

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District 57th Annual Report



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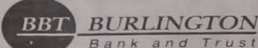
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Personnel during 2002



2002 Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are Jeff Bergman (Union Township), Ron Snyder (Burlington), Todd Heckenberg (Benton Township), Frank Hedges (Huron Township), and Donald Lounsbury (Pleasant Grove Township).

COMMISSIONERS

Todd D Heckenberg, Chairperson; W Donald Lounsbury, Vice-Chairperson; Jeff S Bergman, Frank C Hedges, Ronald D Snyder

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Barb Anderson, Maureen Fosdick, Arlyn L Musselman, Bradley J Weiss

OFFICE STAFF

Terrance O Rudolph, District Conservatorist
Troy Deutmeyer, Soil Conservatorist
John J Horan, Soil Conservation Technician
Jamie L Grimes, State & District Secretary
Margaret McLachlan, District Employee (through February)

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)

Bruce W Trautman, Area Conservatorist
Shawn A Dettmann, Area Resource Conservatorist
Mark R LaVan, Resource Soil Scientist
Sue M Long, Civil Engineer
Amy Elmore-White, Civil Engineering Technician
Kerry K Richards, Computer Specialist
Suzette D Betts, Area Administrative Coordinator
Darlene G Lauder, Area Secretary

Revolving Funds Account

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines County SWCD regular checking account from July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2001 \$1,740.18

Receipts:

Miscellaneous Sales 4.00
Checking Account Interest 18.69
Donations 3,078.00
Dues Reimbursement 600.00
1M Reimbursement 2,400.10
TOTAL \$6,100.79

Disbursements:

Postage 693.00
Office Supplies & Expenses 207.55
Awards & Gifts 149.48
Commissioner Travel 565.20
Poster Contest Prizes 178.60
Printing Charges 205.36
Dues 1,200.00
Subscriptions/Memberships 175.00
Film Processing 11.20
TOTAL \$3,385.39

Balance on Hand, June 30, 2002 \$4,455.58

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines County SWCD special projects/payroll account from July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2001 \$17,324.68

Receipts:

Account Interest 119.83
Pheasants Forever 2,046.26
IDALS Buffer Funds 3,000.00
TOTAL \$5,166.09

Expenditures:

Workman's Comp Insurance 265.00
Federal Tax 2,007.40
State of Iowa Tax 301.00
IPERS 609.81
Unemployment Insurance 10.40
Letter expenses 230.92
Payroll 5,054.11
TOTAL \$8,478.64

Balance on Hand, June 30, 2002 \$14,012.13

Des Moines County SWCD Budget

July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002 Expenditures of funds provided by State of Iowa for Commissioner's Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP), Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) and Public Owned Lakes (POL).

1M Budget & Operating Expenses

Allocation \$2,420.00
Commissioners Expense 607.80
Office Expense (includes postage, subscriptions & booths) 1,006.84
Printing 205.36
CDI Dues 325.00
NACD Dues 275.00
Balance -0-

REAP Practices 2001-02

Allocation \$7,257.88
Site Prep for Natural Regeneration, 13.0 ac completed 451.88
Timber Stand Improvement, 76.0 completed 4,987.50
Tree Planting, incomplete 1,093.50
Windbreak, incomplete 725.00
Balance -0-

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 2001-02

Allocation \$1,095.00
Tree Planting, 3.0 acres completed 1,095.00
Balance -0-

IFIP 2001-02

Allocation \$58,576.00
Terraces, 7,860 ft completed 21,705.50
Terraces, incomplete 34,790.80
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete 1,661.50
Balance 418.20

IFIP 2000-01

Allocation \$87,943.87
Terraces, 21,860 ft completed 55,996.78
Terraces, incomplete 13,678.50
Grassed Waterways, 8,410 ft completed 7,534.88
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 4 completed 5,308.77
Grade Stabilization Structure, 1 completed 3,350.00
Balance \$2,074.94

IFIP 1999-00

Allocation \$106,556.05
Terraces, 28,795 ft completed 89,001.53
Terraces incomplete 6,378.00
Grassed Waterways, 6,40 ft completed 6,558.92
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 5 completed 3,955.27
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete 610.00
Balance 52.33

Public Owned Lakes 2001-02

Allocation \$7,524.38
Terraces, 1,720 ft completed 7,524.38
Balance -0-

Public Owned Lakes 2000-01

Allocation \$8,056.32
Terraces, 1,200 ft completed 8,056.32
Balance -0-

District Activities During 2002

January

- Election of Officers for 2002 resulted as follows: Chairperson-Todd Heckenberg; Vice Chairperson-Donald Lounsbury.
- Appointments for 2002 resulted as follows: Secretary-Jamie Grimes; Treasurer-Grimes; Co-Treasurer-Jeff Bergman; Assistant Commissioners-Arlyn Musselman, Brad Weiss, Maureen Fosdick, Barb Anderson; RC&D Executive Board-Lounsbury, Ron Snyder; Flint Creek Advisory Board-Heckenberg; 205 Project-Snyder, Bergman; REAP, Bergman; Education Committee-Heckenberg, Weiss; Fund Raising Committee-Frank Hedges, Snyder; Marketing Committee-Bergman, Musselman; Agreements Committee-Lounsbury, Heckenberg; Contest Committee-Snyder, Fosdick, Anderson; Legislative Committee-Hedges, Anderson; Urban Conservation Committee-Snyder, Heckenberg, Bergman.
- Doug and Melanie Stucker were chosen as recipients of the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship award.
- CDI dues were paid.
- Soil Conservationist Troy Deutmeyer started January 14.
- Snyder, Heckenberg, Anderson and Fosdick attended Commissioner training.
- Terrance Rudolph gave a presentation at an 8th grade career fair at SCC.

February

- Annual Report was printed in Mediapolis News.
- Memberships to Iowa Watersheds and 1000 Friends of Iowa were renewed.

March

- An awards supper was held at Carroll Banquet Hall for winners of the 2001 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.
- Brian Gall and Charles Weyer were chosen as local recipients for the CDI Auxiliary scholarship.

April

- Soil and Water stewardship Week was April 28-May 5.
- Winners were chosen for the Poster Contest.
- NACD dues were paid.
- Snyder attended Spring Regional in Chardon.
- Civil Rights were reviewed.
- Office moved to a new location.
- Rudolph and Deutmeyer helped with tree planting for Earth Day at Girl Scout Camp L-Kee-Ta.
- Deutmeyer gave a presentation to 3rd grade students at Mediapolis about trees.

May

- Weiss and Bergman presented local scholarships at Notre Dame and Mediapolis High Schools.

June

- Rachel Fosdick started as a volunteer.

July

- Deedra Warner and Babe Dean started as volunteers.
- Snyder attended Soil and Water Conservation Society meeting in Indiana.

August

- Hedges and Heckenberg completed the annual audit of the District book.
- Snyder attended the Fall Regional Meeting in Keosauqua.
- A \$700 donation was given to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for a scholarship.

September

- Fosdick attended local work group meeting about Conservation Security Program (CSP) prices.

November

- Participated in "Boulevard of Trees" at Westland Mall.
- An annual tour was conducted of terraces, shallow water areas, and farmable wetland projects.
- Local work group was formed and met to discuss EQIP.
- Fosdick and Bergman were voted in during the general election.
- Snyder attended Annual Conference in Marshalltown.

December

- Received a grant from CDI for personnel to assist with Farm Bill.
- Received funds from Pheasants Forever to hire a buffer employee.
- Participated in "Boulevard of Trees" at Westland Mall.

District Accomplishments

July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002

New District Cooperators on 671 Acres
Individuals or Groups Assisted
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established
Terraces Constructed
Water & Sediment Control Basin Constructed
Woodland Improvement

Amount	Unit
6	No.
1,313	No.
34	Acres
24,670	FL
1	No.
142	Acres



Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District 57th Annual Report

continued

Tree Plantings Completed	28	Acres
Field Windbreak Established	600	Feet
Riparian Forest Buffers Established	3	Acres
Filter Strips Established	451	Acres
Contour Buffer Strips Established	33	Acres
Shallow Water Areas Established	134	Acres
CRP Contracts Completed	75	No.
EQIP Contracts Completed	1	No.

District Donates Scholarship



Scholarship Recipients:
Front- Marcus McCabe, Karl Wyett, Andy Wilson, Oliver Lampron. Back- Richard Edmunds, Jason Campbell, Robert Hocker, Ryan Jordan, Dustin Vorwald, Bryan Kuntz.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District donated \$700 to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for the 2002-2003 school year.

The Foundation was established to assist students enrolled in agriculture programs at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington. Other organizations who made contributions towards the 2002-2003 scholarship fund were Bank of Stronghurst, BASF, Contract Services LTD, Curt Thomas Memorial Scholarship, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Raritan State Bank, Twomey Company, and Jim Vantiger.

Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship Recipients

Charles Weyer of Sperry and Brian Gall of Burlington were chosen as the 2002 co-recipients of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship. This scholarship is sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and CDI Auxiliary.

Charles and Brian were chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. Criteria considered in judging the applications included scholastic achievement, need and leadership, which include service, character and self-motivation.

Charles graduated from Mediapolis High School and is currently attending Iowa State University. He is the son of John and Marian Weyer. Brian graduated from Notre Dame High School and is currently attending Quincy University. He is the son of Tom and Mary Ann Gall.



BRIAN GALL



CHARLES WEYER

The Gift of Trees

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa Auxiliary, sponsored a poster contest for all students in the county. The theme was "The Gift of Trees." Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.



Winner of Division 1 (kindergarten/1st grades) was Lukas Parrott from Prospect Hill School (shown with District Commissioner Ron Snyder).



Division 2 (2nd & 3rd grades) winner was Diosa Johnson, North Hill School (shown with District Commissioner Ron Snyder).



Second place winner in Division 2 was Megan Ash who is home schooled.



Division 3 (4th-6th grades) first place winner was Luke Schneider, Notre Dame (with Snyder).



Second place winner in Division 3 was Maggie Noonan from Blackhawk School (with Snyder).



Third place winner in Division 3 was Addria Olson, Notre Dame (with Snyder).



(left) Winner of Division 4 (7th-9th grades) was Michael Fossdick, Mediapolis School.



Second place winner in Division 4 was Travis Ash who is home schooled. (left)



Division 5 (10th-12th grades) winner was Rachel Fossdick, Mediapolis School. (right)



Earth Day Tree Planting

In April 2002, the Des Moines County SWCD/NRCS office assisted local girl scouts with tree planting for Earth Day at Camp L-Kee-Ta. In the photo, Kaylin Vedder with Burlington Girl Scout Troop 40 learns how to operate a tree planter from NRCS District Conservationist Terrance Rudolph.

Off to Michigan

by Terrance Rudolph

As you read this, I have already left my position as District Conservationist in Burlington to become the DC in Mason, Michigan. I wanted to personally say goodbye to all the great people I have met over my 2-1/2 years in Des Moines County, but, of course, that is not possible. So, hopefully, this little note will suffice.

First, I want to say good job to all of you who have completed conservation projects on your land. Each and every one of these projects has been important for:

1. Water quality - hundreds of acres of filter strips and wetlands installed.
2. Soil erosion - numerous terraces, basins and waterways established.
3. Wildlife - food plots, seeding for cover, and water sources incorporated.

Second, the new Farm Bill has caused a lot of frustration for all of us. I want to tell you to hang in there and be patient. When the funding and programs do shake loose, I think you will be amazed and happy with the projects you will be able to complete.

Lastly, I hope you will all continue to put sound conservation practices on your land. Feel free to ask the NRCS staff for help and please continue to work with the next District conservationist. Thank for the opportunity to gain valuable experience. If you're ever near Mason, be sure to give me a call.

Holiday Happenings

Assistant Commissioner Maureen Fossdick and Earth Team volunteer Rachel Fossdick stand by the Christmas tree sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at Westland Mall for 2002 Boulevard of Trees.



Message From the State

by Leroy Brown, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa

This past year was quite an exciting year in conservation. Watching the conservation title unfold and signed into law May 13, 2002 was a very interesting experience. While the Farm Bill was evolving, the Natural Resources Conservation Service worked with partners to develop strategies to handle the additional workload and new opportunities that we anticipated. One tool we have discussed in great length this past year with Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other partners is Tech Service Providers. I see these professionals working closely with NRCS and districts to help us tackle additional work the new Farm Bill will generate. We will work hard together to provide seamless service to Iowa's landowners. It will take time to develop a new and effective working relationship required by this opportunity, but with good communication and cooperation the end result will be more conservation planning and healthier natural resources in Iowa.

The new Farm Bill also emphasizes our need to refocus on the locally-led process that drives our conservation efforts. In fiscal year 2003 it is our joint challenge and responsibility to bring stakeholders to the table. We need local work groups to advise us and help guide the process. These local groups, involving stakeholders representing diverse interests in the agriculture and natural resource areas, will be making recommendations on cost share rates, how to fund program applications, and other local priorities. Local stakeholder involvement is critical to successful implementation of many of the programs provided in the 2002 Farm Bill. We need to support local stakeholders. I encourage you to reach out to new and diverse groups in your community and to encourage their active participation.

We are now faced with the reality of the 2002 Farm Bill and all that it provides for private landowners and the conservation partnership. We are ready, and that is because of the talented, capable, and dedicated individuals who make up Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation District Boards and staffs, the Conservation Districts of Iowa, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and land Stewardship, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the many other conservation professionals with whom we partner each day. I am proud to work with each of you and be part of the conservation effort in Iowa. I look forward to working together to care for Iowa's soil water and wildlife, and wish you great success in reaching your conservation goals in 2003.



Over the past year, approximately 150 acres of crop ground in Des Moines County has been converted to wetland areas through the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. This picture depicts an area in Huron Township that was enrolled in the Farmable Wetland program under CRP. For more information, stop into the NRCS office or call 753-6221.

PF Partnership

Since 1999, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has developed a partnership with local and regional Pheasants Forever to hire an employee to promote buffers throughout the county.

This partnership was made possible with grants provided to Pheasants Forever from Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Through this partnership, approximately 1,200 acres of filter strips, riparian buffers, shallow water areas, grassed waterways, and field windbreaks have been established in Des Moines County.

If you would be interested in buffers, please contact Des Moines County SWCD Buffer Technician Deedra Warner at 319-753-6221.

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