

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District 60th Annual Report



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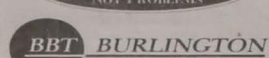
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Personnel during 2005



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are Ron Snyder (Burlington), Don Lounsbury (Pleasant Grove Township), Todd Heckenberg (Benton Township), Maureen Fodick (Franklin Township), and Bob Hinson (Tama Township).

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
Todd Heckenberg, Chairperson
Don Lounsbury, Vice-Chairperson
Maureen Fodick
Robert Hinson
Ronald Snyder

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS
Frank Hedges
Arlyn Musselman
Bradley Weiss

OFFICE STAFF
Shloh Bradley, District Conservatorist
T.J. Mathis, Soil Conservatorist (through January)
Courtney Myers, Soil Conservatorist (started May)
John Horan, Soil Conservation Technician (through August)
Jamie Grimes, State & District Secretary
Dale Schmeiser, District Employee

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)
Bruce Trautman, Assistant State Conservatorist (FO)
Shawn Dettmann, Area Resource Conservatorist
Mark LaVan, Area Resource Soil Scientist
Jesse Jackson, Grassland Specialist
Kerry Anderson, Agricultural Engineer
Suzette Betts, Administrative Management Assistant
Kevin Andersen, Biologist

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP – DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION (Des Moines)
Ken Tow, Director
James Gillespie, Chief Field Services Bureau
Paul Valin, Field Representative

Revolving funds account

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD regular checking account from July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005:

Balance On Hand, July 1, 2004	\$1,474.19
Receipts:	
Miscellaneous Sales	\$ 5.04
Pop Machine Commission	39.20
Checking Account Interest	5.74
Donations	3,890.00
Cookbook Sales	954.00
Regional Meeting	336.00
1M Reimbursement	2,297.64
TOTAL	\$ 7,527.62
Disbursements:	
Postage	\$ 137.13
Office Supplies & Expenses	189.07
Awards & Dinner Expenses	264.93
Commissioner Travel	878.81
Poster Contest Prizes	155.00
Cookbook Expenses	1,633.88
Dues	1,100.00
Subscriptions/Memberships	25.00
Scholarships	700.00
Regional Meeting	276.00
Soil Loss Complaint	113.46
Film Processing	4.89
TOTAL	\$ 5,669.17
Balance On Hand, June 30, 2005	\$3,332.64

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD special projects/payroll account from July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005:

Balance On Hand, July 1, 2004	\$4,773.23
Receipts:	
Account Interest	\$ 20.90
DSC Buffer Initiative	5,000.00
DSC Farm Bill	6,202.00
Newsletter Reimbursement	300.96
Des Moines County Pheasants Forever	1,000.00
CDI	6,000.00
TOTAL	\$18,523.86
Expenditures:	
Federal Tax	\$ 2,139.81
State of Iowa Tax	438.00
Unemployment Insurance	161.34
IPERS	1,265.07
Newsletter	300.96
Payroll preparation fees	165.00
Payroll	11,832.44
TOTAL	\$16,302.62
Balance on Hand, June 30, 2005	\$6,994.47

Des Moines SWCD Budget

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 Expenditures of funds provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) 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	\$ 2,500.00
Commissioners Expense	835.92
Office Expense (includes postage, newsletter, soil loss complaint)	914.08
CDI Dues	350.00
NACD Dues	400.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 2005

Allocation	\$15,084.44
Tree Planting, 6.8 ac completed	2,478.00
Farmstead Windbreak, 6 ac completed	1,200.00
Field Windbreak, 1.6 ac completed	557.94
Timber Stand Improvement, incomplete	9,390.50
Tree Planting, incomplete	1,458.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry & Native Grasses 2005

Allocation	\$ 1,766.63
Farmstead Windbreak, 1 completed	1,016.63
Timber Stand Improvement, incomplete	750.00
Balance	-0-

IFIP 2004-05

Allocation	\$49,828.00
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 34 completed	34,208.97
Grassed Waterways, 7 ac completed	968.91
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	7,830.00
Terraces, incomplete	2,537.00
Balance	4,283.12

IFIP 2003-04

Allocation	\$21,072.91
Grassed Waterway, 2.5 ac completed	5,248.84
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 13 completed	13,108.13
Critical Area Planting, 1 ac completed	58.50
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	2,500.25
Balance	157.19

IFIP 2002-03

Allocation	\$19,248.97
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 16 completed	15,357.47
Terraces, incomplete	3,891.50
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2004-05

Allocation	\$12,381.41
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 4 completed	12,381.41
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2003-04

Allocation	\$ 2,703.66
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 3 completed	2,703.66
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2002-03

Allocation	\$ 7,854.76
Terraces, 1,500 ft completed	7,854.76
Balance	-0-

District Activities During 2005

January

- Election of Officers for 2005 resulted as follows: Chairperson – Todd Heckenberg; Vice Chairperson – Don Lounsbury.
- Appointments for 2005 resulted as follows: Secretary – Jamie Grimes; Treasurer – Grimes; Co-Treasurer – Ron Snyder; Assistant Commissioners – Frank Hedges, Arlyn Musselman, Brad Weiss; RC&D Executive Board – Lounsbury, Maureen Fodick (alternate); Flint Creek Advisory Board – Bob Hinson, Snyder (alternate); 206 Project – Hinson; REAP – Heckenberg; Education/Contests/Awards Committee – Fodick; Hinson; Fund Raising Committee – All; Marketing Committee – Fodick; Annual Plan of Work Committee – Hinson, Heckenberg; Legislative Committee – Snyder, Lounsbury; Urban Conservation Committee – Snyder.
- CDI dues were paid.
- Soil Conservatorist T.J. Mathis' last day was January 21.
- Winner was chosen for the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.
- Meeting date and time was changed to the third Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- Civil Rights were reviewed.

February

- DSC Program Planner Tony Toigo presented information at a meeting for local landowners interested in the Low Interest Loan Program.
- A newsletter was mailed.

March

- Grimes, Hinson and Snyder attended Spring Regional Meetings.
- A special meeting was held to discuss cost share.
- District Conservatorist Shloh Bradley and Grimes presented information during a 5th grade career fair at SCC.
- A \$500 donation was given to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for a scholarship.
- Annual Report was printed in Medapolis News.
- An awards supper was held at Ryan's Family Steakhouse.

April

- Soil and Water Stewardship week was April 24 – May 1.
- Winners were chosen for the Poster Contest.
- Participated in "Clean out Your Files" day for Earth Day.
- NRCS Planning Leader Dave Beck presented a Soil & Water Assessment Tool model for Flint Creek.

May

- Courtney Myers started May 31 as Soil Conservatorist.
- Cookbooks arrived and sales began.
- Local winners were chosen for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.
- Musselman was chosen to submit for the Ruth Wagner Award.

June

- Geode RC&D Coordinator Christa Perkins attended the monthly meeting.
- The SWCD agreed to administrate a multi-county PF Wildlife Biologist position.
- NACD dues were paid.
- Letters were mailed to estate planners about the SWCD being eligible for memorials and land donations.

July

- The SWCD had a booth during the Des Moines County Fair, July 27 – August 2.
- Vince Sitzmann, DSC Regional Coordinator, attended the monthly meeting to discuss watershed funding.
- Two resolutions were presented to CDI.
- Myers and Dale Schmeiser presented information about sediment to teachers attending the Living Lands workshop.
- A donation was given to develop an Iowa Soil Monolith exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute.

August

- Fodick and Heckenberg completed the annual audit of the District books.
- NRCS Technician John Horan retired August 31.
- Sitzmann attended the monthly meeting to discuss Flint Creek.
- Hinson and Snyder attended the Fall Regional meeting.
- Iowa Farmer Today interviewed Fodick, Lori Heckenberg and Grimes about the cookbook. Recipes from the cookbook were made by Heckenberg for a photo spread in the publication.

September

- DSC Engineer Brian Carter and Roadside Manager Jeff Chase attended the monthly meeting.
- Three local poster winners also were winners of the regional poster contest.
- Myers and Schmeiser presented information about NRCS to a career exploration class at Medapolis High School.

October

- A local winner was selected for the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.
- Completed resolution voting for Annual Conference.
- The soil loss complaint went to district court.
- CDI dues were paid.

November

- Snyder attended Annual Conference in Ames.
- Musselman received his plaque for the Ruth Wagner Award at Annual Conference.
- Fodick and Grimes decorated the Christmas Tree at Westland Mall for the Boulevard of Trees.

December

- Awards supper was held at Ryan's Family Steakhouse.
- Interviews were conducted for the PF Wildlife Biologist position.
- Dues were paid for 1,000 Friends of Iowa membership.

District Accomplishments

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005	Unit	No.
Amount	6	No.
New District Cooperators on 414 acres	17	Acres
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	1,100	Fl.
Terraces Constructed	43	No.
Water & Sediment Control Basins Constructed	50,733	Fl.
Field Border Seeded	165	Acres
Wetland Restoration Completed	14	Acres
Tree Planting Completed	22	Acres
Timber Stand Improvement Completed	6	Acres
Riparian Buffer	1	Acres
Field Windbreak Established	51	Acres
Farmstead Windbreak Established	38	Acres
Filter Strips Established	46	No.
Shallow Water Areas Established	11	No.
CRP Contracts Completed		
EQIP Contracts Completed		



Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District 60th Annual Report

Celebrate Conservation

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa Auxiliary, sponsored the annual poster contest for all students in the county.

The 2005 theme was "Celebrate Conservation". The contest consists of five divisions - Division 1 is kindergarten and 1st grades; Division 2 is 2nd and 3rd grades; Division 3 is 4th - 6th grades; Division 4 is 7th - 9th grades; and Division 5 is 10th - 12th grades. Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.

Additionally, each first place winner is submitted for regional competition. The posters from Kreiss, Sisco and Kirk were chosen as regional winners.



First place in Division 1 was Torianne Bokman, Blackhawk Elementary school (shown with District Commissioner Maureen Fockick).



Division 2 winners were Da Shon Johnson, Honorable Mention; Michaela Taege, 3rd; Camille Adair, 2nd; and Jayla Kreiss, 1st. All were from Notre Dame Elementary.



Division 3 winners, from Mediapolis Schools, were Kelli Sisco, 1st; Heather Wulf, from Notre Dame High School. 2nd; Nicholas Anderson, 3rd; and Dustin Beknap, Honorable Mention (pictured with Fockick).

Local Landowners chosen for conservation awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected three local landowners as District winners for the 2005 annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program, which is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Jon Williams and Kory Klenk, both from Mediapolis, were selected as winners in the division for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

William Tomelner, New London, was selected as the winner in the division for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

If you know a landowner or producer you feel is doing a great job of conserving natural resources, please call the Soil & Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221 to nominate them.

SWCD Teacher of the Year



The purpose of the award is to recognize public or parochial school teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources. Division 2 consists of teachers in grades 7 through 12.

The SWCD chose Kristin as their local winner because of her teaching philosophy. She feels students need to experience nature firsthand. Kristin said, "Firsthand experience with nature makes student learning unforgettable and is the heart of the conservation education program. Students grow into citizens and decision makers that will continue and expand conservation practices in the future."

For more information about the awards program, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

Musselman wins award

Arlyn Musselman, Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Assistant Commissioner, was chosen as the 2005 state winner of the Ruth Wagner Award.

The Ruth Wagner Award was started in 2001 to honor outstanding Soil and Water Conservation Assistant Commissioners. The award is given annually by the Johnson County SWCD in honor of Ruth, who served as Assistant Commissioner for 53 years.

Arlyn has been an Assistant Commissioner in Des Moines County since 1986. He takes an active role in District planning and promoting conservation, especially native grasses and pasture.

Arlyn was honored during the Annual Conference of SWCD Commissioners in November. He received a plaque from Johnson County SWCD Commissioner David Parsons.



Des Moines County SWCD Chairperson Don Heckenberg congratulates Assistant Commissioner Arlyn Musselman on winning the Ruth Wagner Award.

Nunnikhoven receives award



Steve Nunnikhoven, Mediapolis, was the 2005 recipient of the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.

Steve was chosen for the award because of the extensive timber management practices he has established on his land. He is an impressive example of someone who is working hard to leave the land in much better shape for future generations.

This award is given by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation. Steve received a \$250 cash award to be used towards a conservation project and a plaque recognizing his efforts.

Family and friends of Gary, to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example, developed the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

Conservation specialist hired



This position was created with funding provided by Iowa Phosphates, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Geode Resource Conservation & Development. Mr. Schmeiser will be working in Des Moines, Lee and Washington counties encouraging wildlife habitat.

"I'm excited about working in all three counties. With the newly raised soil rental rates, there should be plenty of opportunities to combine the economic benefits of CRP to any farming operation while improving the environment and increasing wildlife habitat," stated Schmeiser.

If you would be interested in talking to Dale about options on your land, please contact him at 319-753-6221.

District donates scholarship

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District donated \$500 to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for the 2005 school year. Nicole Yotter, Oakville, was the recipient of these funds.

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 scholarship fund were Bank of Stronghurst, Burlington Bank & Trust, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Lee County Bank and Trust, Rantian State Bank, Twomey Company, and Vaniger Farm Market.



Flowers for sale

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District will be selling flower plants and bulbs this spring. Each packet costs \$5.00 and includes both perennial and annual plants.

The plants and bulbs available include:

- Bleeding Heart, one plant
- Two Tone Hanging Begonia Garden, 1 complete kit
- Hanging Strawberry Garden, 1 complete kit
- Everbearing Strawberry Plants, 10 plants
- Hestia, 1 plant
- Fancy-Leaf Caladiums, 3 bulbs
- Crocusma Lucifer, 8 bulbs
- Spectacular Gladiolus, 14 bulbs
- New Tiger Lilies, 3 bulbs
- Stargazer Lilies, 2 bulbs
- Anemone De Caen, 15 bulbs
- Mini Amaryllis, 18 bulbs
- Elf Lilies, 3 bulbs
- Peacock Orchids, 18 bulbs
- Camellia Begonias, 3 bulbs
- Blazing Stars, 12 bulbs
- Davila Del Rio, 1 plant

Each plant and bulb is guaranteed to bloom or it will be replaced for free. Each also includes easy to follow directions on how and where to plant.

To place an order, contact your local Commissioner or stop in the SWCD office at 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington (money due when order is placed). For directions or if you have questions, call Jamie at 319-753-6221.

Cookbooks for Sale



The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has cookbooks with recipes coming from our past and present District Commissioners, Assistants and office personnel available for \$14.00.

The cookbook features 350 recipes packaged in a three-ring binder cover with tabbed dividers. The cookbook includes a wide array of recipes - from death by chocolate to homemade fabric softener.

All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will be used for our educational and scholarship programs.

Cookbooks are available at The Remember Inn and Eland Agency in Mediapolis or at the SWCD office in Burlington. Call Jamie at 319-753-6221 if you need more information.

Thanks for Your Help

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision that relies heavily on donations, whether it is cash donations from landowners or product donations from businesses.

Businesses donating goods to the SWCD include:

- Wal-Mart - gift card to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Target - gift card to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Pizza Hut - personal pan pizza gift certificates to give as Honorable Mention prizes for the poster contest.
- Mediapolis News - generously prints our Annual Report every year.
- Des Moines County Fair Board - booth space at the county fair.
- The Remember Inn, Clara's Garden, Eland Agency, Southeast Savings Bank, Mediapolis Savings Bank, Casebine Credit Union, and Kum n' Go on Roosevelt St., Burlington, for promoting and selling our cookbooks.

The following persons also contributed to the SWCD after a newsletter was sent to all landowners, producers, banks, and contractors requesting financial assistance. These funds were used for scholarships, poster contest awards, dues, and educational products.

- Albert Heckenberg & Sons
- Louis Bannier
- James Barr
- Doug Beckman
- Ron Bennett
- Burgus Farms
- Floyd Carden
- Marcia Cook
- Betty Cooper
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Davis
- Dolores Roberts Rev. Trust
- Myranell Dockendorf
- Manlynn Drenbestedt
- Perle Dumsa
- Edie Earthmoving
- Evelyn Butler Living Trust
- Don Eversmeyer
- Wilmer Faigle
- Warren & Martha Fritz
- Gertrude Enterprises Corp.
- Heap Ag Services LLC
- Etta Heddens
- Mrs. Levi Heinrich
- Lanny Hillyard
- Robert Hinson
- Hirsch, Adams, Putnam, Cahill
- Rashid Trust
- Howard Keltzer Ltd.
- Lillian Kramer
- Trent Kuntz
- John Latty
- Bernice Laue
- Harold Lindner
- Lyle Lucas Trust
- Norman Magdefrau
- Phyllis McQuay
- Mr. & Mrs. Craffon Meeker
- William Moore
- Frances Obermann
- Richard Osborn
- C. Janet Pfeiff
- Dennis & Bev Peterson
- Randy Plum
- Howard Reil
- Raymond Reinke
- Geraldine Rhoads
- Steve Shumaker
- Phyllis Jean Shutt
- Sperry Union Store
- John Steiner
- Dwight Stucker
- Kathleen Swander
- Mr. & Mrs. Everett Toft
- Edith Unterkircher
- Marc & Monica Wagenbach
- Walton Farms
- Joe Wasson
- F. R. Wilkerson
- Williams Excavation

The Des Moines County SWCD would also like to thank Lori Heckenberg. The Iowa Farmer Today interviewed Fockick, Grimes and her for an article about the cookbook. Additionally, Lori generously made all the food for the photo shoot. Thank you so much Lori for all your hard work!

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District thanks each and every one of you! If you would like to make a donation, please call the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

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