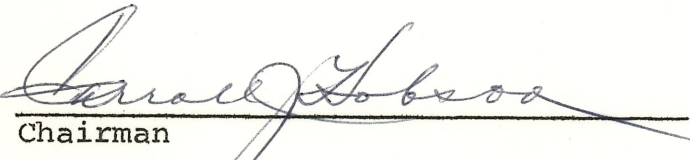


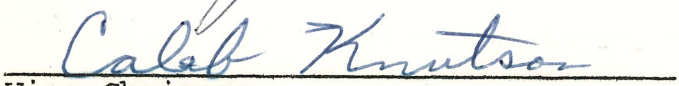
HARDIN COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PROGRAM
AND
WORK PLAN

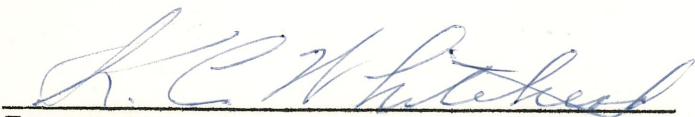
The Hardin Soil Conservation District Charter was issued by the Iowa Secretary of State on April 12, 1945.

The original program and work plan was approved May 5, 1945 and revised December 28, 1964 and October 26, 1970.

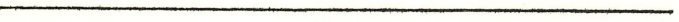
This is the third revision of the Hardin Soil Conservation District Program and Work Plan approved on this day 26
November, 1973 by the Hardin Soil Conservation District Commissioners.


Chairman


Vice-Chairman


Treasurer





PURPOSE

The Hardin Soil Conservation District Program and Work Plan is an established long-range plan of action which recognizes resource needs, problems and opportunities existing within Hardin County.

SCOPE

Beginning July 1, 1970 all people, land and related resources within Hardin County, Iowa are included within the Hardin Soil Conservation District. On September 25, 1972 soil loss limit regulations were established for all land and new construction sites in Hardin County. It is therefore significant that today's resource management program and plans include the total community, for the purpose of improving and maintaining the highest quality of environment possible for all the people residing in the county.

The district's resource conservation program recognizes that soil is the key resource, that each soil type has use limitations and that each acre of land be managed within established soil capability or suitability standards to prevent further environmental quality deterioration. Mismanaged soil flows as sediment into streams, ponds, rivers and lakes; flooding occurs from sudden excessive amounts of water falling upon unvegetated, disturbed or uncontrolled watersheds which damages crops, pastures, roads, bridges, streets, homes, buildings, towns, drinking water, parks and other personal and community property. Each urban, suburban and rural citizen must become aware of the resulting mismanagement problems and direct their energy and ability toward proper land management individually or collectively as a group, area, or watershed.

The district resource conservation program provides planning assistance, to citizens, organizations, communities and governmental agencies for many purposes. Planning assistance is provided for industrial and housing developments, solid waste disposal, recreation facilities, nature trails, wood and Christmas tree production, wildlife and fish habitat creation, natural beautification, road location and bank stabilization, agricultural crop and livestock production and livestock waste storage facilities.

The resource conservation plan is developed to meet the objectives of the individual, group or community; it combines proper land use with related resources which results in higher quality, better planned place to live, work and play.

It is the responsibility of the Hardin Soil Conservation District to conduct an effective program to use, manage and conserve the soil, water and related resources resulting in improved quality of the environment. Therefore, the following management direction has been established to identify action programs.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

I. Obtain resource conservation inventories and surveys for basic planning information and to identify resource management direction.

A. Standard Soil Survey for Hardin County

The first county soil survey was published in 1925 and is inadequate for modern day intensive resource planning. The second soils information source is printed on aerial photos and is incomplete since only one-half of the county has been mapped. Field work is scheduled to begin in 1975 on the Hardin County Standard Soil Survey.

B. Conservation Needs Inventory for Hardin County

The first conservation needs inventory was compiled in 1958. A second inventory was completed in 1964. A land monitoring program is scheduled to begin in 1974.

C. Soil Drainage Condition Inventory for Hardin County

There are nearly 200 legal drainage districts and many additional acres of cropland that now require group planning before adequate soil drainage can be obtained. Many of the drainage districts have inadequate tile capacity. The drainage problem must be analyzed in order to properly benefit communities and increase food production for the future.

D. Recreation Inventories for Hardin County

Recreation with industry and agriculture supports the economy of Hardin County. Four recreation inventories have been completed to date: An appraisal of the Potential for Outdoor Recreation Developments in Hardin County; Hardin County Conservation Board Recreation Areas; Municipal Parks in Hardin County; Private Outdoor Recreation Areas in Hardin County. Additional survey should be compiled to determine historical sites and points of interest, native woodlands, prairie areas, managed natural areas and wetland wildlife habitat areas.

E. Iowa-Cedar Rivers Basin Study

Participate by providing necessary resource information. All but seven sections of land in the southwest corner of Hardin County are within the study area.

F. Obtain County Resource Base Map

The resource base map can be used to develop overlays or useful maps to illustrate, identify, record and locate planning and application resource data. Examples are soil interpretations, land use, existing and potential water impoundment sites, watershed boundaries, sediment sources, recreation development sites, flood plain areas, transportation and utility areas, natural scenic, and historical sites.

G. Land Inventory and Monitoring Program

Participate in preparing a land inventory and modern monitoring method to include studies and inventories of soil erosion sediment damage, flood plain identification and land use changes and trends.

II. Provide resource conservation planning assistance to individuals, groups, and governmental units to improve and maintain a high quality community environment.

A. P.L. 566 Watersheds

Union Watershed has been approved for planning and the preliminary investigation started. Honeycomb watershed application has been approved. Emphasize individual resource planning (upland treatment) within Union and Honeycomb Watersheds. Consider extending Morlee Watershed into Hardin County from Franklin County. Be alert to recognize other opportunities to support small or large watershed improvements which will benefit communities in this county. Elk Creek Watershed may be a potential special watershed project.

B. Pine Lake Watershed

Work aggressively until sediment flow into Pine Lake is as near zero as technically possible. Coordinate activities with Grundy Soil Conservation District.

C. Industrial and Residential Development

The cities and towns in Hardin County will continue to develop and grow as industry increases. Iowa Falls and Eldora are actively encouraging industrial development. An industrial development plan will assist city planning and zoning.

D. Solid Waste Disposal

Continue to provide planning and technical assistance for the Hardin County Solid Sanitary Waste Disposal Committee.

E. Iowa River Green Belt

An area adjacent to the Iowa River from Iowa Falls to Eldora designated by the Hardin County Conservation Board as a scenic river area. There are approximately 9,000 acres within the green belt.

F. Nature Trails

Develop trails within native wooded and prairie areas and school outdoor classrooms for environmental appreciation and ecological understanding.

G. Tree Plantations and Culture

Establish and improve timber stands for wood and Christmas tree production. Recognize all other benefits from woodland communities.

H. Natural Beautification

A related, esthetic resource value to be considered as a part of each resource conservation plan.

- I. Road Location and Stream Bank Stabilization
Work with private and local and state governmental units. Encourage use of plants such as crownvetch and native grasses to stabilize potential erosion sites.
 - J. Agricultural Crop and Livestock Production
This basic resource conservation planning program agricultural land should be expanded to include other individuals or watershed groups wherever necessary.
 - K. Land Use Policy
Work with county and urban planners and zoning commissioners or boards.
 - L. Confined Livestock Waste Disposal Systems
Reduce the potential pollution hazard from confined livestock feedlots runoff by helping landowners plan and install animal waste disposal facilities.
 - M. Pasture and Woodland
The 1964 CNI recognized a need to improve Hardin County pasture and woodland areas. Recognize and point out to the landowners and operators improvement management systems for pasture and woodland areas.
- III. Administer a State Cost-Sharing Program for Hardin County to maintain our soil resource base.
- A. Cost-sharing should be for permanent soil and water conservation practices only.
 - B. Projects should benefit the greatest number of people.
- IV. Direct an information and educational program to develop popular understanding and appreciation for a quality environment. Coordinate with Hardin County Extension Service.
- A. Establish an Environmental Education Committee
Select resource people with special skills.
 - B. Utilize Radio, Newspaper and Award Programs
Coordinate radio programming with Franklin Soil Conservation District. The Iowa Falls radio station broadcasts both in Franklin and Hardin Counties.
 - C. Hold Special Meetings to Promote and Explain Latest Proven Methods of Resource Management.
Emphasize conservation management whenever possible. Other information meetings to consider are as follows: soil and water conservation practice, terrace, Christmas tree shearing, tree planting, wildlife shrub establishment, crownvetch growers, plant materials program, conservation tillage, adequate drainage.

- D. Continue To Co-sponsor A Resource Conservation Education Program For And Involve School-age Children.
Hardin Soil Conservation District and Hardin County Conservation Board have co-sponsored Youth Natural Resource Day for the last two years in Hardin County. All sixth grade students in Hardin County attended YNRD. Encourage all schools in Hardin County to establish their own outdoor classrooms and use existing county areas for an appreciation of our natural resources.
- E. Expand Teacher Natural Resource Day For Hardin County
Teacher natural resource day was first held in 1972. In 1973 the Iowa Falls High School Outdoor Classroom was visited by Hardin County teachers.
- F. Conduct Tours
Visit local environmental problems with groups and ask for improvement suggestions. Show completed conservation practices and explain how they function.
- G. Conduct Adult Education Classes
Co-sponsor with Ellsworth Community College.

V. Encourage Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinances.

- A. Assist Hardin County Zoning Board, Hardin County Board of Supervisors, Towns, such as Iowa Falls and Eldora to establish rules and regulations for controlling soil erosion and sediment from construction sites.
- B. The Hardin Soil Conservation District will develop soil erosion and sediment control plans to facilitate the control of soil erosion and sediment from construction sites.
- C. Hardin Soil Loss Limit Regulations for construction sites states, "maximum rate of soil erosion permitted on such lands will be five tons per acre per year leaving the site."

VI. Keep the Staff Highly Trained to Maintain Confidence and Efficiency.

- A. Attend Special Technical Sessions
The staff members will schedule and attend appropriate technical schools or sessions to maintain the latest educational advantages. Staff members will exchange any new field experience.
- B. Remain Affiliated With Professional Societies and Local Civic Organizations
Actively participate, associate and look for opportunities to promote proper resource conservation programs locally.
- C. Plan and Conduct Special Meetings for Contractors, Special Interest Groups, Mayors, School Teachers, and Students
Actively participate by presenting special information programs.

- D. Use The Latest Engineering Tools and Design Techniques To Keep Up With Modern Day Demands

VII. Sponsor a Resource Conservation and Development Project When Appropriate.

- A. Join With Adjacent Counties With Similar Interests and Opportunities to Develop Urban and Rural Economy and Increase Resource Conservation Activities.

VIII. Coordinate current and long range district programs with local, state and federal agencies or private organizations to collectively strive for environmental improvement.

- A. Private Organization
Special groups dedicated to conservation and environmental improvement, such as service, civic and sportsmen clubs, and groups such as schools, farm organizations, press and radio.
- B. County Conservation Board Administers Hardin Counties 33 Outdoor Recreation Areas
- C. County Board of Supervisors
Responsible for rural areas, drainage districts, road repair and construction and county conference board voting members.
- D. County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee
Administers local decisions to obtain a workable county-wide agriculture program.
- E. County Zoning Commission and Zoning Adjustment Board
Provides long range planning, zoning and protection for the environment by regulating permissive and conditional uses for the various districts zoned in Hardin County.
- F. County Solid Sanitary Waste Disposal Committee
Administers and maintains a solid waste disposal system for the entire county.
- G. Agricultural Extension Service (local and ISU)
Provides educational programs for individuals or groups through meetings, demonstrations, publications, and news media.
- H. State Conservation Commission
 - a. Recreation Areas
Administers the state outdoor recreation areas, primarily Pine Lake State Park
 - b. Wildlife
Manages and observes wildlife numbers, habitat and enforces fish and game laws, rules and regulations.
 - c. Land Management Agent
Coordinates state lake watershed activities with soil conservation districts.

- I. State Soil Conservation Committee
Provides financial assistance for district expenses, commissioner's travel and employ a clerk and conservation aide. Guides program planning and direction, district affairs and information and education programs at the state level.
- J. Soil Conservation Service
Provides technical assistance, office space and equipment to district as agreed upon by memorandum of understanding, dated December 27, 1964, supplemental revision November 3, 1967, memorandum of understanding with the U. S. Department of Agriculture dated May 18, 1965.
- K. Farmers Home Administration
Provides loans for soil and water conservation, watersheds recreation development, farm operation and ownership.
- L. National Association of Conservation Districts and the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.
Provides unified district representation to acquire development guidelines and policy changes.
- M. County League of Municipalities
An organization of all town mayors in Hardin County, that meet regularly to improve county-wide planning, development and direction.
- N. Department of Environmental Quality-Iowa Water Pollution Control Commission
Regulates confined livestock feeding operations, waste water disposal.
- O. Conservancy District Board
The State Soil Conservation Committee acts as the Iowa-Cedar Rivers Basin Conservancy District Board.
- P. Department of Soil Conservation
Acts under the State Soil Conservation Committee to administer and direct the Soil Conservation District funds, personnel and property.
- Q. Rural Development Committee
Members of the Committee are Hardin County USDA Agencies, Extension Service, ASCS, FHA, and SCS.
- IX. Continue to, and improve on, utilizing resource people to actively assist the district in many phases of the overall program.
 - A. Involve all citizens so they will become aware of local resource management problems and recognize solutions to the existing environmental problems.

DISTRICT POLICY

- 1. The Hardin County Soil Conservation District Program and Work Plan will be reviewed every two years and revised if and when necessary.

2. The district will prepare an annual work plan to develop and accomplish the program and work plan management objectives.
3. The Hardin Soil Conservation District Commissioners will act reasonably, fairly, and promptly on written (soil nuisances) complaints received in an orderly procedure as written in the conservancy district law.
4. The Hardin Soil Conservation District Commissioners will hold regularly scheduled monthly and unscheduled special meetings to effectively conduct business. The commissioners will recognize and fully accept their responsibilities to administer an aggressive program to establish guidelines and direction for the staff and to conduct district business affairs promptly.
5. The district will enter into a memorandum of understanding with agencies and organizations as necessary and desirable to obtain assistance in carrying out the district program. In addition, the district will cooperate with all individuals, organizations and agencies interested in soil and water conservation to cultivate public relations.
6. The district will enter into agreement with all parties requesting assistance to develop and carry out resource conservation plans on land owned, leased, rented or managed. The agreement will reflect the service that may be provided by the district. The district may limit the services based on available manpower.
7. The district shall be responsible for determining work priorities, the kind and amount of service to be performed on all properties. The district will refer to the latest available resource conservation inventories and consult with cooperating agencies before making final determinations.
8. The district will inform all cooperating agencies when any substantial change is made in the district program.
9. The district will prepare an annual budget request according to the State Conservation Committee's guidelines and program needs.
10. The district will prepare an annual report of the district's activities, accomplishments and financial expenditures to be submitted to the State Conservation Committee and Cooperative agencies for review.
11. The district will not charge for any assistance made available by cooperating agencies. The district recognizes that all assistance including personnel, equipment and facilities as provided by cooperative agencies will be furnished in accordance with the policies and jurisdiction of the agency involved.
12. The district will comply with all local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and laws to administer an effective program.

ACTIVE MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

United States Department of Agriculture
May 18, 1965

Soil Conservation Service
December 28, 1964, Supplemental Revision
November 3, 1967

Iowa Cooperative Extension Service Agriculture and Home Economics
May 8, 1965

State Conservation Commission
June 3, 1965

Hardin County Conservation Board
March 3, 1971

Forestry Section, State Conservation Commission
March 2, 1971

