

Soil Conservation panel candidates on the ballot

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The Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District Commission does not make many headlines, but it does spend state money, and voters have the right to decide who makes those decisions.

Although the five-member commission is elected, it sometimes seems to get lost in the election shuffle. Some commissioners even worry that many people will not be able to find them on the ballot. But four candidates will be there. Black Hawk County voters will be asked to select two.

The commission is responsible for administering \$30,441 in state money through the Iowa Financial Incentive Program for permanent conservation structures like terraces in Black Hawk County. It also is responsible for administering money for the new Resource Enhancement and Protection Program, including \$27,280 from the REAP Practices Fund and \$10,415 from the REAP Forestry and Native Grass Fund.

The state shares the cost of conservation projects with the qualified landowners who apply to participate.

The commission also is responsible for enforcing conservation programs and evaluating soil loss complaints. It has the authority to file an administrative order against a landowner. Commission Chairman Willis Segebarth said the commission has filed several such orders in the past, but those complaints never went any further because the landowners cooperated to solve the problem.

Here are profiles of the candidates seeking election to six-year terms on the commission:

WILLIS A. SEGEBARTH, 68

Occupation: Segebarth and his



Segebarth

wife own a 185-acre farm three miles north-west of Dunkerton in Bennington Township that he farms with his son, Scott.

Back-ground: Chairman of

the commission. He has served on the commission for 12 years. He practices minimum tillage and has nearly one mile of terraces on his farm.

Why run? "I feel very strongly about protecting the land. Soil erosion control is a key to solving our water quality problems."

DEAN WERNER, 61

Occupation: Werner and his wife live on the same homestead in Eagle Township where Werner was born. They raise corn, beans and hogs on 730 acres with the help of their three sons.

Background: Werner uses contours and grass headlands in his farm operation. When they aren't busy farming, the Werners travel and sightsee in the West.

Why run? "I was asked to run and I agreed. I'd hate to make any statements before I've had a chance to study the issues more."

JANEEN A. SEEHASE, 44

Occupation: Seehase, a lifelong



Seehase

resident of Black Hawk County, and her husband own and operate a 154-acre farm near Jesup in Barclay Township.

Back-ground: She is an incum-

bent commissioner, and has served as commission chairwoman. She is a member of many organizations.

Why run? "I have been a commissioner for six years, and we are at an important point with these new laws going into effect. I think my experience will be a great benefit. We're hoping to conserve the soil and water. We're in the middle of our grand five-year plan, and we will want to get a lot of public input."

H. ARNOLD HARTING, 57

Occupation: Harting and his



Harting

wife have been farming for 37 years in Spring Creek Township. They raise corn, beans and livestock on their 400 acres and also farm some rented land.

Back-ground: Arnold has served on the school board, county Extension board and ASC Committee. He is active in his church. He practices contour farming and is looking into strip farming.

Why run? "I'm concerned about conserving our water and soil. I think there are some things that need to be done, like setting up contours, and strip farming. We can do a lot if we just put some of these things into practice."