

**IDA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

**2004
ANNUAL REPORT
7-1-03– 6-30-04
10-1-03 – 9-30-04
(NRCS)**

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

Phone: 712-364-2124

Nels Johnson

**PERSONNEL
COMMISSIONERS**

Wally Johnson, Washta
Chairperson

Lloyd Rickers, Kiron
Vice-Chairperson

Alan Bennett, Galva

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

Tom Odgaard, Ida Grove

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Joyce Johnson, Washta

STAFF

Lorne Miller
District Conservationist

Ann Byers
Soil Conservationist

Randy Sohm
Soil Conservation Technician

Carl Lee
State Soil Conservation Technician

Arlis Bahnsen, *State Secretary*

Darwin Henke
Soil Conservation Technician

Dawn Laufenberg
Soil Conservation Technician

Jerry Jensen
Watershed Inspector

As commissioners of your Soil and Water Conservation District, we are pleased to present this 2004 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
2004 AWARD WINNERS**

Scholarship Award
Jason Johnson

Izaak Walton Windbreak Award
Eldon Koth

**District Conservation Poster
Contest Winners**

Division III (Grades 4 - 6)
1st Place - *Alex Warnke*

Division IV (Grades 7 - 9)
1st Place - *Samantha Clough*

**Region 1 Conservation Poster
Contest Winners**

Division III (Grades 4 - 6)
1st Place - *Alex Warnke*

Division IV (Grades 7 - 9)
1st Place - *Samantha Clough*

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 2004
(July 1, 2003- June 30, 2004)**

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 2003

The District, in conjunction with Ida County Farm Bureau, sponsored conservation tours originating at the Ida County Fair grounds utilizing the Gomaco Trolley. The District also sponsored a booth at the Ida County Fair and disseminated conservation information. Commissioners performed the annual audit of District books and found them to be in order. A "Flash Situation" Report was jointly filed by Ida Grove NRCS and Ida County FSA to report damage to terraces, waterways, and

filter strips due to heavy rains in June. Approximately \$355,000 of Fiscal Year 2004 Little Sioux Flood Prevention Funds have been obligated for terraces, water & sediment control basins, and grade control structures in Ida County.

AUGUST

Commissioners and staff toured conservation practices in the county. Wayne Brincks, U.S. Congressman Steve King's representative was a guest. Commissioners attended the Fall Regional meeting at Lake Pahoja in Lyon County. Jerry Sindt, Soil Conservationist, has accepted the position of District Conservationist in Woodbury County. The District received the 2004 REAP Funds allocation. The District submitted an application for funding from the Buffer Initiative Program to promote CRP Buffers in Ida County. Signup incentives are currently available to landowners for Contour Buffer Strips, Shallow Water Acres for Wildlife, Contour Buffer Strips on Terraces, and Cross Wind Trap Strips.

SEPTEMBER

Charles Slocum, Area Engineer, attended the September meeting. The District received a \$5,000 grant to promote Buffers in Ida County. Polo style shirts were purchased for each commissioner.

OCTOBER

The District was accepted into the Farm Bill Implementation Project II. Conservation Districts of Iowa will match the \$2,000 pledged by the District. Funds will be used to assist with the survey, design and layout of terraces, grassed waterways, and buffers in Ida County.

NOVEMBER

Commissioners attended the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) Annual Conference in Marshalltown. The District donated items to the CDI Auxiliary auction with proceeds to be used for agricultural

scholarships statewide. All cost-share funds from the Division of Soil Conservation were suspended indefinitely. The District completed maintenance on a structure in the Quad Valley Watershed.

DECEMBER

Commissioner Lloyd Rickers attended the Sioux Rivers RC & D Board meeting.

JANUARY 2004

Staff and commissioner Annual Meeting was held at JuVall's. The District organizational meeting was held in conjunction with regular meeting and officers were elected and appointed. Assistant commissioner Joyce Johnson attended Women in Agriculture conference in Sioux Falls. Wally & Joyce Johnson attended the Conservation Districts of Iowa retreat at the Hotel Pattee' in Perry. Commissioners approved the 2004 average costs for terraces, increasing the average cost for C, D, and E slopes. The District committed additional funds to the Farm Bill Implementation II Project. Funds will be matched by Conservation Districts of Iowa. The board reviewed District employee's salary.

FEBRUARY

The District co-sponsored a contractor meeting with Woodbury County Soil & Water Conservation District. Ida County Supervisors, Engineer, and Sioux Rivers RC & D Director attended the District meeting to request District support for a project application to evaluate the cost and benefits of a large lake to be located in Douglas Township in Ida County. A special meeting was held to discuss the request. Commissioners declined support noting that the location of the study in the application was too specific. Commissioners delivered copies of the Ida County Soil Survey to area agricultural businesses for distribution to landowners. Carol Heaverlo, Ida County Extension Director requested a board representative for the Natural Environment Resource Discovery Group. Joyce Johnson was appointed.

MARCH

Ida County SWCD sponsored the Spring Regional meeting in Ida Grove with approximately 60 attending. The District financially supported the Regional Envirothon in Cherokee. Several commissioners attended the REAP Assembly meeting. Marc Johnson and Miller attended the Sioux Rivers RC & D Board meeting. Joyce Johnson reported on outreach activities. Supervisors, county engineer, and RC & D coordinator attended the meeting to present a revised request to do a county-wide feasibility study for a lake project in Ida County. Steve Hummel, Ida County Naturalist and Rhett Leonard of the Ida County Conservation Board discussed educational programs. District scholarship winner was selected. 2003 District Annual Report was approved. The District 2003 Annual Plan of Work was approved. Quarterly Civil Rights review was completed. EQIP applications were reviewed.

APRIL

A special meeting was held to appoint Alan Bennett as District commissioner to fill the term of Lynn Hare who resigned. The oath of office was administered. The freeze on state cost-share funds has been revoked. CRP and cost-share applications were approved.

The Ida Grove Field Office received an accomplishment award at the Area Awards Meeting. Randy Sohm received a service award. Marc Johnson attended the RC & D Board meeting. Joyce Johnson attended Woman's Perspective Conference. Poster contest winners were selected. Watershed inspections were completed by Jerry Jensen.

MAY

The Board voted to request the assistance of the Planning Committee of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for a feasibility study for a lake project in Ida

County. The 2004 Izaak Walton Windbreak Award winner was selected. The District received bids for payroll services for District employees. Tom Odgaard presented the District Scholarship at the BCIG Awards Banquet.

JUNE

Wally & Joyce Johnson attended a conservation tour of Woodbury County.

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

Fiscal Year 2003

October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004

Individuals Assisted	1,236
Farmstead Windbreaks	11
Terraces (feet)	230,755
Waterways (acres)	35.0
Grade Stabilization Structures	3
Water & Sediment Control Basins	16
CRP 27th, 28th, & 29th Signup	
Applications Approved (271.70 Acres) .	52
Riparian Buffer Strips (9.9. acres)	1
Shelter Belts	3
EQIP Applications (FY 04)	16
EQIP Funded Contracts (FY 04)	14

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, 2003 - June 30, 2004)

1-M	\$ 1,500.00
Expenses: Printing,	
Office, Commissioner	2,364.86
Balance paid by District	\$ (864.86)

3-M Cost-Share Funds	
(03-04)	\$ 33,634.00
Obligated & spent	32,739.89
Recalled	\$ 894.11

REAP - Practices Funds	
(2004)	\$ 7,968.00
Spent	5,455.28
Balance released to state	\$ 2,512.72

REAP - Forestry/Native	
Grasses (2004)	\$ 1,992.00
Spent	1,920.05
Balance released to state	\$ 71.95

Little Sioux River Flood	
Prevention Project Funds (2004)	
Obligated or spent	\$ 354,722.00

Watershed Maintenance Funds	
Checking 7/01/03	\$ 193.08
Income	5,884.89
Expenses	1,514.00
Balance 6/30/04	\$ 4,563.97

Watershed Funds CD's	\$ 118,311.08
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General Funds	
Checking 7/01/03	\$ 8,648.13
Income	14,058.79
Expenses	18,719.00
Balance 6/30/04	\$ 3,987.92

General Funds CD's	\$ 30,413.90
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