

Clarke County Soil Conservation District



Keith Blunt was the grand prize winner in the sixth grade poster contest sponsored by the Clarke County Soil Conservation District. He received a \$15 check and a purple ribbon for his efforts. Five second place winners received \$5.00 each and a blue ribbon. They were: Tony James, Ron Flemming, Scott Schaff, Tammy Ross and Mike Mallage. Pictured from left to right are: Scott Schaff, Tony James, Ron Flemming and Keith Blunt.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

Keith A. Ticknor District Conservationist
T. J. Laing Conservation Technician

AREA PERSONNEL

Erwin O. Aust, Shenandoah Area Conservationist
Richard W. Birchmier, Shenandoah Civil Engineer
Laurence L. Dorgan, Creston, RC&D Civil Engineer
Robert D. Loudon, Creston RC&D Soil Conservationist and
Acting RC&D Project Coordinator
Marjorie E. Meyer, Shenandoah Area Clerk

STATE EMPLOYEE

Mrs. Linda Hodge, Assigned 5-4-77 Clerk, Secretary, Treasurer
Mrs. Arlene Garner, Resigned 5-31-77 Clerk, Secretary, Treasurer

CETA EMPLOYEES

Greg Kent Soil Conservation Aid
James Wilson Soil Conservation Aid
Jerry Parsons (Transfer to Leon) Soil Conservation Aid
Barbara Sunda (Returned to College) Soil Conservation Aid

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Glen Kimes Chairman
Adrian Fuller Assistant Chairman
Philip Henrichs Member
Richard Gonseth Member
Merrill Thornton Member

ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONERS

Doyce Miller Assistant Commissioner
Mrs. Betty Webb Assistant Commissioner
Fred Wood Assistant Commissioner

COMMITTEES

Education and Youth Board Richard Gonseth
Annual Report Glen Kimes
Fair Booth Richard Gonseth
Soil Stewardship Adrian Fuller
Goodyear Adrian Fuller
Speech Contest Doyce Miller
Conservation Awards Contest Philip Henrichs
Cooperator Letter Merrill Thornton
Poster Contest Betty Webb
Workbook Adrian Fuller

House File 210 Establishes Commission

Land use planning and the preservation of land for agriculture got a boost this year when the state legislature passed House File 210. This bill required the establishment of a nine-member temporary Land Preservation Policy Commission in each county in the state.

The policy commission was made up of three Soil Conservation District Commissioners, three County Board of Supervisors, two City Council members from the largest city in the county and one City Council member to represent the other towns in the county. In Clarke County those appointed to the policy commission are: Glen Kimes, Adrian Fuller, Richard Gonseth, Richard Hill, Leland Hunt, Orval Coffman, Jack Jeffreys, Gerald Edwards, and Robert Wright.

The policy commission has the responsibility of gathering public information and feelings on land use planning. Then with the information obtained from the public, the policy commission will make a county recommendation to the state. The state land preservation commission will, in turn, make recommendations to the legislature by March 1979. Eventually a statewide land use policy will be adopted.

The Clarke County Soil Conservation District believes that the preservation of prime agricultural land for the production of food is very important. They also feel that land use planning should begin on the local level and that all citizens should get involved in this decision making process.



District Activities

The Clarke County District Commissioners held 12 regular monthly meetings during the fiscal year 1976-77.

JULY Doyce Miller and Fred Wood were reappointed as Assistant Commissioners.

Doyce Miller, attended Upper Mississippi Regional meeting in Traverse City, Michigan.

District Clerk attended training meeting.

AUGUST The District's annual work plan was reviewed and approved by the Commissioners at their regular meeting.

SEPTEMBER Betty Webb was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner.

Richard Gonseth was nominated as Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioner. Gonseth was entered in the Regional contest.

Soil and Water Conservation Week was observed September 12-18.

OCTOBER Committees were appointed to serve this year as follows: Education and Youth Board, Richard Gonseth; Annual Report, Glen Kimes; Fair Booth, Richard Gonseth; Soil Stewardship, Adrian Fuller; Goodyear, Adrian Fuller; Speech Contest, Doyce Miller; Conservation Award Contest, Philip Henrichs; Cooperator letter, Merrill Thornton; Poster Contest, Betty Webb.

NOVEMBER Richard Gonseth, Glen Kimes, Philip Henrichs, Adrian Fuller attended the Regional 8 meeting at Creston.

Linda Green, 10 grade student at 1-35 won first prize for Speech Contest.

DECEMBER Doyce Miller, Richard Gonseth, Keith Ticknor and Youth board members, Cathy Carroll and Kathy Henrichs attended the state convention in Des Moines. Cathy Carroll and Kathy Henrichs were elected Vice-President and Secretary of Youth Commissioners.

Mrs. Davidson, Murray Science teacher was selected to be entered in the Allis Chalmers Award Program.

Adrian Fuller was appointed to represent the Commissioners on the RC&D Board.

Payment of \$16.00 for dues in Soil Conservation Society of America was authorized by the Commissioners.

JANUARY The commissioners authorized payment of \$200 for National Association of Conservation District dues.

The Commissioners authorized payment of \$100 for Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District.

The Commissioners authorized payment of \$40 for Osceola Chamber of Commerce dues.

Commissioners attended annual short course at Ames.

FEBRUARY Belinda Wickham and Laura Lewis attended the NACD convention in Atlanta, Georgia and reported on their experiences at the February meeting.

District Annual Report was published, February 3, 1977.

MARCH Betty Webb, Adrian Fuller and Keith Ticknor attended the Spring Regional 8 meeting.

Arlene Garner resigned as District Clerk, Linda Hodge was hired.

APRIL Adrian Fuller distributed to schools and churches for Soil Stewardship Week.

JUNE Poster Contest received 24 posters, Youth Board members judged them. Posters were displayed at the County Fair.

Let \$132,000 Contract For R C & D Project

East Lake Park dam reconstruction and recreation development project was approved and construction on rebuilding the dam has started. The \$132,000 contract on the dam construction is expected to be completed in the spring 1978. RC&D funds will pay 50 percent of the cost of the project with the balance being paid by County Conservation Board funds.

Installation of recreation facilities, planned in the RC&D project, will begin within two or three years when the local funds become available.

A grant for construction of a new water tower in the Osceola industrial park also received approval. Work on this project is expected to start in 1978. Recent industrial growth in Osceola and increased water usage has made the need for an additional water tower necessary.

The critical water shortage in Osceola required accurate information on the water volume in West Lake so that the water board could make decisions on present and future water needs. A detailed survey of the lake was conducted by SCS personnel with all funds provided by RC&D.

Rural water, a long term and No. 1 priority RC&D project, has made good progress during the past year. Elva Wolfe was hired by the Clarke County Rural Water Board to complete the sign survey. Farmers Home Administration required that 100 percent of all potential rural water users be contacted and given the chance to sign up for rural water or sign a statement indicating that they are not interested. Elva Wolfe has completed the survey with the exception of sending letters to absentee landowners.

The RC&D has brought many thousands of dollars worth of development to Clarke County.

Youth Board Attends Two Conferences

The Clarke County Youth Conservation Board had the opportunity to participate in state and national conservation activities this year. On the state level, Cathy Carroll and Kathy Henrichs helped to organize a board of Youth Commissioners. Cathy Carroll was elected Vice-president and Kathy Henrichs was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Nationally, Laura Lewis and Belinda Wickham attended the National Association of Conservation Districts convention in Atlanta, Georgia. They attended various conservation educational activities and participated in discussion forums.

Moorey for these trips was partly raised by the youth board with the balance provided by local business and the Soil Conservation District.



Gary Eckels receives a Windbreak Award Certificate from Adrian Fuller, Commissioner of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District. The award, presented by the Isaac Walton League, is in recognition of an exemplary windbreak planting program that is helping to conserve America's natural resources.



District Accomplishments

Activity	Fiscal 1977
District Cooperators	59
Landowners Assisted	336
Landowners Applying Practices	201
Conservation Plans Prepared	41
Resource Studies	4
Critical Area Planting	37 Ac.
Ponds and Erosion Control Dams	59 No.
Grassed Waterway	38 Ac.
Pasture Planting	1,320 Ac.
Surface Drainage	3,250 ft.
Parallel Terraces	20,700 ft.
Subsurface Drain (Tile)	29,800 ft.
Conservation Tillage	436 Ac.
Sediment and Water Control Basin	4 No.
Cropland Adequately Treated	1,180 Ac.
Pastureland Adequately Treated	1,730 Ac.

District Operates With 3 Budgets

1976-77 Allocation	I M Budget	1976-77 Allocation	II M Budget
Commissioners Expenses	\$618.76	Gross Salary	\$9,064.87
Office Supplies	851.37	Districts Share FICA	\$29.70
Printing	150.00	Districts Share IPERS	431.48
Material for Demonstration	57.58	Health Insurance Credit	180.00
Office Expenses	92.39	Life Insurance Credit	33.00
Release to State	84.90	Disability Insurance	45.13
Total Expended	\$1,855.00	Travel	9.00
		Equipment	0.00
		Release to State	90.77
		Total Expended	\$10,374.73

District Fund

The District Fund is not appropriated, so we have to depend on donations from our District Cooperators, businessmen and friends.

The District fund is used to pay our State and National dues, membership in the Soil Conservation Society of America, membership in local organizations, educational materials for schools and other expenses which cannot be taken from State funds.

The balance on hand July 1, 1976 was \$980.79, receipts were \$1,387.31, expenditures were \$1,482.14, balance on hand June 30, 1977 was \$585.96.

Water Quality Program Is Underway

208 water quality planning, a new term in 1976, is familiar to most of us now because a great deal has been written and spoken about the subject through the news media. But few of us understand or have taken the time to find out exactly what 208 water quality planning is.

The 208 program was established to carry out the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Public Law 92-500, that was passed by Congress. The law calls for restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's streams. The principle goals of section 208 of the law are: (1) eliminate discharge of pollutants into navigable waters by 1985; (2) attain swimmable and fishable waters by 1983; (3) prohibit discharge of toxic amounts of toxic pollutants; and (4) encourage public participation in the development, revision and enforcement of the plan.

Iowa is in the planning process now to develop and implement water quality management plans. This process coordinates efforts between local, regional and state governments to identify water quality needs, determine the most feasible solutions and to implement these solutions. A separate plan is being developed for each of six major river basin areas in the state. Clarke County has water draining into both the Des Moines River basin and the Southern Iowa River basin.

Public input into the plans is especially important. For this reason, each county has established a county Resource Coordinating Committee. Richard Gonseth is the Chairman of the Clarke CRCC and Melvin Goeldner is Secretary. The County Resource Coordinating Committee selected Hugh Carroll to represent Clarke County in the Des Moines River basin area and Richard Hill to represent them in the Southern Iowa River basin area.

White Breast

Plan Continues

Watershed planning in the White Breast watershed is continuing at what seems to be a painfully slow pace at times. But planning under the present methods will ensure that all benefits, interests and effects will be considered and a plan developed that will be satisfactory to those involved.

Landowners in the flood plane of White Breast will testify that they are damaged by flooding every year, even during the dry years. Rains, even moderate rains, runoff quickly from the steep uplands causing rapid flooding in the bottomland. Because of this, the primary objective of the watershed project is to build a series of water impoundment dams in the upland to reduce flooding and provide gully control.

The Long Creek watershed was organized for the same purposes as for White Breast. It is still on the priority waiting list and until it is chosen for a priority, planning cannot start.



The severe drought of 1977 raised considerable concern for the dwindling water supply in West Lake. In order for the Osceola City Water Board to make accurate immediate and future decisions affecting the water supply, they needed factual information about the water volume of the lake. The water board requested, through RC&D, to have the Soil Conservation Service survey the lake. Ralph Squier (on the boat), Elmer Vanderpluyum, Sue Musgrove and Jack Langford are preparing one of the survey points. Myron Ostebee and Keith Ticknor also assisted with the survey.



Conservation tillage, a process of planting crops without removing or covering the previous crop residue, which will protect the soil from erosion. Here, Russell Houston uses a Buffalo till planter to plant Soybeans. Approximately 3,000 - 4,000 lbs. of crop residue remains on the soil surface after planting is completed.