

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
of the
WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Council Bluffs, Iowa
1976

* WE, ELDON RAVLIN, DEPAID BLOIS, FLOYD FISCHER, LLOYD BROCKMAN, & CLINT GOOS, THE
* COMMISSIONERS OF THE WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, WISH
* TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF OUR COOPERATOR FRIENDS WHO
* SENT A CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISTRICT PROGRAM.

* YOUR IMMEDIATE AND GENEROUS RESPONSE TO OUR APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL HELP IS DEEPLY
* APPRECIATED BY US, AND IT HAS PROVED THAT OUR DISTRICT ENDEAVORS IN THE INTEREST
* OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ARE APPRECIATED BY YOU.

* WE ARE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE FAITH IN YOUR WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SOIL
* CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AND BELIEVE IN WHAT IT DOES ON YOUR BEHALF, BY CONTRIBUT-
* ING FINANCIAL AID TO ITS ONGOING PROGRAMS.

* AGAIN-----THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Box 936, Room 238 Federal Bldg.
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
Phone: 328-2489

THIRD CLASS

FOREWORD

Conservation is becoming a very important subject to everyone. In agriculture our primary concern is to conserve our natural resources, soil and water. Using them to produce food and fibre in abundance for the world; at the same time maintaining high soil fertility and keeping our streams pure and clean from chemicals or pollutants.

The following report is a summary of all the activities for the past year. We are trying to emphasize those practices that will bring the most benefit to all, using the limited funds that are available. We know the upland treatment that is being applied to our land is definitely helping to conserve our soil and water.

We hope we can expand our conservation practices and complete and develop new watersheds in our district. This kind of conservation is working.

We are facing a tremendous challenge from environmental groups to clean up our streams and keep our soil from blowing or eroding away. We believe we can, and with your continued interest and cooperation, we will.

Floyd Fischer, Commissioner

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman, 1222 Harrison St., Council Bluffs
Derald Blois, Vice-Chairman, Honey Creek
Floyd Fischer, Commissioner, Rt. 5, Council Bluffs
Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner, Rt. 1, McClelland
Clint Goos, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner, Carson
C. W. McManamy, Assistant Commissioner, Rt. 3, Council Bluffs
Steve Hardiman, Assistant Commissioner, 1416 Ave. M., Council Bluffs
Don Unteidt (County Extension Director) - District Secretary

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Oneta L. Riggs, State Clerk
Kevin E. Holcombe, State Aide

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Cal Cox, District Conservationist
Warren A. Vorthmann, Conservation Technician
Kendell W. Olin, Area Conservationist
Mrs. Eileen Moore, Area Clerk
Norman Koester, Area Engineer

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 1976 Budget

Soil Conservation Districts receive funds from the State of Iowa to assist them in carrying out local programs. These funds are allocated to the districts (sub-governmental units) by the Department of Soil Conservation on a need basis evidenced by work loads and budgets submitted by District Commissioners.

The allocation is broken down into two separate funds. They are, the 1M budget used for commissioners expenses, office supplies, printing and other office expenses and the 2M Budget which is used to employ a clerk and full time aide to help with field work.

1M Budget

ALLOCATION	\$ 1,978.29
COMMISSIONERS EXPENSES	
(mileage & meals)	1,427.30
OFFICE SUPPLIES	470.00
OFFICE EXPENSE	22.51
MEETING EXPENSE	24.48
CONTESTS	10.00
PRINTING EXPENSE	24.00
TOTAL EXPENDED	1,978.29
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	0.00
	<u>\$ 1,978.29</u>

2M Budget

ALLOCATION	\$18,169.26
SALARIES - Clerical and	
Technical	16,140.64
CLERKS & AIDES TRAVEL	69.05
DISTRICT EQUIPMENT	48.00
DISTRICT SHARE OF IPERS	
AND SOCIAL SECURITY	1,498.48
STATE EMPLOYEES INSURANCE	413.09
TOTAL EXPENDED	18,169.26
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	0.00
	<u>\$18,169.26</u>

The District has a revolving fund to help them finance programs for which the 1M and 2M funds cannot be used. Some of the programs are: Conservation Education materials, information programs, and dues to State and National Associations of Soil Conservation Districts:

Working Balance 12-31-75	\$ 1,065.06
1976 Receipts	2,162.30
1976 Expenditures	3,100.78
Balance on hand 12-31-76	126.58

The District also maintains a savings account for emergency use. The Balance of that account is \$900.00.

DISTRICT PROGRESS

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>
NEW COOPERATORS	34	30
FARMERS ASSISTED	185	202
FARMERS APPLYING PRACTICES	137	171
CONSERVATION PLANS PREPARED	40	32
CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED	21	9
GROUPS ASSISTED	4	5
RESOURCE PLANS PREPARED	2	1
INVENTORIES & EVALUATIONS (Units of Government)	3	6

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE	5	4
CONSERVATION TILLAGE	103,581 ac.	3,095.1 ac.
TERRACES	29 miles	67 miles

OTHER ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS HELD	12
SPECIAL MEETINGS	6
OFFICE CALLERS	780
PHONE CALLS	1300
RADIO TALKS	7
TALKS TO SCHOOLS & CIVIC GROUPS	8
OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS	1180 Students attended
6TH GRADE CAMPOUT	220 Students attended with a sponsor for every 5 students

CONTESTSGOODYEAR AWARDS:

Goodyear Conservation Awards Program provides recognition for outstanding accomplishments by Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their cooperating landowners and land users. Your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District placed first last year in the Southern half of Iowa after placing second in 1973. The landowners, cooperators and friends of Soil and Water Conservation have a good reason to be proud of their districts accomplishments. Robert Young of Rural Route 1 in Council Bluffs was named the outstanding cooperator. He with Eldon Ravlin, Chairman of the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District along with 165 other state winners from the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands enjoyed a five day study tour and vacation as guests of Goodyear Farms at Litchfield Park, Arizona, December tenth to fourteenth, 1976. During the tour the group spent most of their time observing conservation practices on the farms and observing the extensive production of citrus, vegetable, cotton and sugar beet crops. One day was spent sightseeing around Litchfield Park, Phoenix, and the surrounding valley. The Goodyear Awards Program was founded in the Midwest in 1947 and expanded to all 48 Continental States in 1953 and all states and territories in the early 1960's. More than 2700 conservationists have been guests of the rubber company on these awards tours since the program began in 1947.

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM:

This program is presented each year. Local winners are chosen by a committee from the Districts Governing Body. This past year your District had the Region 5 winner, Robert Jensen of Neola, and he received his award at the 30th Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners of Iowa at Des Moines, December 1, 1976.

The District Award Winners in the three divisions were: Robert Jensen (Division I - Owner-Operator). Bob farms 360 acres, has 172 acres protected by terraces. Has built a farm pond and a diversion terrace; Howard Nelson - Ted Johnson (Division II - Landlord-Tenant). This farm has 263 acres. 103 acres are protected by terraces. 153 acres of cropland and one erosion control structure; Hilda Braack (Division III - New Cooperator). There are 113 acres of cropland in this 120 acre farm. 28 acres are protected by terraces. All of the District Winners are to be congratulated for a job well done.

WORLD HERALD SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

The district also enters the World Herald Soil Conservation Program each year. The contestants in this conservation program include districts in Western Iowa and Nebraska. The contest is based on performance of district activities and accomplishments. Your West Pottawattamie District was 1st place winner for Western Iowa in 1975, and the Awards Banquet sponsored by the World Herald was held in February 1976.

SOIL CONSERVATION SPEECH CONTEST:

Your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District, sponsors of the West Pottawattamie County Environmental Education Council, holds a Speech Contest for students in grades 7 through 12. The District Winner then goes to the Regional contest, and if he wins 1st place at that level, goes on to state competition. The District winner in 1976 was Dale Williams, 9th grade student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High-school. Dale placed third in the Regional competition.

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman

DISTRICT COST-SHARE

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation had a successful year (1976-77) with its cost-share program. West Pottawattamie, alone, was allocated a total of \$72,000 by the State Department of Soil Conservation. The money was spent in sharing the cost of installing erosion and sediment control practices for farmers.

Any farmer can apply for cost-share assistance, providing he is a District Cooperator with the Soil Conservation District. To be a District Cooperator, you agree to develop and follow through with a conservation plan for your farm. Assistance in developing this plan is provided by the Soil Conservation Service. You must also agree to maintain those practices for a period of no less than 10 years for which you receive cost-share payment.

The \$72,000 spent by the District was applied to terracing projects. The money is allocated on a first come - first serve basis, with priority going to those in watershed areas. If there are any questions, you can ask the State Clerk while signing up for cost-share assistance and she will be happy to explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.

Derald Blois, Commissioner

WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

As you probably know, District Commissioners are elected every six years. In six years time, a lot of different things can and do happen. Since its beginning in 1944, the District's program of activities has expanded tremendously. The District is involved with Environmental Education, MAPA, and Region 13 Soil Conservation Districts. We work with such organizations as: Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, Conservation Commission, SCS, FHA, Extension, NACD, County Board of Supervisors, ASCS, Rural Development Committee, ARS, News Papers, Radio, T.V., Schools, and many others.

Our jobs are becoming more important with new laws being passed, such as the Iowa Conservancy District Law. We work with all these organizations, as well as running our own fundamental organization.

Deciding who gets cost-share assistance and how much; who is accepted as a cooperator; who is cancelled; and working with watersheds, are normal business.

The Commissioners wish to extend their gratification to all organizations for their cooperation in helping make the district a success.

Cal Cox
District Conservationist

GOLDEN HILLS RC&D

The newest program that your West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District is becoming involved in is the Golden Hills RC&D.

WHAT IS IT?

The Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area:

1. Works to improve the area's economy.
2. Conserves, develops and makes better use of the natural resources in the area.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The program is a local one. Everyone living within the boundaries of the RC&D is a member. And every member can participate and make suggestions for community improvement. Sponsors are the boards of supervisors and soil conservation districts in each county.

WHERE IS THE AREA?

The eight counties (9 Soil Conservation Districts) of southwest Iowa make up the area. They include Fremont, Page, Mills, Montgomery, Pottawattamie, Cass, Harrison and Shelby Counties. Pottawattamie has an East and West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. Golden Hills RC&D has the same boundaries as state planning Area 13.

WHEN DOES IT ALL HAPPEN?

Ideas for improvement and local support are being gathered now. The RC&D is just being formed. While the program is a local one, State and Federal approval are required for their technical and financial aide. Local support needs to be solid before that approval will be given.

WHY HAVE THE RC&D?

Working together in an RC&D, this 8-county area can get such things as rural water systems, better soil erosion protection on farmland, improved water supplies for towns, improved housing, better sewer and water facilities, more water-based recreation areas, and improved pastures. These are but a few things that working together to improve natural resources can bring.

Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner
Chairman RC&D

208 PLANNING

WHAT'S THAT? Sounds like a high powered rifle or something. Well, it's not all that bad. It can all be done voluntarily. Let's go back to the beginning-----
The 208 comes from PL (Public Law) 92-500. Section 208 deals with the pollution in the nations rivers, lakes, and streams. It says that by July 1983 these waters shall be fishable and swimmable. By July 1978 there shall be a plan as to how this will happen.

Who will handle it? In Iowa, the Department of Soil Conservation was asked to implement the non-point (soil erosion) portion of 208, and the Department of Environmental Quality will handle the point (factories, etc.) pollution portion. The SCD took hold of it, not because it enjoys things like this, but because it felt it could better work with agri-people than many other organizations that could be mentioned.

In Pottawattamie County two informational meetings have been held. More will be held in the future. Watch for them, to keep informed. Of this group, Robert Summy of Crescent was elected Chairman, Delmar Goos of Carson was elected Secretary, Cliff Stille of Macedonia was elected Representative to the Southern Iowa Conservancy District Advisory Committee, Clint Goos was elected Representative to the Western Iowa Conservancy District.

Clint Goos, Commissioner
Representative 208 Planning

WATERSHEDS

There is one word that says it all in anybody's watershed Program. That word is "Completed." And so it is that the watershed report for the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District this year is most satisfying.

The Indian Creek Watershed project has been completed. Over long, perhaps, in its incubation, and requiring a good deal of time in its achievement by virtue of its complexities, Indian Creek is, nonetheless, "Completed".

Since good things are even better when they come double, it is equally satisfying to report that the Ryan-Henschal project is virtually complete. Lacking only the finishing touches on some concrete work, the book on this watershed will be closed in the spring.

In bringing the foregoing to final fruition, effort on the other active watershed projects in the district has not been diminished.

Contract negotiations for three structures in the Simon Run Watershed have been completed. Spring weather will see actual work underway on this project.

All of the needed land easements have been obtained in the North Pigeon Watershed. Contracts for an engineering survey and design work have been let. There still remains a good bit of upland treatment to be established in this watershed. The key word, though, is optimism as this watershed continues to move along steadily.

A couple of meetings in the Twin Ponies Watershed this past year brought that project into focus. Presently the proposal is in Washington awaiting planning priorities. Since this is the only Iowa proposal awaiting such action, early work is expected by the Watershed Board of Directors.

The Mamie Creek Watershed proposal is marking time at this time. It is still alive however, and the coming year will undoubtedly see renewed activity.

Overall the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District is extremely proud of its total watershed program, and with just cause. Watersheds provide cornerstones under any successful program of soil and water conservation. And so it is that the West Pottawattamie position, always a strong one, is made even stronger by this outstanding record of achievement in watershed development.

C. W. McManamy
Assistant Commissioner