

Sully County Conservation District (No. 69)

For several years prior to 1956 there had been interest in the formation of a soil conservation district in Sully County (now known as the Sully County Conservation District), but no real active interest seemed to have developed. Sully County was one of the few counties remaining in South Dakota at that time which did not have a soil conservation district.

Early in the year 1956 firm interest in the formation of a conservation district began to develop. This was due to the interest of a handful of people who had worked with conservation districts in other areas and saw the need for the formation of a conservation district here. The primary individual involved was Earl Kinder of Onida.

Referendum ballots mailed to Sully County landowners in October 1956. The ballots were returned and tabulated on November 28, 1956. The returns were favorable and after review by the State Soil Conservation Committee, a Conservation District was declared formed.

Two supervisors were appointed as provided by State Law, by the State Conservation Committee. They were Earl Kinder and Henry Hertel, Jr. of Onida. The election for the three remaining supervisors was held on February 23, 1957. Emel Johnson, James E. Baxter and Dick Seaman were elected.

Beginning in 1957, regular monthly meetings were held by the Supervisors of the Conservation District. Earl Kinder was elected the first chairman.

In October, 1961, the office was moved to the Reedy Building south of the Legion Hall in Onida. Finally in September 1963 the office was located in its present location in Masonic building.

The office space is furnished and shared by the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The office is located next to the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

For over 50 years (1957-2007) the years the Conservation District has promoted & implemented many varieties of conservation practices throughout the county. Today, the Conservation District along with the NRCS work with ranchers to develop range management skills and assist with needed range improvement practices to implement grazing systems; they work with land owners to promote proper wildlife management, such as riparian buffers; and their main goal is to promote conservation practices such as field windbreaks, no-till farming, conservation crop rotation, filter strips and many other practices.

The Conservation District promotes many of their conservation goals through education. The Conservation District works with the school district to educate even the youngest members of our county through the Arbor Day Essay and Poster Contests, along with Arbor Day and Earth Day activities, books and pamphlets. The Conservation District works to educate the community with their annual booth at the county fair and their newsletters.

The present Sully County Conservation District's board members are chairman Rodney Mosiman; vice-chair Joy Wittler; and supervisors Kirk Yackley, Pete Severson and Clayton Colson. The Conservation District currently employs two people year-round (Victor Stotz, District Manager and Vicki Lentz, Special Projects Manager) and hires several more people as seasonal help to plant trees and lay fabric.

Some of the services offered by the Conservation District are: spring tree planting of shelterbelts, field wind breaks, riparian buffers and home site shelters; cultivation of tree lines; grass seeding; and consultation with area producers to promote conservation practices. The Conservation District works closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to promote conservation and to play ways to educate local area producers about continuing conservation practices.

Conservation District managers: Jacob Mosiman (1957-1958), Charles R. Danks (1959-1960), A.E. Lewis (1958-1959), Joseph W. Hines (1977-1989), Wilbur Hofer (1984-1989), Jack Campbell (1990-1991), Rex Newling (1991-1993), Ernie Unruh (1993-1997), Todd Braun (2000-2002), Joel Jepson (2002), Victor Stotz (2003-present)

Conservation District secretaries: Sylvia Sack (1968-1990), Nancy Johnson (1984-1986), Vivian Currier (1989-1992), Mrs. Clyde Schoeck (1963-1964), Mrs. Mary Ahrendt (1964-1968), Sandy Yackley (1993), Pam Moore (1993-1994), Wanda Hall (1995-2000), Claire Martin (2001-2003), Vicki Lentz (2004-present)

USDA-NRCS (SCS) employees assisting Sully County Conservation District: Robert O. Koerner (1957-1968), Joseph W. Hines (1957-1989), John W. Boegher (1959-1961), Gary J. Delaney (1960-1967), James W. Resak (1961-1962), John W. Holt (1964-1966), Wayne Richardson (1965), Harlan Silbaugh (1966), Rodney Baumberger (1966-1967), Norman R. Kempf (1969-1975), Calvin A Miller (1975-1979), Gary Killian (1979-1981), John Ridler (1981-1991), Greg Lorenz (1991-2003), Nico Catulupo (1990), Lowell Noeske (2003-2004), Terry Heck (2004-present), Ryan Forbes (2004-2005), Dillon Blaha (2005-present), Lee Kinney (2006-2007)

Sully County Conservation District Supervisors:

*Assistant Supervisor (advisor later appointed as a supervisor)

Earl Kinder (1957 – 1965)	(1984-1989,1993-1997)
*Henry Hertel (1957 – 1982)	Doug Marsh (1982-1986)
<i>President of SDACD (1976-1977)</i>	Jake Weischedel (1985-1986)
Emel Johnson (1957-1963)	Stanley Foth (1985-1986, 1988-1992)
James E. Baxter (1957-1962)	*Jerome Yackley (1973-1977)
Dick Seaman (1957-1969)	Greg Yackley (1987-1992)
*John E. (Matt) Sutton (1962-1965)	Larry Wilcox (1987-1988)
Lyle Ebert (1963-1966)	Kim Weischedel (1987-1996)
Paul Kellog (1969)	Robert Yackley (1990 – 1992)
Darwin Stewart (1969-1973)	Kirk Yackley (1993-present)
Kenneth Darland (1965-1977)	Becky Yackley (1993-1997)
*David Trumble (1965-1975, 1977-1984)	Alan Gross (1993-1995)
<i>President of SDACD (1986-88)</i>	Rodney Mosiman (1995-present)
Harry Thomas (1966-1980)	Joy Wittler (1997-present)
Denny Barnes (1974-1991)	Pete Severson (1997-present)
Tim Cass (1980-1984)	Jerry Zebroski (1998-1999)
*John Roddewig	Clayton Colson (1999-present)