



ANNUAL USE OF DISTRICT FUNDS

(JULY 1, 2021- JUNE 30, 2022)

BEGINNING BALANCE (7/1/21) \$47,505.26

RECEIPTS

EQUIPMENT RENTAL.....	\$8,625.00
RECORDING FEES.....	\$202.00
STATE OF IOWA (1M).....	\$1,859.15
INTEREST.....	\$11.25
MISC.....	\$24,544.23

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$35,241.63

EXPENDITURES

1M EXPENDITURES.....	\$2,678.63
RECORDING FEES.....	\$124.00
MEETINGS & EVENTS.....	\$22.12
DRILL & REPAIRS.....	\$1,123.76
DONATIONS.....	\$750.00
FARM BILL BIOLOGIST.....	\$1,500.00
MISC.....	\$24,563.71

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$30,762.22

ENDING BAL (6/30/22) \$51,984.67

STATE COST SHARE EXPENDED (FY 22)

IOWA FINANCIAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM (IFIP).....	\$59,756.02
REAP PRACTICES (REAP P).....	\$5196.93
WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE (WQI).....	\$21,183.50

COUNTY FUNDING EXPENDED (FY 22)

LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (LOST).....	\$88,715.15
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (PL-566).....	\$7,297.90

2022 CONSTRUCTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COVER CROPS.....1,590.31 ACRES
TERRACES/ WASCB.....67,850.00 FEET

AWARDS

EACH YEAR THE SWCD PARTNERS WITH CDI TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS. THIS YEAR ASHLYN VORTHMANN WAS THE WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SWCD AND CDI REGION 5 WINNER. CONGRATS ASHLYN!



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Hello from the Director

Susan Kozak, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality

The Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, a part of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, has been a flurry of activity over the last year. We have staff across Iowa, located in all 100 counties, to assist with natural resource conservation efforts. Our work focuses on traditional soil conservation work (which dates back to the Dust Bowl era) and newer efforts related to reducing nutrient loss to our surface waters in the state. This work can take many forms depending on the land use of the field, the geology of the area, and what the landowner is trying to accomplish. Currently, we are very focused in finding areas along field edges where a nutrient reducing wetland or saturated buffer might fit into the landscape. These practices will remain in place for many years and continue to do their job for better water quality. The Division is also encouraging more cover crop acres across the state. Cover crops are important not only to keep soil in place in between cash crops, but also to increase the soil health and organic matter for future generations.



Sometimes, we can get so focused on our day-to-day challenges, we might lose sight of the big picture. But I have been lucky this year to resume some travel and get to chat with conservation professionals from other parts of the country. The landscapes in Tennessee, Washington, or Colorado might look very different to what we see in Iowa, but it is refreshing to hear that they are taking on similar challenges and looking for nature-based solutions. At a recent meeting, I heard it mentioned several times that the federal funding increases for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for conservation. That funding, combined with our dedicated state funding for water quality efforts, positions Iowa to continue to be a leader in nutrient reduction work and to construct wetlands and other edge of field practices at a pace that wasn't possible in the past. There are many opportunities, big and small, to get involved with conservation in Iowa. Reach out to your local USDA service center to find out how you can help us build upon this momentum and accelerate our progress.

Strong Conservation Partnerships are the Foundation of our Programs

By Will Myers, Field Services Bureau Chief – IDALS Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality

The late summer and fall seasons are always a busy time for conservation professionals as we work to balance the tight timelines of harvest with activities such as cover crop seeding and conservation practice construction. This past year was no exception as we again broke records in both the number of conservation practices completed and cost share dollars expended through our state programs. Working together with farmers, landowners and communities to get conservation on the land is our top priority and it takes a team effort to implement our growing programs each year. Without the cooperation and leadership from our strong partnerships with Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Natural Resources and numerous other entities and organizations, we would not be able to deliver on our collective conservation goals.



To accomplish our conservation program goals our partnership staff works not only within the 100 field office locations but increasingly across county lines, broader watershed scales and throughout the entire state. This takes tremendous coordination with our partners, and we continuously plan and communicate to assess resource needs, staffing and training in alignment with work demand and program goals. We also understand the value of timeliness and strive to also create efficiencies in our delivery methods and processes in a rapidly expanding conservation program environment. Change and challenges will always be a part of this progress and growth. As such, we always welcome feedback and additional opportunities to work with our customers and partners as part of this process.

The opportunity to improve working relationships through feedback and communication is truly valuable and ultimately helps to drive progress and positive change. Thank you to not only our farmers and landowners, but also to our dedicated staff for your hard work as we look forward to more conser-

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Update

Mike Naig



The last several years have certainly provided some unique and substantial challenges. Yet, despite the pandemic, supply chain disruptions, inflation, and a weather whiplash (from flooding to derechos to drought), we continue to see record engagement in our state's conservation activity. There has never been more awareness, resources, partners, people, and actual conservation work getting done in the State of Iowa than we have today.

We've come a long way and I'm proud of the work we've accomplished. We know there is much more to do but we're excited and optimistic about where we are headed.

Everyone has a role to play in water quality whether you live in a rural, suburban, or urban area. As we approach the 10-year anniversary of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, we must keep our focus on scaling up, accelerating our work, and demonstrating progress.

Iowa has surpassed 350 public and private partners statewide and we are always looking for more. We only had a few thousand acres of cover crops about a decade ago, but now we've hit 3 million acres with plenty of room to grow. We know that innovative changes on the land leads to positive impacts with our water and we've accelerated the adoption of edge-of-field conservation practices like saturated buffers, bioreactors, and wetlands.

Using our traditional conservation funding processes, we were able to get a good start on demonstrating the effectiveness of saturated buffers and bioreactors. Now, using the streamlined "batch and build" model, more saturated buffers and bioreactors are planned for construction in the next 3-year period than have been installed over the last 13 years. Historically, when we only had CREP funding for water quality wetlands, we would construct 3-5 wetlands per year. Now, with dedicated water quality infrastructure funding, we are currently on pace to build 15-20 wetlands per year and the current goal is to construct 30 per year. I want to thank the hardworking and devoted conservation professionals at the district, state, and federal levels and from our public and private partner businesses and organizations. From outreach, design, and layout, to developing watershed and community-based projects, these men and women go to work each and every day. They are the implementers and I want to extend my appreciation and gratitude to them for their passion and commitment.

Going forward, we need significant funding, technical and construction resources, and we need more municipalities, businesses, farmers, and landowners to say yes. And just as all technology evolves and progresses, so must our work to protect soil and water. We're continuously innovating, learning, testing, and driving new science-based practices – all of which can make an even greater impact on our shared resources.

There's no denying that we laid out ambitious soil health and water quality goals in the state's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. We all know that these are challenging and complex tasks. We are pleased with our progress but not yet satisfied with how far we've come. We are committed to this important work because the partnerships, investments, and practices will all pay big water quality dividends long-term and that's a legacy that we can all be proud of.