



# MITCHELL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Spring 2019

## MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

The Mitchell Soil and Water Conservation District is made up of locally elected residents of Mitchell County who serve as volunteers providing local program guidance to solve natural resource concerns within the district. Public meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

January 2019 saw a change in commissioners for the Mitchell SWCD. The district welcomed Bruce Johnson of Rock township as Vice Chairperson and Dana Norby of Cedar East township as Commissioner.

Outgoing commissioners included Karen Damjanovic and Jarod Gasteiger. Karen had been with the district as a commissioner from 2006-2018 and was an assistant commissioner for several years prior. Jarod had been a commissioner from 2010-2018. Their involvement and commitment to conservation is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

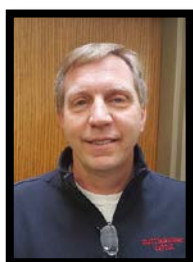
The Mitchell Soil and Water Conservation District has 5 commissioners and 4 assistant commissioners. Commissioners include Dale Hemann, Bruce Johnson, Dana Norby, Eric Jellum and John Schwarck. Assistant commissioners include Milt Owen, Chelsea Rowcliffe, Sue Sletten and Sandie Adams.



Jarod Gasteiger  
2010-2018



Karen Damjanovic  
2006-2018



### MSWCD COMMISSIONERS

Left to Right:

- Dale Hemann – Chairperson
- Bruce Johnson – Vice Chair
- Dana Norby – Commissioner
- Eric Jellum – Treasurer
- John Schwarck – Co-Treasurer

## TREES FOR KIDS

In April 2018, the Mitchell Soil & Water Conservation District handed out 150 seedlings, 75 Red Maple and 75 Burr Oak, to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders of Riceville, St. Ansgar and Osage schools. The students also learned about the history and importance of Arbor Day and Earth Day as well as advice on how to care for their new seedling.



## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

In May 2018, the Mitchell Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) partnered with the Mitchell County Conservation Board (MCCB) to teach Osage 5<sup>th</sup> graders about various ecosystems in Mitchell County. The outdoor classroom was located at the New Haven Potholes and stations included: Prairies with MCCB Naturalist Chelsea Rowcliffe, Forests with SWCD Conservation Assistant Kelly Kline, and Wetlands with SWCD Project Coordinator Tracy Church.



## THE STATE CONSERVATIONIST

By Kurt Simon

### Another Record Year for Conservation

For the second consecutive year, Iowa farmers and landowners substantially stepped up their commitment to conservation through Farm Bill programs. In fiscal year 2018, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) obligated more than \$63 million to Iowa farmers and landowners, a 35 percent increase from FY 2017. Last year, Iowa farmers received \$46.4 million in USDA assistance to implement conservation practices on their land through Farm Bill programs administered by NRCS. This was a 20 percent, or \$10 million, increase.

These financial investments help support ag community economies because more dollars are spent at local coops, paid to contractors and invested in fencing, trees and seed. But more importantly it also reflects the growing investment in private lands conservation by Iowa's farmers and landowners.

More than 450,000 acres, an area the size of Webster County, will be treated by Iowa landowners and farmers through FY 2018 Farm Bill contracts. To put this in perspective, this area is equal to all the cropland acres in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire combined.

### Record-Setting Year for EQIP

Through EQIP, NRCS obligated a record \$30 million through 1,414 contracts. Nearly one-third of Iowa's EQIP funding went to grassland-based practices such as watering facilities, fence, and pipeline to support livestock grazing systems. In July, NRCS announced special EQIP funding to support livestock grazing systems in drought-stricken areas of southeast Iowa. Through the special funding, livestock producers signed 362 EQIP contracts totaling more than \$3.6 million that will treat natural resource concerns on about 38,800 pasture acres.

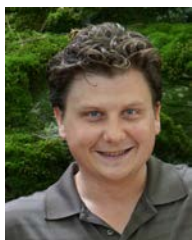
This funding came at a crucial time for southern Iowa livestock producers. Ponds were drying up and grazing conditions were worsening after consecutive years of low rainfall in that part of the state. We felt if we could provide extra assistance for water well access and rotational grazing, it would help to improve forages and natural resource issues.

### Expanding Conservation Assistance

According to the 2017 Ag Census, there are about 88,000 farmers in this state. That is about 300 farmers for each NRCS field office staff person. Even with 100 field offices across the state, and our team of dedicated conservation professionals, we know we can't fully support conservation efforts with NRCS staff alone. To help bridge this gap, Iowa NRCS annually invests in the Iowa Partners for Conservation (IPC) Awards to encourage collaboration in addressing some of Iowa's most pressing natural resource concerns. NRCS identifies potential projects for leveraging NRCS and partner resources to build conservation technical capacity to develop and implement effective project outcomes. This year up to \$5 million will be awarded to conservation partners through IPC. Projects may be farm-based, multicounty, small watershed, or Statewide in scope. Collaborative projects that provide on-the-ground support for Iowa NRCS Field Offices are highly encouraged.

### A New Farm Bill

After many months of hard work, Congress passed a new Farm Bill which was signed by President Trump on December 20, 2018. According to USDA Secretary Sonny Purdue, this Farm Bill is "more evolutionary, rather than revolutionary." It bolsters farm safety net programs, protects federal crop insurance, and maintains strong rural development and research initiatives. As with all new Farm Bills, there will be much more info in the weeks and months to come as rules are developed and programs are rolled out. We look forward to working together with Iowa farmers and conservation partners as we strive towards another record-breaking year in 2019.



## COREY BRINK – DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Corey is the District Conservationist for Mitchell and Howard Counties. If you would like to speak with Corey about programs available for your agricultural needs, you may schedule an appointment by calling the Mitchell NRCS at 641-732-5504 ext. 3 or the Howard NRCS at 563-547-3040 ext. 3. You may also email Corey at [corey.brink@usda.gov](mailto:corey.brink@usda.gov) to set up an appointment or with any questions you may have.

# ANNUAL USE OF DISTRICT FUNDS

MITCHELL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FY 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENT JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018		
<b>DISTRICT REVOLVING FUND</b>		
BEGINNING BALANCE		\$6,048.72
RECEIPTS		
TRANSFER FROM SAVINGS	\$105,700.00	
DISTRICT FARM RENT	\$4,990.00	
MISC INCOME	\$245.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$110,935.00	
TOTAL		\$116,983.72
EXPENSES		
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	\$230.76	
AWARD DINNER	\$405.00	
AWARDS- Signs	\$630.50	
COMMISSIONER EXPENSES	\$361.87	
CONTRIBUTION- ISU CONSERVATION STATION	\$600.00	
DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$48.00	
ENVIROTHON	\$240.00	
1M CDI DUES	\$850.00	
1M COMMISSIONER EXPENSES	\$1,103.34	
1M OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$86.98	
1M POSTAGE	\$756.57	
IPERS WITHHOLDING	\$11,621.20	
MEETING EXPENSES	\$1,351.63	
MISC. EXPENSES	\$53.50	
NEWSLETTER EXPENSE	\$1,138.00	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$200.88	
PAYROLL	\$56,571.49	
PAYROLL EXPENSE- ACCOUNTING FEES	\$410.00	
PAYROLL TAXES	\$22,978.24	
POSTAGE AND DELIVERY	\$1,549.11	
REIMBURSEMENT Farmers Advisory	\$47.16	
ROCK CREEK SUPPLIES	\$88.08	
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER	\$500.00	
TRAVEL / TRAINING	\$916.94	
TREES FOR KIDS	\$10.88	
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	\$49.62	
WATER SAMPLING EXPENSE	\$5,452.00	
CHECKS DATED PRIOR TO 7/1/17	\$506.54	
UNCLEARED TRANSACTIONS AS OF 6/30/18	-\$1,154.06	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$107,604.23	
ENDING BALANCE		\$9,379.49
DATE RECONCILED	8/7/18	
CO-TREASURER	<i>Eric Jell</i>	
CO-TREASURER	<i>David Foster</i>	
DATE AUDITED	8/16/18	
COMMISSIONER	<i>DeF Henna</i>	
COMMISSIONER	<i>C. John Schwarz</i>	

MITCHELL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FY 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENT JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018		
<b>MONEY MARKET SAVINGS</b>		
BEGINNING BALANCE		\$127,211.98
RECEIPTS		
BOOSTER CLUB FY 2018	\$365.00	
CRP DISTRICT INITIATIVE (IDALS)	\$5,000.00	
DISTRICT FARM RENT	\$4,998.00	
DONATION	\$5,720.00	
FARM BILL	\$4,060.80	
FEED THE FARMERS	\$100.00	
FIELD DAY REIMBURSEMENT	\$750.00	
1M ALLOCATION	\$2,800.00	
INTEREST INCOME	\$129.53	
DEPOSIT PETTY CASH	\$153.02	
ROCK CREEK SUPPLIES	\$188.53	
ROCK CREEK INFO/ED	\$1,148.88	
ROCK CREEK TRAVEL / TRAINING	\$971.15	
ROCK CREEK SALARY	\$60,488.89	
WATER SAMPLING DONATION	\$6,500.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$93,373.80	
TOTAL		\$220,585.78
EXPENSES		
TRANSFER TO CHECKING	\$105,700.00	
BANK SERVICE CHARGE	\$7.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$105,707.00	
ENDING BALANCE		\$114,878.78
DATE RECONCILED	8/7/18	
CO-TREASURER	<i>Eric Jell</i>	
CO-TREASURER	<i>David Foster</i>	
DATE AUDITED	8/16/18	
COMMISSIONER	<i>DeF Henna</i>	
COMMISSIONER	<i>C. John Schwarz</i>	

## 2018 FEED THE FARMERS DONATIONS

### 2018 BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS

**SUSTAINER:**

Robert Helfter

**STEWARDS:**

Gordon & Johanna Anderson

Gail & Sharon Gordon

Andy & Abbie Johnson

**SAVERS:**

Clarice Bartz

Ben & Amy Johnson

**SUPPORTERS:**

Steve & Kendra Merfeld

Thomas Vogel

Lowell & Karen Kittleson

Audry Norby

CUSB Bank

Mitchell County Corn Growers Association

Johnson Oil

Osage Cooperative Elevator

### Thank You!

The Mitchell SWCD Commissioners would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone that supported conservation in Mitchell County. A special thank you to landowners and producers who put conservation on the land, the individuals and organizations that provided donations to support field days and meals, and all of our conservation partners. We couldn't do it without your support.



Mitchell  
**Soil and Water**  
 Conservation District

1529 Main Street  
 Osage, IA 50461  
 641-732-5504 ext. 3

*The Mitchell Soil & Water  
 Conservation District is an Equal  
 Opportunity Provider and  
 Employer.*

NON-PROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 OSAGE, IA  
 PERMIT #21

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

## SUPPORT CONSERVATION IN 2019

The Mitchell Soil & Water Conservation District (MSWCD) programs are made possible by your support. Donations are accepted at any time of the year. Any amount you can give is appreciated. Checks should be made payable to "Mitchell SWCD" and you will receive a receipt for your donation. The MSWCD Commissioners thank you for your generosity. Dale Hemann, Eric Jellum, Dana Norby, C John Schwarck, Bruce Johnson and Assistant Commissioners: Milt Owen, Sandie Adams, Chelsea Rowcliffe, & Sue Sletten.

### 2019 Booster Club Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (as you would like it to appear in our report)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Mitchell SWCD)



- Please correct my name/address on your mailing list
- Please remove my name from your mailing list

### Support Levels

Supporter

\$5 - \$24

Saver

\$25 - \$49

Sustainer

\$50 - \$99

Steward

\$100 - up

The Following are made possible with your support:

- **Scholarships** for Mitchell County high school seniors who pursue a degree in Agriculture or Natural Resources
- **Trees for Kids** outdoor classroom and seedlings for 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Mitchell County
- **Awards** for Conservation Farmer Recognition & Coloring Contest Winners
- **Conservation District Employees**