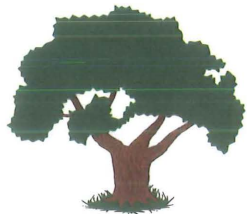


Chris Hoffman 1/14/2016

Mark Ingwersen 1-14-16

Curt Smith 1-14-16



DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3302 18TH STREET SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 712-336-3782, EXT. 3

DECEMBER 2015

A Quality Environment

The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are pleased to present their 2015 Annual Report. It represents the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

The Commissioners invite the public to contact the office to learn more about our current projects, programs and cost-share opportunities.



SWCD Commissioners from left to right: Vance Hjelm, Dave Kohlhaase, Mark Ingwersen, Curt Smith, and Chris Hoffman
Not pictured Assistant Commissioner Orville Berg

Field Office Staff:

Mark Schutt, NRCS District Conservationist-Dickinson/Emmet
Matt Welsh, NRCS Soil Conservationist-Dickinson/Emmet
Clint Hain, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician-Dickinson
Michael Mahoney, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician (Jan-May)
Betty Romero, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician-Emmet
Maxine Butler, IDALS-DSCWQ State Secretary

District Staff:

Derek Namanny, Urban Conservationist (Jan-Nov)
Jim Sholly, 319 IGL Watershed Coordinator
John Wills, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator & 319 Silver Lake Coordinator

Urban Conservationist Update: addressing water quality and quantity concerns by Derek Namanny

The arrival of fall has brought the instillation of a bio-swale and stormwater retention pond adjacent to the Emerald Hills Golf Course in Arnolds Park. Typically, construction of these practices as separate systems is not front page news, but merging these two into one system for stormwater treatment is an important step in addressing water quality and quantity concerns in the Iowa Great Lakes.

Before these practices were built, stormwater runoff issues plagued this area for years. Increased residential development within the drainage area led to higher runoff rates. During heavy rainfall events, water ran down the path of the old railroad line where it would bypass a storm sewer intake. Once past the intake, water ran straight towards Highway 71 and flooded the highway before draining into Lake Minnewashta. To combat this onslaught of water, the city took a dual-phased approach to stormwater treatment. They designed a bio-swale system upstream from the stormwater pond to slow and infiltrate rainfall events measuring 1.25 inches or less. A bio-swale is a sloped swale that is excavated and backfilled with a modified soil layer that allows water to absorb into the system. During the larger rainfall events the bio-swale becomes saturated and overflows into the stormwater wetland where it is temporarily held before being slowly discharged.

These two systems represent a paradigm shift in stormwater treatment. Traditionally, stormwater has been treated as a nuisance product by collecting, conveying, and discharging it as quickly as possible. Large stormwater ponds were installed as flood control measures and only held water during large rainfall events. These ponds sometimes have a cemented bottom to convey smaller more frequent rainfall events where the majority of pollutants are transported. The lack of ability for these stormwater ponds to capture pollutants leads



Look for the 2016 Tree Sale flyer included with this newsletter

District Commissioners

Vance Hjelm Chris Hoffman Mark Ingwersen
Dave Kohlhaase Curt Smith
Assistant Commissioners
Orville Berg

District Mission Statement

The Dickinson SWCD will serve its customers and the needs of the District's natural resources through education, promotion, and demonstration.

to nutrient and sediment loading in the Iowa Great Lakes.

Installing Low Impact Development (LID) practices in conjunction with stormwater ponds results in a symbiotic relationship where both practices benefit. LID practices installed with stormwater retention areas take pressure off systems during rainfall events and can reduce the overall size of the pond and infrastructure that is required to handle large rainfall events.

The main limiting factor for installing these systems together can be the amount of space that is required. In residential or commercial developments where space is limited, it can be challenging to fit these practices. When planning for development, it's important to have these discussions upfront before construction for easier integration versus trying to retrofit existing infrastructure.

In closing, I have accepted an Urban Conservationist position with IDALS in Des Moines beginning the end of November. I have enjoyed working as the Urban Conservationist in northwest and western Iowa and look forward to continuing those relationships while beginning new challenges.

Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Project Update **by Jim Sholly**



What an amazing year it has been! Working with its many partners, the Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District has provided conservation planning assistance to more watershed landowners this year than in any previous. The most popular method geared towards the protection of our lakes recently has been through shoreline protection. This year the IGL Watershed Project

worked with individual homeowners that collectively enhanced over 1,000 feet of shoreline. Wishing to protect the water quality of our lakes, those folks worked with us towards restoring a residentially acceptable shortgrass prairie to their banks. While that is an impressive number and a great start, one must remember that it represents less than 1% of over 380,000 feet of shoreline which delineates our Iowa Great Lakes.

Moving into 2016 we need to keep the enthusiasm for water quality high. To achieve that goal I need everyone talking to their friends, neighbors, and coworkers about what they are doing or could be doing to protect our lakes. The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District will continue to promote projects and methods of protecting and enhancing our lakes, but your help and cooperation will be the champion needed to make noticeable improvements. Remember that no positive change is insignificant and that when everyone does something small, together we can achieve something great! For conservation planning and financial assistance information please contact us at (712) 336-3782 Ext. 3.

Why Use Cover Crops in Crop Rotations **by John H. Wills**

Crop production involves many practices that compromise soil health, and therefore limit productivity. Iowa soils are more forgiving of such practices than many other regions of the country. Many area farmers are looking at ways to improve their soil health to protect their productivity and to maintain the health of their soil. Some of the



management goals for which farmers use cover crops include: suppressing weeds; protecting soil from rain or runoff; improving soil aggregate stability; reducing surface crusting; adding active organic matter to soil; breaking hardpan; fixing nitrogen; scavenging soil nitrogen and suppressing soil diseases and pests.

The following website is part of a project that enables growers to use a broader range of cover crops to improve soil health by biological means. It will complement the chemical (fungicide) and physical (tillage) methods that are being used by fellow farmers and gardeners. The goal of using cover crops in Iowa is to provide a key component of an integrated management recommendation for growers. A website with many recommendations and ideas is located at: http://www.mccc.msu.edu/states/iowa_ccactivities.html#USDAARSNSTL and will be available to provide information in your farming and gardening. If you have questions or thoughts about cover crops, please contact your local USDA office to seek guidance potential cost share assistance to help with the establishment of the programs.

Natural Resources Conservation Service **by Mark Schutt**

Top Twelve Holiday wishes for Dickinson County Agriculture

- Less fall tillage
- More waterways
- Improved fertility management
- Pesticide scouting
- Better manure management
- Less spring tillage
- More No-till and Strip-till acres
- Filter strips along creeks streams and ditches
- Fall cover crops
- Critical area seeding
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Improved soil health and productivity



Reminders from your District Conservationist:

This was a very good year for Dickinson county crop production. It is always better to have good crop and low prices rather than a poor crop and high prices. Do not forget conservation practices on your farm. Every year is a good year to invest in conservation of soil on the cropland where you make your living – no matter if you own it or only lease.

Staff is always available to visit your farm with you to discuss resource concerns you may have, potential projects and financial assistance programs. Advice is free and projects are voluntary. EQIP applications are continuously accepted - national policy guides us to allocate 60% of funds go to livestock practices and 40% go to cropland practices. The CSP program is accepting new applications, although acceptance is very competitive. State Cost-Share programs are available for practices. IDALS has annual funding provided by the Nutrient Reduction Strategy to fund practices to reduce nitrate in ground and surface water.

The USDA provides staff to assist you in implementing conservation and planning specific to your farm. Good land stewardship makes good business sense and is always part of Iowa Agriculture telling its story the general public.

Meet Soil Conservationist, Matt Welsh

Greetings Dickinson County. My name is Matt Welsh and I began serving Dickinson County as a Soil Conservationist in February of 2015. To give you a little background on myself, I'm native to northeastern Iowa where I grew up on a small commercial beef-cow calf operation that my father and grandfather ran. My first experience with conservation was on those farms and pastures, where I learned the value of terracing, strip cropping, and establishing wildlife habitat. My career started in Eastern Iowa where I administered locally led watershed projects for The North Fork of Maquoketa River. In 2012 I took an opportunity with the NRCS to work Sioux County, where I worked until arriving in my current position. My wife Sarah and I live on an acreage in the Rural George area, where her family farms. We enjoy spending time with our friends and family and trying to keep up with our two dogs.



In the short time working within Dickinson County, I have had the chance to work with a variety of conservation projects. These projects truly touch all of our agencies core fundamentals of benefiting soil, air, water, plants, and animals. I have had the opportunity to also meet and see first hand producers who through years of land stewardship have implemented conservation measures throughout all of their land. This truly encompasses the mindset of doing all that can be done to preserve our natural resources. Some of our county's producers are using no-till and strip-till systems with consistent and proven results. The opportunity for these folks to build soil organic matter, improve soil structure, and stimulate soil biology through their cropping system will reap many benefits both environmentally but also agronomically in the long run.

One thought I will leave you with is to think about your land, farm, and operation and instead of thinking about certain problems; maybe a gully, pasture that just isn't producing, or feedlot that has undersized manure storage. See these problems as opportunities. My passion is to help folks recognize resource problems, and when they are ready, choose solutions that will address those problems. The NRCS along with our conservation partners offers programs that provide financial and technical assistance over a variety of practices. My door is always open so if you have something you would like us to look at, please stop by the service center or reach me at 712-336-3782, ext. 109.

New Soil Conservation Technician Clint Hain

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is pleased to announce that they have selected Clint Hain as the new Soil Conservation Technician in the Spirit Lake field office. A native of Mason City, Clint is recent graduate from the Environmental Science program at Iowa State University while also receiving a minor in sustainability. While in school Clint worked numerous summer internships with county conservation boards, the Iowa DNR, and helped conduct research on wetlands at Iowa State before joining the NRCS team in October. When not at work Clint is an avid outdoorsman spending most of his time in the summer fishing while participating in many different hunting seasons Iowa has to



offer during the fall and winter months.

Clint is excited to work with landowners to protect Dickinson County's natural resources while also helping them optimize their profits. With water quality being an important issue here in Iowa, wetlands can help provide benefits at cost effective rates. Dickinson County is located in the prairie pothole region of Iowa which historically is was covered by prairie-wetland complexes. Not only do these wetlands act as natural filters for unwanted nutrients reaching our lakes they also provide excellent wildlife habitat. For more information on what you can do to help improve the quality of the Iowa Great Lakes contact your local USDA Service Center at (712)-336-3782, ext 3.

2015 District Activities

January

Election of officers: Chris Hoffman, Chair; Curt Smith, Vice Chair; Mark Ingwersen, Secretary-Treasurer

February

Matt Welsh begins as Soil Conservationist February 23

March

District Staff attends Iowa Water Conference

April

Commissioners distribute trees for each 6th grade student in Dickinson County schools

Stewardship material distributed to area churches

May

NRCS and District staff help organize and participate in the Pure Fishing Pollinator Day. Over 200 Dickinson County 5th and 6th grade students seeded six acres to native grasses and forbs.



Michael Mahoney accepts Wetland Specialist position in Boone, Iowa effective June 1

June

July

August

September

37th Annual Outdoor Classroom was held at Kettleson Hogsback with 183 6th graders from Okoboji, Spirit Lake, and Harris-Lake Park Schools participating

October

District Staff attends Fall Project Coordinator Meeting

Clint Hain begins as Soil Conservation Technician in Spirit Lake October 5

November

Derek Namanny accepts Urban Conservationist position in Des Moines

December

SWCD Foundation Tree Sale begins

Dickinson SWCD Treasurer's Report

6/30/2015

Funds available for cost-share practices - kept in Des Moines

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Carry over from FY 14</u>	<u>FY15 Allocation</u>	<u>Obligated</u>	<u>Recalled or Spent</u>	<u>Balance</u>
IFIP Practices	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 10,925.00	\$ 4,785.00	\$ 11,340.00	\$ -
30% Management allocated		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Also includes 30% management practices- if used must be designated					
REAP Practices	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 10,062.58	\$ 5,775.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,287.58
practices in Silver Lake/designated IGL Watersheds only or F/NG after those funds are used up					
REAP-Forestry/Native Grasses	\$ -	\$ 3,351.87	\$ -	\$ 635.62	\$ 2,716.25
Center Lake - WIRB 1228-013					
Project Totals					
\$ 10,000.00	Salary	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
\$ 90,000.00	Practices	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -
Center Lake - Lakes Restoration Fund					
to be combined with LRF 030-5.10 below					
		\$ 47,111.00	\$ -	\$ 46,450.16	\$ 660.84
Lakes Restoration Fund 030-5.10					
\$160,000 + \$47,111 (Center Lake Phase 1)					
Project Totals					
\$ 25,500.00	Wetland Restoratic	\$ 25,500.00	\$ -	\$ 24,930.00	
\$ -	Sediment Basins	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
\$ 156,396.00	Urban Practices	\$ 156,396.00	\$ -	\$ 146,483.59	
		\$ 181,896.00	\$ -	\$ 171,413.59	\$ 10,482.41
IGL Targeted Watershed - WSPF & 319 030-5.10					
15 CRP Incentive - 319		\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,450.50	\$ -	\$ 49.50
15 Grassed Waterway - 319		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
15 Residue Management - 319		\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00
15 Streambank/Shoreline - 319		\$ 2,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,250.00
15 Sediment Basin - 319		\$ 19,000.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,000.00
15 Bio-Retention Cell - 319		\$ 192,752.40	\$ -	\$ 192,752.40	\$ -
15 Wet Detention Basin - 319		\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
15 Pocket Wetland - 319		\$ 47,198.66	\$ -	\$ 46,472.41	\$ 726.25
15 Modular Block Paver -319		\$ 6,643.00	\$ -	\$ 6,643.00	\$ -
15 Wet/Dry Swales - 319		\$ 24,216.94	\$ -	\$ 24,216.94	\$ -
15 Stormwater Pond/Wetland		\$ 48,850.00	\$ 48,847.50	\$ -	\$ 2.50
15 LID Practices - WSPF		\$ 16,909.37	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 1,483.12	\$ 8,526.25
		\$ 373,820.37	\$ 74,698.00	\$ 283,067.87	\$ 16,054.50
Silver Lake Watershed - WSPF & 319 030-6.10					
15 Grade Stablization - 319		\$ 12,734.92	\$ -	\$ 9,010.84	\$ 3,724.08
15 CRP Incentive - WSPF		\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
15 Grassed Waterway - WSPF		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
15 Residue Management-WSPF		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
15 Streambank/Shoreline - WSPF		\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
15 Sediment Basin - WSPF - Osceola		\$ 4,803.25	\$ -	\$ 3,275.86	\$ 1,527.39
		\$ 22,288.17	\$ -	\$ 13,286.70	\$ 9,001.47
Publicly Owned Lakes	FY14	\$ 5,812.50	\$ 5,812.50	\$ -	\$ -

Dickinson SWCD Treasurer's Report
06/30/15

<u>District Revolving Checking Account</u>		<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance</u>
District Funds		\$ 4,640.64	\$ 4,709.70	\$ (69.06)
EOLIC, SLPIA, & CLIPA Water Monitoring		\$ 4,256.00	\$ 4,256.00	\$ -
Water monitoring reimbursed to us				
District Operations - 1M		\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -
FY15				
319 IGL Targeted Watershed 030-5.10		\$ 42,188.36	\$ 42,187.33	\$ 1.03
FY15 salary, benefits = \$58,500				
319 IGL Targeted Watershed		\$ 640.76	\$ 750.00	\$ (109.24)
FY15 travel & training = \$750				
319 IGL Targeted Watershed I & E		\$ 1,841.16	\$ 2,934.79	\$ (1,093.63)
FY15 I & E = \$3000				
319 Silver Lake Watershed 030-6.10		\$ 21,122.30	\$ 19,019.61	\$ 2,102.69
FY15 salary, benefits = \$30910				
319 Silver Lake Watershed		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY15 travel & training = \$0				
319 Silver Lake Watershed I & E		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FY15 Expenses = \$0				
CWA Coordinator Funds		\$ 64,285.98	\$ 39,611.41	\$ 24,674.57
FY15 salary, benefits, travel & training				
Dickinson County Tree Reserve		\$ 1,932.15	\$ -	\$ 1,932.15
FY15 Expenses				
East Okoboji Lakeshore Improvements				
Mau Marine settlement		\$ 22,500.00	\$ 1,747.39	\$ 20,752.61
obligated			\$ 5,850.00	
IDALS Intern		\$ 810.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 60.00
Urban Conservationist 030-4.08		\$ 60,676.12	\$ 60,662.61	\$ 13.51
FY15 salary, benefits + \$62,450				
Urban Conservationist		\$ 1,185.71	\$ 1,252.57	\$ (66.86)
FY15 travel & training = \$2,000				
Urban Conservationist - I & E		\$ 675.00	\$ 1,560.00	\$ (885.00)
FY15 I & E = \$2,000				
Watershed Assessment				
1% for Clean Water		\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Reload Iowa		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 18,286.84	\$ 1,713.16
Reload Iowa - IDALS		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WQC - Center Lake				
	\$ 5,000.00 I & E	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,497.78	\$ 1,502.22
obligated-June 15	\$ 5,000.00 salary	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
\$40,000 obligated	\$ 40,000.00 practices	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
	\$ 500.00 CLIPA donation	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
WQC - CWA				
salary		\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Dickinson Co Lakes				
marketing		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
Supplies/Services -LO mtg		\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
CL Water Monitoring		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,359.00	\$ 1,641.00
WQC - Infiltration Based Storm Water		\$ 51,019.05	\$ 50,338.73	\$ 680.32
obligated			\$ 680.32	
WQC Lakeshore Revegetation		\$ 73,686.00	\$ 66,901.59	\$ 6,784.41
			\$ 6,784.41	
WQC - Targeted Raingardens		\$ 100,050.00	\$ 50,295.20	\$ 49,754.80
\$50 donation from PEO	obligated		\$ 26,994.68	
Total funds in District Revolving Checking				\$ 127,888.68
Petty Cash		\$ 183.01	\$ 172.34	\$ 10.67

Secretary Signature

Date

Treasurer Signature

Date

This mailing sent to you courtesy of



Dickinson SWCD Foundation
3302 18th Street Suite 2
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 11

37th Annual Outdoor Classroom for Dickinson County 6th graders

The Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored their 37th annual Sixth Grade Outdoor Classroom on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at the Kettleison-Hogsback area. Sixth grade students from Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji and Spirit Lake School Districts participated in the outdoor classroom.

The students learned about waterfowl, falconry, boating and water safety, wetlands, trees, Iowa soils and rocks, watersheds and the Kettleison-Hogsback area.

The classes were conducted by members of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Dickinson County Conservation Board, the Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council, Iowa State University Extension, Trees Forever, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Dickinson Soil & Water Conservation District and Dickinson County Animal Clinic.

The goal of the Outdoor Classroom is to provide a unique learning experience and an increased understanding of the environment.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

