

IV-A

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT
of the
WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Council Bluffs, Iowa
1974

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

THIRD CLASS

FOREWORD

A continually growing interest in conservation has been shown this past year, 1974. IT'S WORKING! IT'S WORKING! Other than a well known commercial, it could well be applied to accomplishments of conservation. Education, indeed, plays a large role.

Teachers workshops have led the way to carry an interest to students at an early age. More field trips seem to be in use, as you visit with others around the state. Teachers, keep up this good work! Western Iowa again has a variety of soils, timber area, and excellent farm land to show many contrasts to study. We have one of three teacher workshop locations in the state, right here in our own county.

Efforts were once again renewed as to actual application of terraces, Federal and State funds were both available at times, causing a busy atmosphere in spring and fall, to apply ahead of crop, or after, and sometimes through it.

Read on through the report, yes, please do, for some very interesting facts, figures, and observations.

Derald Blois, Commissioner
West Pottawattamie SCD

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman, 1222 Harrison St., Council Bluffs
Derald Blois, Vice Chairman, Honey Creek
Floyd Fischer, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs
Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner, Rt. 1, McClelland
Clint Goos, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner, Carson
Stanley Grote, Assistant Commissioner, 367 Kenmore, Council Bluffs
Phillip Lustgraaf, Assistant Commissioner, Rt. 4, Council Bluffs
Cliff Johnson (County Extension Director) District Secretary

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Oneta Riggs, State Clerk
Leslie Betts, State Aide

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Cal Cox, District Conservationist
Donald Barnhart, Conservation Technician
Leon Foderberg, Area Conservationist, Retired (Jan. 1 - May 1, 1974)
Kendell W. Olin, Area Conservationist (May 13 - Dec. 31, 1974)
Mrs Eileen Moore, Area Clerk
Norman Koester, Area Engineer

DISTRICT PROGRESS

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>Goals for 1975</u>
NEW COOPERATORS	16	54	25
FARMERS ASSISTED	203	226	300
FARMERS APPLYING PRACTICES	97	115	150
CONSERVATION PLANS PREPARED	28	38	25
CONSERVATION PLANS REVISED	20	11	25
GROUPS ASSISTED	2	2	6

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>
TERRACES	94,475 ft.	101,810 ft.
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE	3	5
CONSERVATION TILLAGE	1,607 ac.	144,303 ac.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS HELD	13
SPECIAL MEETINGS	18
OFFICE CALLERS	529
PHONE CALLS	1,050
RADIO TALKS	6
TALKS TO SCHOOLS & CIVIC GROUPS	6
TEACHERS FALL WORKSHOP	64 teachers attended
OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS	600 students attended

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 1974 Budgets

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	\$ 1,200.00
COMMISSIONERS EXPENSES	
(mileage & meals)	483.55
OFFICE SUPPLIES	329.01
OFFICE EXPENSE	83.34
MEETING EXPENSE	6.55
TOTAL EXPENDED	902.45
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	297.55
	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>

2M Budget

ALLOCATION	\$12,082.48
SALARIES - Clerical and Technical	10,347.00
CLERKS & AIDES TRAVEL	57.66
DISTRICT EQUIPMENT	512.58
DISTRICT SHARE OF IPERS & SOCIAL SECURITY	967.44
State EMPLOYEES INSURANCE	195.00
TOTAL EXPENDED	12,079.68
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	2.80
	<u>\$12,082.48</u>

The District has a revolving fund to help them finance programs for which the 1M and 2M budget 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 12/31/73	\$ 457.06
1974 Receipts	741.29
1974 Expenditures	1,074.14
Balance on hand 12/31/74	124.21

STANDARD SOIL SURVEY

The Pottawattamie County Standard Soil Survey will be made by three trained soil scientists walking over the land and gathering soils information, using a probe, running various tests and recording information on a aerial photograph.

They will complete a set of soil maps and a description of each kind of soil in the county. This will give you information on the use and management of each soil. It can help you compare yields on different soils, decide which land is best suited for row crops and deal with soil problems.

The Missouri river bottom will be done this next year.

DISTRICT COST-SHARE

The Iowa Department of Soil Conservation had a successful year (1974-75) with its cost-share program. West Pottawattamie, alone, was allocated \$22,000 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 which you receive cost-share payment.

The \$22,000.00 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. The State Clerk will be happy to explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The Sixty-Fifth General Assembly enacted legislation to allow property tax exemption for erosion control structures (ponds), that are:

1. Located outside city limits.
2. Not used for income producing purposes.
3. Maintained in satisfactory condition.
4. Have storage capacity of at least 18 acre feet. (This means if you needed a storage permit, you had 18 acre feet of storage or more).

You should contact the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District office, and the staff can assist you in determining if your structure qualifies for tax relief.

WATERSHED REPORT

1974 was not the most progressive year in this watershed district. The appropriations were not as large, and the new environmental regulations were more severe, making it more difficult to get these projects approved.

However more upland treatment has been accomplished than in many years. This is good. Upland treatment must be adequate before structures can be built.

Indian Creek Watershed was delayed for some time, over land rights. This has been taken care of, and contracts for the rest of the structures will be signed in the near future.

Ryan Henschal Watershed was scheduled to be completed this year. One structure was repaired, and one road structure is almost completed. However there is still one other road structure to be built in cooperation with the County Board of Supervisors, before being closed out.

Simon Run Watershed work plan is completed but no contracts have been signed as of this date.

North Pigeon Watershed has six structures completed, some seeding repair was done this year. Another contract would put this watershed well on its way to completion.

Twin Ponies Watershed study is completed and awaits a work plan, but work on this watershed is being delayed, due to the number of watersheds under construction in this district.

Mamie Creek Watershed application for a preliminary investigation is being held up for the same reason. However we are still hoping and perhaps one day we can stand back and say "All Completed", What a great day that will be!

Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner
West Pottawattamie SCD

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, 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.

CONTESTS

The commissioners enter several contests, such as the Register & Tribune Awards Winners; the Allis-Chalmer contest; the Goodyear contest; the World Herald Soil Conservation Recognition Program; and the Soil Conservation Speech contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. These contests and awards are given on local, regional, state and national levels.

The Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program, which is sponsored by the Des Moines Register & Tribune, had three division winners for 1974: John Larsen, Underwood, owner-operator; Tenant operator was Jack Hester, Honey Creek, with Harold Clizbe, Council Bluffs (Farm owner); the New Cooperator division winner was Gary Olson, Council Bluffs. The Harold Clizbe and Jack Hester, Owner-Tenant operated farm was a Regional Winner. These farmers are to be congratulated for their work in soil conservation.

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District received 2nd place in the Southern Division of this years state wide Goodyear contest. The contest is based on the districts that show the highest standards of performance in carrying out its program, and in selecting an outstanding cooperator in soil conservation work. Harvey Moss of Macedonia, was selected as the Districts outstanding cooperator in the 1974 Goodyear contest.

The Allis-Chalmers Education Awards Program has two winners: 1) a teacher in grades k-12 who has been personally responsible for implementing an outstanding environmental conservation education program in his or her school system. Gale Brown, Underwood Teacher, was nominated for this award. 2) A Conservation District that has carried out an outstanding Environmental Conservation Education Program in local school systems. The District sponsors a Fall Teachers Workshop, and a 6th grade campout; and hope these activities will help them to win the Allis-Chalmers Award.