



# 2014 Annual Report

Story Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

This report has been prepared by the Story County Soil and Water District Commissioners for your information. We are very pleased with the conservation progress in the county over the past 67 years. We also realize our work would be impossible without the cooperation of the people of Story County.

We want to thank all the residents of the county for their efforts on behalf of soil and water conservation and we welcome your input to continue this good work.

If you have resource issues, please contact our office at 515-382-2217x3 in Nevada, Iowa.

## **A History Lesson on Soil Conservation By Vince Sitzmann**

Hugh Hammond Bennett, otherwise known as the “father of soil conservation” was a soil surveyor with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 1928 Bennett co-wrote a publication, titled, “Soil Erosion: A National Menace” which helped establish scientific credibility about the repercussions of erosion and inspired others to take initiative on the erosion problems within the United States.

In 1937, Bennett was presenting to a congressional subcommittee in Washington D.C. and timed his presentation to coincide perfectly with the arrival of a severe dust storm. As Bennett flung open the window he shouted “Gentleman, get ready because here comes Oklahoma” so the story goes. Soon thereafter the Soil Conservation Service was established as a permanent agency within USDA, with Bennett as its director. This was the first constitutional act in the history of this or any other nation that sought to control and prevent soil erosion, flooding, and other threats to our natural resources. Not long after, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent a letter to all the governors recommending that each state adopt their own

laws. Iowa’s Governor Wilson adopted the law and by 1940 Iowa’s first Soil and Water District was formed by three townships in Marion County.

Today we have 100 SWCDs in 99 counties, that are represented by 500 Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners. Five nonpartisan Commissioners are elected from each district and are entrusted with many responsibilities including the prevention of excessive soil erosion and conservation of our soil resources. No small task considering Iowa has 36 million acres, 92,300 farms and 25 million acres of crop land. Iowa also ranks number one nationally in the production of corn, soybeans, pork and chicken.

In 1973, the Iowa legislature enacted the cost share program to help promote conservation. Throughout the past 40 years, over 254 million dollars have been leveraged with funds from private landowners and farmers through the SWCDs to conserve and protect our soil resources. Hundreds of thousands of acres are now protected with no-till and strip till, terraces, waterways, grade stabilization structures, buffers, cover crops, and other practices that save millions of tons of soil from washing off our fields and into our waterways.

Who could have imagined that one man’s passion for soil conservation, along with a little dust in the wind in the 1930’s, could have spurred a conservation ethic that spans the world and touches each and every acre of our farms?

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Rebecca Ford of Veenstra & Kimm Inc. presented information on the Waste Water project in Roland being funded through State Revolving Funds as a sponsored project. The District provided a letter of support to the City of Roland for the project.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2014**

These funds plus secretary assistance are provided by the State of Iowa and allocated to the District by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

### DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Total Allocation	\$ 2,350.00
Commissioner Expense	\$ 1,243.08
Office Expense	\$ 228.80
Dues Paid	\$ 878.12
Total Funds Spent	\$ 2,350.00

### FY14 IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Brought forward	\$ 2,324.62
Allocation	\$ 33,483.00
Spent	\$ 9,487.45
Obligated	\$ 12,224.00
Recalled by state	\$ 14,096.17

### FY14 REAP PRACTICES

Brought forward	\$ 3,732.00
Allocation	\$ 10,461.14
Spent	\$ 0.00
Obligated	\$ 3,732.00
Recalled by DSC	\$ 10,461.14

### FY14 REAP FORESTRY/NATIVE GRASSES

Brought Forward	\$ 0.00
Total Allocation	\$ 3,283.22
Spent	\$ 1,451.74
Obligated	\$ 1,500.00
Recalled by DSC	\$ 331.48

### COUNTY BUDGET

#### Provided by the Story County Supervisors

FY14 Allocation	\$ 5,000.00
Funds spent in FY14	\$ 4,046.88

### DISTRICT ACCOUNTS

District checking & savings 7/1/13	\$22,261.53
Deposits	\$11,736.32
Disbursements	\$10,586.16
Balance 6/30/14	\$23,411.69

### FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Dana Holland	District Conservationist
Hillary Olson	Soil Conservationist
Nicky Williams	Soil Conservationist
Tara VanWaus	Soil Conservation Technician
Yolanda Butler	Soil Conservation Technician
Claudia Dalbey	State Secretary



### COMMISSIONERS

Dale Farnham	Washington Township
Steve Fales, Vice Chair	Franklin Township
Sue Upchurch, Treasurer	Lincoln Township
Erwin Klaas, Asst.	Franklin Township
Mark Tjelmeland, Chairman	Warren Township
Drake Larsen, Asst.	Washington Township
Jerry Radke, Co Treasurer	Nevada Township

#### Not pictured:

Cindy Hildebrand, Asst.	Grant Township
Amber Anderson Mba, Asst.	Franklin Township

The Story County Soil and Water Conservation District (Story SWCD) meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center.

These meetings are open to the public. If you have conservation concerns and would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact the office prior to the meeting.

The Mission Of The Story Soil And Water Conservation District Is To Promote Soil Conservation And Water Quality To Landowners, Operators, And Residents Of Story County By Providing Technical Information And Financial Assistance.