



A Quality Environment

DICKINSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA 51360 712-336-3782, EXT. 3

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are pleased to present their 2012 Annual Report. It represents the efforts of many individuals and groups working together to improve our environment through conservation programs.

The Commissioners invite the public to contact the office to learn more about our current projects, programs and cost-share opportunities.



Back row: Mark Ingwersen, Scott Mitchell, John Myhre, Chris Hoffman and Curt Smith, Commissioners.
Front row: Orville Berg (inset), Earl Muilenburg and Keith Van Kleeck, Assistant Commissioners.

Field Office Staff:

Mark Schutt, NRCS District Conservationist
Bob Moser, NRCS Resource Conservationist—Emmet, Jan-July
Hani Nguyen, NRCS Resource Conservationist—Emmet, Oct-Dec
Betty Romero, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician
Maxine Butler, IDALS-DSC State Secretary

District Staff:

Steve Anderson, Urban Conservationist, Jan-Sept
John Wills, Clean Water Alliance Coordinator
Derek Namanny, IGL Targeted Watershed Coordinator, Jan-Nov;
Urban Conservationist, December
Catherine Sereg, Silver Lake Watershed Coordinator

District Commissioners

Mark Ingwersen Chris Hoffman Scott Mitchell
John Myhre Curt Smith

Assistant Commissioners

Orville Berg Earl Muilenburg Keith Van Kleeck

2012 District Activities

January

Election of officers: Scott Mitchell, Chair; Chris Hoffman, Vice Chair; Mark Ingwersen, Secretary-Treasurer

Orville Berg, Earl Muilenburg and Keith Van Kleeck are appointed Assistant Commissioners

Catherine Sereg begins as Silver Lake Watershed Coordinator

New soil survey is presented through public meetings

February

Bob Waters, IDALS-DSC Regional Coordinator, located in Spirit Lake office

March

CDI Regional Meeting held in Spirit Lake

April

Commissioners distribute trees for each 6th grade student in Dickinson County to the schools

Stewardship material distributed to area churches

May

Morgan Matthews, Estherville, is the recipient of the District Scholarship

Caitlin Rolfes, Milford, is the recipient of the Jo Groves Memorial Scholarship

June

Newsletter is sent

July

Bob Moser, RC—Emmet, transfers to Pocahontas field office

August

Area 1 All Employees meeting

September

34th Annual Outdoor Classroom was held at Kettle-son Hogsback with 200 6th graders from Okoboji, Spirit Lake, Harris-Lake Park and Graettinger/Terril School Districts participating

Steve Anderson leaves UC position

District Mission Statement

The Dickinson SWCD will serve its customers and the needs of the District's natural resources through education, promotion, and demonstration.

October

Hani Nguyen begins as Resource Conservationist in Emmet

November

December

SWCD Foundation Tree Sale begins

District Financial Report **July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

State funds provided by the Iowa General Assembly are allocated to the SWCD by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/Division of Soil Conservation.

1M – Commissioners Expenses Fund

Commissioner Expenses Fund is provided by the state to pay Commissioners' and Assistant Commissioners' expenses, as well as office supplies, state and national dues and other expenses.

The SWCD Foundation supplements the state allocation with funds raised by selling trees and shrubs each year.

Total Allocation from IDALS	\$ 2,400.00
Less Expenses:	
Office Supplies & Expenses—Postage	\$ 344.01
Small Office Equipment & Hardware	\$ 39.80
Commissioner Mileage & Expense	\$ 154.05
Printing & Printed Material	\$ 87.14
Meeting Expenses/CDI & NACD Dues	\$ 1,775.00
	\$ 0.00

Commissioner Earned Funds were used to cover additional expenses:

Office Supplies & Expenses, Postage	\$ 89.35
Commissioner Mileage	\$ 245.70
Meeting & Workshop Expenses, Dues	\$ 425.50
	\$ 760.55

Iowa Financial Incentives Program Funds

Iowa Financial Incentives Program Funds (IFIP) budget provides up to 50% cost-share assistance for installing permanent soil and water conservation practices to improve water quality and/or help stop soil erosion. Some practices include: terraces, grassed waterways, water and sediment basins.

No till/strip till incentive program – A one-time payment of \$10/per acre with 80 acre maximum for operators trying no till, strip till or ridge till for the first time.

Allocation for 2011/12 totaled	\$ 11,062.98
Spent	\$ 3,379.59
Balance unspent	\$ 7,683.39

REAP Funding

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) is divided into forestry/native grasses and practices.

Cost share for payments of up to 75% of the cost to establish windbreaks, with a maximum cost-share of \$1,500. A plan will be need to be completed by NRCS.

50% cost share is available through this program to establish or improve pastures, through the establishment of native grass components, fencing and water systems that provide rotational pasture system.

REAP Forestry/Native Grasses

Allocation for 2011/12 totaled	\$ 2,078.19
Spent	\$ 600.00
Balance unspent	\$ 1,478.19

REAP Practices

Allocation for 2011/12 totaled	\$ 16,276.64
Spent	\$ 0.00
Balance unspent	\$ 16,276.64

IFIP and REAP funds were used to complete:

- 2 sediment basins
- 1 windbreak

IGL Targeted Watershed—WSPF & 319

Allocation	\$ 51,125.00
Obligated/Spent WSPF	\$ 29,155.75
Obligated/Spent 319	\$ 370.00
Balance unspent	\$ 21,599.25

IGL WSPF & 319 Funds were used to complete:

CRP Incentive and LID practice

Silver Lake Watershed—WSPF

Allocation	\$ 6,625.00
Obligated/Spent WSPF	\$ 3,564.79
Balance unspent	\$ 3,060.21

Silver Lake WSPF Funds were used to complete:

Sediment basin

Publicly Owned Lakes

Publicly Owned Lakes provides for 75% cost-share to build conservation structures that improve water quality in the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed. We did not submit a request for Publicly Owned Lakes Funding for FY 12.

Low Interest Loan Programs

Low interest loans are available to producers for the installation of conservation practices that improve water quality. The Interest rate on this loan is 3% with terms up to 10 years on soil erosion practices and up to 20 years for water quality improvements for eligible existing livestock facilities.

3% loans are also available for Low Impact Development (LID) practices, such as rain gardens and pervious paving.



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Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

NRCS Activities

Wetland Restoration Program (WRP) offers permanent Easements on farmland restored to wetlands and native prairie. Easement payments are made in a one-time lump sum payment for the cropping right to property. Land is restored to native prairie and wetland ecosystem with all required restoration activities paid for by NRCS.

Land payments approximate agricultural value of the land, but are subject to a rate cap which significantly lags behind current land values. Applicants still retain fee title to property under an easement and all future owners are subject to the terms and conditions of the easement.

In 2012, one new WRP Easement Closed for 120 acres.

One new application was accepted for 102 Acres.

2 easements had restorations completed on approximately 90 acres.

3 new applications were submitted for FY 13 funding totaling 221 acres.

The Environmental Quality incentive Program cost shares livestock and cropland practices for producers with resource concerns on their farms. Dickinson County allocation was \$88,000. EQIP also has separate fund categories for Beginning Farmer, socially disadvantaged and limited Resource producers.

In 2012 two new EQIP applications were funded totaling 1,170 acres and \$123,000.

Conservation Security Program allocates funds to producers who already are implementing an above average conservation system on their acres. Based on statewide ranking, producers are funded with 5 year contracts on their operation for adopting further enhancements to their existing system.

One new CSP contract for 278 acres was funded in Dickinson County in 2012.

District Commissioners

Scott Mitchell — Chair Chris Hoffman — Vice Chair
Mark Ingwersen — Secretary, Treasurer
Curt Smith John Myhre

Assistant Commissioners

Orville Berg Earl Muilenburg Keith Van Kleek

District Mission Statement

The Dickinson SWCD will serve its customers and the needs of the District's natural resources through education, promotion, and demonstration.

Grant/Project Funds as of June 30, 2012

Commissioner Funds

Funds raised or received	\$ 12,781.16
Funds Spent	\$ <u>12,229.13</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 552.03

319 IGL Stormwater Management (Demo)

Allocation	\$ 0.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 0.00

319 IGL Targeted Watershed Salary, Benefits, Travel/Training

Allocation	\$ 43,770.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>37,124.91</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 6,645.09
Balance Refunded 6-30-12	\$ 6,645.09

319 IGL Targeted Watershed I & E / Supplies

Spent	\$ 3,700.00
Reimbursed	\$ <u>677.91</u>
Balance	\$ (3,022.09)
Balance received 8-16-12	\$ <u>3,022.09</u>
	0.00

319 Silver Lake Watershed

Salary, Benefits, Travel / Training

Allocation	\$ 49,766.50
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>23,692.61</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 26,073.89
Balance Refunded 6-30-12	\$ 26,073.89

319 Silver Lake Watershed I & E / Supplies

Spent	\$ 1,198.01
Reimbursed	\$ <u>286.35</u>
Balance	\$ (911.66)
Balance received 8-16-12	\$ <u>911.66</u>
	0.00

CWA Coordinator

Funds available	\$162,512.81
Spent	\$ <u>55,652.77</u>
Balance unspent	\$106,860.04

Dickinson County Tree Reserve

Allocation	\$ 2,405.65
Additional Received	\$ 480.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>297.50</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 2,588.15

District Employee

Allocation	\$ 0.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 0.00

Easement Funds

Allocation	\$ 0.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 0.00

I-Jobs

Allocation	\$ 11,970.99
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>11,970.99</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 0.00

IGL Targeted Watershed—WIRB

Total Project \$168,500.00	
Allocation	\$ 81,500.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>2,593.20</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 78,906.80

Silver Lake WIRB

Total Project \$474,540.00	
Allocation	\$228,500.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>137,959.53</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 90,540.47

Urban Conservationist

Salary, Benefits, Travel / Training

Allocation	\$ 76,345.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>72,917.11</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 3,427.89
Balance Refunded 6-30-12	\$ 3,427.89

Urban Conservationist I & E / Supplies

Spent	\$ 1,000.00
Reimbursed	\$ <u>500.00</u>
Balance	\$ (500.00)
Balance received 7-18-12	\$ <u>500.00</u>
	0.00

Watershed Assessment

1% for Clean Water

Allocation	\$ 4,000.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 4,000.00

Reload Iowa

Allocation	\$ 15,000.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>13,286.84</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 1,713.16

WQC—CWA

Total Allocation \$12,000.00	
Allocation	\$ 0.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>(1,382.47)</u>
Balance unspent	\$ (1,382.47)

WQC-Infiltration Based Storm Water

Total Allocation \$51,019.05	
Allocation	\$ 13919.82
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 13,919.82

WQC-Lakeshore Restoration

Total Allocation \$73,686.00	
Allocation	\$ 9,562.07
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>2,055.56</u>
Balance	\$ 7,506.51

WQC-Targeted Raingardens

Total Allocation \$100,050.00	
Allocation	\$100,050.00
Obligated/Spent	\$ <u>2,460.77</u>
Balance unspent	\$ 97,589.23

POSTER CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED



The Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are proud to announce the winner of this year's poster contest in Division 2, Grades 2 and 3.

Macy Alderson, a Graettinger-Terril second grade student in Ms. Nicole Voetmann's class in Terril, was recently awarded her first place certificate and a ten-dollar bill.

The poster contest is co-sponsored by Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and the Auxiliary of the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI). This year's theme was "Soil to Spoon".

DICKINSON SWCD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Dickinson SWCD Foundation announces two \$500 scholarships have been awarded to graduating Dickinson County High School Seniors. These scholarships are to be used for the first year of education on the college or vocational school level.

The **District Scholarship**, in the amount of \$500, is offered for students continuing their education in any field of agriculture or natural sciences studies.



This scholarship was awarded this year to Graettinger-Terril senior, Morgan Matthews of Estherville, Iowa.



The **Jo Groves Memorial Scholarship**, in the amount of \$500, is not limited in the course of study.

This scholarship was awarded to Okoboji senior, Caitlin Rolfes of Milford, Iowa.

SILVER LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT

NEW SILVER LAKE WATERSHED COORDINATOR

The Dickinson Soil and Water Conservation District is excited to announce that the Silver Lake Watershed Project has a new Project Coordinator, Catherine Sereg.



Catherine started with the project at the beginning of January and the project is off to a great start. We continue to reach for our overall goal of improving the water quality in Silver Lake. Catherine has worked with both urban home owners and rural landowners to inform and install conservation practices to help meet our goal. Many landowners and homeowners have installed and expressed interest in installing conservation practices; reducing tons of sediment and pollutants from entering into Silver Lake.

FILLS URBAN CONSERVATIONIST POSITION



Derek Namanny, former Iowa Great Lakes Targeted Watershed Coordinator, accepted the Urban Conservationist position in December.

Derek will be working with a variety of landowners and organizations in northwest Iowa, continuing to work on public education and implementation of urban conservation practices to address urban soil and water quality concerns.

The UC position was formerly held by Steve Anderson who left in September to accept a position with the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District.

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