

Annual Report of Davis Soil Conservation District

2-16-67

Soil District Activities Were Many, Varied in 1966

Treasurer's Report	
REVOLVING FUND	
Balance on hand, January 1, 1966	\$1030.29
INCOME	
Royalties from Rock Quarry	4709.64
U. S. Treasurer on	68,340.05
State Comptroller	404.28
Other Income	285.78
EXPENSE	
Royalties Paid on Quarry	3,924.62
Big Wyacondah Watershed	68,475.45
Postage and Supplies	245.28
Other Big Wyacondah Watershed	76.00
Commissioner's Expense	528.83
Awards, Tuition and Books	311.59
State and National SCD Dues	175.00
Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce	25.00
S.D. Banquet	177.00
Banquet Speaker	50.00
Balance on hand, January 1, 1967	\$871.22

Because of the short supply of available limestone and road rock, Davis County farmers, located in the northern part of the county, have been forced to haul their material from a quarry located in the D. K. 45 with Mr. Nedrow. This arrangement has provided the county with a source of funds which is sold from the limestone which is sold from the quarry. We have recently renewed the lease for another 10 years to help promote better conservation of the land in Davis County.

I-M BUDGET	
Each year in July the State Soil Conservation Committee allocates \$200 to each soil conservation district for the purpose of administrative expenses, for the purpose of expense, meeting expense, prizes for contests and printing.	
Fiscal year July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966	\$288.37
Commissioner's Expense and mileage	288.37
Total expended 1965-66 Fiscal year	\$288.37
Balance in I-M Budget - July 1, 1967	\$211.63

The I-M Budget (which is State-Funded) is administered by the State Soil Conservation Committee and allocated to the Soil Conservation Districts of Iowa on a per capita basis. It is used to employ a full-time clerk and part-time conservation agent to help during the heavy lay-out season. We are grateful to the legislators of Iowa for making these funds available to us.

II-M BUDGET	
Fiscal year July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966	\$4968.99
Gross earnings (Clerical and Technical)	108.44
District's Share of State Retirement	196.81
District's Share of Federal S. S. Tax	18.00
District's Share of Hospital Insurance	\$5349.24
Total expended	

Progress Report	
Practice	Unit
New Cooperators	Number 93
Basic Plans Developed	Number 80
Plans Revised	Number 11
Conservation Cropping System	Acres 709
Contour Farming	Acres 194
Diversion	L. F. 33,900
Farm Roads	Number 95
Fish Pond Stocking	Number 67
Shallow Surface Structures	Number 11
Great Waterways	Acres 400
Drainage Ditch	L. F. 208,755
Pasture Renovation	Acres 193
Strip Cropping	Acres 138
Shallow Surface Ditches	L. F. 14,200
Graded Terrace	L. F. 39,225
Parallel Terrace	L. F. 141,405
Terrace, Tilt Outlet	L. F. 138
Tire Drains	L. F. 370
Tree Planting	Acres 40
Cropland to Grassland	Acres 10,542
Soil Mapping	Acres 11,314

New District Cooperators	
Fiscal Year - July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966	
COOPERATOR	ACRES
Darrell Williams	312
Lionel Evans	61
Gerald Miller	280
Orville W. Rupp	180
LaVerne Brite	103
Ronald Bogle	103
William Korman	160
Richard J. Teubel	238
Forrest L. Pileber	84
William Sherman	160
Russell Forsythe	160
Robert W. Waters	97
Walter Cope	165
Max Leyda	50
Muri McClure	156
Craig Lannan	37
Olin Laws	185
Jessie A. Jones	240
Wayne D. Lamb	213
Russell Hopkins	12
Darrell McClure	177
Max Proctor	100
Neal Clyman	55
Earl Rittner	85
Carl E. Rominger	320
Wayne K. Sample	213
Danny O'Brien	500
Ivory Rogers	300
Jack Bonner	120
Harry S. Hooper	120
Glen Beggs	120
Dick Glosser	120
A total of 63 cooperators with a total of 11,245 Acres	

- ### Plan of Operations for 1967
1. Review the District Work Plan which was adopted in 1966.
 2. Attend the Commissioner's Short Course Conventions. At least one commissioner to attend each of these meetings.
 3. Hold annual meeting of District Cooperators and Water Conservation material.
 4. Continue to promote the watershed and Water Conservation material.
 5. Furnish Soil Stewardship material.
 6. Follow-up each monthly regular District meeting.
 7. Hold a Conservation tour during the District Plan to hold an Air-tour similar to the one held in June 1966.
 8. Sponsor teacher (tuition paid) to attend the Conservation Camp.
 9. Sponsor the Conservation Speech contest during June and July.
 10. Sponsor local school speech and agriculture contest for 1967.
 11. Enter the Goodyear contest for 1967.
 12. Awards Program with outstanding district given special recognition.



District Staff
The office and technical staff of the Davis County Soil Conservation District is shown in conference with Work Unit Conservationist Verle Arnold. Behind Arnold are Mrs. Christine Botts, Roger Fry and Eugene Francis.

Conservation Camp—

Delightful Learning Experience

(Note — The following, written by Mrs. Hazel Boley, is a report on the trip that Mrs. Boley and Mrs. Ann Ellen McMains made to the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp last summer. Scholarships for the teachers are furnished each year by the district.)

By HAZEL BOLEY

On a lovely, but hot Sunday last July 16, Ann Ellen McMains and I set out on a trip to Springbrook State Park, which was one of the most memorable and delightful learning experiences I have ever had the privilege of enjoying.

After a not too eventful trip we arrived there at about 3 p.m. We registered and were assigned our cabin. We "stashed" our enormous outlay of equipment, which we were requested to have available, and met the other four women who were to share our quarters with us. The cabins were large and airy; there were cots available for some twenty persons in each. The first two nights were extremely hot; fans caused great friction in our household. But soon a great chill descended on us, and we had to use all available clothes and bedding to keep warm.

Class extended from 8 a.m. to 11 or 11:30 a.m. daily. Then lunch at 12; back to classes from 1 to 3:30—dinner at 6 p.m. and back to classes at 7, which usually extended until 9:30. After these hours we worked on our projects.

The classes were conducted by some of the best authorities in their field; professors from universities and colleges and other persons of note in state employ. The subjects included a study of soils; their method of formation from rocks by weathering and erosion; erosion and conservation today; clean water and its vital importance today; plants — their requirements; Economic growth in Iowa; T.E.N.C.O. today.

Our first project was collecting and identifying at least 24 specimens of rocks and minerals. This was a very interesting project; we scoured the country

outside the park area for samples, in creek beds, road cuts, old mine excavations, farm rock piles, and gravel pits. On one of these geological expeditions, it was our privilege to have Dr. Gwynne, an octogenarian and professor emeritus of geology from Ames. He was a very gifted naturalist and humanitarian, whom we all loved. He has been at each camp since its beginning; but this year he announced would be his last; a broken hip last year has made it difficult to get around in rocky, rough places. Dr. Gwynne was with us at beautiful Ledges State Park. After his lecture, he told us that water from Saylorville Dam will eventually fill these lovely walls. We were saddened that such beauty should be destroyed.

Every day was a new and exciting experience. Many of our class days were spent far from the park. We drove nearly 1,000 miles by bus during the course. As we studied watershed projects and erosion control, we visited many farms. Farmers came out and showed us first hand the benefits reaped in production gain of crops as well as increases in land value and available water since they had put these practices to use.

Our second project was collecting and pressing twenty species of Iowa wild-flowers — better known as weeds. Ann Ellen and I had many funny experiences as we drove through the country finding specimens. We found that farmers were not

During the 1966 calendar year we held 12 regular meetings and 8 special meetings to carry out the District Program and the watershed work in the district. The special meetings were necessary to attend to watershed progress work.

At the January meeting Stanley Baughman and Tom Hardy, local farmers living in the approved watershed areas of the county, agreed to serve as assistant commissioners. The new

Message Given By Commissioners

We are pleased again to be able to report the fine accomplishments of our Soil Conservation District. This is our twenty-second annual report to the co-operators of the district. When we look forward from 1944 (the year our district was organized) we can see that much has been done in the way of proper land use. Still as the 1966 year closed we realized there is still much to be done if we are to properly use and conserve the soil for future generations.

If you have any questions or problems on your farm, stop in the SCS Office and we are sure Verle Arnold, Gene Francis and Roger Fry will assist you in determining the solution to your conservation problem. We continue to believe the statement "Soil Conservation does not cost, Soil Conservation Pays".

Again this year we realize the soil conservation work of the county has been helped by many interested individuals, organizations, agencies, churches, schools, and the local newspapers. A special thanks to the earth-moving contractors, listed elsewhere, who financed the publication of this annual report in the local newspaper. We express our gratitude for the concern shown, and hope 1967 will bring greater conservation achievements to our community.

COMMISSIONERS
Sam Botts, Jr.
C. H. Heady
Charles Chickering

Davis County Conservation Officer, Don Draves, was introduced to the group and discussed his work in the district. We voted to pay the State and National Soil Conservation District dues. Mrs. Heady attended one day of the Annual Commissioners Short Course held at Ames, January 11.

A special meeting was held at Memphis, Mo. on January 27 to discuss further the development of a work plan for the North Wyacondah Watershed.

Our February meeting was held February 3 following a special Carter Creek Watershed meeting when the decision was made to ask for development of a work plan in that watershed. Sam Botts, Jr. was named to serve as Contracting Officer for the Big Wyacondah watershed contracts and Harold Baughman

will serve as acting contracting officer when necessary. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baughman, Mr. and Mrs. Heady and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Botts, Jr. attended the National Commissioner convention in New Orleans, La. February 6-10.

At our regular meeting in March, Mike Scheubler of the Iowa Highway Patrol presented a short film "The Unteachable" and talked on the need for improving highway safety in Iowa. He believes the drivers training course should be more widely used as a measure to make driving safer in our state.

In April, Mrs. Botts met with the Davis County Ministerial Association to distribute the Soil Stewardship materials for their use during Soil Stewardship Week. Mrs. Botts asked for a leave of absence during the summer months. The commissioners hired Jacqueline Arnold to work during Mrs. Botts' absence. William Byers, County Extension Director, reported on the recent changes made in the extension program. He also discussed the poverty program for Davis County.

At our May meeting plans were completed for the Conservation Air Tour which was held on June 19th. Local pilots took sixty-two persons on an air tour which included flying over their own farms. So much interest was shown that another air-tour is being planned for 1967. Mrs. Hazel Boley and Mrs. Ann Ellen McMains, local teachers in the Davis County Community School system, requested the scholarships to the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp for the last session in July. These scholarships were granted and the reports are given elsewhere in our report.

Our June meeting was combined with a farewell supper for Mr. and Mrs. Edward McDonough and held at the Harold Baughman home. Ed and Judy moved to Northwood, Iowa where he is the Work Unit Conservationist in the SCS Office. Mr. and Mrs. Lyall Mitchell were at this meeting and Lyall discussed the proposed Neighborhood Youth Corps section of the Economic Opportunity Act. After discussion it was decided to request two boys to work this summer in our office: James Bragg and Dennis Dancker, both Bloomfield boys, worked under this program for 32 hours each week during June, July and August. Vernon Lues, a student trainee from Iowa State University at Ames, worked in our office during the summer college vacation. He was introduced to the group at this meeting.

The district again furnished food for the Southern Iowa Experimental Farm Field Day which was held Thursday evening, June 23 at the farm. The commissioners wives and County 4-H girls' officers served the food to 82 persons who were present for the twilight tour of this farm.

On June 22 and June 29 special meetings were called to attend to special problems and necessary project agreements in the Carter Creek and Big Wyacondah Watersheds.

At our July meeting it was decided to hold our Queen of Conservation Contest at Drakesville and the judges were chosen. Some plans were made to hold the Regional Queen contest at the Davis County Fair during the week of August 16. A local farmer expressed interest in developing a watershed along the Fox River. After consulting with State SCS personnel and reviewing the watershed area, it was decided not to ask for the watershed method of planning on this river at this time. Harold Baughman was selected as the commissioner from our district to compete in the regional outstanding commissioner contest. At the regional meeting held later in the month of July, we were proud to have Harold named the outstanding commissioner for Region 9 and he was presented with an appropriate plaque at the commissioners conference in Cedar Rapids at the September meeting.

A new memorandum of understanding between the United States Department of Agriculture and the Davis Soil Conservation District was signed by the district July 22nd and by Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, on November 7, 1966. The revised District Program and Work Plan was signed by the Chairman at our August 1966 meeting.

The annual inspection of completed structures in the Big Wyacondah Watershed was held on August 31. The Commissioners, Davis County Board of Supervisors and a representative of the Iowa Natural Resources Council made this inspection trip. On August 25 a bid opening was held on Big Wyacondah, Part 8 and the bid was rejected. Another bid-opening was held September 29 and the contract was let.

At the September meeting

plans were begun for the annual meeting. The date of November 15 was set and an election was held in connection with this meeting. Lionel Herten attended the Agri-Rama day at Jefferson, Iowa on September 9. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baughman, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Botts, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Heady attended the commissioners conference at Cedar Rapids for three days - September 18, 19 and 20.

Roger Fry, local farmer, attended the October meeting and made application for the job opening of State Aid. He was hired and started work for the district October 12, 1966. Lyall Mitchell, Area Conservationist, was present at this meeting and informed us that our entry in Division III for new cooperators (which was the William Sloan farm) was the Region 9 winner of the Iowa Conservation Awards contest.

The annual Cooperator's banquet was held at the Bloomfield Methodist Church November 15, 1966 at 7 p.m. The commissioner election was held the same evening. Charles Chickering was elected to replace Harold Baughman, whose term was expiring. Bob Nance, WMT Farm Director from Cedar Rapids, was the banquet speaker and talked on the subject "Who Needs a Farmer?" Certificates were presented to three farmers who are doing a good job of conservation farming. They were Raymond Townsend, Glen O. Smith and Orlo Brake and son, Dee.

At the December meeting Sam Botts, Jr. was chosen chairman of the district. Harold Baughman agreed to continue as an assistant commissioner to help with the district program. Verle Arnold reported that construction of a building for all federal agencies in Davis County had begun. The contractor hopes to have it completed by April 1, 1967. A motion was made to change our regular meeting time from Wednesday evening to the first Tuesday evening of the month at 7:30 p.m. It was agreed that this would be done. The possibility of publishing our annual report in the local newspaper was discussed. After talking to the editor, it was decided to publish the 1966 report.

Soil Plans Written

BASIC PLANS WRITTEN

(Fiscal Year)

July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966

Basic Soil and Water Conservation Plans were developed with the following landowners during the fiscal year 1965-66:

C. C. Armstrong, P. G. Spurgeon, Harold Hawk, Robert Brown, Howard Griggs, Madison Bogert, Roy Bohi, William Sloan, R. M. Gandy, Gerald Miller, Lionel Evans, Orville Rupe, LaVern Brice, Russell Forsythe, Elmer Hopkins, Walter Cope, Jackie Henderson, H. L. Davis, Mrs. Eunice Tucker, Carroll Lannan, Glen Sprouse, Alva Sprouse, Ed Woolms, Carl Rominger, Harry Hooper, Dwight L. White and Raymond Waller, Jr.

Also Olin Laws, Darrell Williams, Oliver O'Brian, Raymond Curtis, Raymond Townsend, Dwight Proctor, Mervin McDelderry, Taylor McDelderry, William Bailey, Richard Davis, William Koonsman, Harvey Downing, Max Leyda, William Gibson, Goldie Swaim, Carl Liles, Hershel Proctor, Esta West, Jessie Jones, Charles Tucker, William Sherman, L. G. Gilstrap, Lloyd Wheeler, Muri McClure, Dewey Grinstead and Phillip Remmark.

Also Albert Sulentic, R. S. Randolph, Jack Greiner, Don Chickering, Mrs. E. M. Hale, John Liles, Jr. Claude Morrow, W. W. Balmer, Glen Perry, Dale Downing, Paul Hopkins, Clarence Ebert, Crandon Paper Co., Max Brown, James Padgett, Allen Orman, Dean Pitman, Russell Hopkins, Ed Amstutz, Esco Horn, Max Proctor, Richard McClure, R. J. Teubel, Carl Beeler, Verlin Harris, and Paul Marlow.

REVISED PLANS WRITTEN

(Fiscal Year)

July 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966

Basic Soil and Water Conservation Plans revised during the fiscal year were developed for the following landowners:

P. W. and Dean Spilman, Glen Smith, Robert Singley, O. J. Scott, Mabel Laughridge, Don Carrier, C. G. Irelan, Norman Hansen, Charles Chickering, Harold Utt and Joe Stewart.

TREES PLANTED—

Bruce Plum, District Forester

State Conservation Commission

Tree planting was high on the list of forestry accomplishments in Davis Soil Conservation District in 1966. There were approximately 73,000 trees planted.

22 Watershed Structures Finished by End of 1968

BIG WYACONDAM WATERSHED

Twenty-two of the proposed structures for the watershed had been completed by the end of the 1966 year. Pond, surface areas of the structures completed to date range in size from 2 to 11.4 acres. Completed structures are located on the farms of Sam Bradford, Wilson Hartman, Robert Brown, Edward Burchett, Richard McClurg, Deverre Benge, Mildred Baker, Albert Whisler, L. A. Shelton, Frank Warren, O. J. Scott, Dale Dixon, Aura Barnett, Frank Shively, Dean Grim, Walter Grim, Mrs. Phyllis Fresh, Mrs. Bessie Beggs, Carl Games and Raymond and John Orwig.

Total structural measures proposed in the Big Wyacondah Watershed include 2 flood water retarding structures, 57 grade stabilization structures, 3.9 miles of stream channel improvement and 9.4 acres of structural waterways.

CARTER CREEK WATERSHED

At a special meeting February 2, 1966, the Carter Creek Watershed directors, County Supervisors, Commissioners met with representatives Leonard Larson and Loran Elliott of the State Soil Conservation Service Watershed planning party. The group was unanimous in their decision to ask for the development of a work plan for Carter Creek Watershed.

In the preliminary report made for the watershed, to obtain the desired flood protection, one large flood water retarding structure, several smaller flood water retarding structures, several grade stabilization structures and channel improvement

work on the main channel of Carter Creek would be needed.

Authority to develop the work plan on Carter Creek was received in May 1966. Some survey work toward developing the work plan was done during the summer of 1966.

The City of Bloomfield has expressed possible interest in using the proposed major flood water retarding structure as an auxiliary water supply. The Davis County Conservation Board has discussed the possibility of development of the site as a public recreation area.

Representatives of the State Conservation Commission have reviewed the site. The Conservation Commission has cooperated with local county conservation boards on similar projects in southwestern Iowa. Plans are being made to meet with the Commission to discuss their possible cooperation in developing a public recreational project in connection with this watershed.

Based on preliminary estimates, a multipurpose structure at this site that would provide flood control benefits, a municipal water supply and public recreational facilities would require a permanent pool of about 280 surface acres.

The Davis County Soil Conservation District Commissioners realize that this is a project that will require several years to develop and complete. We realized that the cooperation of many groups and individuals in Davis County will be required to get the additional land treatment practices such as contouring, waterways, terraces, etc. installed. Easements for much

of the proposed work would have to be given by the local people.

We further believe that the development of this watershed would be in the best interests of everyone in Davis County, and we urge that all people living in Davis County Watershed and in Davis County work together to develop and install this proposed project as rapidly as possible.

Additional work toward the development of the work plan is scheduled for 1967.

NORTH WYACONDAM WATERSHED

January 27, 1966 the Davis County Commissioners, Supervisors and local SCS personnel met with representatives from Scotland County at Memphis, Mo. to discuss the development of a work plan for North Wyacondah Watershed. It was the decision of the group to ask for development of a work plan realizing the proposed large flood detention structure might create maintenance and easement problems.

Another meeting of the same group met at the Bloomfield SCS Office April 20, 1966 to determine who would be responsible for maintenance of the A-3 flood detention structure in the North Wyacondah Watershed. No decision was reached, but further study is being given to the problem. It was the general opinion of the group that it would be necessary to find a sponsor for the large structure—either public or private.

At present, preliminary investigations have been made, but no further reports have been received at the close of 1966.