

Board Report

May 2010

Jonathon Manuel, Resource Conservationist

### **Water Initiatives**

The SSRP program has been funded again for this year. Wayne Kinney is going to come up in the next couple of months to look at two possible projects.

Allerton Park is letting Drew go this April. He made sure that Barbara and I met. She has assured me that the project is going to still move forward. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May I stopped by the pond to see how things were moving along. They have begun the installation of the over flow. I have some pictures of it.

### **Natural Resources Initiatives**

The e-waste collection is going very well. We are almost requiring a new trailer every two weeks. We had to get one after Bruce Stickers from Saint Joseph took it for a clean-up day. He brought it back stuffed and we had to put two TV's in the back room. While the trailer was gone we had to store four large TV's in the back room as well.

### **Farm Land Initiatives**

John Leishner's waterway has had the tile in stalled, the contractor is going to try and have this project finished yet this month.

Stan Foley's waterway is waiting for the creek to go down so that Matt D. and I can get some shots in the creek.

The two terraces for Bruce Stoddard are built and waiting for the board's approval.

Larry Simonton and Sam Brandenburg waterways are built and I hope to be getting the bills next week.

John Gyorr's waterway rebuild project is underway. I believe they have the earth shaped and are waiting on the tile to be put in.

Tim Menacher waterway project has changed to the Plunk waterway. This project has been completed and the bills are ready for your approval, we have IDOA approval.

Steve Catlin is fixing his waterway; this is on hold until the old tile can be replaced and the fabric checks can be installed. Spoke with Seevers this month, things should be moving along.

Charles Hendrix waterway system has been designed. They look to be starting work on it this spring. The Dozer has been on the site, but has yet to move.

I meet with Fred Amdor, James McClure, and Ken Dalenburg about their waterway projects. They are on hold at the moment as we try and work on a problem with the new Highway commissioner and the railroad.

William Gallagher's waterway is designed; I hope he will be starting construction soon.

I have surveyed Patrick Hayes and Terry March waterways. The designs are done and awaiting NRCS approval.

Michelle and I surveyed two of George Riley's waterways; I have one designed and waiting approval. The seconded one should be done soon. That will only leave one waterway to get laid out and surveyed for him.

I am afraid that I have not been able to find a wheat field to use for a summer tillage day.

I will see what we can do about a possible fall tillage day.

### **Education Initiatives**

We had 16 teams at the State Envirothon. Monticello won Forestry and tied for first in Aquatics. Monticello finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 16 teams. They missed third by two points.

With Earth Partners, Piatt County Farm Bureau and us we have a Stewardship Day planned for May 27th at White Heath.

Earth Partners, Piatt County Farm Bureau, and the Piatt County SWCD have won a grant to have a book barn. This Barn is a book case painted and shaped to look like a barn. It will have books on all kinds of agriculture. The plan is to move it from school to school and from library to library during the summer months.

I presented roll over safety on May 11 at the 4-H camp.

### **District Operations Initiatives**

We are well over half way done with this year's contribution agreement. I am going to ask if we can modify this year's agreement to go ahead and complete it or try and get more money.

As you know the RC&D has a few empty committee seats for Piatt County. If you know of anyone willing to take one please let me know.

We are in the Monticello guide again this year.

I have finished my FOIA training. My certificates are posted in my office. (Phyllis and I could use a few more certificate frames).

I have not heard back from the States Attorney on our questions. However in the training it did say that someone can phone into a meeting as long as the by-laws have been amended to allow it. This would also need to be done with e-mail votes as well.

I believe we will be working on this for the Land Use Council and possible the RC&D as well.