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STATE HOUSE, DES MOINES

## State Soil Conservation Committee

STATE HOUSE

DES MOINES 19. IOWA

February 5, 1957

TO: All Soil Conservation Districts:

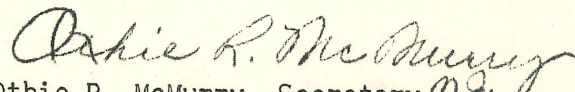
Recently the State Soil Conservation Committee prepared a chart explaining the soil conservation district program here in Iowa. We have prepared a large chart approximately 26 inches wide and 38 inches long to be used in the various offices to help explain the soil district program. We have a smaller chart on an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 11 scale to be inserted in the district commissioner's handbooks and a few extra copies that can be distributed to county boards of supervisors, county superintendents of schools, conservation officers, and others that you may wish to add to your list. Along with these charts, we have prepared a set of instructions which will give further explanation of the agencies relationships.

You will find enclosed with this letter the small charts for your handbooks and distribution as referred too above, along with the instructions to accompany the charts. Instructions are also enclosed to accompany your large charts. Districts that received the large charts at the Short Course will not be mailed any, however, districts that were not represented at the Short Course and have not received them, will be mailed three under separate cover. We would suggest that you distribute them along with the instructions in the following order: One to the soil district office, one to the County Extension Director's office, and one to the County ASC office.

In case there is need for additional charts, either large or small or instructions, please advise. I should point out that we are sending one large chart and one small chart to each of the Vocational Agriculture instructors and one of the small ones to each of the Veterans Instructors. These will be accompanied by the instructions.

We hope that this will help all of you to do a little better job of explaining the soil district operation to people visiting your offices.

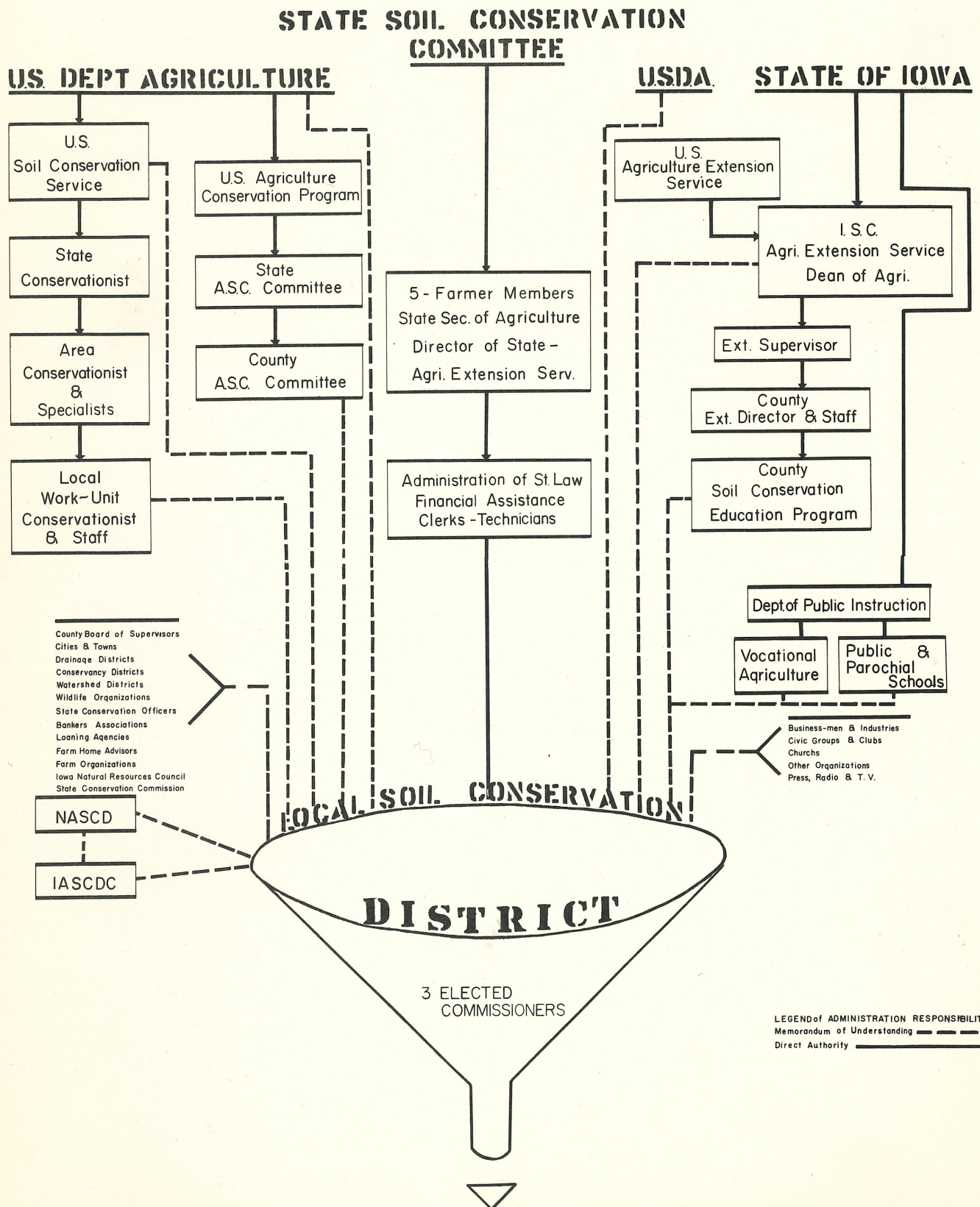
Very truly yours,



Othie R. McMurry, Secretary  
State Soil Conservation Committee

ORM/mj  
Enclosures

# IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAM



## EXPLANATION FOR SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS CHART ( Agency Relationships )

### SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A governmental subdivision of the state of Iowa, and a public body corporate and politic, organized in accordance with the provisions of the Soil Conservation District's Law, Code of Iowa, Chapter 467A. Each district in Iowa, is organized on a county boundary basis, with the exception of Pottawattamie County, which is divided into two districts. Each district was organized by the land owners of the district and is governed by three farmer elected commissioners.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT

**COMMISSIONERS:** The responsibilities and duties of soil conservation districts and commissioners are many. However, some of the main objectives are as follows: To conduct surveys, investigations and research relating to soil and water conservation. To conduct demonstrations within the district to demonstrate by example; the means, methods, and measures by which soil and water may be conserved. To cooperate with other agencies, governmental or otherwise and with owners and occupiers of the land. To promote the development of comprehensive programs of planning, application, and maintenance of necessary soil and water conservation measures. To enter into agreement with individuals, landowners, and operators and in general promote a sound soil and water conservation program within the district. The activities of the soil conservation district and the district commissioners are intended to benefit the people of the district, and also the public and nation in general.

### DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Are members of the governing body of a soil conservation district, elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Soil Conservation District's Law and are primarily responsible for conducting the affairs of the district.

### STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

State Agency responsible for the administration of the State Soil Conservation District's Law. Duties of the committee include organization and supervision of soil conservation districts; supervision of soil conservation district commissioner elections; encourage and promote better soil conservation programs in soil conservation districts; disseminate information between districts; encourage and promote soil conservation and watershed projects; approve or disapprove applications for watershed assistance under the federal watershed program Public Law 566; secure cooperation and assistance between federal, state, and local agencies; administer state appropriations to soil conservation districts.

### SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE (USDA)

The Soil Conservation Service is the technical arm of the U. S. Department of Agriculture dealing with soil and water conservation. The Service was created by an Act of Congress, Public Law 46 passed in April 1935. Subsequent legislation, Executive Orders, and appropriation language have expanded the authority and responsibilities of the Service, particularly in the field of flood prevention. Practically all the facilities of the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa are made available to farmers through locally organized and controlled soil conservation districts.

The Soil Conservation Service has entered into a supplemental memorandum of understanding with each of the 100 soil conservation districts in Iowa. Under these agreements, the Service makes available technical personnel and other facilities to assist in planning and carrying out a program of soil and water conservation. Added facilities are made available under agreement with the district for special programs for group drainage, flood control, and watershed protection.

### **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE - AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS**

The Iowa State College serves the people of the state through its coordinated programs of resident teaching, research and Extension. The Smith-Lever Act, passed by Congress in 1914 and amended by the 83rd Congress provides for cooperation between the United States Department of Agriculture, the Land Grant College, the county government and local organized groups of farm people and others interested in agricultural Extension education. Financial support for Extension work in agriculture and home economics comes from state, federal and county appropriations. Under Iowa statute, a cooperative relationship exists between Extension Service and the County Agricultural Extension District which cooperate with the Iowa State College and the United States Department of Agriculture in educational activities in the county.

The Agricultural Extension Service has been active in the field of soil and water conservation. It has played an important part in the organization of each of the 100 soil conservation districts and has a memorandum of understanding with each of them. Under these memorandums of understanding the Extension Service cooperates with the soil conservation district in carrying out the educational phases of the district program.

### **AGRICULTURE STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (ASC) (USDA)**

On the state and county levels, ASC actively supports soil conservation districts by conferring with their state and district governing bodies on means of increasing the effectiveness of the federal government's cost-sharing conservation program (ACP). County ASC committees have an established policy of giving preference to cost-sharing applications for practices in line with local soil conservation district objectives.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Aids soil conservation districts by urging the teaching of the need for conserving our natural resources (soil, water, trees, wildlife, etc.) in the course of study in the elementary and secondary schools of Iowa.

### **VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE**

Co-operates with soil conservation districts by including in their course of study the practical and technical aspects of developing and carrying out sound soil and water conservation programs for the farms of Iowa.

### **IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS (IASCDC)**

Is the state organization of Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Represents districts in state legislation matters and also is very active in supporting soil conservation districts programs. Membership is voluntary.

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (NASCD)**

Represents districts on a national basis regarding legislative matters and problems. Also carries on several promotional activities that districts may participate in. Membership is voluntary.

### **IOWA NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL**

The functions of the Natural Resources Council do not include provisions for direct assistance to soil conservation districts. However, the Council indirectly assists districts by encouraging sound soil and water conservation practices. Flood control and certain watershed projects must have the approval of the Council before installation.

### **STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Makes recommendations for the acquirement of state parks and preserves, forests and other state conservation areas, and is charged with the duty of administering

same. The Commission cooperates with soil conservation districts and cooperators in establishing wildlife areas on farms and their maintenance after completion. They are also active in promoting reforestation projects on farms.

#### **FARM HOME ADVISORS**

A government lending agency which loans money to farmers to put the needed soil and water conservation practices to use on their land.

#### **FARM ORGANIZATIONS**

Are effective in helping to enact enabling legislation that will be beneficial to soil conservation districts.

#### **COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS**

Cooperate with the soil conservation districts in the planning and for installation of works of improvement along highways, roads, and farm lands and cooperate on farm drainage projects.

#### **WATERSHED DISTRICTS**

Aid soil conservation districts in expanding their soil and water conservation programs through an effective land use program, whereby local community groups can reach their objective of soil and water conservation more efficiently.

#### **CONSERVENCY DISTRICTS**

Are formed for the purpose of carrying out watershed protection and flood prevention programs within a subdistrict of a soil conservation district. They are not formed solely for the purpose of establishing or taking over the operation of an existing drainage district.

#### **DRAINAGE DISTRICTS**

Aid soil conservation districts by combining in their functions activities effecting soil conservation, flood control and drainage, or any of these objects, singly or in combination with another.

#### **CITIES AND TOWNS; WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS; STATE CONSERVATION OFFICERS; BANKERS ASSOCIATION; LOANING AGENCIES; BUSINESS-MEN AND INDUSTRIES; CIVIC GROUPS AND CLUBS; CHURCHES; PRESS RADIO AND T.V.; OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

These organizations cooperate with soil conservation districts by helping them to promote and develop a wise soil and water conservation program which will benefit their community, State and Nation.