



Thank You For Your Support!

The Monroe Co SWCD appreciates ALL past, present and future contributions! Our involvement in the community through education, activities and awards are made possible with your assistance. Volunteers welcome! To continue your financial support, please send donations to:
Monroe Co SWCD
1701 S B St. Ste. 100 Albia, Iowa 52531

We are very proud of all Monroe County Award Winners! Congratulations as they progress in their education, careers, and agricultural endeavors!

Monroe County SWCD Scholarship

2021 Nick Heffron 2020 Lauren Kaldenberg, Abby Peterson and Curtis Clark
2019 Jer McAninch 2018 Tyler Stringfellow, Logan Hatfield, and Joe Beary - Region 9 Scholarship Recipient

Monroe County SWCD Soil and Water Conservation Achievement Award

2020 Jim Delaney 2019 Denny Cason 2018 Charles & Rosemary Scott, and Paul Loucks



SWCD Commissioner Don Neibuhr, with Jim Delaney and son, Matthew, and IDALS Soil Conservation Technician, Ron Peterson



SWCD Commissioner Mervin McDanel, with Denny Cason



SWCD Commissioner Mervin McDanel, with Charles & Rosemary Scott, and SWCD Commissioner, Bob Scott



SWCD Commissioner Mervin McDanel, with Paul Loucks

The Ruth Wagner Award began in 2001 to honor Soil and Water Conservation District Assistant Commissioners. Johnson Co SWCD gives the award in memory and honor of Ruth Wagner, who served the Johnson SWCD for 53 years. Colleen Putnam, our very own Assistant Commissioner, was awarded this honor at the 2018 Annual Conference for the Conservation Districts of Iowa. In a gracious speech, Colleen stated:

I am honored to be associated with a group whose mission is informing, educating, and leading Iowans through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to promote the conservation of natural resources.

My greatest pride is in our local conservation office and the individuals who work there. They amaze me with their dedication, talents, and task commitment. But above all, is their cooperation in working together for the greater good. I can't remember a board meeting where a senior technician did not praise a conservation technician assistant or intern for their skill in performing a specific task.

I have no reason not to believe this is happening all over the state of Iowa! I am grateful for the privilege of being a small part of this vital mission.

Thank you!

Colleen began as a Monroe Co SWCD volunteer in 1990 by taking first-graders on field trip to the Lake Miami wetland. She welcomed teaching the young students about conservation of the land, the importance of our plants and animals, and the children planted trees and stocked the wetland with fish. Soon after, Colleen joined the SWCD as Assistant Commissioner. She continues to be active on our education committee, encouraging participation in scholarship programs and the poster contest, and attends Regional informational meetings to report back to the Commissioners.



SERVICE AWARD - Monroe County SWCD Board member, Mervin McDanel, retired at the end of 2020 after 31 years of service as a Commissioner and Chairperson for 28 of those years. Mervin also served as liaison on the Soap Creek Watershed Management Authority Board for 30 years. His volunteer efforts have included attendance at monthly meetings, correspondence with legislators, personal contact with producers, and many other volunteer activities. Monroe County SWCD appreciates Mervin's many years of service, support and dedication to promote soil conservation and water quality! (Pictured accepting his Service Award: Marvin Wirtjes - SWCD Commissioner, Mervin McDanel, and Don Niebuhr - SWCD Chairperson)

Notes from Monroe County

NRCS District Conservationist

Welcome Nathan Rahe to the Monroe Co SWCD - USDA Service Center, working together to be better conservation leaders in our community. Nate grew up in Hillsboro, ILL and his family farms near St. Louis. He attained a Masters in Forestry with a focus in Soils from Southern Illinois University. Nate brings 6 years of NRCS Soil Conservationist experience from Marion Co and 2 years experience as a Soil Conservationist Technician in Illinois. He resides in Pella with his family. "I look forward to meeting with Monroe County producers to help design plans for use of conservation practices that best suit your goals and objectives of your land." Contact Nate today to discuss your personal resource concerns and conservation plans.

NACD Technician Assistant, Monroe Co SWCD - Stacy Moore

Joining the Monroe SWCD in January 2021, Stacy is the new National Association of Conservation Districts position through December 2022. She will be assisting the office with Federal programs and producer contacts, as well as survey layout and design. Welcome Stacy!

Thank You! Logan Hatfield

Monroe Co SWCD 2020 Intern

"It has been quite an exciting opportunity to work among soil technicians and conservationists in my home county, especially during this bizarre period in history! I grew up in Lovilia, and always had an interest in wildlife and general conservation. It was not until I graduated Albia High School, though, that I received my first work opportunity in the conservation field. While pursuing a degree in Environmental Science and Agronomy at Iowa State University, I was a Seasonal Park Technician at Lake Miami for the summers of 2018 and 2019, and the Monroe Co SWCD intern for the 2020 Summer and Winter months. I appreciated working with each one of the Monroe Co NRCS, IDALS and SWCD staff. Thank you!"



NRCS Soil Conservationist Suzy Flattery has been with NRCS since March 2019, located in Monroe Co. Suzy graduated from Albia High School and furthered her education at Northwest Missouri State University, obtaining her bachelors degree in Agricultural Science with a minor in Communications. She and her husband again reside in their home county. Having experience with both ag retail and conservation, Suzy has a well rounded perspective on all aspects of a farming operation. Contact Suzy concerning federal programs in any of the four counties she works with: Monroe, Appanoose, Davis and Wapello Counties.

NRCS Soil Conservationist Madi Hollingsworth joined the NRCS in July 2020, located in Monroe Co. Madi grew up in Elgin, IA and now lives near Hedrick and her husband's family. Graduate of Iowa State University in Agronomy, Madi found her interest in conservation grow through her soils classes and multiple Pathways student internships in both Muscatine and Boone Counties. Contact Madi today for any questions you may have concerning Federal NRCS programs.

2021 Monroe Co SWCD Commissioners

Commissioners help decide the direction of soil and water conservation programs in the county, and have the opportunity to influence state and national conservation programs. Involvement includes activities such as addressing soil loss complaints, establishing acceptable soil loss limits, publishing an annual report, approving soil conservation plans, and assisting in the management of district funds and personnel. Thank You to each one of our Commissioners!



Don Niebuhr - Chair, has served the Monroe Co SWCD since 2005, many of those years as Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Don also serves as the Conservation District's of Iowa Alternate Director. The Monroe Co SWCD appreciates Don's leadership as we continue to benefit from his support and commitment.

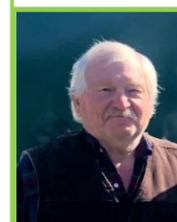


Bob Scott - Vice Chair, began his service in 2010. He continues to serve as Co-Treasurer and sits on the Education Committee. Bob has taken on financial audits for the District, as well as oversight at District financial reviews with IDALS-DSCWQ. He attends regional meetings to receive updates on the latest programs and provides input for Monroe County producers.

Joe Pyle - Treasurer, has been active since 2013. He is charged with District financial audits and reviews. Joe is also the Chairperson and Treasurer for the South-Central Iowa Cedar Creek Watershed Management Authority Board. He diligently works toward securing future funding for practices in Cedar Creek Watershed.



Jim Nelson - Co Treasurer, newly elected in 2021 after serving as Assistant Commissioner since 2015. Jim has been appointed to Co-Treasurer and also serves on the REAP Board. Jim attends local and state meetings to keep up-to-date on REAP programs, but also with state legislators to secure state cost-share funds to use for local erosion control practices.



Marvin Wirtjes helps review scholarship applications as part of the Education Committee. He also serves as SWCD liaison and representative appointment to the Soap Creek WMA Board. Marvin has served the Monroe Co SWCD since 1993 as an Assistant Commissioner, until 2013, when he was appointed to fill a Board vacancy and ultimately elected. We thank Marvin for his support!



Colleen Putnam - Assistant Commissioner, has served since 1999. A mainstay of the Education Committee, Colleen serves as the voice to bring awareness to Monroe County students, awarding annual scholarships, while also coordinating with local School Districts to participate in the Conservation Districts of Iowa soil conservation poster contest. Colleen is dedicated to continuing her assistance to the District and field office staff with administrative work products.

Watershed Management Authority & South Central Iowa Cedar Creek WMA... Q & A

***WHAT is a WMA (Watershed Management Authority)?** A WMA is a mechanism for counties, cities, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and Stakeholders to cooperatively engage in watershed planning and management.

***HOW is a WMA formed?** Two or more eligible political subdivisions may create, by 28E Agreement, a Watershed Management Authority. The participating political subdivisions must be located in the same United States geological survey specific 8 digit hydrologic unit code watershed. Learn more at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2014/466B.pdf>
<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Watershed-Management-Authorities>

***WHEN was the South Central Iowa Cedar Creek WMA (SCIACC WMA) established?** A local non-profit WMA was organized to collaborate and implement solutions addressing continued flooding and erosion issues with high priority to improve water quality within Cedar Creek Watershed and downstream communities. This collaborative effort came with full support from various subdivisions within Appanoose, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion and Monroe counties, including SWCDs, County Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and Watershed Municipalities. A working 28E Agreement M508674 was filed August 13, 2015 establishing and formally founding the SCIACC WMA. Official link for the existing 28E Agreement on file with the State of Iowa can be found at: https://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/water/watershed/files/SouthCentralIACedarCreek_AmendedAgreement.pdf

***WHAT are the benefits of a WMA?** Through an established WMA and governing Board of Directors, activities involving flood risk and water quality assessment, planning and development, public education, and funding allocation may be undertaken. A WMA does allow for the leveraging of resources and cooperative partnerships, encouraging stakeholder involvement in watershed management. A WMA does not have taxing authority and it may not acquire property through eminent domain.

2021 SCIACC WMA Board Of Directors Officers are: Chair/Treasurer-Joe Pyle, Vice Chair-Steve McCombs, Co Treasurers-Linda Heller & Charles Moore, and Secretary - Janelle K. Randau.

***WHAT has the SCIACC WMA done for you?** Together, the WMA Board of Directors, we have set forth these goals:

- Provide community awareness and education.
- Reduce flooding and protect infrastructure.
- Support healthy streams and wildlife habitat.
- Reduce sediment reaching Cedar Creek by applying conservation practices.
- Improve water and soil quality.
- Increase safety.
- Protect and sustain our natural resources.
- Support productive land use and recreation.

Since 2015, the WMA Board and Watershed Project Coordinator have made great strides in developing a funded watershed project for the Cedar Creek Watershed. An overall hydrology study has been completed, as well as targeted studies on Miller Creek and Bleubaugh Creek sub-watersheds. Additional assessments on water, tillage, gully and public concerns continued in 2020 through an Iowa DNR planning grant for the entirety of Cedar Creek Watershed. As planning and development continues, information obtained will guide the implementation of conservation practices to mitigate issues to help reduce flooding and erosion damage. All of this work will allow completion of a comprehensive plan outlining priority areas to address resource concerns. Upon completion of this SCIACC WMA Watershed Management Plan, our goal remains to establish a funded project that will offer landowners and producers cost-share dollars to install conservation practices within Cedar Creek Watershed.

***HOW can you volunteer and contribute?** Our WMA Board of Directors is comprised completely of volunteers who serve as officers, members and active partners vested in the future of Cedar Creek Watershed. Officers are local landowners, producers, operators, residents and business owners. Our collaborative partners bring valuable knowledge and guidance. Opportunities to experience our vast, beautiful and sometimes wild Cedar Creek Watershed are right at your fingertips. If you have the interest, time or talent to give, we will find something for you to help with! Volunteers help with mailings, water sample collections, field tillage surveys, public communication, social events, and more... Just ask!

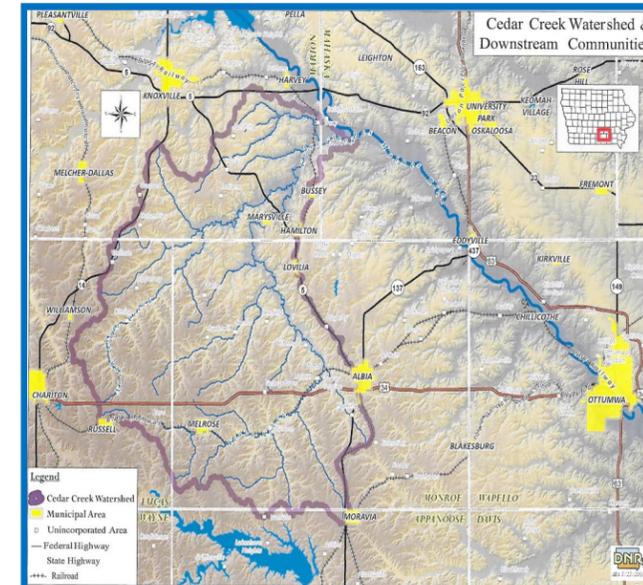
***WHAT can you do to help assure a successful watershed project?**

- SUPPORT** conservation assessments and activities.
- ENCOURAGE** your neighbors, landowners, producers and urban community residents to protect our natural resources through good conservation practices.
- DONATE** to support the SCIACC WMA's ongoing goals. Contributions received go towards matching grant support, public education and outreach, as well as continuing administrative, planning and development activities. All donations are tax-deductible and every dollar is appreciated. **Thank You to all who have contributed!**
- VOLUNTEER** time and efforts to promote outreach activities.

To help support our continued efforts, please consider sending your donation to:

SCIACC WMA 1701 S B St. Ste. 100 Albia, IA 52531

***If you have any questions regarding the SCIACC WMA, please contact Janelle K. Randau, Project Coordinator SCIACC WMA-Monroe Co SWCD, at 641-932-5144, Ext.3. Thank you.**



Cedar Creek Watershed covers 269,512 acres, comprising of 14 sub-watersheds (ie. 14 streams/creeks that lead into the main Cedar Creek) and extending into 5 counties: Appanoose, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion and Monroe. The headwaters actually begin to the west in Lucas County AND to the south at the Appanoose-Monroe County line. Flowing northward through Monroe and Marion Counties, Cedar Creek outlets into the Des Moines River just 2 miles south of Tracy near the Marion-Mahaska County line. Downstream communities include Eddyville and Ottumwa.

Despite residents best efforts to mitigate challenges in the watershed, Cedar Creek still experiences significant flooding and water quality issues. An estimated 329,080 tons of sediment is being lost every year; equivalent to 16,454 dump truck loads of soil. As more frequent and destructive flood events occur, water quality downstream can continue to deteriorate from excessive sedimentation and nutrient load. This will continue to be very costly in terms of water quality, but also infrastructure, agriculture and residential losses as well, to all communities within the Cedar Creek Watershed and along the Des Moines River downstream. Thanks to the South Central IA Cedar Creek WMA, efforts continue to protect our natural resources.

South Central IA Cedar Creek WMA Project Coordinator Introduction and UPDATE, Janelle K. Randau

Shortly after receiving her education from ISU, Janelle returned to Oskaloosa to raise her family near the SW Mahaska Co family farm she grew up on. Together with her husband and children, they continued to use the agriculture and conservation knowledge learned through her years of experience and education to grow a small acreage family business of sustainable horticulture and livestock. Janelle began her career path into conservation through an IDALS position with the Mahaska Co SWCD, where she had the exposure to several types of District, State and Federal programs. In this position, she began valuable training and continued working relationships with IDNR Environmental Specialist GIS Analyst and IDALS Watershed Coordinator SE Iowa. Her direct experience and learning opportunity with the Muchakinock Creek Watershed Project led her to know a deeper desire for continued opportunities to work with watersheds. Janelle joined the Monroe Co SWCD in March 2020 through an IDNR Water Quality Management Planning Grant as Project Coordinator of Cedar Creek Watershed Management Authority. Watershed contacts began in March 2020 by completing a survey to 1734 households, with plans for public engagement and information sharing as data is collected. On-site tillage surveys have been completed on roughly 140,000 acres, including 7200 land units. Work continues for on-site erosion assessments of 39 designated priority gully sites, and an Iowa Soybean Association contract for 16 water testing collections of 14 sampling sites throughout Cedar Creek Watershed. Through the IDNR grant, this 18-month position allows for water quality management planning and production of a valuable Watershed Management Plan for the entirety of the 269,512 acres in 5 counties that make up Cedar Creek Watershed. Upon completion of this Watershed Management Plan, the goal remains to establish a funded project that will offer landowners and producers cost-share dollars to install conservation practices within Cedar Creek Watershed.

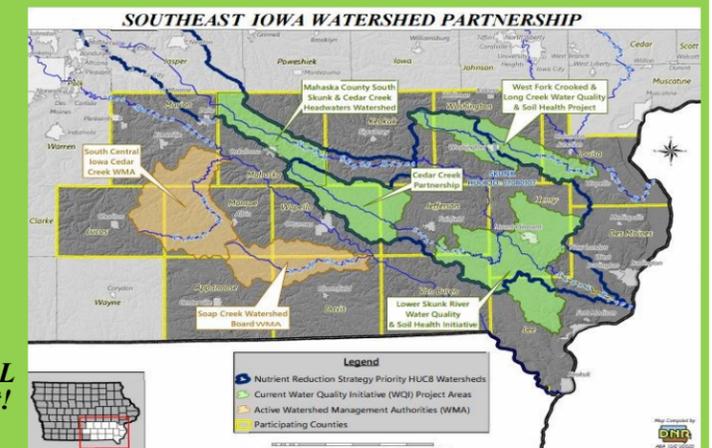
SE Iowa Watershed Partnership Applies for NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant

The SE Iowa Watershed Partnership 2020 RCPP proposal was successfully submitted in November. Through collective agreed support, the 2020 proposal includes 6 watershed areas: Lower DSM River WMA's - South Central Iowa Cedar Creek WMA, and Soap Creek WMA; and Lower Skunk River Watershed Area WQI projects - Mahaska County South Skunk Cedar Creek Watershed Project, Cedar Creek Partnership Project, Lower Skunk Water Quality & Soil Health Initiative, and West Fork Crooked Creek & Long Creek Water Quality & Soil Health Initiative.

The new partnership includes 15 adjoining counties. Since this is a regional program, applying as a partnership with a larger geographical area and more partner commitment all help in application success due to higher RCPP ranking points. If the grant proposal is accepted there would be an opportunity for participants within the SE Iowa Watershed Partnership Area to address water quality, soil health/loss, and overall watershed conservation concerns through financial assistance.

23 Partners committed a total of \$12,807,137.00 in matching funds. These matching dollars allowed final application for the \$10M maximum RCPP grant funding amount. Award announcement is expected Spring 2021.

Thank You to Soap Creek WMA and Monroe Co SWCD for supplying the initial grant writing cost for this great opportunity. **Thanks** also go to James Martin/IDALS WC SE IA, and Ashley Utt/Pathfinders RC&D, for their knowledge and grant writing assistance. **Thank You to ALL new and returning Partners for your interest and support!**



CRP... Why should you schedule Mid-Contract Management (MCM)? To open the grass stand and allow for wildflowers (forbs) to grow. As CRP fields age, the grass becomes dominant and smothers out the forbs, making the field less valuable to wildlife. Management activities disturb the old sod and improve its wildlife value.

Do you have MCM scheduled for the spring? If so, now is the time to start planning, if you haven't already started. Begin by looking at your management practice. Look at your CRP conservation plan for MCM options available for your specific CRP practice. ***Please Note: Follow your conservation plan and map carefully for areas to be treated. Not all options are available for certain practices, though a combination of management activities may be used on the same acres to achieve the planned result. Refer to Iowa CRP Required Management Activity Option Guide Sheet for more information.** Scout your CRP fields to determine what option is best suited for your management goals and objectives. All options are geared towards creating early successional habitat by creating open ground and adding diversity back to the grass stand.



MCM options include: Prescribed Burning, Tillage, Spraying, Grazing, *Haying and *Interseeding. (*Haying or Interseeding ONLY will not meet MCM requirements).

Prescribed fire must be done according to a burn plan. Complete burning over 3 years by applying to 1/3 of the acres in each scheduled year or the entire contract acres in one year, based on the burn plan. Optimal dates for burning based on the plant community are: • Cool Season Grasses, March 1 – April 15 • Warm Season Grasses, April 1 – May 14 • Forbs, September 1 – February 1. Follow NRCS Prescribed Burning (338) standard and refer to the Prescribed Burning Implementation Requirement for more information. If you are planning to do the work yourself, you may contact Shane Weinberg, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist at 641-856-3893 ext. 3 or sweinberg@pheasantsforever.org for a personal burn plan that outlines the proper wind speeds and direction, temperature ranges, and equipment needed to safely conduct a prescribed fire. *“When handled properly and safely, prescribed fire is a powerful tool used to remove built-up litter and set back encroaching cool season grasses and woody vegetation, while reinvigorating native grasses and forbs. Properly preparing for a prescribed fire drastically reduces chances of escaped fires. Fall is time to prepare for burning by mowing 30’ firebreaks around the perimeter of the field to be burned.”* If planning to hire it out, the winter months are a great time to contact local contractors to line someone up before their busy spring season. Your local NRCS office has a list of contractors available for hire.



Tillage is recommended no deeper than 4 inches leaving 50% residue and 50% bare ground. This may require a minimum of 3-4 passes and should be done on the contour. Mowing, burning, grazing or haying may be needed prior to tillage if equipment is not heavy enough to penetrate existing sod. Rotate the tilled areas, either blocks within the field or strips across the field. Tilling in strips is recommended, especially on C and D slopes. When tilling in strips, alternate tilled strips that are less than 75’ wide with an area twice the size of the tilled strip across the field on the contour/cross-slope.



Spraying (applying herbicide) targets and weakens grasses to improve conditions for forb growth. Apply the lowest label rate which will accomplish the desired conditions. Always follow the label. Spray when the grass is actively growing. Mowing or burning is encouraged before spraying. When spraying cool season (introduced) grasses, the herbicide will be non-selective (example: glyphosate). Herbicides are most effective on introduced grasses in the spring and early fall. When spraying warm season (native) grasses, the herbicide used shall target only grasses (example: Clethodim). Herbicides are most effective on warm season grasses in late summer into the early fall. Do NOT spray over open water. Land within 20' of a permanent or intermittent waterbody must be excluded and no additional activity will be required on such land.



Grazing must follow CRP Non-Emergency Grazing policy. Follow grazing frequency, timing, and utilization requirements according to NRCS CRP Non-Emergency Grazing Plan Supplement. Grazing must be requested and approved by FSA County Committee before grazing. Also consider interseeding after grazing to improve the plant community diversity. No annual payment reduction will be applied when grazing for required management.

***Haying** must be completed in conjunction with interseeding, tilling, or spraying. Follow NRCS CRP Non-Emergency Haying and Grazing Plan Supplement for haying period, frequency, and minimum stubble height. Haying must be requested and approved by FSA County Committee before haying. Follow NRCS Forage Harvest Management (511) standard. Haying may only take place from August 2 - August 31. A 25% annual payment reduction will be applied for this option.



***Interseeding** introduces legumes or native forbs into the existing grass stand. *Before interseeding, the existing vegetation must be weakened by burning, tilling, spraying, or grazing. Non-emergency haying, where allowed, is also acceptable. Follow guidance for seedbed preparation, seeding operation, seeding dates and approved plant species in the Conservation Cover (327) Implementation Requirement and the attached seeding plan.



Programs Available Through NRCS/IDALS-DSCWQ/SWCD

Environmental Quality Incentives Programs: (EQIP) Provides financial and technical assistance for landowners to develop and implement conservation practices. A personalized and contracted plan will help to address specific natural resource concerns.

Conservation Stewardship Program: (CSP) Incentive to maintain and improve with additional practices existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities addressing resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservations performance - the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Iowa Financial Incentive Program: (IFIP) Allows landowners to implement erosion control practices. IFIP will cost share up to 50% of the eligible or estimated cost, whichever is less. Requirements are that a landowner owns minimum of 10 acres contiguously with a minimum of \$2,500 annual agricultural income from the property.

Water Quality Initiative Program: (WQI) Provides a per-acre incentive for producers to apply cover crops to existing fields. As the Nutrient Management Strategy becomes a larger part of a total planning package, producers may see incorporating this practice to continue improvement of their soil health.

Resource Enhancement And Protection Program: (REAP) REAP-Forestry/Native Grasses funds cost share 75% of the eligible or estimated cost, whichever is less. REAP-Practices funds all cost share 50% of the eligible or estimated cost, whichever is less, but can be used in combination with other public funds to provide a total cost share rate up to 75%. *This program has reached it's sunset clause; availability of funds determined by Legislature.

Publicly Owned Lakes Program: (POL) *As a designated watershed area, ground in Lake Miami is available for 75% cost-share funding for erosion control practices. Eligibility is pre-determined by location.

Low Interest Loan Program: (LIL) This program offers financial assistance when implementing erosion control practices. Working with your local lender at a 3% interest rate can make conservation more affordable. *These loans can be used in conjunction with State and Federal programs, or stand alone.

No Interest Loan Program: (NIL) The 1983 State Legislature established the conservation practices revolving loan fund to provide loans up to \$20,000 to eligible landowners at no interest for the construction of permanent soil conservation practices. Repayment is made in 10 annual payments equal to 10% of the initial loan amount. In the event of land ownership transfer, payment is due immediately.

In-Field vs Edge-of-Field Practices

You have likely heard of In-Field Practices such as cover crops, no-till and nutrient management. Have you heard about Edge-Of-Field Practices? These practices also play a crucial role in improving water quality through reducing nitrogen and phosphorus in Iowa's water bodies. Edge-Of-Field practices include grade stabilization structures, buffers, saturated buffers, nitrogen bioreactors, and denitrifying wetlands. Each of these practices improve water quality, require minimal cost and maintenance, and offer opportunities for wildlife and pollinator habitat.

Contact your local USDA Service Center or check out cleanwateriowa.org for more information.

**MONROE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT
FY20 (JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020)**

Iowa Financial Incentives Program (IFIP)

Beginning obligation...\$132,126.46
 FY20 allocation.....\$110,715.00
 Funds spent.....\$118,517.74
 Funds obligated.....\$124,323.72
 Funds recalled.....\$0
 Practices Installed w/funds spent:
 Grade stabilization structures 3
 Terraces 1,515 ft
 Water & sediment control basins 56
 Summer incentive 0

Water Quality Initiative (WQI)

Beginning obligation....\$0
 FY20 allocation.....\$6,238,513.61(State)
 Funds spent.....\$17,101.10 (Monroe)
 Funds spent Statewide.\$4,204,034.03
 Funds recalled.....\$2,017,378.48(State)
 Practices Installed w/funds spent:
 Cover crops 858.74 ac (Monroe)

**Resource Enhancement And Protection -
Forestry/Native Grasses (REAP - F/NG)**

Beginning obligation...\$17,796.00
 FY20 allocation.....\$5,268.00
 Funds spent.....\$21,564.00
 Funds obligated.....\$780.00
 Funds recalled.....\$750.00
 Practices Installed w/funds spent:
 Forest stand improvement 179.7 ac.

**Resource Enhancement And Protection -
Practices (REAP - P)**

Beginning obligation...\$1,860.00
 FY20 allocation.....\$6,863.02
 Funds spent.....\$8,520.00
 Funds obligated.....\$0
 Funds recalled.....\$203.02
 Practices Installed w/funds spent:
 Forest stand improvement 71 ac.

Public Owned Lakes (POL)

Beginning obligation...\$0
 FY20 allocation.....\$11,250.00
 Funds spent.....\$3,969.61
 Funds obligated.....\$11,250.00
 Funds recalled.....\$7,280.39
 Practices Installed w/funds spent:
 Water & sediment control basins 2

No-Interest Loan (NIL)

Beginning obligation...\$241.50
 FY20 allocation.....\$20,000.00
 Funds spent.....\$0
 Funds obligated.....\$20,000.00
 Funds recalled.....\$241.50
 Practices Installed w/funds spent: 0

Commissioner/Office Expenses

FY20 allocation.....\$2,000.00
 Supplemental.....\$750.00
 Mileage.....\$1,799.16
 Supplies.....\$713.05
 NACD dues.....\$775.00
 CDI dues.....\$850.00
 Room rent.....\$0
 Expenses not covered.....\$1,387.21

Fix That Ugly Ditch! Ron Peterson, IDALS Soil Technician

If you own land, there is a good chance that you have a gully or at least the start of one. In the last ten years, it seems like every ditch you see is several feet deeper, and many-many feet wider. The State of Iowa offers cost share money through your local SWCD to help to control issues like this. The cost share money can pay up to half of the estimated cost or actual cost, whichever is lower, with a cap on the cost share of \$10,000.00. Options may include one or more water and sediment control basin, or a grade stabilization structure (farm pond to control erosion). Since the cost share comes from taxes, we use the best and cheapest alternative we have to offer. The limiting factors typically are the size of the drainage area, the soil mapping units at the site, and location compared to the neighbor's fence line or buildings. We have other options to help pay for erosion control projects, including the EQIP federal cost share program, and also the State of Iowa 3% Low Interest Loan and No-Interest Loan programs. Call Ron at 641-9323-5144 Ext 3 for more information.

Forest Improvements: Jeremy Cochran, DNR District Forester

The great misnomer of oak woodlands is to not touch it or leave it "natural". This is exactly the wrong approach to caring for Iowa's woodlands. Your woodland is much like a garden such that you do not plant seeds in the spring and ignore it all summer only to return in the fall to reap a bumper harvest. Your woodland is part of the future. What you do now to the land affects trees, birds, animals, plants and all living things in the woodland for more than a generation. Forest improvement practices affect whoever may own the land in the future; our children, grandchildren, or even someone we have never met. What you do in the woodlands also affects our neighbors and the local community. By taking care of the land now, you can ensure healthy woodlands for future generations of all living things. Establishing long-term plans for your woodland property is a positive first step towards good forest stewardship. For more information on forest stand improvement, please contact Jeremy at 641-774-TREE.

**Monroe County
USDA Service Center**

District Personnel

Janelle K. Randau - Project Coordinator,
 SCIACC WMA - South Central IA Cedar Creek
 Watershed Management Authority
 Stacy Moore - NACD Technician Assistant

IDALS-DSCWQ Staff

Diana Williams - Conservation Assistant
 Ron Peterson - Soil Conservation Technician

USDA-NRCS Staff:

Nathan Rahe - District Conservationist
 Suzy Flattery - Soil Conservationist
 Madi Hollingsworth - Soil Conservationist
 Mary Yager - MEC Contract Clerical Specialist

Pheasants and Quail Forever Staff:

Shane Weinberg - Farm Bill Biologist



Spring 2021

2021 SWCD Commissioners

Donald Niebuhr, Chair Robert Scott, Vice Chair & Co Treasurer
 Joe Pyle, Treasurer Jim Nelson, Co Treasurer
 Marvin Wirtjes Colleen Putnam, Assistant Commissioner

*Commissioner meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 9:00am. Dates and times are subject to change.

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 Website: monroe-swcd.org**

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