

Mills Co. Soil Conservation District ANNUAL REPORT For 1962

P.O. Box 190

Malvern, Iowa

Phone 624-8364

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1961-1962 State Budget

Commissioners Expenses	\$ 85.75	Technical Assistance	\$ 2,089.00
Office Supplies	108.65	Clerical Assistance	3,149.00
Materials for Demonstration	106.20	State Retirement	145.66
Office Expense	49.11	Federal Retirement	160.60
Printing	135.06		
Total Disbursed	\$484.77	Total Disbursed	\$5,544.26

REVOLVING FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 1962 (Malvern Bank)	\$ 725.17
Balance on hand January 1, 1962 (Mincola Bank)	381.18
Land Owner Contributions	746.24
Reimbursements from I-M	250.02
Total cash on hand and receipts	\$2,102.61

DISBURSEMENTS

Rodmen	\$ 87.00
Clerical, Janitor and other labor	92.00
Office Supplies and Equipment	154.65
Postage	60.15
Utilities	74.77
Dues, Subscriptions, Donations	203.50
Field Supplies and Equipment	206.65
Printing	65.55
Pony Creek Expenses	288.09
Total Disbursements	\$1,229.36
Balance Cash on hand Dec. 31, 1962 (Malvern Bank)	492.07
Balance Cash on hand Dec. 31, 1962 (Mincola Bank)	381.18
Total	\$2,102.61

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

During the past year the commissioners have held regular monthly meetings to discuss, plan and act on activities pertaining to the district.

They were also active in many of the watershed meetings which were held throughout the year.

The commissioners paid their dues to the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Society of America (Iowa Chapter).

During the year two changes were made in personnel in the district office. Edith Powles was hired as state clerk to replace Lillian Campbell who moved to Rochester, Minnesota. Keith Glandon replaced Richard France as Work Unit Conservationist. Mr. France accepted a position with the United Nations in Rome, Italy.

In August the commissioners sponsored the Queen of Conservation Contest and Patty Vinton and Myrna McMillen were winners of the local contest. They also represented the county at the regional contest held at the Union County Fair.

The commissioners also gave their support to Arthur Baishch who competed in the International Plowing Contest.

Watersheds became the largest activity throughout the year. The commissioners were co-sponsors of the Waubonsie Creek Watershed which submitted their application and was approved in September by the Iowa Watershed Committee.

Many meetings were held with the Drainage District and Board of Supervisors to discuss and formulate policies pertaining to the Pony Creek Watershed in preparation for construction, which we hope will begin in 1963.

PONY CREEK WATERSHED

By Dennis Downing

March 31 marked the fifth year of activity in forming the Pony Creek Watershed. During this time 92 public meetings, plus many tours, inspections, surveys and special meetings have been held in making preparations for actual construction which we hope will begin this year. Surveys have been made and plans drawn on seven structures which are planned to be built this summer and a possible three more this fall.

The entire project is planned to be completed within three more years at a cost of \$1,225,881. The work plan calls for a total of 23 structures including one 83-acre lake, one 23-acre lake and 21 smaller structures averaging 1 to 3 acres in size. Also included in the plan is 4 miles of channel improvement.

The development of the Pony Creek Watershed has presented several possibilities for recreational development including picnicking, fishing, picnic areas and just plain enjoyment of the out-of-doors.

A lot of hard work has been put in by various groups and individuals to bring Pony Creek Watershed to the construction stage, especially farmers who have applied needed conservation practices on the uplands to supplement the structures. To date, the following amounts of major practices have been applied in the watershed:

Contour farming (ac.)	7,000
Diversion terraces (l. ft.)	5,000
Grade stabilization structures (no.)	3
Grassed waterways or outlets (ac.)	1,831
Pasture and Hayland renovation (ac.)	829
Drainage (l. ft.)	46,568
Level and parallel terraces (l. ft.)	836,025

These figures show that great progress has been made in applying conservation to the land but additional work needs to be done before the watershed can be completely effective.

Most of the preliminary work has been completed including the signing of easements and it is hoped that construction can begin soon.

Pony Creek Watershed is sponsored jointly by the Pony Creek Drainage District, Mills County Board of Supervisors and the Mills County Soil Conservation District. Trustees are, Dennis Downing, Edwin Ross, Carl J. Green.

FORWARD

By Albert Washburn, Chairman

The commissioners of the Mills County Soil Conservation District are pleased to present this Annual Report of our activities and conservation accomplishments for the year ending December 31, 1962.

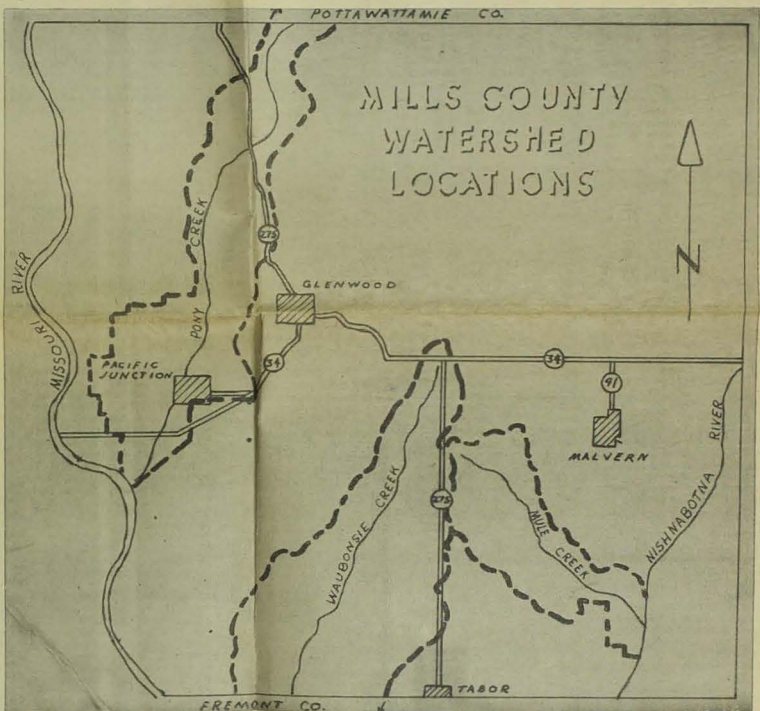
The commissioners wish to thank all of the county groups and organizations for their enthusiasm and cooperation in making the years conservation program a success. The Extension Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Private land owners, religious and educational institutions, the county newspapers, contractors and many others are to be commended for their assistance in promoting

good land use and soil conservation practices.

Due to the great interest in watershed activities throughout the past year in Mills County, we wish to dedicate this report to the many people who have spent many hours in making them a reality.

1962 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	This Year	Total to Date
New Cooperators (no.)	83	920
Farms serviced (no.)	202	
Farms completing at least one conservation practice (no.)	146	
Basic Farms plans (no.)	8	434
Waterways (Ac.)	60.7	2,462.7
Field drainage ditches (ft.)	15,882	749,482
Terraces (ft.)	394,425	17,454,053
Tile (ft.)	122,024	12,682,560



MULE CREEK WATERSHED

Since the last structure was completed in the Mule Creek Watershed in 1956, information on land use, soil losses and rainfall has been gathered by the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the U. S. Weather Bureau.

One stream gauge and three rainfall gauges were placed at various locations within the Watershed to give a representative sample of the amounts and intensity of rainfall. This information has been gathered by farmers in the area and S.C.S. personnel and sent to the U.S. Weather Bureau.

Each winter the Soil Conservation Service takes readings through the ice on five test structures to determine the amount of silt accumulation throughout each year. At the same time they have also gathered information on rotations being used as well as various management practices.

This information is now being correlated by the A.R.S. along with new studies, to determine the accuracy of the international soil loss formula. Much of the information used in determining soil losses was gathered under controlled conditions. By using the information gathered in Mule Creek over the past years, it will be possible to determine the accuracy of the present soil loss information by comparing it with actual studies.

Mule Creek Watershed is the only Watershed in the United States where such a study is being made.

The Mule Creek Trustees wish to take this opportunity to thank the many farmers in Mule Creek for their excellent assistance and cooperation with the personnel gathering this information.

Wayne Hilton, Chairman
Austin Bass
Corte Sewart

WAUBONSIE CREEK WATERSHED

During the past year, Waubonsie Creek Watershed got its real start. The watershed was formally organized in February of 1962 and was approved by the State Watershed Committee in September of 1962.

The interest in developing a watershed on Waubonsie Creek by the farmers living in that area is very high and is reflected in the amount of Soil Conservation work which has been applied in the past.

In the letter of approval from William H. Greiner, Director of State Soil Conservation Committee, he stated, "The committee members were quite complimentary on this application since it does show a high degree of soil conservation practices applied to the farm land in the area. However, as you are quite aware there still remains a lot of work yet to be accomplished and I know that this will be done."

The Directors for the Waubonsie Creek Watershed are: Raymond Yates, Chairman; Harold Tackett, Secretary; Carl Lorimer; Ben Jackson and Morris Bateman.

Sponsoring organizations are: Mills County Soil Conservation District; Fremont County Soil Conservation District and Mills County Board of Supervisors.

U.S.D.S. Soil Conservation Service Personnel

District Commissioners

Albert Washburn	Chairman
Myron Jones	Commissioner
Dale Lincoln	Commissioner
Ken Burgeon	Commissioner
Carl J. Green	Assistant Commissioner

Keith Glandon	Work Unit Conservationist
Allan Seim	Soil Conservationist
Leo VanFossum	Conservation Technician
Gerald Bowser	Conservation Technician
Lawrence Jones	Conservation Technician

State Personnel

Edith Powles	Clerk
William Haroff	State Aid

Area S.C.S. Personnel Assisting

Arion Hanson	Area Conservationist
Blanche Oline	Area Clerk
Lewis Clark	Soil Scientist
Howard Hall	Area Clerk