

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

In February 1941, a two day meeting was held at Mitchell, attended by representatives of the Extension Service, the State AAA Committee, the supervisors of the twelve soil conservation districts then in operation, and other federal agencies. The meeting's purpose was to plan projects and practices and to develop ways and means whereby these agencies could assist with the establishing of the conservation practices on the land.

This meeting was attended by one or more supervisors from each of the twelve conservation districts. The first evening these supervisors met by themselves to talk over their problems, and decided to set up a temporary organization with E.B. Dwight, Springfield, as chairman and Horace Wagner, Reliance, as vice-chairman. They decided to meet at Pierre in February 1942 with all of the supervisors of all the conservation districts to form a permanent organization.

The organization meeting was held at Pierre on February 9 and 10, 1942, at which the supervisors set up a permanent organization with E.B. Dwight as chairman, Horace Wagner, vice-chairman, and Ralph Hansen, secretary. The other directors were Frank Feser, Henry Abild, J.M. Heimer, Clyde Sargent, and J.J. Cowan.

The original Articles of Association was approved. Changes and amendments have been made from time to time. The Association was officially incorporated in 1968. Those listed on the incorporation documents are Harold Strand, Ellendale ND; Orlow Eidam, Gettysburg; Loren McMillan, Martin; Herb Evans, White Lake; Gilbert Wagner, Reliance; Vernon Seger, Oelrichs; Erwin Grenz, Artas; William Peterson, Lily; Leon Jorgenson, Freeman; Lyol H. Mitchell, Lemmon; Sherman Dorset, Waubay; Leonard Schultz, Batesland; Clifford Klein, Valentine NE; and John Muchow, Sioux Falls.

The names of the officers and directors of the Association for each year follows:

1941	E.B. Dwight, Chairman Horace Wagner, Vice-Chairman		
1942	E.B. Dwight, Chairman Horace Wagner, Vice-Chairman Ralph E. Hansen, Secretary J.M. Heimer, Treasurer Henry Abild Clyde Sargent Ernest Ham Frank Feser	1943	E.B. Dwight, Chairman Horace Wagner, Vice-Chairman Ralph Hansen, Secretary Joe Heimer, Treasurer Henry Abild Clyde Sargent J.J. Cowan Frank Feser
1944	Horace Wagner, Chairman Frank Feser, Vice-Chairman Ralph Hansen, Secretary Joe Heimer, Treasurer Clyde Sargent Henry Abild J.J. Cowan E.B. Dwight	1945	No annual meeting was held on account of the war. The officers and directors carried over.

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|--|
| 1946 | Horace R. Wagner, Chairman
Frank Feser, Vice-Chairman
Leonard L. Ladd, Secretary
Joe Heimer, Treasurer
E.B. Dwight
Clyde Sargent
J.J. Cowan
Henry Abild
John C. Dawson
Ernest Ham | 1947 | Frank Feser, Chairman
Ernest Ham, Vice-Chairman
Leonard L. Ladd, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
John Dawson
Joe Heimer
Horace Wagner
Joe Cowan
Emanuel Bierwagen |
| 1948 | Frank Feser, Chairman
Ernest Ham, Vice-Chairman
Leonard L. Ladd, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Horace Wagner
John C. Dawson
J.J. Cowan
Joe Heimer
Emanuel Bierwagen | 1949 | Frank Feser, Chairman
Emanuel Bierwagen, Vice-Chairman
Leonard L. Ladd, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Horace Wagner
John Dawson
Joe Heimer
D.B. Lyons |
| 1950 | Frank Feser, Chairman
Emanuel Bierwagen, Vice-Chairman
Leonard L. Ladd, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Horace Wagner
Joe Heimer
D.B. Lyons
John C. Dawson | 1951 | Frank Feser, Chairman
Emanuel Bierwagen, Vice-Chairman
Leonard L. Ladd, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Horace Wagner
John C. Dawson
Joe Heimer
D.B. Lyons |
| 1952 | Frank Feser, Chairman
Emanuel Bierwagen, Vice-Chairman
Merle Switzer, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
John Dawson
Ralph Dennis
Horace Wagner
Philip Vallery | 1953 | Frank Feser, Chairman
Emanuel Bierwagen, Vice-Chairman
Merle Switzer, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Horace Wagner
John Dawson
Phillip Vallery
Ralph Dennis |
| 1954 | Frank Feser, Chairman
Emanuel Bierwagen, Vice-Chairman
Merle E. Switzer, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Tony Krebs
John C. Dawson
Philip Vallery
D.B. Lyons | 1955 | Frank Feser, Chairman
M.E. Bierwagen, Vice-Chairman
Merle E. Switzer, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Philip Vallery
D.B. Lyons
Glen Felt
Tony Krebs |

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 1956 | <p>M.E. Bierwagen, Chairman
 Philip Vallery, Vice-Chairman
 E.J. Williamson, Secretary
 E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
 D.B. Lyons
 Tony Krebs
 Glen Felt
 Harry Christopherson
 Harry Martens
 Stanley Johnson
 Lester Hetzel</p> | 1957 | <p>M.E. Bierwagen, Chairman
 Philip Vallery, Vice-Chairman
 E.J. Williamson, Secretary
 E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
 D.B. Lyons
 Tony Krebs
 Harry Martens
 Stan Johnson
 Lester Hetzel
 Harry Christopherson
 Glen Felt</p> |
| 1958 | <p>M.E. Bierwagen, Chairman
 Stanley A. Johnson, Vice-Chairman
 R.U. Mestag, Secretary
 E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
 Gilbert Wagner
 Harry Martens
 Kenneth Brchan
 W.M. Bielmeier
 Harold Fritzel
 Erwin Grenz
 Ernest Shove</p> | 1959 | <p>Stanley Johnson, Chairman
 Gilbert Wagner, Vice-Chairman
 Lloyd Davis, Secretary
 E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
 Kenneth Brchan
 Harold Fritzel
 Ernest Shove
 Wilford Hermann
 Ernest Grenz
 Harry Edwards</p> |
| 1960 | <p>Stanley Johnson, Chairman
 Philip Vallery, Vice-Chairman
 E.J. Williamson, Secretary
 E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
 Glen Felt
 Tony Krebs
 D.B. Lyons
 Charles Robbins
 Ernest Shove
 Wilburt Blumhardt
 Theodore Beckman
 Kenneth Brchan</p> | 1961 | <p>Kenneth Brchan, Chairman
 Burton Ode, Vice-Chairman
 E.J. Williamson, Secretary
 E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
 Harry Edwards
 R.R. Bowden
 Ervin Grenz
 Charles Graves
 Theodore Beckman
 Gilbert Wagner</p> |
| 1962 | <p>Kenneth Brchan, Chairman
 Burton Ode, Vice-Chairman
 E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
 Harry Edwards
 Keith Crew
 Charles Graves
 Herb Evans
 Charles Robbins
 Harold Franzen
 Theodore Beckman
 Ernest Grenz
 Hilding Anderson
 Reinhold Preheim</p> | 1963 | <p>Burton Ode, Chairman
 Charles Robbins, Vice-Chairman
 Wilburt Blumhardt
 E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
 Clifford Klein
 Harry Edwards
 Tony Krebs
 Ernest Shove
 Gilbert Wagner
 R.R. Bowden</p> |

1964 Burton Ode, Chairman
Charles Robbins, Vice-Chairman
Earl Adams, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Harry Edwards
Kenneth Brchan
Ernest Shove
Wilbert Blumhardt
Marvin Haag

1965 Charles Robbins, Chairman
Theodore Beckman, Vice-Chairman
Earl Adams, Secretary
E.B. Dwight, Treasurer
Harry Edwards
Harold Strand
William Peterson
Reinhold Preheim
Ben Koepsel
Herb Evans
James Hendricks
Lyonel Mitchell
Ervin Grenz
Gilbert Wagner
Clifford Klein
Loren McMillan
Leonard Schultz

1966 Charles Robbins, Chairman
Theodore Beckman, Vice-Chairman
Earl Adams, Secretary
Loren McMillan, Treasurer
Sherman Dorsett
William Peterson
John Muchow
Ben Koepsel
Herb Evans
Roland Leonhardt
Lyonel Mitchell
Ervin Grenz
Gilbert Wagner
Clifford Klein
Leonard Schultz

1967 Harold Strand, Chairman
Orlow Eidam, Vice-Chairman
Earl Adams, Secretary
Loren McMillan, Treasurer
Area 1: Sherman Dorsett
William Peterson
Area 2: John Muchow
Loren A. Jorgensen
Area 3: Herb Evans
Roland Leonhardt
Area 4: Lyonel Mitchell
Ervin Grenz
Area 5: Gilbert Wagner
Clifford Klein
Area 6: Vernon Seger
Leonard Schultz

1968 Harold Strand, Chairman
Orlow Eidam, Vice-Chairman
Loren McMillan, Treasurer
Marvin Haag, Secretary
William Ackerson
William Peterson
Merle Knutson
Leon Jorgenson
Herb Evans
Roland Leonhardt
Leonard Schultz
Lyonel Mitchell
Clifford Klein
Ervin Grenz
Vernon Seger
Gilbert Wagner

1969 Orlow Eidam, Chairman
Tony Krebs, Vice-Chairman
Loren McMillan, Treasurer
Area 1: William Ackerson
Laverne Sivenson
Area 2: Merle Knutson
Roy Larsgaard
Area 3: Herb Evans
Roland Leonhardt
Area 4: Lyonel Mitchell
Ervin Grenz
Area 5: Gilbert Wagner
Clifford Klein
Area 6: Vernon Seger
Leonard Schultz

1970 Orlow Eidam, president
Leonard Schultz, vice-president
Marvin Haag - executive secretary
Loren McMillan - treasurer
Area 1: Laverne Swensen
Harold Franzen
Area 2: Walter Swanson
Roy Larsgaard
Area 3: Roland Leonhardt
Herb Evans
Area 4: Lyol Mitchell
Vern Meyer
Area 5: Clifford Klein
Gilbert Wagner
Area 6: Vernon Seger
Francis Murphy
Director-at-large: Harold Strand

Note: Past president served as director-at-large

1972 Leonard Schultz, president
Francis Murphy, vice-president
(died in office) Roy Larsgaard, successor
E.L. Ingvalson - executive secretary
Area 1: Harold Franzen
William P. Peterson
Area 2: Walter Swanson
Roy Larsgaard
Area 3: Roland Leonhardt
Herb Evans
Area 4: Marvin Haag
Lyol Mitchell
Area 5: Clifford Klein
Area 6: Vernon Seger
Director-at-large: Orlow Eidam

1974: Roy Larsgaard, president
Henry Hertel, vice-president
E.L. Ingvalson - executive secretary
Area 1: William P. Peterson
Gilbert Kittelson
Area 2: Walter Swanson
Lloyd Beckman
Area 3: Herb Evans
Roland Leonhardt
Area 4: Orlow Eidam
Lyol Mitchell
Area 5: Clifford Klein
Henry Hertel
Area 6: Vernon Seger
Harry Snook
Director-at-large: Leonard Schultz

1971 Orlow Eidam, president
Leonard Schultz, vice-president
E. L. Ingvaldson - executive secretary
Area 1: Harold Franzen
William P. Peterson
Area 2: Walter Swanson
Roy Larsgaard
Area 3: Roland Leonhardt
Herb Evans
Area 4: Lyol Mitchell
Vern Meyer
Area 5: Clifford Klein
Gilbert Wagner
Area 6: Vernon Seger
Francis Murphy
Director-at-large: Harold Strand

1973 Leonard Schultz, president
Roy Larsgaard, vice-president
E.L. Ingvalson - executive secretary
Area 1: Gilbert Kittelson
William P. Peterson
Area 2: Walter Swanson
Lloyd Beckman
Area 3: Herb Evans
Roland Leonhardt
Area 4: Lyol Mitchell
Marvin Haag
Area 5: Henry Hertel
Clifford Klein
Area 6: Vernon Seger
Tom Jacquot
Director-at-large: Orlow Eidam

1975: Roys Larsgaard, president
Henry Hertel, vice-president
E.L. Ingvalson - executive secretary
Area 1: William P. Peterson
Gilbert Kittelson
Area 2: Walter Swanson
Robert Ullom
Area 3: Roland Leonhardt
Marc Goldhammer
Area 4: Orlow Eidam
Lyol Mitchell
Area 5: Clifford Klein
Henry Hertel
Area 6: Vernon Seger
Harry Snook
Director-at-large: Leonard Schultz

1976: Henry Hertel, president
Vernon Seger, vice-president
E.L. Ingvalson - executive secretary
Area 1: William P. Peterson
Harold Jilek
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Vern Spartz
Area 3: Marc Goldhammer
Ed Hostler
Area 4: Orlow Eidam
LyoI Mitchell
Area 5: Clifford Klein
Henry Hertel
Area 6: Harry Snook
Vernon Seger
Director-at-large: Roy Larsgaard

1978: Vernon Seger, president
Clifford Klein, vice-president
E. L. Ingvalson, executive secretary
Area 1: Claire Biersbach
Harold Jilek
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Richard Fossum
Area 3: Marc Goldhammer
Robert I. Gaetz
Area 4: Orlow Eidam
James W. Anderson
Area 5: Richard Reuer
Denny Barnes
Area 6: Harry Snook
Forrest Ireland
Director-at-large: Henry Hertel

1980: Clifford Klein, president
Robert Gab, vice-president
Rick Newman, executive secretary
Area 1: Claire Biersbach
Alden Johnson
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Richard Fossum
Area 3: Marc Goldhammer
Robert I. Gaetze
Area 4: James W. Anderson
John Weisser
Area 5: Richard Reuer
Denny Barnes
Area 6: Harry Snook
Forrest Ireland
Director-at-large: Vernon Seger

1977: Henry Hertel, president
Vernon Seger, vice-president
E.L. Ingvalson - executive secretary
Area 1: Claire Biersbach
Harold Jilek
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Vern Spartz
Area 3: Ed Hostler
Marc Goldhammer
Area 4: Orlow Eidam
James W. Anderson
Area 5: Clifford Klein
Richard Reuer
Area 6: Harry Snook
Forrest Ireland
Director-at-large: Roy Larsgaard

1979: Vernon Seger, president
Clifford Klein, vice-president
E. L. Ingvalson & Rick Newman,
executive secretary
Area 1: Claire Biersbach
Harold Jilek
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Richard Fossum
Area 3: Marc Goldhammer
Robert I. Gaetz
Area 4: James W. Anderson
Robert Gab
Area 5: Richard Reuer
Denny Barnes
Area 6: Harry Snook
Forrest Ireland
Director-at-large: Henry Hertel

1981: Clifford Klein, president
Robert Gab, vice-president
Rick Newman, executive secretary
Area 1: Claire Biersbach
Alden Johnson
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Richard Fossum
Area 3: Marc Goldhammer
Robert I. Gaetz
Area 4: James W. Anderson
John Weisser
Area 5: Richard Reuer
Denny Barnes
Area 6: Harry Snook
Forrest Ireland
Director-at-large: Vernon Seger

1982: Robert Gab, president
Marc Goldhammer, vice-president
Rick Newman, executive secretary
Area 1: Claire Biersbach
Dale Braaten
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Richard Fossum
Area 3: Robert Taylor
John Janssen
Area 4: James W. Anderson
John Weisser
Area 5: Denny Barnes
Richard Reuer
Area 6: Forrest Ireland
Kenneth Stover
Director-at-large: Clifford Klein

1984: Marc Goldhammer, president
Denny Barnes, vice-president
LeAnn Harner, executive secretary
Area 1: Claire Bierschbach
Dale Braaten
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Richard Fossum
Area 3: Robert Taylor
John Janssen
Area 4: Robert Gab
John Weisser
Area 5: Richard Reuer
Gaylord Norman
Area 6: Forrest Ireland
Tim Reich
Director-at-large: Robert Gab

1986: Denny Barnes, president
Tim Reich, vice-president
Annette Severson, executive secretary
Area 1: Dale Braaten
Gordon Ziemer
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Curtis Eggers
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Kenneth Kieser
Area 4: James W. Anderson
Randall Stotz
Area 5: Gaylord Norman
Leroy Hodge
Area 6: Leonard Nygaard
William Keiry
Director-at-large: Marc Goldhammer

1983: Robert Gab, president
Marc Goldhammer, vice-president
Rick Newman, executive secretary
Area 1: Claire Biersbach
Dale Braate
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Richard Fossum
Area 3: Robert Taylor
John Janssen
Area 4: James W. Anderson
John Weisser
Area 5: Denny Barnes
Richard Reuer
Area 6: Forrest Ireland
Tim Reich
Director-at-large: Clifford Klein

1985: Marc Goldhammer, president
Denny Barnes, vice-president
LeAnn Harner, executive secretary
Area 1: Dale Braaten
Gordon Ziemer
Area 2: Robert Ullom
Richard Fossum
Area 3: Robert Taylor
Don Pueppke
Area 4: Robert Gab
John Weisser
Area 5: Gaylord Norman
Leroy Hodge
Area 6: Tim Reich
Leonard Nygaard
Director-at-large: Robert Gab

1987: Denny Barnes, president
Tim Reich, vice-president
Annette Severson, executive secretary
Area 1: Gordon Ziemer
Dwayne Redlin
Area 2: Curtis Eggers
Duane Wrage
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Kenneth Kieser
Area 4: James W. Anderson
Randall Stotz
Area 5: Gaylord Norman
Leroy Hodge
Area 6: Leonard Nygaard
William Keiry
Director-at-large: Marc Goldhammer

1988: Tim Reich, president
Curtis Eggers, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Dwayne Redlin
Gordon Ziemer
Area 2: Duane Wrage
John D. Majeres
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Merwyn Walter
Area 4: James W. Anderson
Randall Stotz
Area 5: Gaylord Norman
LeRoy Ness
Area 6: William Keiry
Leonard Nygaard
Director-at-large: Denny Barnes

1990: Curtis Eggers, president
William Keiry, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Bob Spartz
Neil Bien
Area 2: Duane Wrage
John D. Majeres
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Merwyn Walter
Area 4: James W. Anderson
Randall Stotz
Area 5: Gaylord Norman
Lyle Wendell
Area 6: Leonard Nygaard
Gladwin Paulsen

1992: William Keiry, president
Randall Stotz, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Bob Spartz
Neil Bien
Area 2: Duane Wrage
John D. Majeres
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Susan Steele
Area 4: James W. Anderson
Henry Elsing
Area 5: Gaylord Norman
Lyle Wendell
Area 6: Gladwin Paulsen
Gene S. Williams

1989: Tim Reich, president
Curtis Eggers, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Dwayne Redlin
Bob Spartz
Area 2: Duane Wrage
John D. Majeres
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Merwyn Walter
Area 4: James W. Anderson
Randall Stotz
Area 5: Gaylord Norman
LeRoy Ness
Area 6: William Keiry
Leonard Nygaard
Director-at-large: Denny Barnes

1991: Curtis Eggers, president
William Keiry, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Bob Spartz
Neil Bien
Area 2: Duane Wrage
John D. Majeres
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Merwyn Walter
Area 4: James W. Anderson
Randall Stotz
Area 5: Gaylord Norman
Lyle Wendell
Area 6: Leonard Nygaard
Gladwin Paulsen

1993: William Keiry, president
Randall Stotz, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Neil Bien
Dennis Boyd
Area 2: Duane Wrage
John D. Majeres
Area 3: Susan Steele
Tony Oster
Area 4: Henry Elsing
Lawrence Woodward
Area 5: Lyle Wendell
Derrill Glynn
Area 6: Gladwin Paulsen
Gene S. Williams

- 1994: Randall Stotz, president
Gene S. Williams, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Dennis Boyd
Gerald Thaden
Area 2: John D. Majeres
John H. Davidson
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Don Williams
Area 4: Henry Elsing
Lawrence Woodward
Area 5: Derrill Glynn
Rick Riggle
Area 6: Gladwin Paulsen
Lynn Denke
- 1995: Randall Stotz, president
Gene S. Williams, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Gerald Thaden
Harley Blumke
Area 2: John D. Majeres
John H. Davidson
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Don Klinkner
Area 4: Henry Elsing
Lawrence Woodward
Area 5: Derrill Glynn
Dave Konechne
Area 6: Lynn Denke
Marge Reder
- 1996: Gene S. Williams, president
Henry Elsing, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Area 1: Gerald Thaden
Harley Blumke
Area 2: John D. Majeres
Curtis Eggers
Area 3: Don Pueppke
Don Klinkner
Area 4: Lawrence Woodward
Jerry Gilmour
Area 5: Derrill Glynn
Dave Konechne
Area 6: Lynn Denke
Marge Reder
- 1997: Gene S. Williams, president
Henry Elsing, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Gerald Thaden
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Carol Sieg
South James-Missouri: Don Klinkner
North Missouri: Larry Rezek
Northwest: Lawrence Woodward
Prairie: Derrill Glynn
Hills: Lynn Denke
- 1998: Henry Elsing, president
Gerald Thaden, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Neil Bien
Vermillion-Big Sioux: John D. Majeres
South James-Missouri: Don Klinkner
North Missouri: Larry Rezek
Northwest: Lawrence Woodward
Prairie: Derrill Glynn
Hills: Lynn Denke
- 1999: Henry Elsing, president
Gerald Thaden, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Irwin Symens
Vermillion-Big Sioux: John D. Majeres
South James-Missouri: Harold Leitheiser
North Missouri: Larry Rezek
Northwest: Lawrence Woodward
Prairie: Scott Jones
Hills: Lynn Denke
- 2000: Gerald Thaden, president
Lynn Denke, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Irwin Symens
Vermillion-Big Sioux: John D. Majeres
South James-Missouri: Harold Leitheiser
North Missouri: Art Beringer
Northwest: Lawrence Woodward
Prairie: Cliff Poss
Hills: Dale Lundgren
- 2001: Gerald Thaden, president
Lynn Denke, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Irwin Symens
Vermillion-Big Sioux: John D. Majeres
South James-Missouri: Harold Leitheiser
North Missouri: Art Beringer
Northwest: James W. Anderson
Prairie: Cliff Poss
Hills: Dale Lundgren

2002: Lynn Denke, president
John D. Majeres, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Irwin Symens
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Mark Stime
South James-Missouri: Harold Leitheiser
North Missouri: Art Beringer
Northwest: James W. Anderson
Prairie: Gene S. Williams
Hills: Philip Wilson

2004: John D. Majeres, president
Irwin Symens, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Ron Meister
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Ronald Johnson
South James-Missouri: Fran Fritz
North Missouri: Art Beringer
Northwest: Ron Harris
Prairie: Richard Rubel
Hills: Philip Wilson

2006: John D. Majeres, president
Irwin Symens, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Bill Bisgard
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Carolyn Rudebusch
South James-Missouri: Fran Fritz
North Missouri: Art Beringer
Northwest: Louis Keller
Prairie: Richard Rubel
Hills: Philip Wilson

2008: Irwin Symens, president
Fran Fritz, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive director
Coteau: Neil Bien
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Carolyn Rudebusch
South James-Missouri: Don Klinkner
North Missouri: Tina Feyereisen
Northwest: Louis Keller
Prairie: Richard Rubel
Hills: Philip Wilson

2010: Irwin Symens, president
Fran Fritz, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive director
Coteau: Duane Schneider
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Carolyn Rudebusch
South James-Missouri: Mark Snedeker
North Missouri: Dorn Barnes/Lyle Stewart
Northwest: Louis Keller
Prairie: Richard Rubel
Hills: Philip Wilson

2003: Lynn Denke, president
John D. Majeres, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Irwin Symens
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Ronald Johnson
South James-Missouri: Fran Fritz
North Missouri: Art Beringer
Northwest: Ron Harris
Prairie: Gene S. Williams
Hills: Philip Wilson

2005: John D. Majeres, president
Irwin Symens, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Bill Bisgard
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Ronald Johnson
South James-Missouri: Fran Fritz
North Missouri: Art Beringer
Northwest: Ron Harris
Prairie: Richard Rubel
Hills: Philip Wilson

2007: John D. Majeres, president
Irwin Symens, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive secretary
Coteau: Neil Bien
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Carolyn Rudebusch
South James-Missouri: Fran Fritz
North Missouri: Art Beringer
Northwest: Louis Keller
Prairie: Richard Rubel
Hills: Philip Wilson

2009: Irwin Symens, president
Fran Fritz, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive director
Coteau: Duane Schneider
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Carolyn Rudebusch
South James-Missouri:
North Missouri: Tina Feyereisen
Northwest: Louis Keller
Prairie: Richard Rubel
Hills: Philip Wilson

2011: Fran Fritz, president
Richard Rubel, vice-president
Angela Ehlers, executive director
Coteau: Duane Schneider
Vermillion-Big Sioux: Carolyn Rudebusch
South James-Missouri: Mark Snedeker
North Missouri: Lyle Stewart
Northwest: Louis Keller
Prairie: Paul Thomas
Hills: Karl Jensen

2012: Fran Fritz, president
 Richard Rubel, vice-president
 Angela Ehlers, executive director
 Coteau: Duane Schneider
 Vermillion-Big Sioux: Carolyn Rudebusch
 South James-Missouri: Mark Snedeker
 North Missouri: Lyle Stewart
 Northwest: Louis Keller
 Prairie: Ken Graupmann
 Hills: Karl Jensen

2013: Fran Fritz, president
 Carolyn Rudebusch, vice-president
 Angela Ehlers, executive director
 Coteau: Duane Schneider
 Vermillion-Big Sioux: Darrell DeBoer
 South James-Missouri: Mark Snedeker
 North Missouri: Lyle Stewart
 Northwest: Yvonne Yoder
 Prairie: Ken Graupmann
 Hills: Karl Jensen

The first few years after the South Dakota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was organized, the directors were busy planning the functions of the Association and putting them into operation. Then in 1944, Mr. Frank Feser, Chairman of the Association, attended the annual meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Soon after that, a movement was started to affiliate with the National Association of Conservation Districts. In 1946, that action was finally taken. However, no official delegates attended until 1948.

Since 1948, the South Dakota Association has been represented at the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting by one or more delegates. The delegates have been:

1948 - Tony Krebs
 1949 - Ralph Dennis
 1950 - John C. Dawson, Ralph Dennis, R.D. Long
 1951 - Harry Martens, R.D. Long, John C. Dawson
 1952 - No record
 1953 - John Buchler
 1954 - No record
 1955 - No record
 1956 - Tony Krebs
 1957- Tony Krebs

1958 - Emanuel Bierwagen
 1959 - Ralph Dennis
 1960 - Ernie Shove
 1961 - Harry Edwards
 1962 - Harry Edwards
 1963 - Harry Edwards
 1964 - Harry Edwards
 1965 - Harry Edwards
 1966 - Harry Edwards
 1967 - Harry Edwards
 1968 - Wilbert Blumhardt
 1969 - Wilbert Blumhardt

Several South Dakota conservation district supervisors served in officer positions with the National Association of Conservation Districts, including Robert Gab, Tim Reich and John D. (Jack) Majeres. Tim Reich of Belle Fourche became first vice-president. Jack Majeres of Dell Rapids was elected second vice-president. In addition to Robert Gab's service on the NACD executive board, Mary Gab of Eureka presided over the National Auxiliary. The National Association awarded Robert and Mary Gab their Outstanding Service to Conservation Award. Jack Majeres received the NACD President's Award for Service. Executive Director Angela Ehlers received the 2004 NACD Professional Service Award.

Activities: Annual meetings, date, place and important actions taken:

1941 - Mitchell: Set up a temporary board to call a meeting in 1942 to form a permanent organization.

1942 - Pierre, February 9 and 10: Elected officers and directors and prepared tentative Articles of Association.

1943 - Chamberlain, September 23 and 24: Prepared and adopted a set of Articles of Association, which are a Constitution and By-Laws. Discussed duties and responsibilities of supervisors.

1944 - Mitchell: The minutes of this meeting were not available.

1945 - No meeting because of the war.

1946 - Huron, December 6 and 7: Ways and means of obtaining better cooperation of federal and state agencies, and what the conservation districts might do to assist these agencies. It was decided to affiliate with the National Association of Conservation Districts.

1947 - Huron, November 21 and 22: Attendance was small because of storm – total of 58. Awards were presented to the Greater South Dakota Association (GSDA) Contest outstanding farmers from Fall River County.

1948 - Yankton, November 15 and 16: Minutes not available

1949 - Box Elder Camp, September 26 and 27: Kent Lewitt, National Association of Conservation Districts President—there are three great periods in the development of a country, namely exploration, development, and conservation; we are now in the conservation period. The granting of government equipment was explained. The use of grass in a conservation program was discussed.

1950 - September 24-27, Methodist Camp at Lake Poinsett: The ownership and use of heavy equipment by the conservation districts and the use of contractors for dirt moving jobs was considered.

1951 - Huron, Izaak Walton Club House, September 24-26: Serious consideration was given for developing a soil conservation teaching unit for grade schools. The Beadle County District sponsored a building on the State Fair Grounds to be used as a shop and storage. This project is described in the Beadle County District history.

1952 - Huron, November 17-18: A workshop at Northern States Teachers College was planned to develop a teaching unit to be used in the public schools.

1953 - Mitchell, October 5-6: South Dakota Experiment Station explained their research work with wind erosion control practices and rotations, and the use of fertilizers along with these practices. The State Department of Education was asked to help finance the publication developed by the Workshop at Northern State Teachers College.

1954 - Brookings, October 4-5: Discussed the revision of the South Dakota Water Laws; the use of the watershed approach to a flood control program. The Association Constitution and By-Laws need to be brought up to date.

1955 - Custer, October 2, 3, 4. Community Hall: Water resources role in conservation and my job as a supervisor were considered. Bringing the By-Laws up to date is needed.

1956 - No record available.

1957 - Pierre, September 29 to October 1: Water-rights in relation to watersheds and watershed protection were discussed. Special recognition was given to the members of the 1937 Legislature, which enacted the Soil Conservation Districts Law.

1958 - DeSmet, October 5-7: The people need more information about the Great Plains Conservation Program and to be constantly brought up to date on watershed and other water management programs. Recommended a workshop for a second text book on conservation .

1959 - Chamberlain, October 4-6: Our Role on the Conservation Team – What should each agency do about it? Extension Service; Farm, Home Administration (FHA); State Committee ASC; Soil Conservation Service; Game, Fish and Parks Commission

1960 - Belle Fourche, October 2-4: The group encouraged increased use of the Great Plains Conservation Program, and more research on watershed protection. The matter of incorporating the Soil Conservation and Watersheds into one unit was considered.

1961 - Yankton, September 24-26: Approved change in By-Laws. Started a movement to have the Watershed Districts become a part of the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The State Association has an educational fund which has been used to help pay the cost of publishing the conservation handbook for South Dakota secondary schools.

1962 - Aberdeen, September 30 to October 2: Harry Edwards gave a detailed report on the activities of the National Association. The forestry people reported on the kinds of tree stock available for spring planting. Legislative action and needed appropriations were discussed.

1963 - Spearfish, October 5 to 7: The matter of a State Association newsletter was discussed. Available tree stock was explained. Recommended additional research on water loss from evaporation and seepage and on irrigation management on different soils. Need better correlations between watershed and conservation district activities.

1964 - Mobridge, October 4 to 6: Set up goals to guide the activities of the Education and Watershed Committee. A proposal to the legislature to provide funds to conservation districts and to enable counties to provide funds to conservation districts. Adopted goals for 1965.

1965 - Huron, October 3 to 5: Supports early development of the Oahe Irrigation Project. Continue the awards program. We need more people in government who understand the conservation of the land, water, and human resources. Adopted goals for 1966.

1966 - Watertown, October 2, 3, 4: An effort was made to change the name of the State Law and the State Committee from “Conservation Districts” to “Renewable Natural Resources” but was not favorably received. Recommended to the Legislature to broaden the powers of the State Committee. Recommended goals for 1967 to: 1) Broaden the powers of the State Association; 2) Each district to prepare a budget; 3) Encourage conservation districts to support State and National Associations; 4) State Association conservation districts to meet with State ASC Committee to develop better understanding; 5) State Association to take actions to incorporate; and, 6) Support early development of the Oahe Irrigation Unit.

1967 - Rapid City, October 1, 2, 3: The Watershed Committee recommended that the district supervisors become very active in the Watershed movement. Doubling the state dues; printing and distributing a pamphlet on the goals for 1968; request federal funds to assist in developing watersheds were all given serious consideration.

Conservation districts took on a new role in the 1970s as they began implementing the Sediment & Erosion Control Act. With the passage of this Act, the conservation districts assumed regulatory authority. The Act was further amended in the 1980's to include the Blowing Dust Act.

In 1992, the Association worked with the South Dakota legislature to create the Coordinated Soil & Water Conservation Grants Fund and appropriated up to \$1.5 million per year from the unclaimed eligible refunds for motor fuels tax on non-highway use. The annual amount available never reached the \$1.5 million level and, actually, declined to approximately \$300,000. The Fund was later changed to the Coordinated Natural Resources Conservation Grants Fund and legislation amended to an annual appropriation of \$500,000.

Governor Janklow became deeply concerned when the state-owned Big Sioux Nursery was operating at a serious loss. He considered closing the Nursery but worked with the Association and Conservation Commission to sell the Big Sioux Nursery to a non-profit formed by South Dakota's conservation districts. The Conservation Grants Fund was utilized to satisfy the Nursery's debt.

Major growth occurred in 1990 as the Association moved into an extensive grant sponsorship mode. Since 1990, the Association has sponsored on behalf of one, some or all conservation district(s) numerous grants to facilitate natural resource conservation. Many of the grants focus on water quality issues.

The Association's mission is to lead, represent, assist conservation districts in promoting a healthy environment. Our vision is leading South Dakota in the conservation of all natural resources. We serve the conservation districts of South Dakota.

The Association currently employs staff. Only the executive director is funded through the general fund; all other employees are hired as part of grant funding. The general fund annual budget approximates \$135,000. Other funds (approximately \$1.3 million annually) are also managed by the Association. Programs providing services include tree research, education, soil & moisture clinic, natural resource management technical assistance, building district capacity, and wetlands conservation.

Activities Sponsored by the State Association and Local Conservation Districts:

Soil and Moisture Achievement Contest (as of 1969)

This program was inaugurated in 1945 and has been in operation each year since. It is sponsored by the South Dakota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Greater South Dakota Association; South Dakota Press Association; South Dakota Bankers Association; South Dakota State University; State Department of Agriculture; and, State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Purposes: to create interest in the activities necessary to conserve soil and moisture over a period of years and to kindle an interest in the conservation of soil and water in the mind of every person in South Dakota.

Three top farms and one top farmer from each region are chosen. The state is divided into 15 areas and 5 regions, each with three to five conservation districts.

The awards are based on: 1) The conservation plan based on soil capabilities; 2) Completeness and quality of the conservation practices used; 3) Land use management adapted to the resources of that particular farm or ranch; 4) Community leadership of the operator.

Sioux City Tribune and Chamber of Commerce Permanent Agriculture Program (as of 1969)

This contest is open to the farmers of the fifteen southeast counties of South Dakota lying in the Sioux City trade area.

The purpose of this program is not only to create an interest in soil and moisture but to encourage the farmers to: 1) Apply a complete land use program based on the land capability; 2) Stress quality in the work of the conservation practices applied; 3) Adjustment of the livestock program to the land use so there can be a proper balance between crops, grass, pastures, and livestock; and, 4) That the tillage and cropping practices used are best suited to conserve moisture and protect the soil.

The top district and the outstanding farmer in the district are presented the awards. South Dakota has had winners in this program since 1947. The top individual each year is awarded a scholarship to a Soil and Moisture Conservation Short Course at Iowa State University and the winning district is awarded \$100.00 in merchandise.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Conservation Awards Program (as of 1969)

This is a program that scores and rates the supervisors of a district based on their planning, both long range and annual; their management of the program; their aims; their relationships with their members and other groups and agencies. The supervisors score themselves and are then scored by outside judges on: 1) Conservation district goals, current and up to date; 2) Long range program and annual program; 3) Working relations with all government agencies operating in the conservation district; and, 4) Conservation district plan of operations. The supervisors of the winning conservation district are awarded a trip to the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Farm at Litchfield, Arizona.

Plowing Contests and Matches (as of 1969)

At first these contests were sponsored by the county soil conservation district and the Chamber of Commerce of the nearby city. Later the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts, along with the local conservation district, the Chamber of Commerce, and the radio station serving the area came into the picture.

The first contests were plow terracing contests – followed by terraces built with other equipment. Later it became known as the State Plowing Matches, at which both contouring and straight line farming was done.

The South Dakota radio stations which have cooperated are KWAT Watertown, KSOO and KELO Sioux Falls, and WNAX Yankton.

The first contests were in: 1948 – Minnehaha County on the Monson farm; 1949 – Codington County on the S.D. Potato Growers Farm; 1950 – Gregory County Contest on the Shipman farm; 1951 – September 12, Brule County, John Claus farm; 1952 – September 3-6, National Plowing Matches at Kasson, Minnesota. Since 1952 these contests have been conducted only intermittently. 1960 – State and National Contest, Minnehaha County, Burton Ode farm.

Speech contests

National Association of Soil Conservation Districts – “My Soil District – Its Value to my Community” by Mrs. Stevenson, Hyde County, South Dakota, was the state winner and one of seven national winners of a \$200.00 award in 1956.

Spencer Chemical Company had sponsored a contest for high schools. No further information available.

The East River Electric Power Cooperative sponsors a speaking contest open to all high school students. Several college scholarships are awarded. Co-Sponsors are South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts; 22 Member Rural Electric Cooperatives; State Conservation Committee and USDI-Fish and Wildlife Service. The first sponsor was the U and I Sugar Company.

Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Contest for 4-H Clubs – Kingsbury County won in 1946 and 1947. No further information available.

Essay contests

The Brown-Marshall District sponsored the first essay contest for grade schools in the early 1940's. Several other conservation districts followed for a few years. For some reason, it was not very popular and was discontinued.

The South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts, South Dakota Department of Agriculture, McDonald's Restaurants and Keep South Dakota Green sponsor an Arbor Day Essay Contest for fifth and sixth graders. The first three place winners receive cash prizes, as well as the winning essayist's school.

Land Judging – Know Your Land

This program is for 4-H Club and FFA members. The program was inaugurated in 1953 but 1954 was the first year in which it was quite widely accepted. It was developed cooperatively by the South Dakota Agricultural Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service. The program was patterned after that developed at Oklahoma State.

The program's purpose is to provide a new concept or device for teaching soils to 4-H club members and high school vocational agriculture students. It helps the students to see that there is a difference in soils and the performance of soils. It gives them an opportunity to see and feel different soils and the different layers of soil and what makes them different.

The program has been used in all parts of the state in 4-H Club tours and conservation camps and the vocational departments of the high schools since 1954. Several teams have competed in the National Land Judging Contest at Oklahoma City. It is encouraged by the State Association of Conservation Districts.

The Young Citizens League: YCL (as of 1969)

The Young Citizens League is a South Dakota Institution, organized in Brown County in 1912 by Mr. M.M. Guhin, who was county superintendent of schools, for use in the first eight grades of common schools. The League was organized on the state level in 1925 and nationally in 1943.

The purpose: What it does for the child: 1) it teaches the child to govern himself; 2) it teaches the child to assume responsibility; 3) it teaches the child how to conduct a meeting correctly; 4) it gives a child personality; 5) it brings out a child's latent talent; and, 6) it makes children courteous and considerate to others.

The purpose: What it does for the school and the teacher: 1) it makes discipline easier; 2) it is easy to keep the school house and grounds clean and in order; 3) the parents get a much better impression of the school; 4) the equipment of the school is improved; and, 5) the teacher is helped as much as the children.

An effort is made to have a chapter in each school. All the common schools in a county belong to a county chapter and have county meetings. Then a state meeting is held at Pierre, with a banquet and program, attended by county representatives. They meet at the Capitol building, hear a talk by the Governor, and visit each state office and officer, including the Governor's office.

The State Soil Conservation Service, the South Dakota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District, the Greater South Dakota Association, and the Homestead Mining Company, the Game, Fish and Parks Department and Izaak Walton League have all been helpful and encouraging to the members by providing prizes and awards.

Boy Scouts: (as of 1969)

Soil and Water Conservation for Boy Scouts was prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture, with a Revised Edition printed in 1964. Copies have been provided for some area and local leaders. Only a few of the scouts have done any work with the project except those individuals who are working for Merit Badges.

4-H Conservation with Game, Fish and Parks (as of 1969)

At the State 4-H Conservation Camps, the game wardens discussed some of the game animals and birds, both the helpful and destructive, and described the place of each in the scheme of nature and how they are propagated. He demonstrated methods of trapping and banding birds.

Between 700 and 800 4-H boys and girls carry out some phase of soil conservation as one of their activities and give demonstrations on water intake and water holding capacity of soils.

Other Activities:

Soil Conservation District Week : At the first full organizational meeting at Pierre on February 9 and 10, 1942, the newly elected directors decided to ask the Governor to proclaim the week of September 15-20, 1942, as Soil Conservation Week in South Dakota The Governor made the proclamation, and it has been an annual event since. However, some years later the name was changed to Soil Conservation District Week, and it was also decided to set the dates to coincide with the annual meeting of the State Association in October. That has not always been possible because of conflicts with other events.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the early settlers of South Dakota were attracted to the State by the fertile soil and abundant resources, which are the foundation of the State economy; and

Whereas, a knowledge of the basic facts about our soil is essential to its conservation and the development of a prosperous agriculture; and

Whereas, it is of paramount importance to the tillers of the soil, and to the city dwellers, that we conserve our soil which is our greatest natural resource; and

Whereas, many of the soil conservation practices and other conservation activities contribute to the control of floods and are important assets in the Missouri River Development Program;

Now, therefore, I George T. Mickelson, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby designate the week of October 6 to 11, 1952, as

SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK

in South Dakota, and call upon all the citizens of the state, wherever they live, to take an active part in the soil conservation programs that are being carried on during that week, and to take part in any other appropriate activities to help the citizens of our state become aware of the importance of saving our soil and moisture resources and maintain the productivity of our soil at a high level.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of South Dakota
to be affixed this last day of September, 1952.
George T. Mickelson, Governor

ATTEST: Annamae Riiff, Secretary of State

Probably the most important activity of the week is the annual meeting of the State Association. An effort also is made to have each state and federal agency dealing with agriculture to write an editorial dealing with some phase of soil conservation. A different editorial appears each day during the week.

The following is a copy of an editorial used during the 1944 Soil Conservation District Week:

“What Does Soil Conservation Mean to South Dakota Farmers?”

“Since 1937 when the South Dakota Soil Conservation District Law was passed, 55 conservation districts have come into being, and the term “Soil conservation” has taken on life and vitality and is full of meaning. To one it means strip cropping, to another contour farming, the seeding of grass and legumes, and proper crop rotations.

Soil conservation means saving the water from runoff and evaporation and using it for the production of crops and livestock. Sloping lands are farmed on the contour and steep slopes are terraced to prevent runoff. Gullies are bladed in, leveled off and seeded to grass, and grassed waterways are established. Surplus water is caught in stock water dams and dugouts, or it may be diverted over grassland to flood or irrigate ranges and meadows.

Soil conservation means regressing and reseeding depleted pastures and ranges, followed by practices of proper use and management. It encourages the seeding of grass on surplus cropland, on cropland that has a tendency to wash and gully because of a too steep slope and on cropland that is hard to farm or is not well suited to farming.

It means the planting of trees to protect the farm buildings and to afford shelter for the livestock. It means the control of “creeping jenny” and other perennial and annual weeds and the reclaiming of thousands of acres of weedy lands.

Soil conservation means all of this and more. It means the saving of the soil, the maintaining of its fertility, that is may be passed on to generations yet to come.

Soil conservation districts encourage all of these practices and more; they supply technical assistance to put these practices into operation, and have the cooperation of the county extension agents and the Soil Conservation Service technicians to set up the conservation programs on the farms.”

The dates for Soil Conservation (Districts) Week have been:

1942 – September 15 to 20	1948 – October 4 to 9
1943 – September 26 to October 2	1949 – October 10 to 15
1944 – September 24 to 30	1950 – September 25 to 30
1945 – October 8 to 13	1951 – September 24 to 29
1946 – September 16 to 21	1952 – October 6 to 11
1947 – September 21 to 27	1953 – October 12 to 17.

Beginning with 1954, Soil Conservation District Week has been observed during the first week in October to coincide with the annual meeting of the State Association.

Soil Stewardship Week: Rural Life Sunday was first observed in the United States in 1929 at the suggestion of the International Association of Agricultural Missions. It occurs on the fifth Sunday after Easter and was first used by the 4-H Clubs of South Dakota and was conducted by them for many years. They worked through one or more of the local churches, at which the local clubs would conduct the Sunday morning service.

Later, it was decided to cooperate with the State Association of Conservation Districts and work together with them. Now the program is called Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The week is usually set apart by proclamation as Soil and Water Stewardship Week and all pastors are asked to preach a sermon on stewardship as it pertains to the land. The week is observed the first part of May to correspond with Rogation Days. Educational materials are also available for use in schools.

Publications:

The Dakota Zephyr: The Dakota Zephyr was first published by the Soil Conservation Service as a mimeographed newsletter and was sent to individuals and agencies either interested in or associated with soil and its conservation.

Sometime in the early 1940's, possibly in 1943, the publication was given over to the Extension Service, with the Extension Soil Conservationist in charge, and it became a quarterly publication with the Soil Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Districts cooperating by supplying materials to be included. It had been a mimeographed publication until November 1943 when the first copy was printed, and the Extension Service paid the bill.

Then in the latter part of 1946 it was decided to discontinue the publication of the Dakota Zephyr because several of the Conservation districts were considering the matter of publishing a newsletter of their own on a quarterly basis.

Annual reports: All of the conservation districts prepare and publish an annual report of their own. Some publish it as a district report, but most of them publish their annual report in the local daily paper, where there is one, and the others in weekly papers. They usually take one and sometimes two full pages, in which they not only report the statistics but also show pictures of the projects and accomplishments.

Cooperation with the Department of Education and with schools: (as of 1969)

The South Dakota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is vitally interested in the teaching of soil conservation to the youth of the state, and has provided support, both financial and personnel, for the preparation and distribution of teaching units for both grade and secondary schools.

A Soil Conservation Teaching Unit for the rural schools of Meade, Perkins, and Ziebach counties for 1943 was the first such unit to be prepared. It was developed by C.R. Simonson, County Agent, Ziebach County; Lyle Bender, county agent, Meade County; E.W. Eitrem, High School Superintendent, Faith; Hazel Parker, rural school teacher, Sorum; Rose Reber, rural school teacher, Sturgis; Lillian Berkeland, rural school teacher, Dupree; H.C. Simonson, L.R. Albee and Art Martin of the Soil Conservation Service; and Ralph Hansen, Extension Soil Conservationist, State College.

The unit is a three weeks course for the rural schools in the counties named above, and contains nine lessons: 1) What Soil Erosion Is; 2) Causes of Soil Erosion; 3) Grass Conservation; 4) Dam Building and Water Spreading; 5) Conservation Farming; 6) Kinds of Crops 7 & 8) Home Gardens; and 9) Progress in Erosion Control.

Each lesson was outlined and pictures or drawings were provided to the pupils to identify with the subject matter. And at the close of each lesson was a comprehension exercise.

The second teaching unit was prepared in 1943 by Ralph E. Hansen, Extension Soil Conservationist, and a committee, and was published by the Hub City School Supply Company of Aberdeen, entitled: *South Dakota Teaching Unit for SOIL CONSERVATION for grade eight*

The unit is divided into fourteen lessons with each lesson outlined as to Problem, Objectives, and Subject Matter. At the close of each lesson is a comprehension exercise and each lesson is accompanied with pictures or drawings to illustrate the subject of the lesson. The fourteen lessons are: 1) What Soil Erosion Is, 2) Value of Maintaining Our Soil, 3) Wind Erosion Control, 4) Grass Conservation and Range Management, 5) Pasture Management, 6) Tree Planting and Shelterbelts, 7) Contour Farming, 8) Terrace Farming, 9) Grassed Waterways and Gully Control, 10) Flood Control, 11) Dam Building and Water Spreading, 12) Wildlife on the Farm, 13) Home Gardens, 14) Progress in Erosion Control. 15) Vocabulary Study.

This unit was developed during World War II when home gardens were very important. The unit sold for 35 cents per copy.

“Conservation of South Dakota’s Natural Resources” is a text book prepared for use as a part of the State Course of Study in Science and Health for the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. It was prepared at a Conservation Curriculum Workshop at Northern State Teachers College at Aberdeen during the summer of 1952, under the direction of Mr. Everett Evans from Dallas, Texas, with a large number of people participating. Among the group were six county superintendents; eleven elementary teachers; faculty members from Northern State Teachers College; and representatives from the South Dakota Department of Education; the Game, Fish, and Parks Department; the Soil Conservation Service; the State Extension Service; the U.S. Forest Service and the South Dakota Forester; the South Brown Soil Conservation District; and the South Dakota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

This is a comprehensive text book with the introduction containing a brief synopsis of the philosophy of the use of the land from early American settlement to the present day conception of soil conservation. The book is divided into the introduction and chapters on soil, water, plants, wildlife, minerals; and reference materials, such as science textbooks, selected references for teachers, magazines, visual aids, free and inexpensive materials, and an index. Each chapter shows pictures of the subjects and outlines demonstrations that will enhance the pupils’ understanding of the subject.

This book is probably the most comprehensive teaching unit published in South Dakota for use in teaching conservation at the grade school level.

This book was published by the State Publishing Company, Pierre, South Dakota, and was financed by the South Dakota Department of Public Instruction; the South Dakota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

The most recent publication dealing with conservation is: *Conservation Handbook For Secondary Science Teachers In South Dakota Schools*

This book was prepared by the staff of the conservation workshop during the second summer session of 1958 at the Northern State Teachers College. The sponsoring agencies are

the Department of Public Instruction; South Dakota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks; and the Northern State Teachers College.

The Handbook was prepared to be used as a supplement to classroom text books in general science, biology, agriculture, chemistry and physics in meeting the requirements of the South Dakota course of study in these fields.

The book is divided into two sections and five chapters. Section I contains chapters on: soil, water, plant life, wildlife, and conservation applied to natural resources. Section II contains chapters on education, inventory, planning, establishment, maintenance, and harvest.

The technical information contained in this handbook was supplied by representatives from the South Dakota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District; the South Dakota Soil Conservation Committee; the United States Soil Conservation Service; the Department of Game, Fish and Parks; the Department of Public Instruction; and the Agricultural Extension Service.

The workshop personnel consisted of: Director: Clyde Webb, Professor of Conservation, Stevens Point, Wisconsin; Coordinator: Dr. Gertrude N. Miller, Associate Professor of Biology, Northern State Teachers College; Participants: W.H. Longwood, Superintendent of Public Schools, Ravinia, S.D.; Mrs. Caroline McGaugh, graduate assistant, Northern State Teachers College; Dale Woledge, classroom teacher, Elvira Township Independent School District; G.W. Wright, Superintendent of Public Schools, Selby, S.D.

The last publication is "Outline for Teaching Conservation in the Schools of the United States", prepared by the Educational Committee of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. This was printed and distributed with the compliments of J.R. Watkins Company.

First grade: 1) Objectives: Deals with relationship of plants, animals, and soils; 2) Motivations: What to do and see; 3) Procedures; 4) Evaluations; 5) Vocabulary; 6) Bibliography; 7) Correlation with other subjects.

Each grade from second through eighth follows the same outline, with a more advanced approach. This is used as a reference material by some county superintendents in South Dakota.