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DMC SWCD
COMMISSIONERS-
Des Moines County Soil
and Water Conservation
District Commissioners
and Assistants. Seated:
Frank Hedges and
Myranell Dockendorff;
standing: Arlyn
Muselman, Brad Weiss,
Don Lounsbury, Todd
Heckenberg and Jeff
Bergman.



Personnel

COMMISSIONERS

Jeff S. Bergman, Chairperson; Todd D. Heckenberg, Vice-Chairperson; Frank C. Hedges, W. Donald Lounsbury, Myranell Dockendorff

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Arlyn L. Muselman
Bradley J. Weiss

OFFICE STAFF

J.B. Martin Jr., District Conservator (January-May)
Terrance Rudolph, District Conservator (started July)
Debra A. Nace, Soil Conservator (started July)
John J. Horan, Soil Conservation Technician
Chris D. Hodge, Soil Conservation Aide
Jamie L. Grimes, State & District Secretary

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)

Bruce W. Trautman, Area Conservator
Shawn A. Dettmann, Area Resource Conservator
Mark R. LaVan, Resource Soil Scientist
Sue M. Long, Civil Engineer
Nicholas R. Schaefer, Civil Engineering Technician
Kerry K. Richards, Computer Specialist
Suzette D. Betts, Administrative Management Assistant
Darlene G. Lauder, Area Secretary

Revolving Funds Account

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD regular checking account from July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 1999	\$2,429.07
Receipts:	
Miscellaneous Sales	19.00
Checking Account Interest	48.21
Brochure Commission	69.39
Donations	2,678.00
Dues Reimbursement	575.00
IM Reimbursement	2,961.19
EPA Grant	7,497.64
EPA Grant Administration	432.00
IDALS Watershed Grant	3,423.41
TOTAL	\$17,763.84
Disbursements:	
Postage	781.00
Checking Account Service Charge	19.75
Office Supplies & Expenses	313.61
Scholarships	710.00
Boat & Expenses	429.24
Annual Tour Expense	45.69
Awards & Gifts	435.11
Commissioner Travel	666.65
Meeting Expense	21.81
Printing Charges	224.92
Plat Books	60.00
Dues	1,150.00
Subscriptions/Memberships	181.00
Environment Donation	25.00
Film Processing	39.20
IDALS Watershed Grant	3,423.41
EPA Grant	7,497.64
TOTAL	\$16,024.23
Balance on hand June 30, 2000	\$4,168.68

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD special projects/payroll account from July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000.

Balance on Hand, July 1, 1999	\$0.00
Receipts:	
Account Interest	41.82
Peasants Forever	9,900.00
Co-op Funds	15,989.60
TOTAL	\$25,931.42
Expenditures:	
Workman's Comp Insurance	293.50
First Bank - Federal Tax	2,856.01
State of Iowa - Tax	259.00
IPERS	985.75
Unemployment Insurance	15.71
Chris Hodge - Payroll	8,537.05
TOTAL	\$12,947.02
Balance on hand, June 30, 2000	\$12,984.40

Des Moines SWCD Budget

July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000 Expenditures of funds provided by State of Iowa for Commissioner's Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP), Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) and Public Owned Lakes (POL).

1M Budget & Operating Expenses	
Allocation	\$3,000.00
Commissioners Expense	672.65
Office Expense	1,527.43
Printing	224.92
CDI Dues	300.00
NACD Dues	275.00
Balance	-0-
REAP Practices 1999-00	
Allocation	\$6,451.00
Timber Stand Improvement, 18.9 ac completed	600.00
Timber Stand Improvement, incomplete	5,700.00
Field Windbreak, 6 ac complete	151.00
Balance	-0-
REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 1999-00	
Allocation	\$4,404.50
Riparian Buffer, 20.4 ac completed	1,892.00
Tree Planting, incomplete	1,095.00
Timber Stand Improvement, incomplete	1,417.50
Balance	-0-
REAP Practices 1999-99	
Allocation	\$5,464.32
Tree Planting, 6.3 ac completed	2,048.07
Timber Stand Improvement, 63.5 ac completed	3,416.25
Balance	-0-
REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 1998-99	
Allocation	\$3307.50

Des Moines County Soil & Water

Tree Planting, 9.8 ac completed	3,307.50
Balance	-0-
REAP Practices 1997-98	
Allocation	\$7,610.84
Timber Stand Improvement 104.5 ac completed	7,610.84
Balance	-0-
REAP Forestry/Native Grasses 1997-98	
Allocation	\$3,412.88
Timber Stand Improvement, 47.9 ac completed	3,412.88
Balance	-0-
IFIP 1999-00	
Allocation	\$93,934.00
Terraces, 14,955 ft completed	47,339.69
Terraces, incomplete	25,227.09
Grassed Waterways, 4,650 ft completed	3,853.92
Grassed Waterways, incomplete	2,705.00
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 3 completed	2,500.01
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	670.16
Balance	11,638.13
IFIP 1998-99	
Allocation	\$33,407.38
Terraces, 8,425 ft completed	24,458.82
Grassed Waterways, 7,940 ft completed	6,352.00
Balance	2,596.56
IFIP 1997-98	
Allocation	\$53,399.59
Terraces, 14,855 ft completed	35,988.41
Grassed Waterways, 15,400 ft completed	13,895.83
Water & Sediment Control Basin, 1 completed	2,000.00
Grade Stable Structure, 1 completed	1,515.35
Balance	-0-
Public Owned Lakes 1999-00	
Allocation	\$28,831.36
Terraces, 4,700 ft completed	19,958.34
Terraces, incomplete	8,863.02
Balance	-0-
Public Owned Lakes 1998-99	
Allocation	\$6,210.68
Terraces, 1625 ft completed	6,210.68
Balance	-0-

District Accomplishments

July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000

	Amount	Unit
New District Cooperators on 1,707 acres	15	No.
Individuals or Groups Assisted	2,174	No.
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	29	Acres
Terraces Constructed	26,870	Fi
Water & Sediment Control Basin Constructed	3	No.
Woodland Improvement	79	Acres
Tree Plantings Completed	16	Acres
CRP Established	1,500	Acres
Field Windbreak Established	1	Acres
Riparian Forest Buffers Established	38	Acres
Filter Strips Established	552	Acres
Shallow Water Areas Established	83	Acres
Streambank Stabilization Completed	500	Fi
CRP Contracts Completed	82	No.
EQUIP Contracts Completed	5	No.

District Activities During 2000

- January**
- Election of Officers for 2000 resulted as follows: Chairperson-Jeff Bergman, Vice Chairperson-Todd Heckenberg
 - Appointments for 2000 resulted as follows: Secretary-Jamie Grimes; Treasurer-Grimes; Co-Treasurer-Bergman; Assistant Commissioners-Arlyn Muselman, Brad Weiss; RC&D Executive Board-Don Lounsbury, Frank Hedges; Flint Creek Advisory Board-Heckenberg; County RC&D Board-Bergman; County Zoning Committee-Heckenberg; REAP-Bergman; Education Committee-Heckenberg, Weiss; Fund Raising Committee-Hedges; Marketing Committee-Bergman, Muselman; Agreements Committee-Lounsbury, Heckenberg; Contest Committee-Myranell Dockendorff; Special Programs Committee-Bergman, Lounsbury; Legislative Committee-Hedges; Cost Share Restructuring Committee-Bergman, Heckenberg, Hedges, Weiss.
 - CDI and NACD dues were paid
 - Civil Rights were reviewed.
 - Statewide EQIP sign up began on January 10
 - CRP 20th sign up started January 18
 - A CRP informational meeting hosted by FSA and NRCS was held at Southeastern Community College on January 12.
- February**
- Annual Report was printed in Mediapolis News
 - CRP 20th sign up ended February 11
 - Statewide EQIP sign up ended on February 18
 - Bergman and Lounsbury attended the REAP Regional assembly held at GRMC on February 3
 - Kirk Wilcox was chosen as the recipient of the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.
- March**
- Kathy Pilling of Mediapolis was chosen as the Des Moines County winner of the CDI/Auxiliary scholarship.
 - A \$500 donation was given to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for a scholarship.
 - The District hosted a 206 Yellow Spring Project meeting on March 10.
 - MISS Quad EQIP sign up was held March 1-31
 - Martin presented information about NRCS during a Career Fair at SCC on March 15.
 - Martin, Nace and Grimes attended an All Employees awards meeting on March 9 in Iowa City.
- April**
- Soil and Water Stewardship Week was April 30-May 7.
 - The District hosted a booth at the Earth Day celebration on April 22 at Port of Burlington. Door prizes consisting of a hummingbird feeder, wildflower seed for butterflies, and wildflower seed for hummingbirds were given away.
 - Dorothy Shanstrom, Robert Yeager, Broadview Farms, Thomas Wagner, and Wayne Wasson were selected as local winners of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program. Other nominations for various awards were: Harold Linder, Lawrence & Eula Hagie Heritage Award; Robert Brown- Woodland Owner of the Year; and Sherm Lundy- Teacher Division I of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program.
 - Three applications from Des Moines County were approved for MISS Quad EQIP funds.
- May**
- Weiss presented Kathy Pilling with a \$150 scholarship May 18 at Mediapolis High School Awards Assembly.
 - Martin's last day in the office was May 25. An Open House was held on May 24 to honor Martin.
 - One application from Des Moines County was approved for Statewide EQIP funds.
- June**
- Dockendorff and Heckenberg were appointed to conduct an annual audit of the District books.
 - The District adopted a new cost-share ranking system and review criteria.
 - The District adopted a new policy to eliminate cost-sharing ponds with IFIP funds.
 - The District received a soil loss complaint and conducted a tour/review of the site.
 - The District approved the 206 Agreement for the 206 Yellow Spring Project.
 - Nace completed the IOWATER training course at Starr's Cave.
- July**
- Terrance Rudolph started as District Conservator on July 17.
 - Lounsbury and Dockendorff completed the annual audit of the District books.
 - 22 applications from Des Moines County were approved for the 20th CRP sign up.
- August**
- Nace attended a CRP Native Grass field day in Fairfield.
- September**
- Bergman attended the CDI Annual Conference in Des Moines on September 7.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION 2001

Conservation District 55th Annual Report

• The District approved the Yellow Spring Watershed management plan.
• The District donated \$75 for teacher scholarships for the Food, Land & People Workshops.
• Rudolph, Nace and Horan attended Introduction to ARCView training in Des Moines September 12-14.

October
• The District received \$5,000 from the Buffer Initiative from IDALS for part-time personnel during FY 2001.
• Nace joined the NRCS Area 5 Quality Steering Team (QST).

November
• A commissioner tour of a riparian buffer, shallow water area, native grass CRP seeding and streambank stabilization was completed on November 13. An awards dinner and meeting was held at Country Kitchen in Burlington following the tour. The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards were presented to Robert Brown, Broadview Farms (JD Stucker), Robert Yeager, Thomas Wagner, Wayne Wasson and Dorothy Shanstrom. Also presented were the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Memorial Award to Kirk Wilcox and the Goodyear Cooperator of the Year to Dennis Petersen.
• The 28E Agreement for the 206 project was recorded with the Des Moines County Recorder and Secretary of State.
• During the general election, Heckenberg and Lounsbury were re-elected to their positions. Ronald Snyder of Burlington will replace Dookendorff on the board. The District Commissioner position also received 111 write in votes.
• Nace attended a Shallow Water Area field day.

December
• Nace attended an Urban Conference in Council Bluffs on December 5 and 6.
• The District received a \$4,000 Watershed Development Grant for Flint Creek.

Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship Recipient

Kathy Pilling of Mediapolis was chosen as the 2000 recipient of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship. This scholarship is sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (DCI) and CDI Auxiliary.
Kathy was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. Criteria considered in judging the applications included scholastic achievement need and leadership, which includes service, character and self-motivation.
Kathy graduated from Mediapolis High School and is currently attending Central College in Pella. She is the daughter of Charles and Coral Pilling.



Scholarship Recipients: Adam Ledger, Ricky Hanks, Robert Molesinski, Josh Myers, Bryan Byers, Dustin Unkrich, Charlie Ford, Angie Pohn, Matthew Seitz, Christy Nicholson, Ryan Lauer, Adam Richardson, Cale Evans, Jason Hunold, Tracy Vorwick (Not pictured).

District Donates Scholarship

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District donated \$500 to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for the 2000-2001 school year.
The Foundation was established to assist students enrolled in agriculture programs at South-east Community College in West Burlington.
Other organizations who made contributions toward the 2000-2001 scholarship fund were Agrilience Corporation, American Cyanamid, Bank of Stronghurst, Country Cars II, Curt Thomas Memorial Scholarship, Des Moines County Farm Bureau, Farmers and Merchants Bank and Trust, Griffin LLC, Hartman State Bank, and Twomey Company.
Recipients of 2000-2001 Tri-State Agriculture Education Foundation Scholarships were Bryan Byers, Cale Evans, Charlie Ford, Ricky Hanks, Jason Hunold, Ryan Lauer, Adam Ledger, Robert Molesinski, Josh Myers, Christy Nicholson, Angie Pohn, Adam Richardson, Matthew Seitz, Dustin Unkrich and Tracy Vorwick.



Sherman Lundy receives an award for Outstanding Conservation Teacher from Duane Toomsen, Iowa Conservation Education Council, and Jerry Perkins, Des Moines Register Farm Editor.

Lundy Recognized as Outstanding Teacher

Retired Burlington High School Chemistry/Earth Science Teacher Sherman Lundy received an award for Outstanding Conservation Teacher grades 7-12 during the 2000 Conservation Districts of Iowa 54th Annual Conference.
The purpose of the award is to recognize teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources. The award is sponsored by the Conservation Districts of Iowa, State Soil Conservation Committee, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Conservation Education Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Des Moines Register.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District nominated Sherman for this award for many reasons, including his hands-on teaching technique. He motivates his students to become active in many community projects such as water testing of Flint Creek and planting trees for riparian shores. Sherman's students learn environmental issues first hand, not through textbooks.

New Face

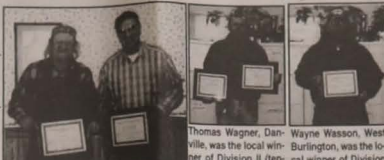
Terrance Rudolph joined the staff of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District office during July 2000 as the District Conservator.
Terrance Rudolph is originally from Evergreen, Alabama. He attended Alabama A&M University, graduating with a degree in Agricultural Education. Terrance began working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1992 in Janesville, Wisconsin as a student trainee. He then worked in Elkhorn and Portage, Wisconsin as a Soil Conservator. Before joining the Burlington office, he was Acting District Conservator at the Madison, Wisconsin field office.
If you haven't had the chance to meet Terrance yet, stop in the NRCS office and say hi!

Spring Landscaping Products Available
Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a variety of landscaping products for sale through a Conservation Products Brochure.

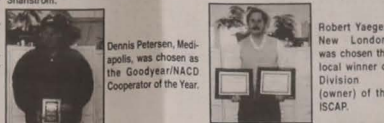
The brochure includes trees, bare and butterfly bushes, wildflower seeds, strawberry plants, day-lilies, ground cover plants, grapes, blackberries, blueberries, and mulchroom kits.
Call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221 for a free brochure.

NRCS Web Information

Are you connected to the Internet? Any information about NRCS programs can be found on their website. The national site is www.nrcs.usda.gov and the Iowa site is www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov. The site also includes links to other government agencies. Check it out!



Robert Brown, Woodland Owner of the Year, and JD Stucker, Division II local winner (owner) of the ISCAP.
Thomas Wagner, Danville, was the local winner of Division II (owner) of the ISCAP.
Wayne Wasson, Westville, was the local winner of Division I of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.



Dennis Petersen, Mediapolis, was chosen as the Goodyear NCD Cooperator of the Year.
Robert Yeager, New London, was chosen as the local winner of Division II (owner) of the ISCAP.

Local Farmers & Landowners Chosen for Conservation Awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners selected six local farmers in 2000 as District winners for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and other awards.

Dorothy Shanstrom, Burlington, was chosen as the winner in Division III for becoming a new soil conservation district operator after January 1, 1996. Local winner was selected based on the riparian buffers, filterstrips and native grass seedlings she has completed through the Conservation Reserve Program on her farm in Franklin Township.

Wayne Wasson, West Burlington, was selected as the winner in Division I. This division is for owner-operated farms in which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program. Wayne was chosen because of his farming practices that control soil erosion such as no-till farming, grassed waterways and field borders in Franklin, Pleasant Grove and Flint River townships. Wayne has also completed filterstrips and a shallow water area through continuous CRP.

Robert Yeager, New London, Broadview Farms (JD Stucker), Danville, and Thomas Wagner, Danville, were selected as winners in Division II. This division is for tenant-operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord. This farm was selected for the establishment of riparian corridors, streambank stabilization along Flint Creek, wetland areas, filterstrips, and no-till farming to control soil erosion on Robert's farm in Pleasant Grove Township.

Additionally, the District chose Robert Brown, Yarmouth, as a local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. Robert owns 35 acres that he is in the process of renovating the old pastures back into high quality stands of oak and walnut.

Another award presented was the Goodyear NCD Conservation Award Cooperator of the Year. Dennis Petersen of Mediapolis received this award for all the conservation work and efforts on his land.

The awards were presented during a supper held at Country Kitchen in Burlington in November.

Wilcox Receives

Gary Wagner Memorial Award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District chose Kirk Wilcox, Burlington, as the 2000 recipient of the annual Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award. Kirk was chosen for the award because he is a dedicated land steward. He has taken crop ground out of production and planted these acres to prairie grass and trees. Kirk has also enhanced the existing timber. The work he has completed has been done without the benefit of traditional cost-share programs. Kirk is an example of someone who favors conservation and who is working hard to leave the land in better shape for the next generation.

Kirk received a \$250 cash award to be used for a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing his efforts.

The Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award was developed by family and friends of Gary to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 753-6221.

New Wetland Option: Pilot Program in CRP

The USDA will administer a new pilot program that will allow landowners to enroll small wetland areas and adjacent buffers into the continuous signup of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Iowa is one of only six states in the nation to be involved in the pilot. Other states include North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Montana. Acreage in the pilot program will be capped at 500,000 acres for the six states. Maximum acreage per state will be 150,000 acres.

Although final program rules have not been released, the following are some of the highlights:

- cropped wetland must have been cropped in at least 3 of the past 10 years
- each contiguous wetland must be 5 acres or less
- wetlands as defined by USDA are eligible except wetlands in the flood plain of a perennial stream
- maximum acreage per adjacent buffer is 15 additional acres (3 times the wetland acres) or the current width limit (150 feet on either side), whichever is greater
- total maximum per tract for enrolled wetland and adjacent buffer is 40 acres
- rental rates will be similar to those of other continuous CRP practices such as filterstrips
- some degree of hydrology restoration will be required, but cannot impede up-stream drainage
- vegetative cover must be established
- Landowners will be able to sign up at USDA Service Centers following the official announcement of the program by the US Secretary of Agriculture. Competition for these acres will be tough. If you think you may be interested in enrolling land in this program, please call or stop into the NRCS office.

28E Agreement Signed

During 2000, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District had the opportunity to enter into a 28E Agreement with several partners for a project located in the eastern part of the county.

The goal of the 28E Agreement partners is to complete a study in the watersheds of Yellow Spring, Malco, Haight, Henson, Dry Branch and Drainage Districts #7 and #8. The study will be used in the future to seek funding for the area to install conservation measures to improve soil erosion and water quality.

Meetings will be held during February and March for landowners located in the watersheds and drainage districts. These meetings will be used to determine the interest of landowners to complete soil erosion practices.

The other partners include Des Moines County Board of Supervisors, Des Moines County Drainage District #7, Des Moines County Drainage District #8, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation and Des Moines County Conservation Board.

For more information or to see if you are located in the area, please contact the NRCS office at 319-753-6221.

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