

**Champaign County SWCD Board Meeting
June 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
Agenda**

Call to Order

Minutes – review and approve minutes from May 15, 2008.

Financial Reports – review and accept the June 2008 report.

Old Business

Champaign County Fair
Tree Sale – thank you to Mr. Goodmann
Summer Conference
Annual Plan of Work Review

New Business

Computer Costs
Contribution Agreement
CPP Average Cost List Edit FY08
CPP Average Cost List FY09
Budget
Cash management
Consultation with Leon Wendte

Reports

D.C. Report.
A.C. Report.
R.C. Report.
Watershed Coordinator Report.
Committee Updates

Brainstorming (Long Range Plan)

Next Meeting

Adjourn

Committee Updates

Water Quality & Soil Erosion Control

- ERMA
- IEPA Stormwater Grant
 - 7 site visits Jan – June 1, 2008
- Salt Fork Watershed Grant & Implementation
 - Meeting held June 5th
- Strip-till Nutrient Placement

Prime Farmland

- Champaign County Land Resource Mgt Plan Steering Committee (LMRP)

Drainage/Water Management

- MS4
- Work with Drainage Districts
 - County is updating Drainage District boundary maps. Ryan is following up on this.

Wildlife Habitat & Education and Promotion

- Barnhart Prairie
 - Committee still needs to meet. Parking lot plan needs attention. Employees from NRCS will be visiting the site as part of training.
- St. Joseph Wetland
 - Benches have been picked up from the school. Need to work on thank you to submit to the paper.
- Website
 - Need to spend time converting documents to pdf and posting.
- Public Relations

Other

- Headwaters
- Land Use Council 7
 - Meeting was cancelled. No quorum.

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District
May 15, 2008
Board Meeting Minutes

Directors present: Steve Stierwalt, Eleanor Blackmon, Lennie Heiser, Joe Rothermel, and Eric Suits.

Associate Directors present: Kenneth Kesler.

Staff present: Bruce Stickers and Renee Weitekamp.

Natural Resource Staff present: Kevin Donoho.

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Eric Suits made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2008 meeting. Lennie Heiser seconded, motion carried.

Joe Rothermel made the motion to approve the financial reports for April 2008 and May 2008. Eleanor Blackmon seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

Farmland Preservation Easements – At this time, the Land Conservation Foundation is going to hold the easements. However, the Land Conservation Foundation may turn the easement over to the CCSWCD if necessary.

SAFE program – Signups have not begun. Pheasants Forever will help with program promotion.

CPP (Conservation Practices Program) – Cost-share monies need to be spent by June 2008. At this time, all monies are allocated, but weather may cause some construction delays.

Fish Sale – The spring fish sale is complete. A 5 year fish sale comparison is attached. Largemouth bass were not available for delivery this spring. Several customers who ordered bass will take delivery in the fall.

Financial Situation – FY08 Operations and Program monies have been released and will hopefully be received soon.

IEPA Grant (3 counties working together) – There is nothing to report at this time.

Champaign County Fair – Kenneth Kesler asked for the district's tent to be moved to a new location and is waiting to hear back from the fair association. A decision on whether to participate in the fair does not need to be made at this time.

Burn Class – The board would like to host a prescribed burn informational meeting in the winter. For information on applying for a burn permit, the board may ask someone from IEPA to speak. Other maintenance options for cool season and warm season grasses may be presented as well.

Annual Plan of Work Review – a chart showing progress towards the Annual Plan of Work was distributed to the board. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

New Business

Potential Computer Costs in the future – At some date in the future, the district may be charged \$3,200 annually by NRCS for each district computer. The computers would then belong to NRCS.

LUC meeting – Champaign County will host the May 29th LUC meeting. The meeting will be held at Philo Tavern at 11:30 a.m.

Contribution Agreement – Work towards the contribution agreement was completed by the March 31, 2008 deadline. An application for another contribution agreement was not accepted; this agreement would have been for CRP work from approximately June 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Cash management – Eric Suits made a motion for the Secretary/Treasurer to work with staff to draft a cash management plan. This plan will be presented to the board at the next meeting.

Tree Sale – Mr. Goodmann volunteered to pick up the potted and balled and burlap trees using his semi-truck. The board and staff will work together on a thank you for Mr. Goodmann.

Summer Conference – The board invited all full and part-time employees to attend Summer Conference. Board members will need to decide if they will be traveling to Springfield on Sunday afternoon/evening.

Other

The board discussed the need for some grant writing assistance and some consultation on how to keep moving projects forward.

The board verified the motion made in March allowing staff up to \$550 to purchase a video camera contingent upon the district receiving the remaining operation funds from the State of Illinois.

To date, the CCSWCD has received \$14,128.00 from the State of Illinois for Operations. The district has paid AISWCD dues in the amount of \$423.84, which is 3% of the \$14,128. Joe Rothermel made a motion to pay the additional AISWCD dues once the remaining FY08 funds are received. The dues will be 3% of the forthcoming FY08 operations money. Eleanor Blackmon seconded, motion carried.

It appears the number of Natural Resource Reports is declining. Staff reported that last year several large projects required NRI's. This year the projects have been smaller/less acreage. Staff will survey neighboring counties to help determine if the fees schedule is reasonable.

Kenneth Kesler and Bruce Stickers gave Pius Weibel a tour of the conservation projects in the county.

D.C. Report - is attached. Champaign County will be undergoing a civil rights compliance review on July 15, 2008.

A.C. Report - is attached. The 2007 Champaign County Real Estate Tax bills for the St. Joseph Wetland Restoration site and the Barnhart Prairie have been received.

R.C. Report - is attached. The St. Joseph Ag Structures class has completed the benches. Staff will pick up the benches. Kenneth Kesler agreed to store the benches until the site is ready.

Watershed Coordinator Report – is attached.

Committee Reports –

Barnhart – The prairie restoration site is enrolled and receiving payments for participating in the carbon trading program. The Barnhart Prairie committee needs to meet in the near future.

IEPA Stormwater Grant – The grant agreement has been extended to June 30, 2009.

Salt Fork – The last meeting was early April and the group discussed the proposed a name change of the Upper Salt Fork River and the Saline Branch.

St. Joseph Wetland – The USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Pheasants Forever may be able to offer financial and technical assistance as well as equipment necessary to remove some of the Silver Maple trees that are encroaching on the wetland. This project is would take place later fall/early winter. Spot spraying is necessary to control the Reed Canary Grass and other invasive species. Eleanor Blackmon made a motion to authorize staff to purchase a backpack sprayer using wise shopping techniques to keep the purchase price as low as possible. Joe Rothermel seconded, motion carried.

Education – Two schools represented Champaign County in the local Envirothon. The Pond meeting March 31st was well attended with around 70 people present. The U of I Extension and IDNR would like to start plans for a more in depth pond meeting this summer.

MS4 – The annual Boneyard Cleanup event has been held. The MS4 brochure for stormwater won a state award.

Strip-till – The group is looking for another funding source and will be meeting soon.

Public Relations – The main topic for Legislative Day was funding. Joe Rothermel gave a report of the morning events and press conference. Beth Mason with NACD did visit Champaign County. While here, she attended the pond meeting and the Land Resource Mgt Plan meeting. Staff gave her a tour of the county and she reported on all these activities in her report to the NACD.

CCLRMP – The group held two planning meetings where they collected ideas and data from participants. Participants answered a survey and then worked in groups to map areas that were best suited for industry, recreation, conservation, etc.

The next regular Champaign County SWCD Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Eric Suits moved to adjourn the meeting. Eleanor Blackmon seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Renee Weitekamp for Eric Suits, Secretary
Champaign County SWCD

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District

6/12/2008 3:08 PM

Register: 1000 · UNRESTRICTED CASH:1001 · District Operations Account:1001.01 · District Checking Account

From 05/12/08 through 06/12/08

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05/12/08	8863	Stickers, Bruce R	-split-		1,134.51	X		114,263.76
05/12/08	8864	Weitekamp, Renee L	-split-		958.88	X		113,304.88
05/12/08	8865	Williams, Ryan A.	-split-		145.79			113,159.09
05/12/08	8866	Elwin Tree Farm	2000 · Accounts Payable	tree Sale 2008	1,769.50	X		111,389.59
05/27/08		Chris A. Wise	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Flags		X	10.00	111,399.59
05/27/08		Chris Cochran	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Golf Outing 20...		X	10.00	111,409.59
05/27/08		Kenneth Kesler 2	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Tile Maps		X	80.00	111,489.59
05/27/08		Jerald Quinton	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Golf Outing 20...		X	10.00	111,499.59
05/27/08	8867	Stickers, Bruce R	-split-		1,148.31	X		110,351.28
05/27/08	8868	Weitekamp, Renee L	-split-		958.87	X		109,392.41
05/27/08	8869	AFLAC	2100 · PAYROLL LIA...	Y6066	34.80			109,357.61
05/27/08	8870	Bruce Stickers	2000 · Accounts Payable	Recording Fee ...	31.50	X		109,326.11
05/27/08	8871	Forestry Suppliers Inc.	2000 · Accounts Payable	Backpack Spra...	105.68			109,220.43
06/04/08		Debra Slade	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Golf Raffle 2008			10.00	109,230.43
06/04/08		Terre Zeigler	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Golf Raffle 2008			10.00	109,240.43
06/09/08	8872	Stickers, Bruce R	-split-		1,134.51			108,105.92
06/09/08	8873	Walker, Sharyl	-split-		114.09			107,991.83
06/09/08	8874	Weitekamp, Renee L	-split-		958.88			107,032.95
06/09/08	8875	Busey Bank	-split-	37-0918769	1,440.16			105,592.79
06/09/08	8876	Illinois Department o...	2100 · PAYROLL LIA...	1218-8484	184.87			105,407.92
06/09/08	8877	AISWCD	2000 · Accounts Payable	FY08 partial d...	2,026.23			103,381.69
06/09/08	8878	Capital One	2000 · Accounts Payable		39.88			103,341.81
06/09/08	8879	Champaign County F...	2000 · Accounts Payable	2008 Fair - tent...	340.00			103,001.81
06/11/08	8880	Leon Wendte	2000 · Accounts Payable		137.82			102,863.99
06/12/08		Todd Weitekamp	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Spring 2008 Tr...			27.00	102,890.99
06/12/08		Mark Yeager	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Golf Outing			10.00	102,900.99
06/12/08		Wendel Lutz	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Tile Maps			1,137.50	104,038.49
06/12/08		Dewey State Bank	1200 · Accounts Recei...	Natural Resour...			175.00	104,213.49

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District

6/12/2008 3:08 PM

Register: 1000 · UNRESTRICTED CASH:1001 · District Operations Account:1001.02 · Illinois Funds Operation Account

From 05/12/08 through 06/12/08

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05/15/08			4100 · State Governme...	Deposit		X	67,540.53	69,970.68
05/15/08			4901 · Reimbursements	Deposit		X	3,804.00	73,774.68
05/15/08	1441	Cascade Forestry	2000 · Accounts Payable	Spring 2008 Tr...	19.33	X		73,755.35
05/15/08	1442	Champaign County ...	2000 · Accounts Payable		412.64			73,342.71
05/31/08			4800 · Interest Income	Interest		X	59.63	73,402.34

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District

6/12/2008 3:10 PM

Register: 1000 · UNRESTRICTED CASH:1001 · District Operations Account:1001.04 · E-pay

From 05/12/08 through 06/12/08

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05/31/08			4800 · Interest Income	Interest		X	0.55	332.76

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District

6/12/2008 3:10 PM

Register: 1000 · UNRESTRICTED CASH:1001 · District Operations Account:1001.06 · Capital Expenditure CD - CIB

From 01/01/08 through 06/12/08

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
03/26/08			4800 · Interest Income	Interest		X	348.40	28,312.02

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District

6/12/2008 3:10 PM

Register: 1100 · RESTRICTED CASH:1101 · District Programs Accounts:1101.01 · ILLINOIS FUNDS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

From 05/12/08 through 06/12/08

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05/15/08			4901 · Reimbursements	Deposit		X	34,054.00	66,752.48
05/15/08	1520	Bob Lakey	5200 · PROGRAM EX...	CPP FY07 Nut...	616.50			66,135.98
05/15/08	1521	Illini FS, Leverett	5200 · PROGRAM EX...	CPP FY07 Nut...	184.95			65,951.03
05/28/08	1522	Troy Flessner	5200 · PROGRAM EX...	CPP07 Strip-til...	800.00			65,151.03
05/30/08			4800 · Interest Income	Interest		X	87.45	65,238.48

Summer Conference

Number of People Attending? _____

Please check which nights you will be staying?

_____ Sunday

_____ Monday

Which meals would you like?

_____ Education Luncheon

_____ Farm Family Banquet

_____ Soil Stewardship Breakfast

_____ Lunch

Sunday: July 27, 2008

12:00 Noon – 4:00 P.M. *Mezzanine*
ISWCDEA Shirt Pick-up and Raffle Sales
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. *Mezzanine*
Auxiliary Silent Auction

Monday: July 28, 2008

7:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. *Mezzanine*
Conference Registration
9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. *Mezzanine*
Auxiliary Silent Auction
9:00 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. *Mezzanine*
ISWCDEA Shirt Pick-up and Raffle Sales
7:30 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. *Capitol/Illinois*
Coffee/Pastries-No Ticket Required
8:00 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. *Capitol/Illinois*

OPENING CEREMONIES

Presiding: AISWCD Secretary Aaron Ferguson

Color Guard: Myron Kirby, Dewitt Co. SWCD Director; Lee Bunting, Livingston Co. SWCD Director; Terry Bogner, Marshall Putnam SWCD Director; Keith Rohrer, Fulton Co. Director; David Workman, Marshall-Putnam SWCD Director

Pledge of Allegiance

LEADERSHIP INTRODUCTIONS

Association Directors:

Council 1, Phil Fossler; Council 2, Terry Bogner; Council 3, Lee Bunting; Council 4, Larry Sterett; Council 5, Van Bitner; Council 6, Vacant; Council 7, Jim Bell; Council 8, David McCormick; Council 9, Terry Monke; Council 10, Vacant; Council 11, Emery Oesch; Council 12, Don Beisiegel; Council 13, Jake Klein; Council 14, Tom Anderson; Council 15, Kenny Vosholler; Council 16, Dwayne Proctor

Area Vice-Presidents:

Area 1, Jerry Snodgrass; Area 2, Darrell Roegge; Area 3, John Beckhart; Area 4, Norbert "Butch" Rider

Officers:

President, Terry Davis; Vice-President, James Todd; Secretary, Aaron Ferguson; Treasurer, Rollie Spaniol; Auxiliary Chairperson, Marie Bunting; Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer, Melissa Lagerhausen

Staff:

Executive Director, Richard Nichols; Operations Administrator, Erin Pate; Education Coordinator, Stacy Stremsterfer; Watershed Liaison, Jim Nelson; Public Affairs Coordinator, Mike Hoffmann

NACD Delegates and Officers:

NACD Board Member, Terry Davis
NACD Alternate, James Todd
NCDEA President, Cindy Moon

Illinois Soil and Water Conservation

District Employee Association

Co-Chairs:

Annyce Winters, AC, Greene County;
Josh Joseph, RC, Peoria County

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Leadership Introductions

Acting Director: Tom Jennings

Bureau of Land & Water Resources Staff

Division Manager: Jared Thornley

Acting Chief: Steve Chard

Regional Representatives:

Marty McManus, Region 1; Joe Bybee, Region 2; Randy Grove, Region 3; Elliot Lagacy, Region 4; Angela Kazakevicius, Region 5

Manager: Mike Rahe

Executive II: Judy Cordier

Water Quality Specialist: Alan Gulso

Farmland Protection: Terry Savko

Farmland Protection and Mined Land

Reclamation: John Lohse

Natural Resources Conservation

Service Leadership Introductions

State Conservationist: William "Bill" Gradle

Assistant State Conservationists:

Troy Daniell, Area-1; Steve Mozley, Area-2; Jon Hubbert, Area-3; Bob Dean, Area-4; Bill Lewis, Area-5

8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. *Capitol/Illinois*

OPENING SESSION-Phase I Finding a Stable Source of Funding for SWCDs

Presiding: TBA

Speakers: TBA

Facilitator: Kim St. John, NRCS

9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M. *Conference 2*

Auxiliary Ladies Activities

Hosted by: AISWCD Auxiliary

Presenter:

12:15 P.M.-1:30 P.M. *Prairie*

EDUCATION LUNCHEON & AWARDS

Presiding:

Invocation: Marie Bunting, Chairperson

AWARDS

Presenter:

McKibben:

Envirothon:

Auxiliary Poster Contest Winners

Presenter: Marie Bunting, Chairperson & Marie Lagerhausen, Secretary

Grade K-1:

Grade 2-3:

Grade 4-6:

Grade 7-9:

Grade 10-12:

ISWCDEA Scholarship

1:45 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. *Capital/Illinois*

PLANNING SESSION-Phase II

Presiding: TBA

Speakers: TBA

Facilitator: Kim St. John, NRCS

3:45 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. *Rendezvous*

AISWCD Annual Meeting – Directors' Forum

Presiding: AISWCD President Terry Davis

Officer Candidate Presentations

3:45 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. *Ambassador
(Concourse Level)*

Employee's Forum

Presiding: ISWCDEA Co-Chairs

2:15 P.M.-3:30 P.M. *Conference 3*

Children's Activities

Hosted by: AISWCD Auxiliary

Presenter:

5:00 P.M. – 5:45 P.M. *Sky Bar
(30th Floor)*

Farm Family Reception & Photos

*Only for Award Nominees and District Representative

Sponsored by: A. E. Staley & AISWCD

Hosted by: AISWCD Auxiliary

Presiding: AISWCD Secretary, Aaron Ferguson

6:15 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. *Prairie/Illinois*

FARM FAMILY BANQUET

(Seating available at 6:00 P.M.)

Presiding: Aaron Ferguson, Planning Focus Area Committee
Chairman

Inspirational Service

Featuring: Kateena LeForge; De Soto, Illinois

Invocation: Colleen Bogner, AISWCD Auxiliary

Conservation Farm Family

Awards

Sponsored by: Brownfield Network, John Deere & AISWCD

Master of Ceremony: Cyndi Young-Puyear, Brownfield Network

Council Name District

Governor's Conservation Farm Family Award

Presenter: Steve Chard, Acting Bureau Chief, IDOA

Conservation Farm Family Winner will receive a John Deere x304 lawn tractor, courtesy of John Deere & Company.

And the winner is.....!

Tuesday: July 29, 2008

7:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. *Mezzanine*
Conference Registration

9:15 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. *Mezzanine*
Auxiliary Silent Auction
(Silent Auction items MUST be picked up by 11:00)

9:00 A.M. – Noon. *Mezzanine*
ISWCDEA Shirt Pick-up and Raffle Sales

7:15 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. *Prairie*
SOIL STEWARDSHIP BREAKFAST

Hosted by: AISWCD Auxiliary
Presiding/Invocation: Marie Bunting, Auxiliary Chairperson
Program: TBA

AWARDS

Auxiliary Photo Contest Winners

Wildlife:
Education:
Conservation:
Tree & Plants:
Landscapes:
Youth Division:
Overall Winner:

Outstanding Forestry Contribution Award:

Award Winner:
Sponsored by: Illinois Forestry Products
Presented by: Kevin Massie, Illinois Forestry Products

9:15 A.M. *Rendezvous*
Craft Show:

Presenter: TBA
8:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. *Capitol/Illinois*

AISWCD Annual Business Meeting
Presiding: AISWCD President Terry Davis

Parliamentarian: TBA

WELCOME

AISWCD President, Terry Davis

Newly Elected Director Recognition

Presented by: AISWCD President, Terry Davis

Director Service Awards

Presented by: AISWCD President, Terry Davis & Jared Thornley, IDOA Division Manager

11:00 A.M. -11:30 A.M. *Capitol/Illinois*
AISWCD Foundation Meeting

11:45 P.M. *Prairie*

Lunch

✓ **Announcement of ISWCDEA Raffle Winners**
(Need not be present to win)

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M. *Conference 4*
Forest Management - Past, Present, Future.

Presiding:

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M. *Embassy*
(Concourse Level)

FDC Enterprise Training

Presiding:

Annual Plan of Work Progress

6/12/2008
1 of 4

Progress as of
3/24/2008

Water Quality

Reduce the amount of sediment loss by reducing soil erosion on fields greater than T (tolerable level) from 8% of county acreage to 6% by promoting strip-till and other conservation practices.	X
Reduce the amount of phosphorous and nitrates leaving agricultural fields by implementing nutrient management plans on 2,000 acres through EQIP.	X
Assist municipalities through MS4 group in planning for Phase II of NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) regarding urban runoff.	X
Coordinate, support, and promote water quality research and monitor activities in Champaign County.	
Seal 10 abandon wells through the CPP program.	3 (3 more are in progress)
Promote the establishment or re-enrollment of 500 acres of filter strips and riparian buffers.	X
Develop nutrient management plans on 500 acres through the CPP program.	X
Have educational meetings for rural and urban pond owners.	meeting on 3/31/08
Promote deep placement of phosphorus vs surface application.	
Apply for research grant through University of Illinois and Dan Schaefer to answer fertility and soil sampling questions for strip-till.	waiting for grant approval
Apply for grant funding for strip-till application equipment.	

Soil Erosion

Promote strip-till for corn through: Programs like EQIP and CPP. Find grants to help place more strip-till units throughout the county. Provide customer education for the increase use of strip-till. Maintain a list of where strip-till units may be found. Research corn residue management to maintain conservation benefits while minimizing buildup to unmanageable levels on continuous corn.	X
Place Signs on all strip-till fields that are paid through CPP funding.	
Promote no-till soybeans through available programs and education.	
Construct grassed waterways on 60 acres of cropland.	X
Use the ad hoc no-till steering committee when needed.	
Review erosion and sediment control and/or stormwater pollution management plans (SWPPP) as requested through the EPA grant.	
Assist urban MS4 group in promoting sound construction erosion control practices.	X

Prime Farmland Preservation

Complete Natural Resource Reports for all proposed land use and zoning changes.	X
Work with Champaign County Planning and Zoning on zoning law changes related to rural subdivisions.	LRMP
Implement the board policy on land use.	
Work with Farm Bureau on zoning issues and possible LESA revisions.	ongoing
Offer technical assistance to the county Urban Growth and Farmland Resource Committee by participating in technical committee.	

Water Management

Provide technical assistance to drainage districts and individuals planning maintenance work so that all work is done in the most efficient, effective, and environmentally sound manner.	ongoing
Distribute updated drainage district boundary maps to all interested parties.	
Prepare estimates of soil type acreage for individuals and districts planning to install tile mains and/or ditches so that adequate capacity is provided.	
Conduct a drainage commissioner meeting with Farm Bureau.	2/21/2008
Sell tile maps to interested parties.	many
Support the Illinois State Water Survey and the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium in studying the Mahomet Aquifer regarding its ability to supply water to wells.	

Wildlife Habitat

Install or re-enroll 600 acres of filter strips and riparian buffers that meet wildlife habitat criteria.	X
Promote the shallow water areas for wildlife habitat practice.	
Promote field and farmstead windbreaks.	
Spot check plantings the year after establishment to ensure vegetation is adequately established and maintained.	
Encourage delayed mowing of roadsides and filter strips.	
Sell fish, trees/shrubs and nuts/acorns for habitat establishment.	X
Promote the implementation of all governmental programs that support wildlife.	

Education & Public Information

Secure funding for planning for the St. Joseph Wetland restoration (south of 150).	ongoing
Continue the development of the parking lot/viewing area at the St. Joseph Wetland site.	ongoing
Give direction and assistance to the Barnhart Prairie Restoration group.	
Maintain and enhance the District web page.	X
Submit monthly articles for the Champaign County Farm Bureau newspaper.	
Give direction and assistance to the District Education Committee.	
Develop and distribute Geographic Information System (GIS) layers for rural and urban clientele.	
Promote and market the new digital soil survey for Champaign County.	
Cooperate with news media to promote conservation articles.	X
Utilize weekly newspapers to disseminate conservation information.	
Send mailings announcing new programs to targeted audiences.	
Cooperate with Earth Partners on environmental education.	X
Secure teams for the Envirothon.	ongoing
Cooperate with local schools regarding natural resource educational issues.	
Participate in the Midwest Ag Expo (Gordyville show) to promote conservation practices.	January 23-24, 2008
Utilize the new Rainfall Simulator for conservation education.	ongoing
Participate in the Champaign County Fair with an educational tent.	Jul-08
Develop an email update system to notify residents of new programs and existing program update information.	
Continue the WCIA Ag Monday television programs monthly.	ongoing

Watershed Management

Assist with updating the ERMA (Embarras River Management Association) long range plan.	
Continue implementation of the Kaskaskia Watershed Plan.	
Continue implementation of the Embarras River Watershed Plan.	
Continue implementation of the Little Vermilion Watershed Plan.	
Implement the Salt Fork Watershed Plan.	ongoing
Continue planning with the Sangamon Watershed Steering Committee.	
Monitor and assist with the development of TMDLs by providing information and public meetings.	
Continue formalizing the Headwaters group.	

District Operations

Assist walk-in customers with conservation planning.	ongoing
Fulfill requirements of all grants received and report results for payment.	
Recruit and train qualified volunteers to help implement the District's plan of Work.	
Maintain and enhance working relationships with partners in conservation.	
Maintain a highly motivated staff that enjoys servicing customers and getting conservation on the land.	
Provide for an organized and well-equipped physical plant and maintain equipment in top operating condition.	
Complete quality assurance checks of programs and services.	
Fully report all accomplishments in NRCS reporting systems.	
Update long range and annual plan of work for the next fiscal year.	
Prioritize new issues that arise to advance our role.	
Hold an annual meeting to publicize our accomplishments.	25-Jan-08
Investigate ways to provide GIS information and expertise as a service the district can charge for.	
Have a six-month review of annual plan of work.	
Comply with district responsibilities associated with NRCS civil rights policies.	
Review supplemental memorandum with board at a regular meeting. Include women and minorities when compiling a list of board nominees for any vacant positions that may arise. Have District employees participate in any NRCS civil rights training available. Sponsor a women landowners meeting with Farm Bureau to discuss farm programs and assistance available. Make any reasonable accommodation to meet any special needs when assisting women and minorities seeking assistance through our office.	



2118 West Park Court
Champaign, IL 61821
Phone: (217) 353-6600

Fax: 217/353-6676

Website: www.il.nrcs.usda.gov

June 13, 2008

SUBJECT: Computers and SWCD Access

TO: Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Terry Davis, President, AISWCD
Rich Nichols, Executive Director, AISWCD

There have been some questions regarding costs for having SWCD computers hooked to the USDA Network.


Beginning with Fiscal Year 2009 (10/1/2008), we will be assessed a fee by USDA for every computer on the network. The specific dollar amount is not known yet but it's estimated to be \$3,000 per computer. This includes laptops, desktops and tablets whether they are NRCS owned or SWCD owned. The criterion is that if they are on the USDA Network, the fee will be assessed to NRCS.

USDA at the Department level will cover the cost for each state as follows: One computer for every federal employee and two computers per SWCD or RC&D office. That means it will be necessary for NRCS in Illinois to charge the SWCD's or RC&D's for the additional cost (\$3,000) per computer over and above the two per SWCD and RC&D.

A question was received as to whether a SWCD wireless network is treated any differently than a SWCD wired network. The criterion for the charge per computer is based only on the fact that a computer is hooked to the USDA network.

USDA/NRCS is the agency to contact with any questions regarding anything to do with costs, etc. for computers, not USDA/OCIO/ITS.

I hope this clears up any questions regarding this issue. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy F. Phalen, State Administrative Officer at 217-353-6617.



WILLIAM J. GRADLE
State Conservationist

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AVERAGE COST LIST

June 2007

(cost/unit)

TERRACES:		
Narrow base- earthwork	\$2.00	per linear foot
WASCOB'S- earthwork	\$2.50	per linear foot
TERRACE RISERS: (installed)		
6 ft. X 6 in.	\$175.00	each
6 ft. X 8 in.	\$180.00	each
6 ft. X 10 in.	\$250.00	each
6 ft. X 12 in.	\$350.00	each
PLASTIC TILE: (installed)		
4 in.	\$1.17	per linear foot
5 in.	\$1.45	per linear foot
6 in.	\$1.71	per linear foot
8 in.	\$2.42	per linear foot
10 in.	\$3.72	per linear foot
12in.	\$4.66	per linear foot
24in	\$16.28	per linear foot
OUTLET PIPE: (with animal guard)		
5 in. PVC	\$100.00	each
6 in. PVC	\$104.00	each
8 in. PVC	\$150.00	each
10 in. PVC	\$250.00	each
12 in. PVC	\$350.00	each
6 in.	\$100.00	each
8 in.	\$105.00	each
10 in.	\$150.00	each
12 in.	\$250.00	each
RELIEF WELLS: (installed with coverguard)		
15 in.	\$300.00	each
18 in.	\$400.00	each
24 in.	\$500.00	each
30 in.	\$600.00	each
Animal Guard	\$16.48	each
Anti-seep Collar	\$4.42	per square foot
GRASS WATERWAY: (earthwork)	\$2,100.00	per acre
GRADE STABILIZATION		
Pipe <10 cubic feet per second	\$1,440.00	each
Pipe 10-50 cubic feet per second	\$5,160.00	each
Pipe >50 cubic feet per second	\$7,500.00	each
AG-FABRIC CHECK STRIPS: (installed)	\$2.00	per linear foot
ROCK CHECK STRIPS: (installed)	\$9.00	per linear foot
CONCRETE BLOCK CHUTES: (installed)	\$9.50	per block
GABION STRUCTURES: (installed)	\$5.75	per square foot
RIP RAP:	\$40.00	per ton

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AVERAGE COST LIST

SEEDING: (flat rate)	\$350.00	per acre
MULCHING: (applied)	\$350.00	per acre
EARTHWORK: (general-short distance to move soil)	\$3.00	per cubic yard
DESTROY OLD TILE	\$0.38	per foot
1-1/2" REBAR:	\$0.54	per foot

Champaign County SWCD
Profit and Loss
FY07 Actual and FY08 Budget

Ordinary Income/Expense	FY09 Budget	FY08 YTD 6/12/2008	FY08 Budget	Actual FY07	FY07 Budget
Income					
4000 - Federal Government Support		\$6,075.00			
4100 - State Government Support	\$0.00	\$81,669.10	\$71,582.00	\$79,421.16	\$66,000.00
IDOA		\$81,669.10	\$71,582.00	\$79,421.16	
CREP					
4200 - Local Government Support	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
County Board		\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	
4300 - Other Public Support	\$0.00	\$5,110.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,600.00
Annual Meeting Advertisements		\$3,110.00		\$2,500.00	
Vendors (strip-till meeting)		\$2,000.00		\$1,500.00	
4400 - Sales	\$0.00	\$19,172.30	\$20,000.00	\$23,919.09	\$26,000.00
Fish		\$12,141.55		\$14,247.54	
Trees		\$6,345.75		\$9,369.55	
Misc (books, water kits, flags)		\$685.00		\$302.00	
4500 - Services	\$0.00	\$6,228.50	\$10,000.00	\$8,045.55	
Mail Soil Surveys or Aerial Maps		\$20.00		\$15.00	
AISWCD for ICCI program		\$10.00		\$20.00	
Tile Maps		\$2,758.50		\$2,393.55	
NRI		\$3,440.00		\$5,617.00	
4600 - Special Events	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$1,000.00	\$967.00	\$3,500.00
Golf		\$50.00		\$967.00	
4800 - Interest Income		\$6,061.64	\$5,500.00	\$6,456.41	\$1,500.00
4900 - Other			\$0.00		
4901 - Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$82,022.02	\$78,250.00	\$208,337.29	\$4,000.00
CPP monies (\$19192 + \$12000 Bond)		\$46,054.00	\$31,192.00	\$35,894.00	
Salt Fork (5879 + ?)		\$5,879.74	\$27,058.00	\$8,960.11	
Homer Lake			\$0.00	\$115,575.01	
AWI		\$23,534.28		\$14,558.74	
IDNR		\$3,804.00	\$0.00	\$32,750.68	
IEPA Stormwater Inspections		\$2,750.00	\$20,000.00		
Misc (plat book, NACD Conf, Ecosy Mtg)				\$598.75	
Total Income	\$0.00	\$246,388.56	\$228,832.00	\$371,146.50	\$142,600.00

Champaign County SWCD
Profit and Loss
FY07 Actual and FY08 Budget

	FY09 Budget	FY08 YTD	FY08 Budget	Actual FY07	FY07 Budget
Cost of Goods Sold					
5000 - Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00	\$12,083.22	\$15,000.00	\$15,502.45	\$14,000.00
Fish		\$8,317.95		\$12,003.10	
Trees		\$3,284.78		\$3,499.35	
Books		\$480.49			
Gross Income	\$0.00	\$234,305.34	\$213,832.00	\$355,644.05	\$128,600.00
Expense					
5100 - PAYROLL EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$84,262.34	\$102,500.00	\$87,970.98	\$98,000.00
Salary		\$76,908.37		\$80,063.92	
Bonus		\$500.00		\$550.00	
Soc. Security		\$4,801.86		\$4,988.01	
Medicare		\$1,123.01		\$1,166.56	
State Unemployment		\$293.43		\$410.49	
Disability		\$293.67			
Other		\$342.00		\$792.00	
5200 - PROGRAM EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$81,131.63	\$68,192.00	\$186,291.36	\$1,000.00
Sangamon Grant		\$23,534.28		\$12,380.00	
CPP & SSRP		\$2,912.65	\$31,192.00	\$42,445.79	
Salt Fork Watershed		\$20,718.00		\$658.70	
Salt Fork Maintenance			\$0.00	\$44,098.54	
MS4			\$0.00	\$4,432.72	
Homer Lake Grant		\$24,798.20	\$0.00	\$80,475.61	
Barnhart Planting			\$0.00	\$800.00	
Sangamon River Corridor Project			\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
IEPA Stormwater Inspections		\$2,337.50			
CREP		\$6,831.00			
5250 - EDUCATION AND PROMOTION	\$0.00	\$6,409.25	\$6,000.00	\$6,636.05	\$3,500.00
Pond Meetings				\$122.73	
Gordyville		\$321.00	\$316.00	\$416.00	
Envirothon		\$387.69		\$308.83	
Rainfall Simulator		\$10.47		\$39.52	
Annual Meeting		\$1,950.78		\$2,827.10	
Legislative Day				\$215.39	
Arbor Day Trees				\$78.00	
Poster Contest				\$347.00	
Strip-till Meeting		\$437.96	\$0.00	\$2,156.68	
Drainage District Meeting		\$975.00			
Other		\$2,326.35		\$124.80	

Champaign County SWCD
Profit and Loss
FY07 Actual and FY08 Budget

	FY09 Budget	FY08 YTD	FY08 Budget	Actual FY07	FY07 Budget
5300 · INSURANCE EXPENSE		\$1,191.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,100.00
5400 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$2,500.82	\$2,500.00	\$2,358.20	\$2,500.00
5410 · Licenses/Fees		\$61.79	\$100.00	\$68.45	\$50.00
5420 · Honoraria and Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$355.50	\$250.00
Plaques for Annual Meeting				\$355.50	
6000 · OFFICE EXPENSES		\$520.69	\$4,000.00	\$1,999.10	\$2,500.00
6010 · DELIVERY & Postage		\$92.32	\$1,500.00	\$834.68	\$2,000.00
6021 · INTERNET/WEBSITE (webhosting \$300)		\$882.50	\$1,500.00	\$4,065.00	\$4,000.00
6030 · DUES/PUBLICATIONS/SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$0.00	\$3,424.07	\$3,500.00	\$3,916.63	\$3,000.00
NACD Membership		\$775.00		\$1,375.00	
AISWCD		\$2,450.07		\$2,382.63	
Quickbooks		\$199.00		\$199.00	
No-till Farmer				\$35.00	
6050 · TRAVEL	\$0.00	\$2,346.76	\$4,000.00	\$4,094.72	\$4,000.00
Director Mileage		\$1,695.28		\$1,393.54	
Staff Mileage (Bruce & Renee)		\$651.48		\$175.33	
Sharyl & Randall				\$1,033.97	
NACD Conference				\$1,491.88	
6051 · MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT	\$0.00	\$591.67	\$3,000.00	\$2,792.96	\$3,000.00
Summer Conference		\$219.66		\$1,206.66	
Ecosystem Partnership				\$88.75	
Golf Course				\$816.00	
All Other		\$372.01		\$681.55	
6060 · CONFERENCES/TRAINING	\$0.00	\$871.77	\$3,000.00	\$2,587.62	\$400.00
Winter Training		\$191.80		\$97.12	
Summer Conference		\$414.97		\$1,596.00	
Other trainings		\$265.00		\$269.50	
NACD Conference				\$625.00	
6100 · REPAIR & MAINTENANCE		\$1,421.03	\$5,000.00	\$69.79	\$3,000.00
6200 · RENT					
6300 - Taxes		\$412.64	\$500.00	\$339.82	
Total Expense	\$0.00	\$186,120.28	\$206,742.00	\$305,430.86	\$128,300.00
Net Ordinary Income	\$0.00	\$48,185.06	\$7,090.00	\$50,213.19	\$300.00

Consultation with Leon Wendte
Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Present: Steve Stierwalt, Bruce Stickers, Kevin Donoho, & Renee Weitekamp

Purpose

- Discuss current projects and identify measures to aid their progress.
- Brainstorm about new plans to help the district move towards goals outlined in the Long Range Plan.
- Discuss the possibility of Leon's involvement in grant writing and project consultation.

The group discussed current projects that work towards the goals of improving water quality and reducing soil erosion. Promotion of nutrient management plans should be easier right now with the rising fertilizer costs. To help improve water quality, every acre of the county needs a soil test. The district has strived to inform the public about the recommended nitrogen rate, but maybe more could be done to address the phosphorus rate. For phosphorus, the next step to address water quality, after soil testing, is broadcasting the fertilizer application at the recommended rate. Next, operators could use VRT to apply their fertilizer and finally, the use of strip-till would help.

The district is currently working on projects that improve wildlife habitat in the county and those include the St. Joseph Wetland Restoration site and the Barnhart Prairie Restoration site.

To move towards the goals outlined for prime farmland and urban erosion control, focus can be given to septic field reports, the IEPA stormwater inspection program, natural resource reports and projects with MS4.

In all these areas, GIS can be utilized. Besides using and updating all the existing layers, structures can be marked and identified, fertilizer application mapped, etc. The owner/operator database is the key to making all the layers more functional. Specialized mailings can be created by merging the GIS layers with the owner/operator database.

The framework, or Long Range Plan, is already in place. Prioritization and partnerships are key. The natural progression should be to start with a problem, work with partners to come up with a great idea, and then write the grant. It is very easy to be program driven, but don't lose sight of the goal, putting conservation on the ground. By working with partners, more ideas and support will develop, grant applications are usually stronger and partners can help with some of the work, possibly even writing the grant. Districts are in charge of coordinating all conservation efforts in the county. Without a close connection to the partners, no one knows if one group is working towards the same goal as another. The district can be the resource to pull it all together. The district board

needs to focus and prioritize the project areas. Over time and once accomplishments are made, these priorities can change, but with a limited amount of staff, it is important to give direction.

Over the years, the district has applied for many grants, but many good ideas were never funded. Periodically looking through these grant applications may be a resource for ideas.

Attached is the exit report from Leon. It was written around the Long Range Plan and provides background information on projects and ideas for the future. If the board likes the layout of the paper, Leon has given the district permission to remove his name and update the document. Mr. Wendte would like to work with the district as a consultant. If the board feels he may be of service in additional ways, he would be open to the possibility. He did mention Ms. Walker is an excellent grant writer and would easily be able to work remotely on the first draft of any grant application, if she is willing.

Highlighted Meeting Points

- Re-establish or strengthen links with partners (maybe invite partners in once or twice a year for a special board meeting to discuss their activities and district activities)
- Devote time at each board meeting to brainstorm and prioritize activities
- Identify problem → Develop Great Idea (hard part) → Write the Grant

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FIELD OFFICE NRCS/SWCD
EXIT REPORT**

**Leon Wendte, District Conservationist
12-13-2004**

The purpose of this report is to provide historic and current information about the conservation program in Champaign County. It should be of value to existing and new SWCD Directors, employees, and for the new District Conservationists. Due to time constraints, useful information, facts, figures, thoughts, and ideas have been substituted in lieu of perfect grammar, formatting, and structure. Since the sole mission of the operation of any SWCD/NRCS office is to implement a long range conservation plan to address the resource concerns of the District, the first part of this report simply adds comments after each bullet in the newly revised Long Range Plan of the District. (Two prior versions of the Long Range Plan are printed in a Green Booklet and a Yellow Booklet. Copies of these should be in the SWCD filing system. The current version is on the S drive).

Another set of documents to review are each of the annual reports of the last 19 years. For the most part the format of these annual reports followed the outline of the long range plan. A summary of all grants ever received and used during the last 17 years is attached to this report. Judy is still putting the final edits, but just reading this document will provide a good overview of various conservation activities used over the last 19 years to implement the long range plan. There are historic documents in the NRCS files about practices cost shared through the old ACP and Long Range Contracts funding. All information in the NRCS files was recently purged of obsolete material and reviewed for filing accuracy by Judy as per the NRCS directives system.

***CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
LONG RANGE PLAN 2005-2010***

***Water Quality
1***

District Position Statement

The District believes clean water is one of the nation's highest priorities. The District will develop a successful program to protect, improve, and enhance water resources.

1. Support the application of all nutrients to cropland at rates not to exceed utilization rates with the use of variable rate technology where appropriate. Support the use of pesticides applied to agricultural land only when necessary and according to label instructions.

The bottom line goal here is to have a nutrient management plan on every acre of cropland in the county. To this end we have used IEPA 319 grants, CPP, CPP-TMDL, EQIP, and other funding programs to help cost share on the farmer's securing current soil tests and having a nutrient management plan on file as well as supporting implementation of the VRT. We have a master list of all tracts and acres ever signed up on a spreadsheet on the S drive. It is the SWCD policy to not to cost share more than once on any acre even if it may have qualified for a second program. **The master list also lists all soil test P levels and yields.** This information should be useful when writing watershed plans and doing inventory and evaluation. You can merge the tract list in arc view and produce a county map showing the combined acreages of where nutrient management plans exist and/or areas of acreage where excess P exists. You can also get an idea of average proven yield values to see how much N should be applied. We aren't doing much in pest management yet because the state has not written a useable standard and/or supplied useable, effective forms to fill out.

See Item No. 2-1 for the on farm research data that was collected to prove using U of I recommended rates of N did not hurt yield. These data should be very useful in promoting this objective.

- 2. Support the application of nutrients applied to urban lawns and landscape at rates not to exceed utilization. Support the use of pesticide application only when necessary and according to label instructions.**

This is in its infancy. A good pilot for this is the Homer Lake initiatives for the urban buildup area. Backyard Conservation from CTIC has material that should be evaluated for use in implementing this objective. There are probably other urban states with Job Sheets that may help as well as the NE Illinois counties. The big future initiative on this objective is working in conjunction with number 3 below, because education is a big component that all the cities have to do.

- 3. Work with appropriate governmental agencies to implement National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater programs.**

NPDES Phase II implementation has started in the county and large municipalities. They have formed a committee to help decide what to do and to do as much of it as a group as possible to avoid duplicating efforts. What they are doing fits in very well with long term objectives of the SWCD so we should support in any way we can. They meet routinely, each has applied for their respective permits, and each have an education-outreach program to implement. This especially will fit into what the District wants to do with urban water quality. Elanor Blackmon is on this committee so you can get much more information from her on this

- 4. Reduce sediment levels in streams below Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards**

We are currently at 96% of cropland at T. Bruce has all the transect information. All points are on a GIS layer with lat/long associated with each point in tabular form. All annual reports of the transects are in the NRCS file under the appropriate file code. This is very useful in determining trends. Also in this file are some old records

of percent of cropland under different tillage types that were done by estimate for CTIC. In addition to this are older records that Extension used to do. For example, 18 years ago almost all corn was fall plowed and over half of the bean stubble. These are valuable historic data to show trends on this priority.

Also directly related to this goal are the erosion goals below of fixing all gully erosion with waterways and fixing all streambank erosion.

5. Locate and seal all abandoned wells

There is a GIS layer showing well log locations. You can also use the historic plat books and old aerial photos to locate former farmsteads that may have old abandoned wells. Finally, there are the digitized 1940 aerial photos that can be used. A number of wells have been sealed with state cost share. **These should be digitized and kept track of.** It might be nice to report these to the Illinois State Water Survey who keeps the well layer for the state as current as they can.

6. Provide assistance to residents so private sewage systems are properly installed and maintained

We are just beginning to provide assistance on this. Homer Lake 319 project is helping us start. There is probably a lot of information in the Chicago area from NIPC or NRCS as well as a lot of urbanizing states that could help in this objective. Related to this problem is what people do with the outflow of 'multiflow' treatment systems. We have been in consultation with the county to try to come up with a good technical solution to this. IEPA apparently will not let you collect all flow directly and dump into a storm sewer. You have to let it run overland first and then you could maybe collect. Or perhaps designing a sand/gravel filled trench or 'dry well' with tile under it may also work. At any rate something with IEPA, the county, and the SWCD should be worked out long term to address this problem.

We should probably add a new long range goal of not having any stream segment on the IEPA's 303(d) list. Sharyl has a very good GIS map of the county and a table to go with it that shows the impairment. This is very useful for public consumption and for watershed planning groups. This is much easier to see than the IEPA's report. This map needs to be updated each time a new report comes out i.e. every two years.

Soil Erosion Control

2

District Position Statement

The District believes it is imperative to protect the soil resource from erosion so that we may continue producing adequate amounts of food and fiber for future generations.

1. **Increase the percentage of corn and soybean acreage with over 30% residue at planting by:**
 - **Increase adoption in corn from 5% to 30% over 5 years by using no-till, strip till or other innovative cropping systems**
 - **Increase adoption in soybeans from 25% to 50% over 5 years by using no-till or other conservation tillage practices**

Most of the activity under this objective is described in Item 1-4 above. In addition, the SWCD has recently revived its No Till Steering Committee to brainstorm and come up with ideas on how to make this objective happen. The bottom line goal here is to have a conservation tillage on every acre of cropland in the county which exceeds T. We have mostly concentrated on no till or strip till, because it just seems if you plan for a producer to do only one pass or two passes, you never end up with the planned levels of residue. To this end we have used IEPA 319 grants, CPP, CPP-TMDL, EQIP, and other funding programs to help cost share on no till and especially lately on strip till. It is the SWCD policy to not to cost share more than once on any acre even if it may have qualified for a second program. We have a master list of all tracts and acres ever signed up on a spreadsheet on the S drive. This information should be useful when writing watershed plans and doing inventory and evaluation. You can merge the tract list in arc view and produce a county map showing the combined acreages of where no till. Furthermore this list can be used in the future to identify tracts on which you could do future follow-up and RMS planning. Most of the no till got implemented without a plan being put into ToolKit. Most of the acreage was reported in PRS, but more on the side records on this later.

In the EQIP program before it went statewide, we wrote our own practice requirements in the watersheds where we had secured funding. When we did no till and nutrient management, we required on farm yield checks as a condition of payment. The on farm experiments were designed with the help of U of I so the experiments are valid and statistics could be run on the results. Yields are documented in case files and we have a spreadsheet summarizing all of the data. This spreadsheet needs to be brought up to date with all yield data. The U of I ACES has volunteered to do the statistics to show that putting on recommended rates of N and doing no till vs. conventional tillage does not impact yield. This data once analyzed should help us promote no till and nutrient management long term in the county. We ran the yield checks just like IDOA did their SOIL and WATER projects. **Don't lose this data and use it to your advantage.** (Bill Lewis was going to ask Britt Weiser help with this project.)

2. **All Runoff from Urban Construction Sites is treated to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Quality Standards.**

In the past we have helped the County of Champaign and the City of Champaign write their Erosion Control Standards. We have supplied the Urban Manual to all of them. We have also supplied the manual to most consulting engineers that work on subdivisions. This objective is also being worked on by the NPDES Phase II committee mentioned in Item No.

1-3. The SWCD also addresses each site for which it does a 2202.a report.

3. Reduce Gully Erosion by Establishing Grassed Waterways, Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBS) and Terraces to convey all field Runoff to Adequate Outlets.

A lot of terraces and WASCB's have been constructed especially on the Gifford Moraine. Since 1986 almost every terrace built was 'all grass'. **It ruins a farm to build terraces out of topsoil in these heavy clay subsoil soils!** Almost every broad base terrace built before 1986 has been rebuilt using the all grass cross section. (Many old topo maps with terrace layout have been filed in the rolled up map files. They are basically labeled by legal description. These should some day be folded up and filed in the engineering storage files by legal description. Richard has been doing projects like this. This will free up a lot of space by getting rid of these map cases.) For the few broad base systems not converted to all grass, the CRP practice CP15a works very well. It would be a good follow up opportunity to scour the map files for tracts with old terrace systems and contact the current owner for O & M of existing terraces or for replanning.

Grassed waterways are extremely important practice in this county. Most have large drainage areas and flat grades. This means they have to be surveyed and designed for exact grade to meet velocity requirements. Most are designed for out of bank flow with about a 2 to 5 year capacity. We rarely design greater than 60 foot width and most are between 40 and 60 feet. **All draws probably have a tile in them** in spite of the fact that a lot of operators say not. The best situation is to have the farmer flag the tile and then and only then flag and survey the waterway center line. Most tiles are in the center of the valley so you have to move the waterway over to maintain tile cover. If this isn't possible you have to move the tile or use a combination of the two. Richard takes care of all waterways and has approval authority to do so. Just remember that Engineering policy requires all work to be checked by an independent person in the office.

We have GPSed almost all waterways and have a GIS layer of them. Richard has a stack of all old waterway designs so that we can create a table with this GIS layer to show what were the slope, length, depth and top width of each waterway reach. This will be valuable planning and follow up information for future use because the lay of the land will not change so the old designs can be used for rebuilding of the practice if it ever needs it. This is especially true since almost all design reaches were laid out with a wheel and not paced and almost all grades were constructed with the help of laser controlled scrapers so there is no reason that grades that were calculated will not work in the future.

4. Encourage Streambank Restoration practices that provide minimal environmental impact and enhance aquatic habitat.

The SWCD has taken the lead on this with their cost share program. There is a spreadsheet on the S drive showing all pending jobs. **Several operators want to proceed with design without cost share so get these scheduled for I & E and design.**

Prime Farmland

3

District Position Statement

The District will continue to recognize and respect the rights and responsibilities of landowners in making private land use decisions. However, the district believes local units of government should utilize land use ordinances to bring about orderly urbanization with minimal loss of prime farmland.

1. Cooperate with local units of government to promote prime farmland protection

See Item 3-4.

2. Prepare Natural Resource Reports for all urbanizing areas

The district does 20 to 30 per year. NRCS provides technical comment when requested by the SWCD. In about 1998, the City of Champaign prepared reports for several thousand acres of adjacent cropland that they thought would be developed over the next decade. They also secured tile maps from the District on this area. Their planning department is making good use of this information. It makes a lot more sense to get these reports out before a development is even planned instead of after it gets platted. This will be a continuing challenge for the District and local units of government. All past reports are filed in a file drawer and many of the very early reports can probably be pitched. On the other hand, probably the better way to file these is by legal description, the way we do engineering storage files. That way, you don't have to keep track of subdivision names and how they change over the years. No matter what urban type problem is asked in the future, you can then go to the storage files to see the original plat and what we said about it. Most times the problem that is being asked about was predicted to happen by our reports. Unfortunately, once they have the problem we can tell them how to fix it but it is very expensive. Working on this priority can stop a lot of problems from happening. **THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT COULD BE DONE IS REQUIRING FOUNDATION DRAINS, SUMP PUMPS, AND DEDICATED OUTLETS FOR SUMP PUMPS FOR ALL HOUSES NO MATTER WHAT THE SOIL TYPE.** Requiring the dedicated outlets will also provide for subsurface drainage of streets which are typically placed in old draws. The wet conditions contribute to streets breaking up prematurely and keep from sump pump discharges and natural groundwater seepage from lawns from keeping streets wet and ice accumulations in the winter.

3. Revise the Land Assessment and Site Evaluation (LESA) system for use in county zoning cases.

The county had one of the first in the state. It was used a lot early on and the LE is still important and being used. It is calculated for all 2202.a reports. The SA part needs revision. However, the county uses what they call their 'overlay' to effectively accomplish what the SA does. Long term along with the new Zoning ordinance the SA could be revised and effectively used.

4. Assist in the development of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Champaign County

We currently have zoning and a big revision is currently in progress. There is a meeting planned for each township this winter. The SWCD has taken a policy stand on several key issues of the proposal that are in line with their long range plan.

Water Management

4

District Position Statement

The District believes surface and subsurface drainage systems are an integral part of agricultural production and environmental quality in urban and agricultural areas.

1. Install drainage systems and maintain them to improve water quality, decrease flooding, and reduce erosion

Tile drainage has been installed on over 50 to 60% of the cropland in the county or it couldn't be farmed. Very few maps exist to document these old tile systems. We provide technical planning advice to anyone who asks. Contractors usually design the detailed layouts, but we provide valuable information on spacing. Also contractors recommend tile lines on somewhat poorly drained soils and/or on every acre in the field instead of differentiating between poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained soils. **Poorly drained soils should receive the drainage first and then only part of the somewhat poorly drained soils may need draining.**

One of the most common requests is for maps of existing tile lines. The SWCD purchased infra red (IR) photos of the county in an effort to eventually map all tile lines in the county and create a GIS layer. We were on the bleeding edge of technology with this effort. Sharyl knows what needs to be done and Bruce and Sharyl are currently processing map orders from farmers. The SWCD charges a fee for this service in an effort to recoup costs. Eventually, they should be able to capture all their costs and end up with a tile map of the entire county as a GIS layer. There is also a GIS layer of tile line crossings of all major highways and pipelines. The original negatives are in the districts fire proof safe and Sharyl has lots of raw and partially processed data files that eventually need organized. This is a one of a kind project for which the SWCD has received a lot of recognition. Some day it

needs to be taken to the next level of technology whatever that might be.

2. Manage urban stormwater runoff to prevent flooding

We helped the county write their ordinance on stormwater management and provided technical comment to the City of Champaign. It would be nice to standardize everyone's ordinance some day and provide technical training on the proper engineering methods to meet the ordinances. The most common problem is picking a runoff equation that does not accurately predict runoff in the natural or developed state.

A lot of stormwater basins have been built and all serve some purpose because they store some water—even though they may not store the 50 or 100 year storm as was intended. Also, it should be recognized that the way most are designed, frequent rainfall events (ones with 5 year frequency or less) will create much higher peak runoff rates. This is because the allowable discharge is designed to be the natural Q2 or Q5 runoff event. This means that even a half inch rain will run off of a parking lot at a tremendous rate maybe even approaching the peak 2 or 5 year storm discharge rate while a half inch rain on cropland all infiltrates. This phenomenon has created the perception that all development is bad, increases flooding, and does not meet the ordinance requirements. Basically every time it rains and a basin discharges to adjacent ag land there are problems unless the basin discharges to a dedicated underground outlet. I think we should design these outlets like we do PTO terraces and put them into a relief well with outflow limited to the base flow expected from the drainage area. The basins are really no different than WASCB's after all. This idea is usually dismissed because farmers and drainage districts don't like the idea of anything being hooked to existing drainage systems. The only other solution to the phenomenon described above is to design a two stage basin, where even these frequent storms are detained and released say at .1 to .15 cfs/ac and then when you get the larger storms they can be discharged at the Q2 or Q5 rate. Finally, then designing the basin to store the 50 or 100 year storm for what isn't discharged, just like we would do a pond design.

Ultimately, we do not know how all these basins add together on a regional basis. That is why it is a goal to prepare a HEC/RAS model for all river basins in the county. The Embarras and Salt Fork are done. That leaves the Kaskaskia and Sangamon. Berns-Clancy Engineers have a partial model on the Kaskaskia. It would be nice to serve up the two existing models up on our web page. Karl Visser has all the raw data and knows about this vision. We also have detailed cross section data and bench mark data that should be served up on a GIS layer for all to use. Further description follows below.

For the Salt Fork we have digital sketches and pictures of all major bridges. Furthermore, we have bench marks set on all bridges complete with GPS points. All was made possible with a C2000 grant. It would be a waste not to publish this for all to see. With just a little more work, you could also publish the capacity of each bridge and how often it overtops the road, where is the MSL bench mark on the bridge, what does the sketch look like, what are its dimensions, and what does the picture look like. It should be especially useful for the county highway department, road commissioners, and drainage district

commissioners. This would be a good senior thesis for some ag engineer or good summer project for a summer intern or volunteer. Dale Thuey, retired engineer from the county highway department might volunteer for helping put the stuff together or could be paid with a grant. He did all the sketch work that was digitized. There is a three ring binder on the book shelf with the survey points in it and Karl Visser has the information also. **It would be nice to run the Salt Fork model to get new 100 year flood plain maps.** See Sally McConkey at the Illinois State Water Survey about this as well as Champaign County Planning and zoning.

Similar information is available for the Embarras. Sally McConkey took the Embarras study to the next level and published new flood plain maps. I don't know if they are certified by FEMA yet. The survey information for the Embarras is also in a 3 ring binder or in the Embarras file I think. Bench marks could be researched by the engineers that did the surveys, pictures of bridges taken, and flow quantities for each bridge could be published. We need to secure the GIS layer of the new 100 year flood plain information if we haven't done so.

3. Promote Best Management Practices to manage the quantity of runoff water

- **Drainage Water Management**

Sub irrigation was big about a decade ago and more recently drainage water management is seen as a very viable practice. Locations of all known sub-irrigation sites and of all water table management sites are in the file folder next to the desk and labeled as water table management. **The next task is to get all the stand pipes digitized so that they aren't lost.** The newer ones were installed with EQIP contracts and a few with SWCA funds. All of these installations need to get yearly reminder letters on how to manage the stop logs just like we sent out annual mowing letters. There are hundreds of potential sites for this practice, but the biggest challenge is to not affect drainage on adjacent property. That is why it works best to install on new grid systems.

- **Promote wetland development where appropriate**

There is a GIS layer of all farmed wetlands and of depressions that used to be called farmed wetlands but were later changed to PC. These are all fantastic sites for the wetland restoration. Again the most critical problem is not affecting neighboring tile drainage. **There is an entire spreadsheet of over 20 sites to finish design on.** Notes are in the case file what stage each is at and what needs to happen next. Most have been topographic surveyed and we have 1 or 2 foot contour maps in the tract folder on the f drive. Sharyl can produce the contour map if it isn't already on the f drive. Rather than breaking or destroying tile to restore hydrology, we have been installing a valve and telling farmers they can open after 10 or 15 years when the CRP contract expires. This is a real selling point. Also at the end of that time period they can still close the valves during the non crop season to get what we used to call 'time shared wetlands'. **There is a real need to do certified wetlands or its equivalent on all these sites** so that the farmer is allowed to eventually start farming these again they way they are now. Otherwise someone is going to catch a lot of grief in the future if these areas are reclassified as wetlands. Hopefully you can figure out a way to keep this from happening with

case file documentation instead of formally doing certified wetland determinations—it would be a big workload for someone.

- **Promote residue management to increase infiltration**

See erosion control Goal No. 2. We have a GIS layer that shows all no till that was cost shared. In addition, FSA has for years asked farmers if a field was no tilled when they reported crop acres. This gives us an excellent historic record of no till in the county. This is why the crop reports are so important to get into a digital format before FSA deletes them. The crop report records until about 1998 are done and stored on the S drive I think. There are only hard copy printouts after that are in the cabinet next to the DC's desk. If we can't get electronic copies out of FSA's computer, then the only thing that can be done is to scan these printouts and turn them into a text file. **We need to keep asking FSA to collect no till information as they have in the past.** We are the only county still doing this and the producers are used to it. Furthermore it is one more way to keep the message of no till on the minds of the producers and helps us keep track of overall progress in meeting our goal. This crop report data should be more accurate than the T transect sampling and in past years has been very close.

4. Assist drainage districts with technical assistance and promote technology transfer of maintenance techniques that balance drainage needs with upland and aquatic habitat needs

We answer drainage district questions quite frequently. A popular question is what drainage district (DD) am I in. We have digitized best available information of district boundaries. About half of the districts provided us with paper maps of their boundaries and they are in flat map drawers. Not a lot of subdistricts done yet. It will be easier to refine boundaries in the future after the tax assessor gets the tracts digitized and you can plot which tracts are getting taxed and from that refine district boundaries. The GIS layer is published on the SWCD web page and the county keeps an up to date spreadsheet of who are the commissioners. (Half of the data comes from the county clerk's office for elected commissioners and half from another county entity for those who are appointed). A master hard copy list of district boundaries, list of commissioners, and contact information at the county is in a 3 ring binder labeled drainage districts.

Also each year we cosponsor with Farm Bureau and sometimes Extension an information meeting for DD commissioners. We also occasionally attend annual meetings of DD to help promote filter strips or some other conservation practice like drainage management or watershed planning.

5. Promote water conservation to reduce total consumption

No real action taken on this objective.

Wildlife Habitat

5

District Position Statement

The District is committed to working with wildlife habitat groups to create, improve and enhance the quality and quantity of habitat.

1. Develop wetland and prairie restoration projects to increase habitat

See Goal 4-3 above under wetlands

2. Install filter strips on 95% of stream and ditch banks

All the statistics of accomplishments on this goal are summarized by the map the district has published in quantity showing all the filter strips. On the back of the map the statistics are shown for each habitat type. The 2003 document is as follows:

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY STREAM BANK FILTER STRIP and HABITAT REPORT

OUR VISION: To improve water quality and wildlife habitat in Champaign County by filtering all runoff water so that it runs through grass or riparian filter strips before entering our streams and ditches.

This map was developed to show the progress Champaign County is making in providing clean water and wildlife habitat along our 1,376 miles of stream banks (2 sides of 688 miles of streams and ditches). **We are currently at 71% of our goal.** In the 2003 planting season, we were able to add more than 20 miles or 326 acres of grass filter strips and riparian buffer projects to move toward our goal.

Champaign County Habitat Statistics

Habitat Type	Acres	% of Total	Benefits
Shallow water & wetland restoration areas	488	5	Habitat for waterfowl and amphibians
Native prairie grasses	1700	19	General habitat and winter cover for pheasants
Brome/alfalfa	3400	38	Nesting cover
Trees enrolled in CRP	1800	20	General habitat
Other CRP	1585	18	General habitat
TOTAL	8,973		

Total = 8,973 acres of water-filtering capacity and wildlife habitat!

I don't know if the 2004 numbers have been done yet, but if not Sharyl can do them. We have used all kinds of grants over a period of 5 years or so to promote this one objective and have been somewhat successful. I doubt few other SWCD's can claim this type of streambank protection. We have a series of maps that shows our progress in meeting this goal. A few of the early maps that claimed a certain percentage of banks protected were probably low in the estimate because it did not include banks with existing vegetation that was acting as a filter. In later maps we reported all banks that were protected either naturally or with buffer strips we helped install. So don't be misled by the big jump in percentages a few years ago. Notwithstanding, this strategy proves you have to concentrate your efforts, focus, and budget on specific goals to get an effect. We are approaching 75% accomplishment of installing this conservation practice everywhere it is needed in the county. This is very commendable. Now if we can get the nutrient management and conservation tillage goals at the same level we would be on the way to working our way out of a job.

3. Establish windbreaks on 25% of rural residences

We have a GIS layer that shows all CRP windbreaks. There is also a layer that a volunteer did a few years back and was updated by a high school student that shows locations of all existing natural or planted windbreaks and field windbreaks as interpreted from aerial photography. This should serve as a useful tool in implementing this goal. A county wide map showing all windbreak plantings can be done just like we do for filter strips, no till, and nutrient management. We should be able to map all farmsteads from looking at aerial photos, or eventually get it from digitized tax parcel data from the tax assessor. The assessor uses a specific land use code for a residence and this would give us an automatic data base of who our potential customers would be for windbreaks.

4. Establish field windbreaks on 10% of the sections of land

See Item 5-4 above.

5. Establish wetlands on 10% of the sections of land in the county

See Item 4-3 above as well as the statistics under 5-2.

6. Establish wildlife habitat on 4% of the county acreage

We already met our old goal of 3% habitat, so this goal was recently raised. We have a county wide GIS layer showing existing trees and all CRP contracts. This added all together gives us our tracking means for this goal. Sharyl has this map and keeps track of the statistics on this. We use EQIP, WHIP, and CRP programs to help us achieve all objectives under this Long Range Wildlife Habitat Goal. Many of the acres are also established by the 5 to 10 acres plots of land people buy in the country and build a house. While this detracts from our Prime Farmland Preservation Goal, it helps add to this goal—even though we wish it were not so.

7. Establish habitat corridors where practical

With the aid of the GIS maps for Goals 5-2,3, and 6 above, you can start seeing where islands of habitat can be connected. These areas that need connected can usually be done by finishing filter strip installation along streams. Accomplishing this goal will put habitat where we need it most and it will do the most good. This way we can still keep farming the Prime Farmland while still providing habitat.

8. Encourage landowners and operators to manage rural roadsides for wildlife habitat- our goal is 10 % of roadsides managed for wildlife

We have a GIS layer showing all previously signed up for the Roadsides for Wildlife Program of IDNR. However, most of these sites are probably not actively managed. This is a great opportunity for a grant, or PF to help do follow up work on these farms. Using roadsides help get habitat, while minimizing the amount of Prime Farmland not used for cropland. You can keep annual progress on this goal just like we do with filter strips.

9. Assist in projects to improve aquatic habitat

We haven't done much for this objective except facilitate research for Professors Herricks and Rhoads. Even this may not be possible in the future as several conflicts have arisen between environmentalists and farmers and DD commissioners. The research data is being used 'against' the ag community to stop maintenance projects on drainage ditches. **So if any more research is done on farms, be sure you help secure the cooperation of the OP, OW, and of the DD commissioners.** We can really do a lot to implement this goal as we work with DD commissioners in their 'maintenance' projects on ditches. There is emerging technology that the silt bars in ditches are natural, don't cause drainage problems, and if removed will just come back in a few years. This still needs further research, but if they remain, it creates a lot of fish habitat. Ohio State University has been studying this the most, with Mike Hirschi at U of I also trying to study in Illinois. We presented info at a meeting of DD commissioners about this new research, but it was met with much skepticism and resistance. We need to proceed based on sound science, but there is some real opportunity here I think.

The other thing we have done is install bendway weirs and barbs. These have shown to increase habitat and reduce stream bank erosion. Therefore this one practice helps us accomplish two long term goals! There is a lot of potential for this practice, but it is expensive and requires permits a lot of times. **It should be a high priority practice in spite of these obstacles.**

A good example of the challenge of this is the reach of channel along Windsor Road just west of Champaign. The DD and their engineer want to protect the toe of the slope from erosion and back slope the banks, but the State of Illinois won't give the permit because they say it increases flood elevations downstream. A good model would probably disprove this, but it has not been developed for the Kaskaskia watershed yet. This is another example of something planned that meets multiple goals.

10. Collaborate with local conservation groups to establish/improve wildlife habitat

We do this a lot with our watershed groups. We also try to invite all groups to our SWCD annual meeting and other planning type meetings. This past winter we met with each group individually and showed them a power point presentation of our draft long range plan and asked for comment. This needs to continue. We meet with Pheasants Forever every month and to the extent possible we should try to get one person from our conservation team to join and attend a group of their personal interest. The other thing we should do is try to get members from each of these groups to be associate members and then ask them to come to say quarterly meetings where we review progress on our long range goals. We have been doing a lot, but could do more.

Education, Natural Resource Data, Public Information, and Participation

District Position Statement

The District believes that all persons within the county should understand the importance of natural resources in relation to the availability of food and fiber, and consequently to their general standard of living and its' relation to our well-being.

6

Items 1-4 are usually addressed by the Resource Conservationists. Item 6 is covered in 5-10 above. The SWCD partners with Earth Partners, and Champaign County Forest Preserve District, Extension, and Parkland College to help with conservation education. As always, there is more that can be done, but a high priority should be given to these working relationships. The one potential addition would be the Urban group working on NPDES public education mentioned in Item 1-3 above.

All slides are in slide sheets and grouped by category. We don't really use slides anymore, but a good volunteer job would be to at least scan all these slides and put them on CD. Eventually they could be organized and used in powerpoint presentations. Achieve the slides and/or throw them away.

One of each publication ever to go through the office is in a series of 3 ring binders and organized somewhat by subject. Supplies of various publications are on shelves in the storeroom.

- 1. Educate the public through public awareness in the mass media.**
- 2. Educate children and youth by partnering with groups such as Earth Partners to provide science based natural resource education in schools**
- 3. Recognize groups for conservation efforts**
- 4. Encourage public involvement in conservation efforts**

5. Continue GIS data layer development

The SWCD has been a leader on this goal statewide. Using grants, volunteers, and other resources, they have assembled almost every GIS layer on natural resources that can be imagined. The original data is achieved by Sharyl, but working copies on the F drive and appropriately filed. There is an ArcView project file on everyone's desktop computer that has all the themes already referenced. All you have to do when a customer comes in is click on the icon, zoom into the section and township of interest, and then turn themes on and off as needed. Sharyl keeps these up to date and has put together the metadata for each layer i.e. the history of how each layer was developed and what is its accuracy. She has written a word file that historically describes each data layer. **Do not lose this valuable information.** The meta data text files are also placed on the F drive with the appropriate data layers so don't erase these files either.

As you can read in the report so far, we have used GIS as an integral part of everything we do. We use this software just like we do Word or Excel to help get our job done and get more conservation on the land. It is not a stand alone project and it has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the office immensely over the past 5 to 8 years. An outline of how we routinely use it is shown below:

Basic Tools

- aerial photography-as many flights as you can get
- soils
- tracts
- topography
- linking people with land electronically-this is the land ownership data in the OWOP excel spreadsheet on everyone's computer and it is the same data that we link with the tract layer GIS layer in ArcView
- Use these layers routinely instead of having to look up paper maps

Long Range Planning

- resource inventories
- practice inventories
- keeping track of county wide progress by practice
- prime farmland/zoning studies
- rural fire protection planning (dry hydrant sites)

Targeted Outreach

- filter strips
- floodplain tree plantings
- watershed-based programs public notification
- fish sale customers
- practice follow-up letters

Planning and Problem Solving with Customers

- initial planning (w/topo, photo, soils, utilities)
- drainage investigations

- soil productivity index for a field
- HEL determinations
- Program eligibility

Analysis and Design

- watershed drainage areas
- practice layout and design
- acres of each soil type in a drainage area to figure Runoff Curve Number and/or average watershed slope
- layout of buffers and field borders and easily get acres of each soil type

Layers yet needed to be developed:

- 1940 photo-these have been scanned, but not glued together and not on our F drive. This is the layer everyone comes in to look at and the SWCD could charge for printing out the photo and providing assistance to secure the image
- streams historic-Not including the man-made channels. Someone is always misquoting how many miles of natural streams are in the county thinking that the drainage ditches were once natural streams. This could come from the old surveyors notes that Sharyl has on CD or there was someone at ISGS that was digitizing these old surveyors notes and would have the streams plotted. Also BCA engineers may have good information on this question
- sub irrigation and drainage management sites-mentioned above Richard Cooke also has one or two sites that aren't in the folder I mentioned. You can get the locations from him
- Once we get the historic digitized slides the IR photos for tile lines organized. As a first step before taking all the time to glue them together, how about taking the township and section map of the county and turning each section into a polygon. Then inside the polygon, put in a hot link that pulls up the digitized IR slide for that section. This way we can see if the photo exists and look at its quality very easily instead of how we now do it.
- Tom D'Avello is doing a MrSid compression of the County's 2002 aerial photography. This will be just one more layer to use to do conservation work. We should try to get as many digital flights as possible over time. It only helps us do our job in the long run.
- Another extremely valuable resource is digitizing all of the FSA compliance slides at a minimum and putting them on CD. They don't even have to be glued together or georeferenced at first. Simply store each slide away as a file and do a similar procedure as suggested for the IR slides. Just have each section of the county as a polygon, then put a hot link inside of it that references it to the digitized FSA slide by year. This historic data is so valuable to future projects and for research it is an extremely high priority to preserve it. **At a minimum, digitize all slides and burn on a CD for later processing.** Perhaps this could be a senior thesis project for an ag engineering student.
- Some day it would be nice to get GPS points of all tile outlets

- Structures along ditches would be a good layer to have. It could be gleaned from the engineering storage files as described later.
 - Terrace locations are also in storage files. Once you saw the original layout you could use aerial photos to tract the center lines.
6. **Increase conservation participation by collaborating with appropriate groups**

The strategies to implement the long range goals are critical and really need no further explanation. The SWCD has a copy of their annual plan of work that was extracted from this long range plan. It is the list of things that need to be done yet this year.

STRATEGIES

Know Your Customers:

1. Define shifts taking place in our customer base.
2. Develop a communication plan to fit all our customers.
3. Develop strong partnerships with individuals and groups with similar natural resource priorities.
4. Encourage public participation in planning how to conserve our natural resources.

Set Priorities:

1. Develop and update District long range plan every 5 years
2. Develop annual plan of work to meet long range plan goals

Funding:

1. Reduce uncertainty by securing stable funding sources.
2. Develop budgeting models.

Implementation:

1. Address natural resources priorities and planning on a watershed basis.
2. Develop and maintain natural resource data and maps using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
3. Implement solutions to natural resource problems that are practical and voluntary.
4. Use education as a strategic tool in achieving natural resource protection.
5. Use various technology transfer systems to their full potential.

Other odds and ends about day to day operation of the office include all the following topics in random order:

There is an ACS variance approved for most HEL soils in the county that is documented in the Tech Guide. Basically if a farmer no tills soybeans into corn stalks and leaves bean stubble until spring using only one pass of a field cultivator before planting corn, then he has an ACS on heavy clay subsoil soils in the county.

There is a great opportunity to work with conservation insurance to help implement no till and nutrient management. Work with Tom Green and with Macon County. There is a folder on this next to the DC's desk

The distance meters in both trucks need to be fixed. Most counties don't like to use them, but they have come in very hand for us over the years. Richard would use his if it worked. He has the address of a guy at Charleston who can get them to work. At least we should get his to work. There are a lot of spare parts for these in a box in the storeroom.

Case file organization and storage files.

All FSA tracts have a separate file folder with maps, conservation plans, and other case file documents stored inside. We group tract number file folders together and place them in hanging files by farm number. This way when FSA changes Farm Numbers on Reconstitutions all you have to do is relabel a hanging file with the new farm number and regroup tracts into appropriate farm number hanging folders.

Since the job of creating file folders for all tracts is done, the only time new case files have to be created is when an old tract is split apart or combined with another. This has saved immensely on the job of keeping track of reconstitutions and we always have a case file to work with. Volunteers have mostly done all this prior work, and now it is very easy to keep up to date.

The standard format of each case file is:

Left side:

- All aerial photos with most current on top, but save all the old ones
- Soil map
- Topographic map (Years ago we did our own version of GIS—Each section of the county was enlarged to the same scale as aerial photos and a master file of these topographic maps is kept in a file drawer. Obviously with GIS these are no longer needed, but a hard copy in the case file is still nice to have since they are already there
- HEL determination
- Wetland determination-Way back in 1988 we were told to send these out. We got a lot of volunteers to do this on our own equivalent form. By the time we got the job done, we got new guidance to not send these out, but we already had them all send and copies in the files. Obviously you can't use these as official copies, but it is still nice to have a hard copy in the case file as a reference before you double check the official copy
- Copy of the EX 156 form

Right side:

- P & I notes with most recent on top
- Copy of correspondence
- Copy of conservation plan

- Copy of any contract that goes with implementing one of the practices in the conservation plan
- Old conservation plans especially if the tract is HEL
- Cooperator agreements which we used to keep, but now it seems is not important. Basically, our SWCD has said everyone is a cooperator so this agreement doesn't really mean anything

When we have CRP and EQIP contracts, the new planning handbook, Illinois supplement told us to use 6 part folders. We have implemented this for new contracts written last year. With these folders the first two covers are as described above for a normal case file. The remaining covers are for contracts as described in the handbook.

We absolutely quit keeping track of OW and OP addresses and names in ToolKit. We use the OWOP excel spreadsheet. It is on everyone's desktop and is kept totally current as often as you see fit. FSA will send us an ascii file of their latest information anytime we ask. Simply import it into the Excel spreadsheet and we have it too. We generate mailing labels from this spreadsheet too and/or use it in conjunction with ArcView.

Folders in red are HEL tracts. There are excel spreadsheets summarizing HEL tracts stored on the S drive. The file probably needs to be checked as there are HEL tracts that split and any tract that no longer exists, we should look up what tracts these were split into and now created new tracts that may or may not be HEL. Lots of times FSA may forget to ask us for a new determination. That is why I suggest we look at the EXCEL spreadsheet and then check the determination on each. It shouldn't take more than a day or two to complete.

A summary of all reconstitutions for the last 10 to 15 years are contained in two 3 ring binders Jane keeps on the bookshelf. But more useful than this is an excel file that contains all old tract numbers and the new number they contain. This only takes an hour to update each year and saves so much time throughout the year. I suggest this continue.

Crop history for all tracts for a lot of years is on the S drive and can be used for a lot of things including NRI. These files also contain the code for who did no till for all those years. Newer years haven't been converted to a digital file in windows yet, but once FSA has the ability to write to an ascii file, we need to get all the crop years we are missing. This data can then be linked to our GIS tract layer for a lot of different uses including saving a lot of time for NRI in future years.

All engineering drawings and design notes are in the case file until the practice is completed. Once completed, they are placed in a brown envelope and filed by legal description in files behind Richard's desk. This has been very valuable because legal description doesn't change and it is very easy to look up data on an old design, or to reuse some of the data to redesign after the useful life has expired. There are a lot of topo surveys in these file folders too that will be useful no matter how old they are. These are

the files that we used to keep track of all the practices we plotted on GIS practice layers. We have almost all of the waterways ever build digitized. The next step would be to link some tabular data from the design sheets to the waterway—i.e. waterway depth, top width, and slope. Once entered into the data base, they should never have to change. This should save a lot of time long term into the next decade.

The next layer to develop is probably all of the terrace center lines shown. Or one could plot all of the structures ever installed. These are all projects that Richard could work on over the winter months when there isn't much else to work on.

There are file drawers for each of our major watershed planning activities. Embarras has a drawer in the DC office as well as behind Richard's desk. Also behind Richard's desk are files for Little Vermilion, Sangamon, and Salt Fork. The Flood Plain Maps are behind Richards's desk also, but we have a GIS layer of these that is easier to use. All the old 2202.a reports are also filed here.

All old hard copy aerial photos are filed in the file in the storage room. Someone is always wanting to come in and look at these for Phase I environmental assessments. There are two vintages of aerial photos on top of the map cases and/or on top of the file cabinet in the storeroom that need to be double checked and matched with one of the many indexes that are around the office. This is a good volunteer job. It is almost done, but not quite.

Copies of the wetland inventory are in the rolling cabinet. The scale on these maps is 1 inch to 400 feet. Each map is one section. Documentation on how they are developed is in Tech Guide where it is supposed to be, but also in front of the maps. The NWI is in the big map drawers along with topo maps.

The technical reference library is currently under organization. When done, all technical documents and reference material on natural resources will be catalogued like a library. All of the stuff is currently in the conference room, but once the job is completed, the files need to be placed on the south wall and the master index maintained. Also on the south wall, one file cabinet has all active grants, as well as all completed grants in it. It also contains all unsuccessful grants filed by grant type and year. The unsuccessful grants serve as good material to rework and apply for new grants. (The file incorporated at the end of this report is a summary of all grants ever received). Finally on the south wall are the NRCS files organized as they should be by file code. We need to get all information in the office that isn't filed and get it into the Technical Library, in SWCD files, or in NRCS files.

All active projects have a file folder of their own and it is in a standing file next to the DC's desk. Most of the information in these files are working copies of materials, but before pitching, be sure originals are appropriately filed away. All grants are summarized by Terri each month. This helps plan what work needs to be done when to support the program. Terri and Bruce take care of administration, but the actual work

requires planning, organization, and execution assistance from NRCS to help get the conservation on the land.

The bottom tray of the DC's mail box is a 'suspense' file. Basically copies of material sent out of the office waiting on action are kept here as well as projects in limbo. There has been no electronic archiving of material from any computer the way our directives system instructs us to do. This is a project of electronic filing of multiple documents that are found on many computers that needs to be done some time. All program books are on the DC's bookshelf. Each program has a book with the manual inside, but in addition all bulletins and information on that program is also filed in that book. While this may not be filed properly according to our directives system, this is the only system that keeps all the many changes and instructions in one place.

Lack of staff has kept us from properly documenting everything that has been reported in the last 5 years. On the S drive, there is a master list of all practices and systems reported in the last 5 years. The work really was done, and we have practice spreadsheets to show where and on what tract. The only thing not done is the information put into the electronic case file in ToolKit.

There is one progress reporting summary Excel file that lists all reporting done in 5 years on a cumulative basis. It has a cumulative total of all practices applied in the last 5 years. One column subtracts these two numbers and shows you what has been done in the past 5 years but HAS NOT YET BEEN REPORTED. Once you have the time, there is a lot of progress to document and report just sitting there waiting to be done.

Every practice has an excel spreadsheet showing which jobs are not completed and what stage they are in. These are what were routinely used to keep track of everything going on. They also serve to keep track of what needs to go into ToolKit and PRS and whether cultural resource reviews are done.

The SWCD has a great program full of opportunity for the future. Good luck to the next set of team members helping implement it and get conservation on the land!

Sincerely,

Leon Wendte, DC
1986 to 2004

Attachment: Copy of summary of all grants

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Grants and Contracts

1940 Aerial Photographs IDNR #007-00

Digitize the 1940 National High Altitude Aerial Photographic coverage of Champaign County using the GIS computer – combine the photographs into seamless and geo-referenced GIS data layers, expired.

Salt Fork River (Sidney Township, Champaign Co. EWP and SCS, #69-5A12-0-848

Installation of stream bank improvements including removal of log jams, 1990, \$50,000, expired.

Drainage Dist. #3 in St. Joseph, SWCD

Cleanout of Salt Fork (Contract w/Robert Smith), 1990, \$1,000, expired.

Little Vermilion River Agricultural Non-point Source Hydrologic Unit Area, SCS, #68-5A12-2-1004 #68-5A12-2-1004

To upgrade water sampling facility on the Little Vermilion River to determine the load of agrichemicals and nutrients leaving the watershed, 1992, \$3,500, expired.

Filter strip brochure, SWCD, USDA Forest Service, NA-92-0295

Development of brochure and publicity campaign to promote forested filter strips along streams in Upper Embarrass River Basin Watershed - Also be used in the Little Vermilion Watershed Special Water Quality Project, 1992, \$4,259 (federal share \$2,000), expired.

Salt Fork River Log Jam #6 and Middle Fork River Log Jam, Champaign, Co. Forest Preserve EWP Project, SCS, #50-A12-5-2282

Removal of channel obstructions on Salt Fork and Middle River channel erosion repair on Salt Fork River and repair of wetland inlet /outlet structures, 1994, expired.

Salt Fork River Log Jam #4 and Village of St. Joseph EWP Project, SCS, #50-5A12-5-2260

Reduce flooding on cropland fields and the Village of St. Joseph, removal of log jams and channel bank repair, 1994, \$7,600, expired

Environmental Mapping and Assessment Program (EMAP), SCS, #69-5A12-4-3090

Create up-to-date nationwide resource inventory for land cover using Landsat Thematic Mapper satellite data – locate 12 quarter sections on county road map, gather crop information for 1991, 1992, and 1993, label and annotate on cut sheets, 1994, expired.

EWP Project – Bridge Flood Damage, Phase I, SCS, #50-5A12-4-2225

Restoration/placement of earth fill and rock riprap to protect 9 bridges, 1994, \$200,418.74, expired

EWP Project – Flood Damage to Structures in Champaign Co., SCS, #69-5A12-4-2226

Reshape channel at structure, replace compacted soil from bridge abutments, and replace erosion protection materials such as rip rap under the bridges, upstream and downstream of the structure, 1994. \$17,399.32, expired.

EWP Project – Bridge Flood Damage – Phase II, Contract 1, SCS, #69-5A12-4-2235

Repair damage to bridge structures due to flooding by replacing slopes in front of abutments and stabilizing with protective layer of grouted stone riprap, 1994, \$76,241.89, expired.

EWP Project – Bridge Flood Damage – Phase II, Contract 2, SCS, #69-5A12-4-2236

Repair damage to bridge structures by replacing slopes in front of abutments and stabilizing with protective layer of grouted stone riprap, 1994, \$66,829.96, expired.

EWP Project – Bridge Flood Damage – Phase II, Contract 3, SCS, #69-5A12-4-2237

Repair damage to bridge structures by replacing slopes in front of abutments and stabilizing with a protective layer of grouted stone riprap, 1994, \$67,844.14, expired.

EWP Project – Phinney Branch D.D., SCS, #50-5A12-4-2248

Bank stabilization repair, 1994, \$24,998.83, expired.

EWP Project – Sangamon River log jams #5, 6 and 7, SCS, #50-5A12-5-2262

Removal of log jams caused by flooding, 1994, \$10,150, expired.

EWP Project – Sangamon River log jams #2, 3, 8 and 9, SCS, #50-5A12-5-2263

Removal of log jams caused by flooding, 1994, \$14,450, expired.

EWP Project – Champaign Co. Forest Preserve, SCS, #50-5A12-5-2283

Site #1, Middle Fork Wetland – repair inlet and outlet structure on wetland structure, Site #2, Middle Fork log jam – remove log jam, Site #3, Salt Fork log jam – remove log jam and Site #4, bank stabilization, 1994, \$54,645.00, expired.

Upper Embarrass Watershed, SCS, #69-5A12-4-3089

Facilitate total resource planning on 1,000 acres of cropland in the Upper Embarrass Watershed – filter strips, wetland restoration, crop management plans and windbreaks, 1994, expired.

HEL Determination, SCS

Gather information, sponsor, conduct and support group conservation planning workshops for landowners/operators for the purpose of developing conservation plans applicable to the conservation compliance and sodbuster provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act; develop documentation and assist in development of 85 conservation plans, 1995, \$15,000, expired.

Recompile and Digitize layers, NRCS, #69-5A12-5-4137

Recompile and digitize land cover/land use data on USGS 7.5 minute top quad base for Champaign Co. in accordance with instructions by GIS Specialist. Recompile and digitize drainage district boundaries for Champaign, Co., 1995, \$15,000, expired.

NRCS Digitizing Project, NRCS, #69-A512-5-4137

Compile and digitize land cover/land use and drainage district data base, 1995, \$15,000, completed.

C2000 Development and Expansion Grant, IDOA, 096

Utilize Geographic Information System to achieve T by 2000, 1995, \$4,550, completed.

Upper Sangamon River/Lake Decatur Watershed, City of Decatur

Champaign Co. SWCD used City of Decatur cost-share money to interview producers regarding fertilizer monitors, n-serve, cover crops and filter strips, and then do follow-up, 1995, 1996, 1997, \$3,200 and \$2,855, expired.

Spring Lake Watershed, NRCS

Consultant – Inventory the resource conservation concerns on land involved on 22 tracts in watershed. (District provided materials, staff and assistance as needed.), 1996, \$2,400, expired.

Nitrogen Flow Monitors, IDNR, #003-97

Reduce nitrates in the Lake Decatur watershed and make available to every producer in this watershed the use of a nitrogen flow monitor to help them accurately apply nitrogen fertilizer, 1996, \$19,000, completed.

C2000 Project, Salt Fork Land Survey, IDNR, #021-97

Obtain approx. 220 valley cross sections along the entire reach of the Salt Fork River and its tributaries for the purpose of supplying them to the entity completing the hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, 1996, \$40,290, completed.

C2000 Project, Habitat Strategic Plan, IDNR, #006-97

Develop a comprehensive plan for retention or enrollment of land throughout each Headwaters watershed in long term habitat programs to provide for maximum wildlife and ecological benefits, 1996, \$4,000, completed.

Salt Fork and Spoon Rivers Landowner Contacts, IDNR, #014-97

Contact the major landowners along segments of the Salt Fork River and Spoon River and provide them with information about ecological values and importance of these rivers, 1996, \$32,498, completed.

Site recommendations for City of Champaign, City of Champaign

Inspection of 18 sites addressing farmland to be taken out of production, erosion, sedimentation, drainage, wetland areas, wildlife and habitat resources, 1996, 1997, \$7,300, expired.

Lake Decatur Watershed, City of Decatur

Improve water quality in the Lake Decatur/Sangamon Watershed. Purchase nitrogen flow monitors to give the producers a more accurate application of nitrogen fertilizer, 1997, \$4,500, expired.

NRCS Waterway Survey, NRCS, #69-5A12-7-4504

Employee competent individuals or third party contractors to provide technical assistance to ECP and CRP consisting of waterway layout, surveying and plotting, 1997, \$23,978, completed.

Little Vermilion HUA, NRCS, #69-5A12-7-4513

Provide assistance to farm owners and operators in the Little Vermilion watershed to improve the utilization of nitrogen fertilizer and reduce the discharge of nitrates from cropland to the Little Vermilion River, 1997, \$7,500, completed.

NRCS NRI Grant, NRCS, #69-5A12-7-4511

District and NRCS have a mutual interest in completing the 1997 National Resources Inventory, 1997, \$28,793, completed.

Headwaters Habitat, IDNR, #17-97

Increase amount of roadside wildlife habitat on all areas and small rural property and filter strips along streams, 1997, \$50,334, completed.

C2000 Ecosystem Program, IDNR, #EDP-97

Computer equipment, software and training in Arc view to be able to provide mapping and GIS support, 1997, completed.

EQIP Embarras River Watershed, NRCS, #74-5A12-7-8606

Implement education activities to support the EQIP within the Embarras River Watershed, 1997, \$2,040, completed.

Sustainable Agriculture Nitrogen Video Grant, IDOA, SA 98-17, 370918769B

Prepare script and produce video, 1997, \$13,050 completed.

No-till farming strategy, ERMA

Project is to aid in implementing the no-till component of ERMA's watershed plan – visible end product will be increased acreage of no-till planted crops in the Upper Embarras Watershed, 1997, \$3,000, completed.

C2000 Grant, Headwaters Ecosystem Project, NRCS (IL Water Survey did work), #011-98

Evaluating flood mitigation effects in forested riparian filter strips, to estimate the flow resistance for channel reaches on the Embarras River, develop a computer model using

the WSP2 to reproduce water surface profiles for the Upper Embarrass and use it to examine scenarios to reduce flooding peaks in Villa Grove, 1998, \$44,355, expired

C2000 Grant, Headwaters Ecosystem Project, IDNR, #013-99

Using the SAFE Computer Program for Nitrogen Efficiency in the Sangamon Watershed of the Headwaters Partnership, 1998, \$18,000, completed.

C2000 Grant, Headwaters Ecosystem Project, IDNR, #010-99

Remove invasive woody plants from 20 acres of prairie, 1998. \$5,550, completed.

Embarras River Flooding Study, IDNR, #006-98

Determine effect of flooding on Villa Grove from newly created forested riparian buffer upstream and forest stand improvement downstream of Villa Grove, 1998, \$5,081, completed.

Technology Up-Grade Program, IDOA

Purchase of computing or communications technology equipment under C2000 SWCD Technology Up-Grade Program, 1998, \$4,000, completed.

C2000 Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Program, IDOA

Carry out the streambank stabilization and restoration project – plan, install and maintain cost-share and non-cost-shared streambank stabilization and restoration practices in accordance with technical specs of the USDA, NRCS, 1999, \$6,563, completed.

Farm Bureau Habitat, Farm Bureau

Filter strips, 1999, \$4,000, completed.

GIS Digital Photographs, Champaign Co. Forest Preserve Dist.

Market digital photos of Champaign Co., to farm managers and rural appraisers, 1999, \$6,000, completed.

Salt Fork River Watershed, IDNR, #011-99

Inventory existing hydraulic and hydrologic characteristics of the Salt Fork River Watershed in Champaign, Co., 1999, \$50,000, completed.

Habitat Fund Grant, IDNR, #99-62H

Establish buffer strip of trees, shrubs, warm season grasses or cool season grasses along the 1400 miles of stream in Champaign Co., 1999, \$12,000, completed.

Embarras No-till, NRCS, #68-5A12-9-9503

Develop and implement a plan that supports the 1999 Upper Embarras River EQIP Conservation Area and identify cooperators to establish 6 no-till demonstration sites, 1999, \$2,422, cancelled.

Water Table Management, NRCS, 69-5A12-9-4616

Install 8 – 12 water level control devices in farm fields in the Lake Decatur watershed to control the problem of elevated nitrate levels going back 10 years, 1999, terminated.

Embarras Education EQIP, NRCS, #74-5A12-9-8620

Implement education activities to support the EQIP within the Upper Embarras River Priority Area, 1999, \$2,100, completed.

Little Vermilion Lessons, IDOA

To inform citizens of research concerning water quality in their watershed and to promote practices that reduce nitrate loads to surface waters, 1999, \$7,500, completed.

Lake Decatur Filter Strips 319 and City of Decatur

Funding for a person in Champaign Co., to meet one-on-one with landowners to promote filter strips as well as the 319 cost-share program, 1998, 1999, \$2,000 and \$5,000, completed.

Headwaters Kaskaskia Watershed Planning Initiative, IEPA, #9810416

Make Phinney Branch full use supporting and maintain drainage ditches and banks in a manner that maximizes hydraulic efficiency and improve fish and wildlife habitat, 2000, \$4,462, completed.

Determine effect on flooding on Villa Grove from newly Barnhart Prairie-Grove Prairie, IDNR, #002-98

Project provides funding to purchase a permanent easement on approx. 80 acres of cropland located 2 miles south of Urbana, 2000, \$370,081, completed.

Habitat Fund Grant 2000, IDNR, #00-50H

Make contacts with critical parties to get habitat established on filter strips and to provide technical assistance to properly seed grasses, 2000, \$14,000, completed.

Historic Watershed Aerial Photographic Coverage, IDNR, #007-00

Digitize the 1940 National High Altitude Aerial Photographic coverage of Champaign County and, using the GIS computer, combine the photographs into seamless and geo-referenced GIS data layers, 2000, \$8,000, completed.

C2000 Project, Watershed Planning and Implementation Coordinator, IDNR, #005-00

Contract the services of a watershed coordinator to serve the Headwaters Partnership consisting of 5 different watershed steering committees and the 31 governmental, not-for-profit, and private entities assisting in accomplishing the committees' objectives, 2000, \$25,000 completed.

Education Tile Drainage Management Demonstration Project, NRCS, #74-5A12-0-9810

Provide technical assistance, cost-share payments, incentive payments and education to producers, 2000, \$11,999, completed.

Reforestation of Riparian Buffers by direct seeding, IDNR, #011-00

Utilizing a special seed planter, direct seeding will be used to establish riparian forest corridors on about 150 acres, 2000, \$25,923, completed.

Big Ditch Watershed, U of I, #1639

Interviews to quantify fertilizer nitrogen use in watershed and to determine reasons producers use the levels of nitrogen stated – related studies will measure nitrogen concentration in streams draining the watershed, 2000, \$2,682, completed.

GIS Technology Grant, IDOA, Bureau of Land and Water Resources

Purchase of eligible computer hardware, software or training under the C2000 SWCD GIS Technology Program, 2000, \$2,994, completed.

Strip Till, IDOA

Strip till project/field day, 2000 – 2002, \$17,500, completed.

Habitat Coordinator Expansion Grant, IDOA, 01

Educate all eligible landowners and producers about the environmental and financial benefits of filter strips and riparian buffers and increase stream bank buffers by 200 acres, 2000, \$7,500, completed.

New Imagery for WS Research (tile mapping – JD), IDNR, 017-00, G01C0155

Purchase experimental NASA hyperspectral imagery of the Salt Fork Watershed, and develop band and image analysis procedures to answer specific natural resource and watershed management questions, 2000, \$50,000, active.

Little Vermilion 319, AISWCD, IEPA-319 Grant #3190010

Signup acres in the Nutrient Management Program in the Little Vermilion, 2000, \$38,740, completed.

Barnhart Prairie Phase II Project, IDNR, #002-98

Establish a native prairie ecosystem on 80 acres of cropland. This is a phase II of an original grant to purchase a permanent easement, 2001, \$7,934.40, completed.

Pheasant stamp grant, IDNR, #01-002P

Partner with Earth Partners of Champaign Co., to provide environmental workshops, 2001, \$3,790, completed.

C2000 Grant, Headwaters HDP, IDNR, #HDP SG1-01

Upgrade Arc View software to 8.1 and allow us to buy additional license for part-time staff assisting with Headwaters resource inventories. In addition, the funds will help offset GIS layer and map production costs, 2001, \$3,000, completed.

Upper Embarras WS Priority Area Education, EQIP, USDA, #74-5A12-1-9818

Provide technical and financial assistance aspects of EQIP by fulfilling education needs of producers to identify and understand their natural resources and environmental conditions and to plan, design, implement, operate and maintain conservation practices, 2001, \$7,437, completed.

Embarras Interviews, U of I, TP59747

GIS analysis o provide contract information for 100 farmers farming the greatest acreage in the Embarras Watershed above Camargo in Champaign and Douglas Counties, 2001, \$2,500, completed.

Habitat Coordinator Expansion Grant, IDOA

Used to make individual landowner and operator contacts to encourage signups in the filter strip and riparian buffer portions of the CRP program, 2001, \$7,502, completed.

CRP Enhancement for Pheasant Habitat, Pheasants Forever, #0320H

Windbreaks to increase habitat in our highly cropped county, 2001, \$2,000, completed.

Innovation Technology/Technical Assistance – GIS – Data Share Grant, NRCS, #69-5A12-2-4672

Create an immediate “Data Share” with FSA, 2002, \$10,200, completed.

Sustainable Ag Mini Grant – Earth Day, AISWCD

Habitat, Humans and Harmony – Earth Day Educational Event, 2002, \$2,000, completed.

Barnhart Grove Prairie Phase III, IDNR, #G02C0231 (008-02)

Purchase permanent conservation easement(s) on 16.2 acres of cropland and establish permanent prairie vegetation on the sites, 2002, \$82,800, active.

Barnhart Prairie Restoration Expansion, IDNR, #HDP004-03

Purchase permanent easements on an additional 44.1 acres of cropland adjacent to the Barnhart Grove Prairie. The site will be used for habitat, education, recreation, and research purposes, 2002 – 2004, \$225,100, active.

St. Joseph Wetland Establishment, IDNR 002-02, #G0320212

Purchase and restore approximately 64 acres of cropland located on the edge of St. Joseph, 2002, \$262,310, active.

Topographic Mapping, NRCS, #69-5A12-2-4682

Improve quality and quantity of EIP applications for Water Table Management in three EQIP priority watersheds by contracting for topographic maps of potential sites, 2002, \$5,000, active.

Homer Lake, IEPA 319, #3190411

Funds are requested for educational opportunities and incentive payments to landowners for implementing an assortment of best management practices that target the lake’s water quality problems, 2003 – 2006, \$217,166, active.

Barnhart Grove Prairie Restoration, IDNR, #03-013H

This project is to plant an additional 25 acres into prairie habitat with locally harvested prairie seed, 2003, \$1,500, active.

Salt Fork Maintenance, DCCA, IL FIRST Grant #SR20252, (IDNR #0300277)

Clean out a log jam on the Salt Fork near Homer Lake, 2003, \$50,000, active.

NRCS Contribution Agreement, NRCS, #65-5A12-3-1250

To accelerate the delivery of conservation technical assistance for implementation of the EQIP, CP and WHIP conservation cost-share programs administered by NRCS that are of mutual interest to the SWCD and NRCS, 2003, \$6,437, active.

U of I Filterstrip, U of I, #TP05790

Provide general services related to the development of conservation buffers data set for central IL and the related geographic information as required by authorized personnel of the department of NRES, 2003, \$20,662, completed.

Nutrient Management Education Sub-agreement, Phase II, IEPA, #3190010

Create a dialog with producers and agribusiness professionals and provide them information and feedback with the overall goal of increasing development and implementation of nutrient management plans, 2003, \$24,400, active.

County Board Watershed Grant, Champaign Co. CC-097

Provide administrative and clerical support to implement the comprehensive plan to conserve Champaign County's natural resources, 2003, \$40,000, active.

Renee Weitekamp
Board Report
June 19, 2008

Items that need action from the board:

Water Quality

- Looking for CPP Nutrient Management Plan participant.

Soil Erosion

- Completed paperwork for CPP Strip-till.

Prime Farmland Preservation

Water Management

- Received requests for tile maps.

Wildlife Habitat

- Helped Bruce with PF seed and tracking of equipment.
- Researching what seed mixes were planted at the Barnhart Prairie.

Education & Public Information

- Helped Robbie Berg present recycling information to Mahomet third graders.
- Worked with Bruce to present wetland information at Water Quality Teacher workshop.
- Looking for recycling grants for Fisher High School.

Watershed Management

District Operations

- Recons.
- Updating the Owner/operator database.
- Cleaning/organizing/verifying farm record files.
- Selling Golf – Calaway Driver Raffle Tickets with proceeds benefiting the Glen Smiddy Memorial Scholarship fund.
- Misc. Customer Service – residents are calling with water questions/issues.

Monthly Board Report
Bruce Stickers
Resource Conservationist
June 2008

Items that need board action:

- ❖ Would you like to pursue the purchase of about 1 acre from Betty Routh on the north side of the wetland that is an old access path to the river? The village asked us to do this several years ago so our annexed property would bring them adjacent to the adjoining subdivision.
- ❖ We need to contact some more sources to fund the remaining needs for the soil-sampling project.
- ❖ The fair will be here before the July meeting, so we need a plan for who can attend at what times.
- ❖ We need to decide how to use Leon Wendte as a resource

Items for your information:

Water Quality

The funding for our 3 CPP special projects was approved. The U of I conference center project that will change a detention basin to a small wetland should be done this summer. We are working with Peter Fox and Prairie Rivers Network on this. The Rain Garden project with the Champaign Park District will probably change locations, but is moving ahead. The payment for the soil sampling for strip-till with the University of Illinois and Illini FS has been completed and we are preparing the billing information.

The Salt Fork Watershed Plan final report draft was submitted to Jim Nelson at AISWCD and his comments have been incorporated into the plan. A few final revisions need to be completed before it can be submitted to IEPA. Renee resolved the budget issues so that part of the report is also ready.

Soil Erosion control

We had 1 new 22.02a request the last month. Mike Hirschi completed 7 more EPA construction site reviews and we have billed the Illinois EPA for them.

Farmland Protection

Water Management

I have sprayed some of the wetland areas with glyphosate for weed control where needed. We have some fescue, reed canary grass and thistles that need attention. The wetland had about 4.5 feet of water in it over the weekend of June 7/8.

Wildlife Habitat

The planting season for our small projects has been challenging and some won't get planted until next year now.

We are still waiting for the SAFE program to open for enrollment.

Education, Natural Resource Data, Public Information, and Participation

The 5:45 a.m. TV interview this month is on a teacher-training program we did at Parkland with Earth Partners for 32 teachers. The St. Joseph Wetland site was unusable because it was under 4½ feet or water the previous weekend. We put on a 3.5 hour program at Parkland with assistance from Allen Plocher from the Illinois Natural History Survey and Roger Windhorn, soil scientist from NRCS to complete the program.

I will be taping a 2+ minute interview with Channel 15 June 26th to be aired on June 30th. There will be additional interviews, but no on a regular schedule like on Channel 3.

We (Steve, Kevin, Me and Renee) met with Leon Wendte to probe the use of him as a consultant. He is willing to work with us, but does not want to get too involved in the day-to-day operations.

June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Steve – Please check website	2 Set up Audit AISWCD Quarterly Board Mtg. Budget ←	3 AISWCD Quarterly Board Mtg.	4 Bruce in Texas	5	6	7 →
8	9 Payroll Post Mtg Notice	10	11 Send agenda to Chairman CCDC-Noon ← Water Workshop →	12	13 Update Bulletin Board	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16 5:45 am TV show Mail Board Packet Ck ePay website	17	18	19 Board Mtg 6:30pm	20 NRCS Golf Outing – Pekin, IL	21
22	23 Payroll	24	25	26	27	28 →
←			Renee Vacation			
29	30 End of Fiscal Yr					

July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eleanor – Please check website	Qtrly Tax Reports File last year's documents Employee Evaluations	1	2	3	4 Holiday	5
6	7 Payroll Federal w/h June Qtrly Mileage Payment	8 MS4 Savoy 9:00	9 CCDC-Noon	10	11 Update Bulletin Board	12
13	14 Post Mtg Notice Conference room closed	15 Ck ePay website Civil Rights Review 2:00 SO	16 Send agenda to Chairman	17	18 Payroll Mail Board Packet EPA Invoices due ← Champaign	19 County Fair
20	21 5:45 am TV show Conference room closed	22	23	24	25	26
←————— Renee Vacation —————→						
27	28 Summer Conference Conference room closed	29 Summer Conference	30 Board Mtg 6:30pm	31		

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Lennie – Please check website	1	2
3	4 Payroll Federal w/h July	5	6	7	8 Update Bulletin Board	9
10	11 Post Mtg Notice	12	13 Send agenda to Chairman	14	15 Ck ePay website	16
17	18 5:45 am TV show Payroll Mail Board Packet	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Board Mtg 6:30pm	28	29	30
31						