Mission Statement of the
Stutsman County Soil Conservation District:

"To take available technical, financial, and educational resources,
whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them
so that they meet the needs of the local land user
for conservation of soil, water, and related resources."

4) **History of the Soil Conservation District**

Soil Conservation Districts were a new approach to our nation's erosion problems. Soil Conservation Districts were an outgrowth of a difficult period in our nation's history. The year 1928 marked the real beginning of the conservation movement that has since spread across our land. That year a bulletin, *"Soil Erosion A National Menace"* by Hugh H. Bennett and W. R. Chapline was published giving the first comprehensive appraisal of the problem of soil waste. In December of that year, Congress adopted the Buchanan Amendment to the Agricultural appropriations Bill and thereby launched a nationwide program to save America's agricultural land from slow impoverishment. The amendment provided federal funds to set up experiment stations; make surveys of erosion damage; and devise methods for control and prevention. Thus our national soil conservation program was launched – back at the beginning of the nation's greatest economic depression. The Soil Erosion Service was set up in 1933 on a temporary basis to allow work to start while more permanent plans were made. In 1936 the Soil Conservation Act passed and set up the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as a permanent agency of the Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation districts were an outgrowth of the erosion control demonstration projects set up under the SCS and its predecessor. These projects proved that erosion could be controlled and soil productivity maintained. They were designed to be showcases of wise land use and treatment. Credit is to be given to USDA Assistant Solicitor Philip M. Glich for drafting of a standard Soil Conservation Districts Law. In 1937 President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent the draft to all the state Governors with the suggestion that farmers and ranchers be given the authority to organize districts specifically to deal with conservation of our soil and water resources. In North Dakota this law became effective of March 16, 1937. This act established the State Soil Conservation Committee and provided for the creation of the soil conservation districts. The first soil conservation districts (Kidder, Slope-Hettinger and Arnegard-Alexander) were organized that fall.
Reference: History of the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts 1975

A meeting was held in the County Court House on April 13, 1948 at which eighty farmers voted to proceed with the organization of the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District. An executive committee was appointed to assist in organizing the District. The Stutsman County Extension Agent M.S. Burke held fourteen meetings throughout the county in the proposed District to explain the purpose of a Soil Conservation District and the benefits that the farmers could expect on their individual farms. At the June primary election in 1948 the farmers overwhelmingly approved the measure by 1601 in favor and 261 against. As a result of this vote, the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District received a charter from the State of North Dakota on August 21, 1948. (appendix A; item 1) In October of 1948 the land owners and tenants of Stutsman County elected three farm owner-operators for District Supervisors, who are to serve as follows: G.A. Ottinger, Jamestown, three years; Howard C. Chidley, Courtenay, two years; John Gaier, Cleveland, one year. The supervisors, at their first regular meeting selected M.S. Burke, County Extension Agent as District Secretary and G. A. Ottinger as District Treasurer (Appendix A; photo 1). *The Soil Conservation District was organized to give cooperators, on the farm, technical and educational assistance on soil and water conservation problems.* The first meeting to organize as a District was held December 9, 1948. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service office opened in February 1949 in the Armory Building in Jamestown. * *Excerpted from the 1949 SCD Annual Report*

At the first meetings of the newly formed SCD, the Supervisors decided on a regulation that trees be planted on row-crop or fallowed ground only with 10-15 ft. spacing. On May 16, 1949 it was reported

that about 18,000 trees had been planted in Stutsman County with 3,000 left to be lined in for that summer. It was reported in 1950 that 151 acres of shelterbelts had been planted. According to the 1955 Annual Report the District had planted 1611 acres of trees up to the reporting date. At the April 1954 Board meeting the board set the prices for trees at 3 ½ cents and 1 ½ cents for planting each tree. (Appendix A; photo 13)

During the early years of the district there was considerable dirt-moving done by contractors hired by the SCD. This involved construction of drainage ditches, dams, waterholes and other dirt moving projects. The SCD also purchased dynamite to be used in waterhole excavation. In 1952 there were 495 total applications for dirt moving with 162 being farm and ranch plans. In 1952 the board of supervisors decided to charge 18 cents per cubic yard and $13 per hour for dirt-moving. A report to the board in December of 1952 showed 196,000 cubic yards of dirt moved. 3,335 acres of land were drained as a result of the drainage work, and it also reported 303 acres of trees were planted.

At the November 1954 meeting, a watershed program as it would apply to the Pipestem Creek watershed was brought to the board by a representative of the GNDA and the Mayor of Jamestown. The supervisors decided that some local farmer interest would have to be shown before any further action would be taken. At the December meeting the board discussed the possibility of obtaining a survey of the Pipestem Creek watershed for the purpose of finding out whether it would be feasible to make an application under the watershed program. It was explained that they would need the support of the farmers and other towns located along the Pipestem. After due consideration, it was decided that the supervisors would support the city of Jamestown with information and assistance but that the city would need to take the information to the farmers and secure their support. According to a report in February 1958, further investigation into the Pipestem Water Project was dropped since it appeared that little agricultural land would be affected by flood damage.

April 1957 Neil (Tex) Weatherly started as SCS Soil Conservation Technician which led to a total of 56 years of service first with the SCS/NRCS and after retirement from federal service in 1994 he continued with the SCD as District Technician into 2012.

On December 19, 1957 at 1:30 P.M. Berthold Sackman signed the first contract under the Great Plains Conservation Program in the United States, becoming the first “GP Pioneer”. Bert was a rancher in Stutsman County, North Dakota near Streeter. There were three contracts signed that day in the nation and his was the first. (Photo: Russell Christensen, Work Unit Conservationist SCS, left Bert Sackman, right). When Sackman purchased the 1,280 acre farm it required extensive revamping to fit his cattle operation. He began working with the SCD in designing a conservation plan to suit his operation. At about the same time, the Great Plains Conservation Program was authorized by Public Law 1021. This law provided a way for land users in 10 states to have cost-sharing for conservation program on the entire farm operating unit. Sackman entered into a three year contract in which agreed to construct five stockponds and over 400 rods of fencing. His native range was

in excellent condition and needed no protective measures. He planted 300 acres of former cropland to grass. He also carried out a grazing management program which resulted in soil protection and increased forage production. (Appendix A; photos 14-15)

In 1960 land was secured for a District tree storage building at the present site near the RR underpass and I-94 in SE Jamestown. In 1961 a bid was accepted with Weyerhausen Co. to build the District Tree Building for $4,304.61. That included all labor and materials. Building was constructed during summer 1962. A 20 ft deep well with 18 inch concrete curbing was also completed in 1962. In September 1962 plans were made to build tree storage bins in the tree building. Trees were planted at the site in 1963. Until a new refrigeration unit was installed in 1967, ice was carved from ice rink at fairgrounds and hauled in the spring to the tree building to act as refrigerant for the trees.

In May 1962 the SCD planted 9.8 acres of trees on the new fairgrounds and donated them to the Fair Board in appreciation for the storage and facilities furnished to them the past years.

In 1964, in conjunction with Soil Conservation Field Days, many organizations worked together to turn the State Plowing Contest of 1964 into a national competition known as the "National Plowing Contest and Soil Conservation Field Days". The farm of Elmer and Ramona Fraase near Wheatland was chosen to host the event. Three acres of trees were planted as an example of windbreaks. Fraase planted 300 acres of alfalfa to be used as an airplane runway and parking lot during the event. Power lines and light poles were erected as well as a 250-foot radio tower. Interstate 94 was still under construction, but permission was obtained from the government to open the road during this event, connecting the plow contest with the city of Fargo.

The Stutsman Co. SCD observed its 25th anniversary with a banquet and ceremony on October 23rd, 1974. 100 guests were in attendance at the celebration led by Lloyd Sodawasser, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. The event was attended by the current, former and original board members as well as the Mayor of Jamestown George Burchill, and Leo Klosterman, President of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts. All the past soil conservation Achievement winners were recognized and the main address was given by Allen Fisk, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Bismarck.

May 27, 1969 the Supervisors planted a Black Hills Spruce on the David and Arvel Glinz farm at Pingree ND to commemorate the planting of the four millionth tree in the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District. (Appendix A; photo 16) The Glinz planting was the largest single tree planting ever made (at that point) in North Dakota - 50 miles of single row shelterbelts on about 3,600 acres of cropland.

On May 16th, 1975 the District planted the five millionth tree marked by a ceremony at the Harold Kantrud farm five miles SE of Jamestown. The planting of the ceremonial tree was in conjunction with a unique 25 acre wildlife planting that was converted from cropland. The main speakers for the event were the Honorable Mark Andrews, U.S. Representative and Allen Fisk, State Conservationist, U.S. Soil Conservation Service. It was mentioned in the program that 1958 was the peak year for number of trees planted at 365,000 due mostly to the installation of many single row belts of Siberian Elm in farm fields for the prevention of wind erosion, as well as some large wildlife plantings.

On September 6, 1979 an outdoor barbeque was given to mark the 30th anniversary of the District. One hundred twenty people were served at the Shrine Park and an address was given by featured speaker Sam Chinn, Salinas CA, Treasurer for the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts.
In commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Great Plains Conservation Program a ceremony was held on August 7, 1981, at the site of the Berthold Sackman farm now a part of the Central Grasslands Research Station. Along with a wagon tour and a trail ride, the featured guests were John B. Crowell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Senator Mark Andrews, R-ND, Norman Berg, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service and Lt. Gov. Ernest Sands.

The year 1983 marked the planting of the six millionth tree in Stutsman County. (Appendix A; photo 17) According to data from that year, "these trees are now present in 5,535 acres of farmstead and feedlot windbreaks and 6,330,739 row feet of field windbreaks". A ceremonial evergreen was planted on May 5, 1983 at the Stutsman County Courthouse. It was originally planted by the district on the Alfred Carlson farm in 1966.

October 1987, Soil Conservation Technician Sheryl Sabinash (Smith) was named winner of NDASCD Achievement Winner patch design. The patch was given to Conservation Achievement winners across the state.

In April of 1996, the SCD invested $10,000 with the Chase Lake Foundation towards the proposed Prairie Wetlands Interpretive Center to be built three miles east of Medina. Plans were drawn up, grants were written (2001) but the project never came to fruition.

On September 26, 2001 the SCD Board voted unanimously to fund a 319 Non-Point Source Project for the Pipestem Creek Watershed in Stutsman, Foster and Wells Counties. By November 2001 the NPS Task Force had recommended it for funding.

319 Watershed Coordinator Ryan Odenbach was presented with the 2004 District Employee of the Year award by the ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

October 11, 2008 District Technician Tex Weatherly received the "Natural Resources Professional of the Year" Trees Award at the Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony in Fargo. Weatherly was honored by the ND Forest Service and North Dakota State University for being a dedicated employee who embodies conservation leadership as a former Soil Conservation Service and current Soil Conservation District employee since 1957. (Appendix A; photo 18)

a. History of District Board Members

(see Appendix A: photos 1-12)

SCD Board Members

Howard Chidley elected	1948-1955 (Chair Dec. 1948 – March 1954; Nov. 1954 –March 1955)
John Gaier elected	1948-1954 (Chair March 1954 – October 1954 deceased)
G.A. Ottinger elected	1948-1954
Henry Hochhalter elected	1954-1963 (chair May 1958 – March 1960)
Alfred Carlson elected	1954-1994 (chair April 1955 – March 1957; April 1962 – March 1964)
Walter Trautman elected	1955-1963 (chair April 1957 – April 1958; April 1960 – March 1962)
Paul Schutt	1963-1967 (Chair April 1964 – March 1965)
Charles Russell elected	1964 – 2002 (Chair April 1965 - March 1971; Jan. 1975 – Dec. 1976)
Lloyd Sodawasser (appointed)	1967 – 1996 (chair April 1971 – Nov. 1974; Jan. 1977 – Dec. 1980)
Raymond R. Heupel	1980 – 2010 (Chair Jan. 1981 – Dec. 1989) (Jan 2005 – Dec. 2005)
Myron Hoeckle	1981 – 1986
Donald Hofmann (appointed)	1986 – 2012 (Chair Jan. 1990 – Dec 2004)
Leonard Wanzek	1994 – 2007
Rodney Morlock	1996 – 2000
Gloria Jones	2002- present (Chair Jan. 2006 to present)
Alvin Exner	2000 - present
Bernard Wanzek	2008 - present
Brian Kreft (appointed)	2011 – present
Robert Hess	2013 - present

The County Agent was the secretary for the board in the early years.
M.S. Burke - County Agent; Sept. 8, 1937 – Aug. 31, 1954
Harold Odegaard – County Agent; Sept. 1, 1954 – Dec. 31, 1972
Glenn Haugen - County Agent; Jan. 1, 1973 – June 23, 1980
Tom Olson - County Agent; Sept. 15, 1980 – Jan. 31, 2008
Lance Brower – County Agent; March 17, 2008 – 2012
Lindsay Novak - County Agent; 2012 - present

b: History of Soil Conservation Service / Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil Conservation District Personnel and Award Winners (Appendix A; photos 19-20)

Work Unit Conservationists or District Conservationists:

R. G. Harens
M.J. Berdahl 1950-1955
Russ Christianson 1955-1977
Fred DeKrey 1976-1977
Rodney O'Clair 1977-1988
Jim Johnson 1988-1990
James Clapper 1990-1992
Dwight Boucher 1992-1995
James Clapper 1995-2005
Codie Lacina 2005-present

SCS/NRCS Soil Conservationists:

Paul Scheel 1949-1950
M.J. Berdahl 1955
Larry Van Berkom 1955-1957
Neil Reff 1957-1958
Bruce Clark 1958-1962
Fred DeKrey 1962-1976
Joan Eisenbeis 1980-
1984 none
Dave Johnson 1988
Mark Johnson 1989
Carol Peterson 1990-1992
Donald Felch 1989-1991
David Hendrickson 1993-1996
Jody Forman 1996-1998 (Range Conservationist)
Ken Hall 2000-2004
Dustin Brodina 2004-2005
Cody Hatzenbuhler 2005-2007
Tyler Uran 2007 -2010
Marc Murdoff 2010-present

Work Group Engineer:

Leonard Lyngstad

Soil Scientists:

Donald Thompson 1949-1956
Eldon Evenson 1957-1987 (1970 garrison)

Soil Survey Party: 1987-1989 (Appendix A; Photo 21)

Ken Liudahl
Ricky Bigler
Howard Campbell
Thomas DeWitt
Steve Ernst
Steven Fischer
Patrick Abel
David L. Johnson
Todd Soukup
Brenda Frazer
James Gertsma
Alan Gulsvig
Karen Stevenson
James Strum
Nordan Lunde
David Wroblewski

SCS Conservation Aid/	Gilbert M. Andersen 1951-1979 (1986?)
NRCS Soil Conservation Technicians:	Neil (Tex) Weatherly 1957-1994 Fred Nass 1985-1990 Sheryl Sabinash (Smith) 1987-1988, 1990-present Janet Bradbury 1996-2000
Soil Conservation District Technicians:	Bob Klosterman 1984-1991 Terry Lee 1989-1990 Jack Uehran 1990 Norm Johnson 1990-1992 Nels Anderson 1993-1994 Neil (Tex) Weatherly 1994 - 2012 Dustin Hinrichs 2012 Dustin Krueger 2013 - present
Ducks Unlimited:	Verle Marsaa 1998-1990
Pheasants Forever:	Stephen Stensgard 2009-2010 Rachel Bush 2011-present
319 Watershed Project:	Ryan Odenbach 2002-present Sally Domke 2003-present John Mazur 2007-2008 Matt Nelson 2008-2010 Brandon Schafer 2012 - present
Soil Conservation District Clerks:	Ruth Andersen 1949 - 1952 Jean Dahl 1952 - 1953 Lillian Biloff (Dixon) 1955 - 1957 Jackie Martin 1957 - 1958 Darlene Schwalk 1958 - 1960 June Smith 1960 - 1974 Shirley Gulsvig 1974-1984 Monica Lubbers 1984 - 1995 Yvonne Wegner 1995 - 2004 Julie Hofmann 2004-2010 Naomi Aziz 2010 Deonn Larson 2010-present

Soil Conservation District Achievement Award Winners

1953	Howard Struble
1954	Henry Ganser
1955	Williams Company
1956	Archie Zimmerman
1957	Clarence O. Olson
1958	Christ Wegner
1959	Lloyd Sodawasser
1960	Thomas H. Falck
1961	Ted VanRay Jr.
1962	Gordon Larson
1963	Charles Russell
1964	Ade Roeszler
1965	Clarence Kleven
1966	Leon Peters
1967	Kenneth Gehlhar
1968	Leonard Yatskis
1969	Reimers Seed Farm
1970	Raymond R. Heupel
1971	George P. Williams
1972	Rudolph Dockter
1973	Harold Trautman
1974	Myron Hoeckle
1975	Maurice Zink
1976	James Staloch
1977	Dorwin Fredrickson
1978	Donald Gienger
1979	Alfred Carlson
1980	Wayne Reardon
1981	Floyd Orr
1982	Victor Legler
1983	Don Lawrence
1984	Leonard Wanzek
1985	James Kleven
1986	Reuben Schlecht
1987	Gene Heinrich
1988	Tom Sagaser
1989	Van Amundson
1990	Tom Kleven
1991	Lester Larson
1992	Donald Hofmann
1993	Karl Paasch
1994	Cysewski Farm
1995	Larry Rath
1996	Arvin Goter
1997	VanRay Farms
1998	Bill Riebe
1999	Darrel & Vonnie Entzminger
2000	Roger & Delores Rath
2001	Oren & Connie Krapp
2002	Clyde & Penny Reister & Sons
2003	Leonard & Jack Geske Family
2004	James & Debra Wahl
2005	Dwight & Cheryl Erickson
2006	Clayton & Teresa Scheaffer
2007	Mark, Sandy & Tony Wagner
2008	Alvin & Tiny Exner
2009	Russell & Darlene Krapp
2010	Brent & Codi Kuss
2011	Jeremy & Sarah Wilson
2012	Craig & Michal Reister
2013	Neva Farms

c. Soil Conservation District Historical Policy and Statistics

The Soil Conservation District was organized to give cooperators on the farm technical and educational assistance on soil and water conservation problems.

The District Supervisors established an action program, to provide for the conservation of the soil and water resources of the District, to control and prevent soil erosion, to preserve and develop wildlife areas, to protect the tax base, to assist in the maintenance of public and privately owned land, to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people within the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District.

The major problems in the District in 1949 included wind erosion; water erosion; numerous potholes and small lake bottoms in which the cropland is too wet most springs for cultivation; low survival and poor growth on planted shelterbelts; overgrazing of pastures; insufficient livestock water developments and noxious weeds.

In 1949 the SCD had about 2105 farm units consist of 494 full owners, 920 part owners, 683 tenants and eight managers. The county lands consisted of around 860,000 acres under cultivation, some 375,000 acres in pastureland, about 170,000 acres devoted to Hayland and nearly 4,500 acres of native and planted woodland. Crop rotations ranged from three to five years and the average farm unit was 640 acres. (In comparison, in 1979 it was reported that there were 1275 operating units with 1180 cooperators and in 2007* there were 1,043 farm units with an average size of 1,144 acres. **data from 2011 Ag Statistics No. 80*

Throughout the years the SCD made it a priority to supply many educational books, textbooks and materials to the county schools, such as “Wonders of Water”, “The Soil that Feeds You” (1958), “Help Keep Our Land Beautiful” (1961) and “Wildlife on the Land” (1964). They also sent many teachers to educational camps and conservation short course camps under scholarships, many held at Camp Ritchie at Bald Hill Dam on Lake Ashtabula. They also supported 4-H with donations for camp fees at 4-H Conservation Camp. The board promoted Soil Stewardship Week in the schools and churches, through the Ministerial Association every year by supplying the area churches and schools with booklets, programs and educational materials. They had many articles published in the newspaper and held and attended many tours. The SCD has also hosted an achievement awards banquet every year to honor outstanding farm families in the county. An Annual Report of the activities of the District was drawn up every year and was published in the newspaper.

ii. **History of Soil Conservation District Accomplishments**

1. **Tree Plantings**

In 1949 the District established 48 acres of shelterbelts on 21 farm units. Approximately 30,000 seedlings were planted in 20 farmstead and three field windbreaks. In 1952 and 1953, 151,950 trees were heeled in at the fairgrounds with 98,400 more to be delivered in spring. Before refrigerated storage for trees, they were “heeled in”. The trees came to the SCD in bundles as they still do. The difference was in how they were handled. A furrow was plowed with a walking plow in an open field, the bundles of trees were laid in the furrow with the tops up, and then a second furrow was plowed covering the roots of the trees. This process was repeated until all were laid down. When the time came to plant, the bundles were pulled each morning, loaded and taken to the field. At night any trees left over were re-laid in the furrow and covered. Evergreens were handled differently. A ring was made on pallets with the roots facing inward. Then ice (carved and hauled from a local skating rink) and shingletow (shavings from cedar shingles) were put into the ring to keep them moist and cool. When taken to plant they re-rolled them in the paper they were

delivered in, along with wet shingletow to keep them moist in the field. At night they were unbundled and restacked. The Stutsman Co. Soil Conservation District was one of the first districts in the state to have refrigerated storage. This cut back tremendously on labor both morning and evening.

1953, tree prices were set at 5 cents per tree planted, and 1.5 cents to plant each . If the cooperator wanted to plant their own trees, they charged 3.5 cents per tree.

In the minutes of December 1967 it was reported that "the district has a very good year with 126 waterholes, 40 of which were for wildlife purposes, 5 grassed waterways, 210,000 tree plantings and more ditching than has been done in the past several years".

Year	Row Feet	Number of Trees Planted by SCD (not including handplants)
1950	161 acres	135,050 *
1952	303 acres	
1958	Most Trees Planted	365,000
1959	240,000	187,000
1960	166,945	n/a
1962	400 acres	
1963		100,000
1964	397,898	91,301
1965	392,901	92,731
1967	593,549	178,979 (210,000 tree plantings reported in minutes)
1968	433,095	96,600
1969	600,643	118,284
1970	386,804	81,301
1971	374,860	80,485
1972	679,249	147,145
1973	773,451	137,763
1974	163,095	34,361
1975	255,165	55,935
1976	227,875	47,255
1977	335,690	71,953
1978	279,090	46,691
1979	291,740	47,885
1980	216,550	37,736
1981	342,440	45,190
1982	777,241	135,866
1983	680,420	78,390
1984	385,950	59,290
1985	393,055	63,080
1986		
1987	220,570	39,085
1988	227,605	41,528

Year	Row Feet	Number of Trees Planted by SCD (total number or other type as indicated)
1989		
1990		
1991		
1992		
1993		
1994	275,808	52,013 planted
1995	-	78,270 sold
1996		
1997		
1998		
1999	-	78,591
2000	653,230	97,925
2001	665,640	99,846
2002		
2003	157,466	40,708
2004	281,605	
2005	353,232	74,147
2006	310,215	
2007		
2008	262,790	
2009	160,995	7,990 hand plants
2010	-	9,428 hand plants
2011	-	23,000 total sold
2012	170,061	7,074 hand plants

• *this number includes 105,125 tree seedlings planted by the SCD, and the rest were planted by 4-H and Farmers Union Juniors, as well as farmers for wildlife plantings.*

2. Drainage

The District also entered into an agreement for heavy equipment to complete dirt moving projects throughout the county. During the period of Sept. 8 - Nov. 15, 1949 this heavy equipment completed six dams, drained 659 acres of cropland and Hayland, 480 acres of land clearing, leveling and burying of rock piles. All in all, 32,575 cubic yards of dirt were moved, approximately eight miles of open drainage ditches were constructed and construction or improvement of farm roads and farm yard fills was accomplished. In 1952 there were 495 total applications for dirt moving with 162 being farm and ranch plans. In 1952 the board of supervisors decided to charge 18 cents per cubic yard and $13 per hour for dirt-moving. A report to the board in December of 1952 showed 196,000 cubic yards of dirt moved. 3,335 acres of land were drained as a result of the drainage work.
According to the 1979 list of accomplishments 2,177,464 feet of surface drainage had occurred in Stutsman County as of September 1, 1979.

3. Land Management

4. Agencies and Organizations assisting the Districts

The SCD came into being in Stutsman County in December 1948 and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service office opened in February 1949, employing a Work Unit Conservationist and in April a Soil Conservationist. In 1949 the SCS furnished the District with technically trained and sub-professional assistance from the Work Unit Conservationist, Soil Conservationist, Soil Scientist, Work Group Engineer and two Conservation Aids.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assigned to a district usually consists of a district conservationist and such other assistance as mutually determined. Additional staff may be assigned, depending on a plan of operations prepared by NRCS in consultation with the district and based upon the district's plans of work and on federal appropriations. All permanent employees of the NRCS are employed under and are subject to federal Civil Service regulations. They must meet certain standards of education and experience to be qualified for the positions they hold.

While the district supervisors do not have direct supervision over the NRCS staff, they assist in setting priorities for its work through their work or strategic plan. District boards of supervisors should meet at least annually with the NRCS staff to analyze the workload and to review the work of the preceding year. The NRCS also provides such facilities as its employees may require for the efficient performance of their work. In order to best utilize the service of the technical staff, the boards of supervisors and SCD staff assist by arranging for news stories and handling the operation and maintenance of district-owned equipment. They may perform numerous other duties which would otherwise take considerable time of NRCS staff.

The NDSU Extension Service

County extension offices serve as the local access point to the resources of NDSU and the cooperative extension system. County extension staff work with local groups to identifying educational needs and develop and implement programs to address those needs. The NDSU Extension Service works closely with soil conservation districts on addressing conservation issues. A close coordination between the district board of supervisors and extension agents in the area of natural resource education has always been encouraged. This coordination was enhanced by the 1997 North Dakota Legislature. It provides for the NDSU Extension Service to assist the NDSSCC in performing the Committee's duties, within the limits of legislative appropriation. This encourages an even closer working relationship between extension agents and soil conservation districts when addressing conservation issues.

North Dakota Forest Service

The North Dakota Forest Service is responsible for administering forestry programs state-wide. The agency operates forest conservation tree nursery at Towner specializing in the production of conifer (evergreen) tree stock. The stock is sold to soil conservation districts, natural resource agencies and directly to rural landowners. The agency also owns and manages 13,278 acres of state forest lands. Forestry staff, under the direction of a state forester, supply technical and financial assistance for the management of state and private forest lands targeting traditional forestry practices, tree planting, windbreak establishment and renovation, wildland fire protection and forest pest management. Soil conservation districts may receive assistance from the state forester in providing forestry training to district personnel, development of tree planting programs and technical assistance to service landowner referrals relating to the establishment and management of forest resources. Landowner requests for vender services such as tree planting, maintenance, renovation and other management needs, are referred by the state forester to the appropriate local district entity or other available private contractors. *The ND Forest Service has offered informational packets to the District over the years for disease information and the District provided personnel to be certified inspectors for these situations.*

North Dakota Department of Health

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDH) is the lead state water quality agency.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program

Section 319 of the 1987 Clean Water Act included the Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution program. The NDDH is responsible for administration and implementation of the program. The Section 319 Funds available through the state's NPS program are primarily used for state and/or local projects which promote voluntary reduction or control of NPS pollution. The funding is available on a competitive grant application process and applications are due to the NDDH by September 1 of each year. Funding is on a 60:40 federal/local/state match basis, respectively. The NPS goals are to: 1. Increase public awareness of NPS pollution 2. Reduce/prevent the delivery of NPS pollutants to waters of the state 3. Disseminate information on effective solutions to NPS pollution. To meet these goals; the local sponsors utilize demonstrations and/or educational programs to increase public awareness on the types of NPS pollution in the state as well as the various methods available for NPS pollution control. In conjunction with the educational activities, many of the projects, particularly the watershed projects, also provide financial and technical assistance to promote the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) that control or prevent NPS pollution. State and local projects currently supported with Section 319 funding essentially include three different types of projects. These project types or categories are: 1. Development phase projects; 2. Educational projects; 3. Watershed projects.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

The Game and Fish Department Private Land Initiative is available to provide private land owners the opportunity to enhance the wildlife habitat on their property. A variety of cost- sharing opportunities exist. Tree planting, nesting habitat establishment and food plots are activities that are available along with a broad range

of other habitat development activities. The cost sharing is associated with the federal cost share available. The program also includes some land leasing possibilities. Game and Fish Department Wildlife Habitat Resource Biologists are available in Bismarck, Williston, Riverdale, Harvey, Devils Lake and Jamestown Game and Fish offices. These personnel can assist the SCD with information on Game and Fish program availability. Game and Fish Habitat Biologists are also knowledgeable about other wildlife programs. There is a wide range of opportunities available from other wildlife agencies and organization which may prove beneficial to landowners and cooperators. Project planning including Game and Fish Department personnel may bring additional cost savings to projects developed within the District.

Farm Service Agency
The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is administered at the county level by the FSA County Committee with the assistance of the county office staff headed by a County Executive Director. Conservation Districts have the opportunity to approve conservation plans.

North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts
A membership organization of elected and appointed soil conservation district supervisors organized to advance the interests of North Dakota soil conservation districts.
MISSION: The mission of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts is to disseminate information and promote cooperation between soil conservation districts; cooperate with state and federal agencies; promote the welfare of soil conservation districts; promote the conservation of soil and water resources; and assume active leadership in promoting conservation education in the state.

5. **Equipment Offered:**

In 1951 a unitiller was purchased by the District.
1952 second unitiller tree planter purchased.
1956 electric hydraulic tree planter furnished by Game & Fish.
1957 hand operated hydraulic tree planter purchased.
1973 purchased three-point mounted tree planter.
1975 purchased second three-point mounted tree planter. (these two are still in use)
Tractors
Sprayers
Herd Spreader for Casoran
Undercutter and applicator
Digger
Weed Barrier / Fabric Laying Machines
Scalper
Tree Cultivator
Grass Drill
Disc
2008 - *Lawson* Land Aerator
2009 - *Brown Bear* Manure Composter
2008 - 665B *CAT* Tractor
2011 - *White* Corn Planter/ Interseeder
2012 - *Truax* 15’ No-Till Grass and Grain Drill
2013 - *John Deere* 1590 15’ No-Till Drill

6. **Pipestem Project**

A stream assessment on the Pipestem Creek Watershed was conducted in the summer of 2000 and conclusions by the NRCS indicated five main issues that needed to be addressed within the Pipestem Creek Watershed: 1) riparian health, 2) excessive erosion and sedimentation, 3) proper grazing use, 4) nutrient management, 5) livestock waste management. Major land use practices and potential sources of non-point source (NPS) pollution identified during this assessment included: low residue farming methods, excess tillage on steep slopes and in riparian areas, livestock concentration areas (approximately 30), and overgrazed pasture/rangeland.
Goals for the project were set for the watershed project to restore recreational and aquatic life uses of Lower Pipestem Creek to a fully supporting condition as well as benefit the beneficial use conditions of the Pipestem Reservoir. To accomplish these goals objectives and tasks were set including conservation planning on 52,764 acres, treating 3,000 feet of streambank through riparian buffers, installation of 15 manure management systems on existing animal feeding operations. Other objectives and tasks included

documenting the trends in water quality and an extensive educational component, including newsletters, tours and workshops.
By the end of the project period in November 2010, 54,347 acres had conservation plans. This included 18,682 acres of reduced tillage, 18,439 acres of nutrient management, 1,234.4 acres of riparian area management, and 13,431 acres of prescribed grazing. 77,955 feet of streambank were treated through riparian buffer easements in cooperation with the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department. Seven manure management systems were installed on existing animal feeding operations. All of these systems utilized the 319 cost share along with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through NRCS.

Positive benefits of the BMP installation have been shown by decreasing trends in total nitrogen at sites throughout the project area. Total Suspended Solids concentrations were also shown to be decreasing as a result of BMP installation. Fecal Coliform Bacteria levels were classified as Fully Supporting recreational uses at site 385043 but the remaining sites remained classified as Not Supporting recreational uses. Additionally, all four macro-invertebrate site classifications indicated that aquatic life uses are being met, though there is a need for additional work to maintain supporting status.
During the project period the Hydrologic Unit 101600020106 was delisted from the state's 303(d) (2008 North Dakota Integrated Report) list because the recreational uses were attained.
Educational efforts have strived to reach most producers in the watershed area, this was in the form of 11 regular newsletters, 18 tours, landowner workshops and informational seminars, and a website developed for the Stutsman County SCD. The watershed program has also instituted demonstration sites including: a saline CRP planting in Wells County, a saline crop plot in Stutsman County, crop plots featuring no-till vs. conventional till and cover crops near Pingree, ND. Other project demonstrations have included encouraging no-till using an aerator and providing a manure composter for manure management sites. *(see full "2010 Final Project Report" for more information)*