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NARRATIVE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Cherokee County Soil Conservation District, IA-SCD-42, was issued a certification of organization dated April 13, 1944 which means that the organization was formally completed on that date.

Previous to the above date, petitions for the formation of the District were circulated during March at which time signatures of 31% of landholders of the county were secured. On March 20th, the state committee on Soil Conservation held a hearing in the Cherokee County Court House at which time the state committee agreed that the interest in soils and soil conservation was sufficient to warrant a referendum being held.

There were 115 votes cast on the referendum March 30th of which number 106 or 92% favored the formation of the District and nine votes were negative. The three District Commissioners elected at that time were:

James E. Fee - 6 year term, Sashta, Iowa;

Lewis Bengston - Aurelia, Iowa, four-year term

C. C. Martin, Cherokee, two-year term.

Lewis Bengston and C. C. Martin tied for the four and two year terms; the four year term going to Lewis Bengston on a mutual arrangement by the commissioners. C. C. Martin was elected chairman for the first two-year period. C. E. Thompson, county extension director, was elected secretary. As the year ended, C. E. Thompson resigned as county extension director leaving the secretary job vacant as of December 31, 1944.

Memorandums of Understanding were signed by the District with the following:

United States Department of Agriculture which was approved by the Commissioners May 4th and signed with the U. S. D. A. August 3rd, 1944.

Memorandum of Understanding with Extension Service, May 11, 1944.

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A Supplement memorandum with the Soil Conservation Service was approved by the Commissioners June 13, 1944 and signed by the State Soil Conservation Committee August 11, 1944.

A district program and work program were drawn up and finally adopted on June 13th, 1944.

Problems and objectives of the District were outlined as including in part: sheet erosion, gully erosion, wind erosion, water loss, building and maintaining fertility, proper land use, culture and tillage problems, farm management problems, rearrangement of farms, economic problems, information and education, soil surveys and classification, drainage, wild life, woodland, windbreaks and the development of recreational areas.

Request was made for assistance from the Soil Conservation Service which resulted in Harvey R. Lindberg and Glen Craft being assigned to assist the District. Harvey Lindberg reported for duty in November, 1944 and Glen Craft reported on December 30, 1944.

On December 16th the first group meeting was held within the county by the commissioners assisted by C. H. Thompson and Harvey Lindberg. Sixteen requests for farm plans resulted.

During the early spring C. C. Martin, chairman of the Commissioners, assisted C. H. Thompson in laying out 70 farms for contour cultivation. The figures furnished by the Extension Service showed that there are 199,228 acres in the county which should have contour cultivation and 272,880 acres of rotation land in the county.

As the year closed the district activities were in their initial phases with the outlook for the coming year 1945 favorable.

/s/ C.C. Martin

C. C. Martin, Chairman Cherokee

County Soil Conservation District Commissioners.