



Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District
709 S. Iris Street, Suite 101
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 5264
319-385-2824, Ext 3

2018 Annual Report

January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018



"Our mission is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment."

Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners

Commissioners: Allan Barnes, Chairman, Rick Mallams, Vice-Chairman Harlan Miller , Alan Miller , Jeff Olson.
Assistant Commissioners: Chuck Allen, Ross Tweedy



NRCS Staff:

Doug Ensminger, District Conservationist
Tyler Shipley, Soil Conservationist
Dale Schmeiser, Soil Conservation Technician
Mark Delperdang, Civil Engineering Technician

IDALS-DSCWQ:

Barb Shelman, Conservation Assistant
Michael Allen, Soil Conservation Technician

District Watershed Coordinators:

Caleb Waters, Lake Geode Watershed
Miranda Haes, Lower Skunk River WQI Watershed

2018 SWCD Poster Contest Winners



Soil & Water Stewardship materials were provided by the Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District to area schools to promote soil and water conservation to in their classrooms. Posters created for the 2018 Poster Contest featured the theme **“Watersheds Our Water, Our Home”**. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, Conservation Districts of Iowa, and the Henry County SWCD co-sponsor the SWCD contest.



(Above) Division K-1st Grade Poster Contest Winners: Waco 1st Grade Macie Carter, Javan Davis and Reece Roth. (Right) Macie was also selected as Region 9 Division 1 winner where she received a certificate and \$35 cash prize courtesy of Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.



Meet Tyler Shipley, Soil Conservationist

I was born and raised in West Burlington, graduating from West Burlington Jr/Sr Highschool in 2005. Following high school I received my Associate of Arts degree from Southeastern Community College. From there I attended Western Illinois University. At WIU I received my bachelors of Science in Agriculture with an emphasis in agronomy. During my time in Macomb I helped reorganize the McDonough County Ducks Unlimited chapter that had underwent a three year hiatus. Currently I'm still a member of Ducks Unlimited and volunteer whenever possible. In August of 2010, shortly after graduating from Western, I was hired by NRCS as a soil conservationist servicing McDonough and Fulton counties. November of 2014, I applied for the Soil Conservationist position in Henry, Illinois covering Marshall & Putnam Counties. This was an excellent learning opportunity as I was the only NRCS employee in the office. Eventually, I decided it was time to get back to my roots and move back to Iowa. I began my duties in the Mt Pleasant Field Office the end of October. I couldn't be happier now that I'm back! In my free time I enjoy hunting waterfowl, fishing, playing golf and spending time with my black lab Jewel. Really looking forward to getting acquainted and working with everybody!

**District Financial Report
of State Funds & Accomplishments:
July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018**

**Budget-Operating Funds
Commissioner and Office Expenses**

Total Allocations	\$2,250.00
Commissioner Meeting Expense	\$ 701.81
Office Expenses	\$ 254.82
CDI & NACD Dues	\$1,050.00
Postage	\$ 248.00
Total Expenditures	\$2,254.63
Balance	\$ (4.63)

REAP

**Resource Enhancement And Protection
75% Cost-Share Funds**

**Cedar Creek & Fish Creek
Priority Watershed
Practices Fund**

13 Projects = Terraces 14,062 L.F.

2017 Projects Rolled Over	\$ 24,759.17
Allocations Received	<u>\$+43,971.50</u>
Total	\$ 68,730.67
Projects Complete & Paid	<u>\$ -45,006.47</u>
	\$ 23,724.20
Funds/Projects Rolled Over to 2019	<u>\$- 23,724.20</u>
Funds Recalled	\$ 0.00

**Forestry/Grasses Fund
3 projects
Timber Stand Improvement 54.6 ac.**

2017 Projects Rolled Over	\$ 6,934.21
Allocations Received	\$+2,424.87
Total	\$ 9,359.08
Projects Complete & Paid	<u>\$-6,552.00</u>
	\$ 2,807.08
Funds/Projects Rolled Over to 2018	<u>\$ 1,932.00</u>
Funds Recalled	\$ 875.08

**Public Owned Lakes WPF & 319 Funds
Lake Geode--2 Projects
Cover Crops 33.57 ac., No-Till 40 ac.**

Funds Paid in Henry County	\$1,239.25
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**State Cost-Share Funds
28 Projects**

Terraces 43,254 L.F. & 4 Basins

2018-Cost Share	
2017 Practices Rolled Over	\$ 27,610.98
Allocations Received	\$+134,464.00
Total	\$ 162,074.98
Projects Complete & Paid	<u>\$-111,843.08</u>
	\$ 50,231.90
Projects Rolled Over to 2019	\$ -49,898.42
Funds Recalled	\$ 333.48

**State-Wide Water Quality Initiative
Cover Crops, 1851.59 Ac.
21 landowners,**

Total Allocations	\$29,753.25
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**Lower Skunk River Watershed
Cover Crops 12 landowners, 697.75 Ac.
Nitrogen Split Application 40 ac.
No-Till 160 ac. and Wetland Creation 0.4 ac.**

Total Allocations	\$22,983.75
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**State Revolving Fund--No-Interest 0% Loans
3 Grade Stabilization Structures
3200 LF Terraces**

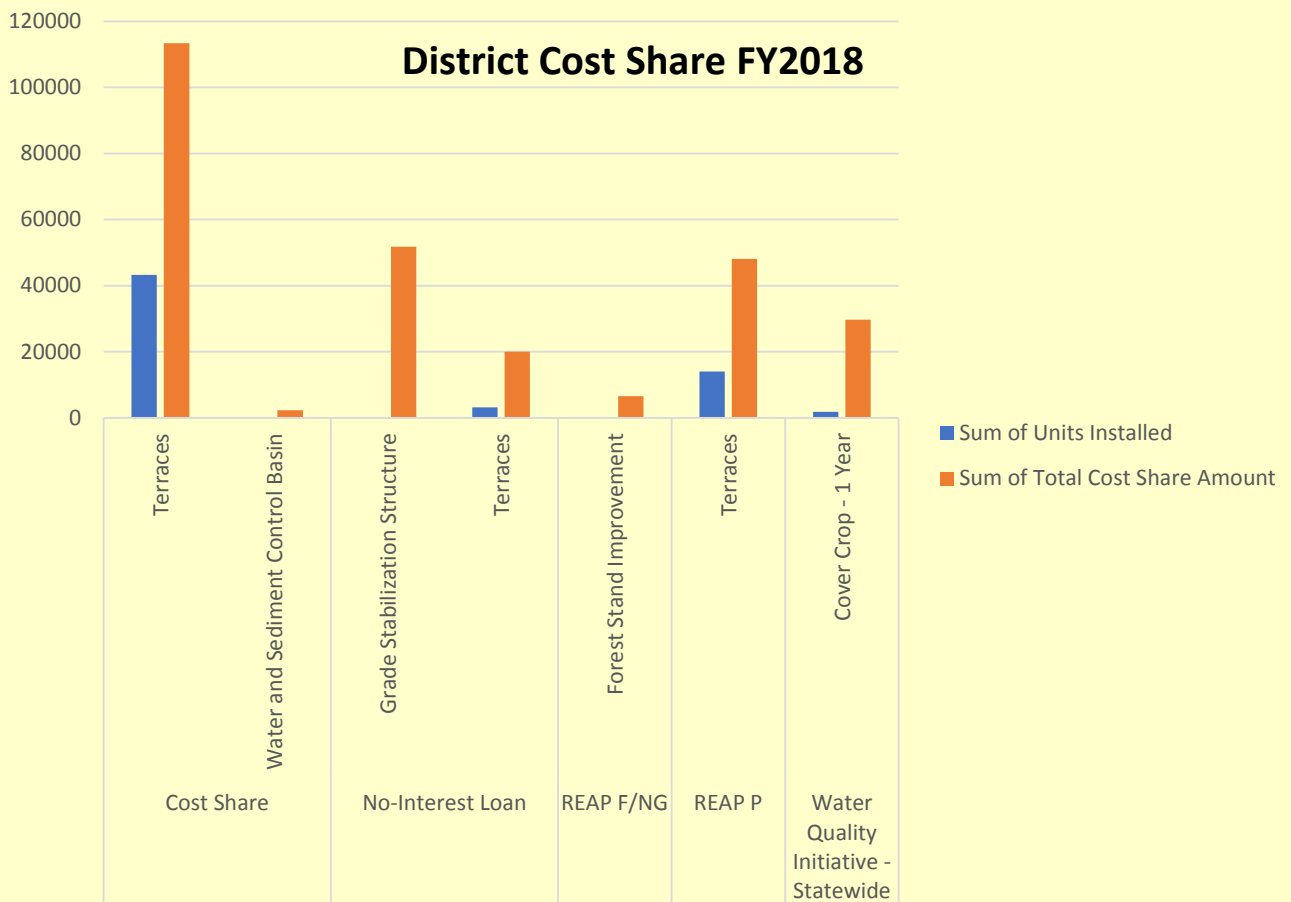
2017 Projects Rolled Over	\$110,000.00
Allocations Received	<u>\$+80,000.00</u>
Total	\$190,000.00
Projects Completed & Paid	<u>\$- 51,787.02</u>
	\$138,212.98
Funds/Projects Rolled Over to 2018	<u>\$-100,000.00</u>
Funds Cancelled or Recalled	\$ 38,212.98

Our partners:



Financial Accounts	
Checking #3321	
Balance as of 12-31-2017	\$ 4,819.05
Income/Deposits:	
Interest & Dividends Received	\$ 63.17
State Comm/Office Expenses	\$ 2,500.00
State Lower Skunk River	\$ 93,670.04
State Intern	\$ 4,277.25
Total Income	\$100,260.46
Expenses:	
Postage	\$ 1,630.00
Office Expenses	\$ 74.34
Commissioner Travel	\$ 1,091.11
Dues—CDI & NACD	\$ 1,050.00
Employee Payroll /Wages	\$ 33,179.35
Employee Taxes	\$ 18,999.33
Lower Skunk River Expense	\$ 43,162.34
Total Expenses	\$ 99,189.47
Balance as of 12-31-2018	\$ 5,890.04
Savings Account on Checking #3321	\$ 574.79

Financial Accounts	
Checking #180	
Balance as of 12-31-2017	\$ 10,226.64
Income/Deposits:	
Interest & Dividends Received	\$ 33.80
LSR Field Day	\$ 100.00
Total Income	\$ 133.80
Expenses:	
Poster Contest Awards	\$ 238.70
Intern Payroll	\$2,571.02
Total Expenses	\$2,809.72
Balance as of 12-31-2018	\$7,550.72
Savings Account on Checking #180	\$ 1,317.79
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 5,500.00





Mike Naig,
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

As I travel the state I see Iowans both on the farm and in town who take being good stewards of the land very seriously. Iowans in communities across the state care deeply about protecting our state's natural resources. They want to leave the land better for their children and grandchildren.

I'm proud of the work of our team at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the many partners across the state committed to soil conservation and improving water quality.

For example, just in the last year we saw:

- 2,800 farmers signed up to invest an estimated \$9 million in funding to match \$5 million in state cost share funds to adopt cover crops, no-till or strip till, or use a nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer
- 760,000 acres of cover crops in Iowa in 2017, an increase of 22 percent from the year before
- \$420 million in funding for programs with a water quality benefit, a \$32 million increase from the prior year
- 64 demonstration projects located across the state to help implement and demonstrate water quality practices

We are seeing improvements within the small watersheds that have been a focus of our efforts and now moving beyond demonstration projects to focus on implementation efforts within larger targeted watersheds.

We are also looking at new ways to expand adoption of proven practices such as cover crops. Last year we began a three-year demonstration project that provides a crop insurance premium reduction for farmers who use cover crops. We are pleased by the initial response and are working toward continued expansion of cover crops across in the state.

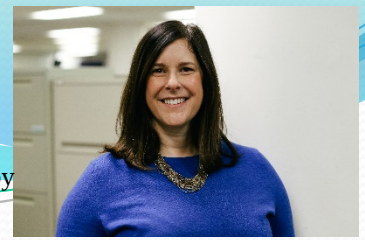
Thanks to the hard work of the Legislature and Governor Reynolds, we are fortunate to now have long-term water quality funding in place. The legislation that was passed and signed into law commits more than \$280 million to water quality efforts in Iowa over the next 12 years

The Department will receive \$2 million this year, \$4 million next year and then \$15 million annually through this legislation. We are targeting this new funding towards conservation infrastructure practices such as wetlands, saturated buffers and bioreactors

We are on the right path but have more work to do. I look forward to continuing to work with our incredible farmers and hundreds of partners throughout Iowa to make even more significant water quality improvements in our state.

All services and programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

Director's Thoughts by
Susan Kozak



Hello again! This almost year of "acting" Director has moved quite quickly. I have enjoyed getting to know all the IDALS employees and partners that I don't usually interact with in my typical Mines and Minerals world. It has been a busy year of project expansion and I love getting out in the field to see new ideas implemented on the ground. I want to thank all our staff for their hard work and commitment to our conservation ethic.

There have been some big announcements this year, including the new funding for water quality. The Iowa legislature committed more than \$280 million for water quality efforts in Iowa over the next 12 years. Funding to IDALS will ramp up over the next two years, reaching \$15 million annually through 2029. With more than 250 partners already involved, this dedicated, long-term funding will help attract even more partners and outside funding. The Division has been preparing for this new funding by putting some strategic staff in place. We have a new edge of field coordinator and 3 new watershed implementation coordinators ready to expand water quality efforts – primarily targeting the North Raccoon, Middle Cedar and South Skunk watersheds.

We also have some exciting changes revolving around our Field Representatives and delivery of services to field offices. The better part of this year was spent evaluating how to update the position, including going through a LEAN process improvement event which included many partners for input. As a result, we have hired one new Field Representative and rearranged the response areas. Additionally, IDALS is in the process of hiring 2 financial reviewers to alleviate some of the responsibilities that had been expected of the Field Representatives.

As I write this, I find myself reflecting on the year and how challenging it has felt. Earlier this year, I attended a FarmHER event. One of the takeaways from the conference that has stuck in my head is to "force yourself out of your comfort zone". While that isn't always easy, I think great things come from the challenge. With the water quality initiative expanding dramatically in the next few years, we all need to be open to new ways of doing business. Myself, I will look forward to the challenge and am excited to tackle it with all our great partners.



**State Fiscal Year 2018
by Vince Sitzmann,
Bureau Chief**



2018 Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award was presented to Clark & Norma Whitaker. The recognition was held at the Iowa State Fair, Pennington Center, August 15, 2018. The Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award is a joint effort between the Governor, Lt. Governor, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Iowa Department of Natural Resources to recognize the efforts of Iowa's farmers as environmental leaders committed to healthy soils and improved water quality. This Award recognizes the exemplary voluntary actions of farmers that improve or protect the environment and natural resources of our state. It recognizes those that have taken steps in their farming operations to serve as leaders on their farms using best management practices. Presenting the awards were Governor Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, and Acting DNR Director Bruce Trautman. & Jim Gulliford, SSWCS

When I was a kid growing up on the farm I remember mom and dad used to take us kids for an evening drive around the countryside. At the time I never really understood the purpose, but I enjoyed them none the less. My dad was in his own little world, arm out the window, commenting once in a while how great Jim's beans looked or what a great stand of corn Roy had. Mom even seemed to get a little peace and quiet during these drives as my brothers and I were mesmerized by the cool breeze and the orange glow of the sunset in the horizon. On one of these excursions I remember asking my dad what those grass lines in the field were. "Those are terraces" he replied without hesitation. At the time, his explanation of why they were out there didn't make much sense to a 10-year old, but he was my dad and he knew everything.

Now that I'm older and work in the conservation field I've seen lots of new technologies that make farming and livestock production much more efficient and productive. Technology and research has led to the development of new practices such as bioreactors, saturated buffers and nitrogen mitigating wetlands, but technology and research has also confirmed that many of the practices that farmers and landowners were building back in the early forties are still effective today.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has partnered with farmers and landowners for more than four decades to support the adoption of proven conservation practices. Recently, the Department partnered with Iowa State University, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Nutrient Research and Demonstration Council, Iowa Nutrient Research Center, and the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment to complete a statewide effort to identify and map six types of common conservation practices. The study is the most comprehensive inventory of conservation practices in the nation. An analysis of the results shows the value of this public and private investment in conservation would be 6.2 billion in today's dollars. Additional analysis work is underway to quantify the water quality impacts these practices are having in terms of reduced sediment and phosphorus loads to Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams.

The initial number of practices identified throughout the state by the mapping project include:

- 114,400 pond dams
- 327,900 acres of grassed waterways
- 506,100 terraces stretching 88,874 miles
- 246,100 water and sediment basins stretching 12,555 miles
- 557,700 acres of contour buffer strips
- 109,800 acres of strip cropping

These numbers reflect a tremendous amount of conservation work that has been completed on Iowa's productive farm ground. Today, as I'm driving down the highway with my kids, I'm always quick to point out the cover crops and conservation practices I see in the countryside, particularly the newly constructed ones. I'm not sure if I do it to educate my kids about agriculture and conservation or if it's more for my gratification knowing that conservation work is still being done. I suppose it's a little of both.