

2003-2004 FINANCIAL REPORT OF STATE FUNDS

These funds, plus secretary assistance, are provided by the State of Iowa and allocated to the District by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

IM 2003-2004 BUDGET

2003-2004 Allocation	\$ 1,500.00
Commissioner's expenses	50.00
Office supplies, printing, dues	1,450.00
Total expenditures	\$ 1,500.00

IIIM State Cost Share Budgets

2003-2004 Allocation	\$12,936.00
Cost share obligations	5,751.13
Balance unobligated	\$ 7,184.87

2002-2003 Allocation	\$16,340.50
Cost share obligations	7,511.75
Recalled by Division	8,828.75
Balance	-0-

2001-2002 Allocation	\$23,562.76
Cost share obligations	17,177.76
Balance	\$ 6,385.00

REAP PRACTICES COST SHARE

2004 Allocation	\$ 7,968.00
Tree Planting and Farmstead	
Windbreaks	7,633.16
Balance	\$ 334.84

REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES COST SHARE

2004 Allocation	\$ 1,992.00
Timber stand improvements	1,200.00
Balance	\$ 792.00

BUFFER INITIATIVE OPTION FUND

2003 Funds Spent for ponds	\$ 500.00
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***Congratulations to
LOIS RIEGER***

**The Black Hawk SWCD
Cooperator of the Year**

WELCOME to SHAFFER RIDGEWAY

Shaffer began work as the new District Conservationist in the Waterloo Field Office in March 2004. He had previously worked as a Soil Conservationist in the Muscatine Field Office. Stop in to meet Shaffer when you have an opportunity.

Black Hawk SWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. Black Hawk SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

2003-2004 DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

January/February:

- Marilyn Schuchhardt elected Chair, Jon Mixdorf elected Vice Chair, John Hoffman elected co-Treasurer, Char White elected co-Treasurer/Secretary of the District.
- Commissioner's training was attended in Anamosa on January 15th.
- Curt Hoeft, Cedar Valley RC&D Coordinator, explained the makeup of the RC&D Board.
- EQIP rules were received by the District.
- Hawkeye Farm Show February 26-28, 2004.
- Commissioners met with Board of Supervisors requesting FY04 allocation.

March/April:

- Spring Regional Meeting attended by commissioners on March 26th in Independence.
- Commissioners approved involvement in Wolf Creek Watershed with Grundy County SWCD.
- Commissioners agreed to share one-half of expense for a high school student involved in the 4-H "Touch the Land 2003."
- Mary Skopec, DNR Representative, spoke to commissioners about Iowa water monitoring.
- Commissioners Schuchhardt and Hoffman judged the poster contest, sponsored by Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and Grinnell Mutual Insurance.

May/June:

- Jill Lankford, UNI Resource Coordinator, presented information about the STEP (Sustainable Tourism and Environment Program), a service learning program for students to work on various projects.
- The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) was adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

July/August:

- The Wolf Creek Tillage Survey was completed and sent to Grundy County.
- Commissioners met with the Board of Supervisors on August 19th regarding RC&D backing.
- Commissioners Schuchhardt and Fish conducted the annual buffer strip status review with District employee, Larry Weigle.

September/October:

- The annual Conservation Tour, co-sponsored by the District and Basic Materials Corp., was held on October 5th at the site of the County Home.

November/December:

- Commissioners Schuchhardt, Mixdorf, Hoffman and Lundy attended the 57th Annual Conference for SWCD Commissioners in Marshalltown on November 19th and 20th.
- Leon Mosley spoke to commissioners concerning the newly-formed Urban 4-H Program.
- Marcy Seavey presented information regarding the GLOBE Project, which is a study of weather and environment.
- Commissioner Schuchhardt and Char White presented the CDI/Grinnell Mutual Insurance award to poster contest winner, Jordan Ludwig.
- Locally Led Meeting was held on December 22nd

EQIP FUNDS AVAILABLE

Area landowners wanting to make conservation improvements on their land still have time to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds. Approximately \$100,000.00 remains in the fund in Black Hawk County to build terraces, grass waterways, buffer strips, and other conservation practices.

EQIP was created in the 1995 Farm Bill to improve and sustain natural resources - soil, water, air, plants and animals. Landowners/operators can build buffer strips near streams and rivers to improve water quality by naturally filtering out contaminants. Grass waterways prevent topsoil from getting into the water through the use of vegetation.

Landowners and operators can apply for cost-share assistance through the EQIP Program at the Natural Resources Conservation office, located at 3216 Thistledown Drive, Waterloo, IA. **Now is the time to let us know if you have an interest in EQIP cost share!**

CONSERVATION FIELD DAY

The annual Earth Science/Conservation Field Day is scheduled for Sunday, October 3, 2004. The event, co-hosted by the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District and Basic Materials Corp, will take place at the south quarry on South Dysart Road in Waterloo from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Emphasis is on soil and water conservation and participants will have the opportunity to learn about soil management and conservation projects.

Thank you to the following 2004 Black Hawk County Conservation Supporters

Peterson Construction Inc.
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Dale & Dianne Phelps
Neal & Helen George
Robert & Beverly Pugh

If you would like to make a donation to the Black Hawk SWCD, please complete the enclosed form and return it to our office.

Black Hawk Soil & Water
Conservation District
3216 Thistledown Drive
Waterloo, IA 50702

June 2004



30 YEARS OF COST SHARE AND IOWA'S WATER QUALITY

There has been a lot of attention leveled at water quality in recent years. A lot can be learned by studying our lakes, rivers and streams; but in order to truly understand what is happening with water quality in a state like Iowa, it is necessary to turn around and look upstream. What happens on the landscape has a huge impact on the water downhill from that landscape.

Of the 157 impaired waters in Iowa on the 1998 list, well over half were included because of sediment problems. Keeping the soil where it belongs is not new to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). In fact, it has been the focus of Districts for well over 60 years.

Over its lifetime, the State of Iowa has invested over \$150 million in financial incentives to assist landowners to protect their farms from the damaging effects of soil erosion. Those same landowners have invested an equal amount from their own pocketbooks, stimulating tremendous economic activity in local communities throughout Iowa.

The Division of Soil Conservation estimates that we have stopped over 18 million tons of fertile topsoil from escaping our fields in that 30 year timeframe. That is enough precious black soil to provide a six-inch layer for over 20,000 football fields. Put another way, the soil saved in the lifetime of the Financial Incentives Program would cover all four lanes of an interstate highway stretching from California to New York. Of course, a good share of the lost soil may have found its way to our state's waterways, so in effect, SWCDs have been a partner in improving water quality for years.

Improving water quality isn't difficult to understand. Placing waterways, terraces, grade stabilization structures, and diversions in the right locations, save soil and preserve water quality. Reducing tillage and leaving crop residue on the soil surface improve soil quality and reduce the movement of soil as well. In the end, soil conservation work means that less sediment makes its way to the water.

We can't go wrong. By investing in soil conservation, we get the best of both worlds: we improve the productivity of our farms and keep sediment out of our water. That's a win-win scenario where everyone benefits.

-Bill Ehm, Director of Division of Soil Conservation

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