

A N N U A L W O R K P L A N

M O N R O E C O U N T Y

S O I L A N D W A T E R C O N S E R V A T I O N D I S T R I C T

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HISTORY ON MONROE COUNTY

In 1845 the County was organized as Monroe County. It was named after the 5th President of the United States. Monroe County is in the South-Central part of Iowa. It has an area of 278,400 acres, or 435 square miles. Albia, the County seat, is in the central part of the county. It is about 60 miles southeast of Des Moines.

Prior to the Civil War, the prime industry in the county was agriculture. After the first railroad entered the county in the late 1860's, coal mining emerged as an important new industry. By 1900, the county was supplying Iowa's major railroads their operating coal. In 1910, there were 7 railroads and 39 mining camps and company towns in the county. The largest mining camps was Buxton, which at one time had a population of nearly 8,000. After the middle of the 1930's coal mining activities declined steadily. Little or no trace of the mining camps remains. An estimated 20 percent of the coal under Monroe County has been mined.

Much of the acreage in the county is farmland which is used mainly for corn, soybeans, oats, hay and pasture. A small acreage is used as woodland, corn and soybeans are the chief grain crops. Raising livestock, principally hogs and cow-calf herds, is an important enterprise.

In the fall of 1943 the Monroe County Farm Bureau passed a resolution recommending the facilities of that organization cooperating with other local groups and individuals be offered to help organize the Monroe County Soil Conservation District. On May 19, 1944 the first meeting was held by the Board of Commissioners to organize and to discuss the developing a Work Plan. For the last 50 years the Board of Commissioners has met and developed an annual work plan to direct the district in obtaining conservation goals established by the district. The Annual Work Plan for 1993 is as follows.

1994 District Commissioners

Mervin McDanel
John A. Lawless
Albert Tangie
Susan Ammons
Bob Henderson

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

1994 Assistant Commissioners

Marvin Wirtjes
Helen Sinclair
Mildred Gladfelder

Bob McGinnis
Pat Findley
Bob Putnam

WORK ACTIVITIES FY 94

OBJECTIVE I Promote Soil and Water Conservation in all Landuse Areas.

<u>WORK ACTIVITY</u>	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>ACTIVITY COORDINATOR</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
1. Sponsor in-county Max Program informational meetings.	1 meeting SCS	Commissioners Extension Chemical Reps.	Feb. 94
2. Sponsor in-county No-Till Tour.	1 Tour	Commissioners Extension SCS Chemical Reps.	June 94
3. Sponsor tour of warm-season grasses used in livestock operation.	1 Tour	Commissioners Extension SCS	June 94
4. Hold a legislator's breakfast/luncheon to acquaint political leaders with local needs and how programs work locally.	1 Meeting	Commissioners Extension SCS	Oct. 94 Nov. 94
5. Bi-annually publicize in Newspaper and KLBA Radio Station the availability of State Cost-Share funds.	2 Articles 2 Radio Spots	Secretary	Jan. 94 July 94
6. Assist RC&D promotion of Wetland Reserve program and Wetland Restoration.	1 Project 2 Articles Contact interested producers. Prepare mailing list.	Commissioners SCS RC&D Secretary	June 94
7. Organize a Banker, FmHA, Farm Manager, Ag dealers informational meeting of implications of 95 farm bill.	1 Meeting	SCS Commissioners	Dec. 94

<u>WORK ACTIVITY</u>	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>ACTIVITY COORDINATOR</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
8. Promote Max Program through news articles.	3 Articles	SCS Commissioners	Mar. 94 May 94 Aug. 94
9. Conduct information meeting for CRP with landowners concerning alternatives for land coming out of CRP Contract.	1 Meeting	Commissioners SCS	Dec. 94

OBJECTIVE II Better Inform the Public on the Function and Purpose of the SWCD through education and development of sound programs and activities.

<u>WORK ACTIVITY</u>	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>ACTIVITY COORDINATOR</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
1. Meet with Educational Committee to discuss needs of each school and the help available from SWCD.	1 Meeting	Commissioners	Mar. 94 Apr. 94
2. Contact Vo-Ag instructor for promotion of Soil & Water Conservation education.	1 Meeting	Commissioners SCS	Mar. 94
3. Sponsor Poster Contest for Albia Schools	7th Grade Art Classes	Commissioners	Jan. 94
4. Give presentations to local Civic Groups as requested on Conservation and Water Quality measures. Offer assistance to all groups.	1 Letter to All Groups	Commissioners SCS	May 94
5. Actively participate in Goodyear Award Program.	Enter Contest as District	Commissioners Secretary	Jan. 94
6. Actively participate in Deutz-Allis Award program.	Enter Contest as District	Commissioners Secretary	Jan. 94
7. Actively participate in Izaak Walton Windbreak award program.	Enter Contest as District	Commissioners Secretary	June 94

<u>WORK ACTIVITY</u>	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>ACTIVITY COORDINATOR</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
8. Continue Commissioners training program by attending training sessions.	Attend Shortcourse	Commissioners SCS	Jan. 94
9. Continue Commissioners training program by attending training sessions.	Attend Annual Conference	Commissioners	Sept. 94
10 Trees for threes	All 3rd grades	Commissioners	April 94
11 Promote 50th Anniversary of Monroe Co. SWCDC	Conduct official observance & develop inf.	Commissioners SCS	April 94

OBJECTIVE III Implement the Districts Land Treatment Programs to their potential.

<u>WORK ACTIVITY</u>	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>ACTIVITY COORDINATOR</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
1. Contact Lake Miami Landowners and offer 75% Cost-Share Assistance.	1 Letter	Secretary	Feb. 94
2. Meet with County Board of Supervisors and County Engineer to review and identify Road Structure Sites and funding for FY 93.	1 Meeting	Commissioners SCS	Feb. 94
3. Develop list of potential T.S.I. Woodland owners and keep SCS updated with Forest Management material.	1 Meeting	District Forester SCS	Oct. 94
4. Review & Approve FSA Soil Conservation Plans as needed.	All Plans	Commissioners	Monthly

<u>WORK ACTIVITY</u>	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>ACTIVITY COORDINATOR</u>	<u>WHEN</u>
5. Work with landowners in Soap Creek Watershed to obtain easements for flood control structures.	At least 2 priorities ahead of schedule	Commissioners	Jan. 94
6. Apply for authority to use REAP funding for County related Ag Waste facilities.	Letter apply	Commissioners	Mar. 94