policies were approved.

- Selected Katie Burkhardt of Cherokee to receive District's \$200 Ag Scholarship. She plans to attend ISU and study Agronomy.

- Commissioners attended Spring Regional at LeMars, "Life as a Commissioner" meeting held at Hartley. Cherokee hosted the Northwest Iowa Regional Envirothon. The Envirothon is an environmental competition for high schools. Randy Jipp selected as state technician.

- Memos of Understanding were reviewed. Local EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) group met in March with the commissioners.

- In April, paid \$300 NACD dues, \$650 CDI dues, and \$50 Iowa Watershed dues.

- District tree sales profit benefited the Education Fund.

- Soil Stewardship Week (Apr. 27 - May 4,) was observed by supplying conservation place mats to Danny's Restaurant in Cherokee.

- Sponsored Soil Judging Contest in O'Brien County by paying costs on back hoeing pits, purchasing ribbons and trophies.

- Received \$95,000.00 in EQIP funds for conservation in the county. (6 projects on Nutrient & Pest Mgmt. approved.)

- All financial records were approved in July. Cost Share funds of \$25,872.00 received.

- Julia Gubbels, technician, coordinated the poster contest for 4th graders. Participating schools were MMC and Aurelia. The theme was 'Food for the Future'. All conservation posters were displayed at the Sanford Museum during June. All poster participants received a theme booklet, bookmark and a tree.

- Conservation tour held in June. A structure under CRP were viewed in Liberty 23, a structure under construction in Cedar 29 and a county/watershed project in Cedar 18 where top of structure is C-16.

- Recognition and awards presentation for scholarship and posters winners held in May at District Office.

- Watershed inspections were completed in May. County projects were allocated \$95,097.19 in federal watershed for joint project with county. The FY03 IM Budget spending plan was approved in July.

- Fall Regional in Lyon Co. attended by Amundson & Oswald in August.

- Committed \$100 for 2 area teachers to attend 'Food, Land & People' Workshops.

- Approved 223.6 CRP acres.

- Annual Conference attended by Bindner in Nov. at Marshalltown.

- Local EQIP group invited to meet with commissioners to discuss recommendations and revisions.

- '30 Years of Soil & Water Conservation' was promoted.

- Annual Report completed.