

1962 Annual Report West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District

WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

The Ryan-Henschel Watershed, 9,410 acres, was approved for the construction phase just one year ago. There are a total of 17 structures to be built in the next four years. Present plans call for the construction of four structures in 1963. Additional practices such as terraces and waterways need to be built on many farms before these structures can be built.



Ryan-Henschel Watershed structure H-1 pictured above is the first watershed structure built in this county under the Public Law 566 watershed program. It was completed in November. The dam consists of 25,600 cubic yards of earth fill and has a 24" corrugated metal pipe for a spillway. It is located on the Howard Jensen and Maynard Riddlen farms. The pond when full will be 8.5 acres in size and will extend onto the farm of Lyle Jensen. A waterway was also shaped and seeded on this farm under this project. It is anticipated that the pond will be stocked with fish for future recreational uses.

Ryan-Henschel Watershed Directors met in February 1962 to discuss the procuring of the necessary easements required for 1962 construction.



Increased activity during 1963 in the construction of basin, level and diversion terraces is expected in Indian Creek Watershed. Some terracing was accomplished during 1962. Additional upland treatment will be necessary before the larger dams are installed.

Supplementary practices such as terraces, contouring and constructed waterways are vital to the proper functioning of the many structures in Indian Creek Watershed in that they control runoff and sediment producing erosion.

If easement problems are overcome three structures could be built in the coming year.

OTHER WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

North Pigeon Watershed Directors met in February 1962 to review progress made and to make plans for further work during the year.

Word has been received that the North Pigeon, Simon Run, and Twin Pines Watershed applications have been approved by the State Committee and are awaiting planning priority.

CONTEST WINNERS

Darrell Hartje and William Strohehn won sweepstakes honors. This recognition was for outstanding performance in a Soil and Water Conservation contest sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and Iowa Farm and Home Register. Bill Strohehn owns the 430 acre farm that Darrell operates so ably. They were honored at a banquet held in December at the Hotel Chieftain.

Other District winners were Walter Ambrose, Star Route and Floyd Ochampaugh, Rt. 1, Honey Creek, Iowa.

Room 234 Federal Building
Council Bluffs, Iowa



District Accomplishments

	1962	1963 Goal
New Cooperators	52	50
Basic Plans	44	40
Revised Plans	20	20
Structures	6	8
Grass Waterways	71.2 Ac.	50 Ac.
Level Terraces	93 Mi.	75 Mi.
Land Grading	127 Ac.	200 Ac.
Tiling	23 Mi.	10 Mi.
Surface Field Ditch	5 Mi.	4 Mi.
Diversion	6.5 Mi.	4 Mi.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Commissioners Louie Fahrenkrog and Eldon Ravlin attended the District Commissioners Short Course held in Ames in January.

Twelve regular meetings were held during the year plus six special meetings.

Eldon Ravlin was re-elected at the August 9th commissioners election. Polling places were at the District Office and the West Pottawattamie County Fairgrounds.

During Soil Conservation Week the District had a Watershed Exhibit in the lobby of the State Savings Bank in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

During the year about seventy news stories have been printed in the newspapers in the county concerning soil conservation work the local people are doing.

A twilight tour of business men in Kiwanis was made through the Indian Creek Watershed June 27. The group had fried chicken dinner after the tour at the Hazel Dell Methodist Church.

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation Banquet was held December 10. Mal Hansen, Vice-president of Travel and Transport, was the main speaker.

1962 DISTRICT BUDGETS

We, the commissioners of West Pottawattamie County, wish to thank our State Representatives and Senators for the funds appropriated for use in the Soil Conservation Districts. By the use of these funds much more has been accomplished in the District than would have been possible without them. The following is an accounting of the expenditure of these funds.

STATE BUDGET

1M Budget	
Commissioners Mileage	\$186.84
Office Supplies	44.86
Printing	131.20
Office Expense	64.49
Meeting Expense	5.50
Total	\$432.89
Allocated	500.00
Carried over to 62-63	67.11
2M Budget	
Clerical	\$2998.34
Technical	2744.20
Total	5742.54
Allocated	5760.00

PERSONNEL

Leon Foderberg, Work Unit Conservationist
Oliver Hall, Conservation Technician
Perry Thomas, Conservation Technician
Mary Graves, State Clerk
Paul Muhs, WAE, Part-time
Terry Ravlin, State Aid, Part-time

Dear Friends:

It pleases us again to be able to review another annual Soil Conservation District report with you.

We feel that 1962 was another good year of service to the Community. It has been a year of continued progress for soil and water conservation and again we express our appreciation for the cooperation we have enjoyed this year, with the Soil Conservation Service, the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Extension Service, Board of Supervisors, local newspapers, and everyone connected with the Soil Conservation District.

We want to urge anyone who has erosion or drainage problems on his farm to feel free to call or come to the District Office for advice or assistance. Our staff is always ready to help you.

Donald Bladt, Chairman
West Pottawattamie Soil
Conservation District



Pictured above are the commissioners and assistants at a regular meeting in the District Office. From left to right are Jack O'Hara, Route 3, Eldon Ravlin, Underwood, Louie Fahrenkrog, Carson, Don Bladt, Shelby and Joe Osborn, Route 4. Clifford Johnson, County Extension Director and Secretary of the District was not present at the time of this picture. Louie Fahrenkrog, chairman of the District Commissioners resigned as of December 31, 1962. Don Bladt was elected to be chairman for the coming year. Jack O'Hara was appointed to fulfill Fahrenkrog's unexpired term.



An Active Retirement . . . is contemplated by Louie Fahrenkrog, center, as he, Jack O'Hara, left, and Don Bladt examine the golf club set presented to the retiring soils district commissioner.

West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District accepted the resignation of fellow commissioner and governing body chairman, Louie Fahrenkrog, Carson, Iowa. Louie is retiring because of increased pressure from his farming and feeding operation. He was an assistant commissioner for five years, from 1947 to 1952, at which time he was elected commissioner. He held that post for ten years, and was chairman at the time of his retirement. Louie will be semi-active in district affairs as an associate commissioner.