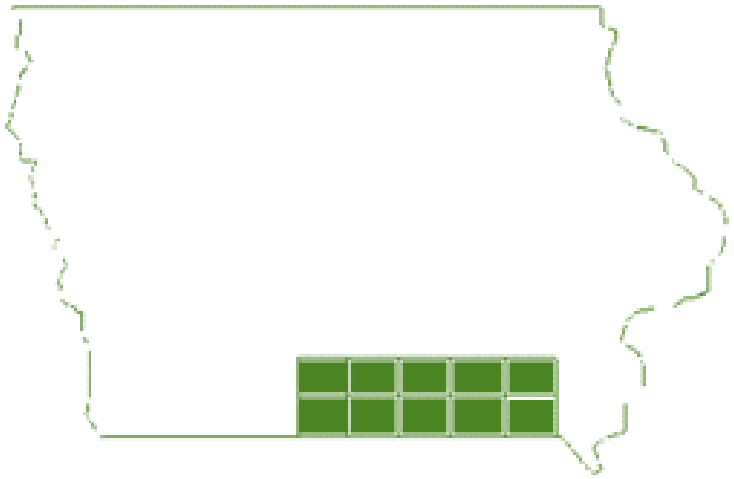
SIDCA

Southern Iowa Development & Conservation Authority

ANNUAL REPORT FY22

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



PATHFINDERS
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Southern Iowa Development and Conservation Authority

Annual Report

Reporting Period
July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022

Mission of the Southern Iowa Development and Conservation Authority:
To develop and coordinate plans for projects related to the unique natural resource, rural development, and infrastructure problems of counties in the most fragile areas of the southern Iowa drift plain.

Member counties:

- Appanoose
- Clarke
- Davis
- Decatur
- Jefferson
- Lucas
- Monroe
- Van Buren
- Wapello
- Wayne

The Southern Iowa Development and Conservation Authority (SIDCA) was established in 1999 in response to soil erosion, water resource degradation, and stream channel destabilization linked to disturbance of the fragile glacial till soils of southern Iowa. These resource concerns largely resulted from large sections of land being converted from perennial grassland vegetation to annual row crop production. These actions were spurred by economic pressures and federal agricultural policies which encouraged the expansion of subsidized commodity row crops production without regard for southern Iowa's fragile, susceptible soils.

Soil erosion in southern Iowa degrades water quality and riparian habitat, severely threatens the region's potable water supply, damages rural infrastructure including public roads and bridges, and negatively affects other public and private improvements.

SIDCA and Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Though SIDCA formed more than 23 years ago, the Authority's mission is still relevant today. SIDCA's outcomes directly support Iowa's major water quality priority: the **Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.**

"Iowa has been working for decades to protect and improve water quality. However, more can be done. The strategy is to direct efforts to reduce nutrients in surface water from both point and nonpoint sources in a scientific, reasonable, and cost-effective manner."

www.cleanwateriowa.org

For the **Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy** to succeed, there needs to be comprehensive **participation from all areas** of the state. **SIDCA** has served a key role in **establishing water quality practices in southern Iowa since the Authority was established.**

Practices installed with the assistance of SIDCA remove 80% of the sediment, 50% of the phosphorus, 30% of the nitrogen, and 70% of the bacteria in the water runoff. The projects are cooperative projects between landowners, county government, the county soil and water conservation district, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. **These types of projects and partnerships are crucial in the success of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.**

A. OPERATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SIDCA completed the following activities during Fiscal Year 2022:

- **Meetings** – the SIDCA board met on the following days:
    - September, 16, 2021 – In Person/Virtual
    - December 16, 2021 – In Person/Virtual
    - March 17, 2022– In Person/Virtual
    - June 16, 2022 – In Person/Virtual

- **Election of Officers -** June 2021, the SIDCA Board held the annual meeting, and President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary were voted to retain the same elected officers.
- **Project Reviews** - See section D.
- **Pursuit of State Legislative Funding** – A legislative appropriation of $250,000.00 was received during this reporting period.

FY 2022 Board of Directors:

County	Representative	Position
Lucas	Larry Davis	President
Appanoose	John Glenn	Vice– President
Wayne	John Sellers	Secretary
Davis	Ron Bride	Treasure
Jefferson	Daryn Hamilton	Director
Clarke	Dean Robins	Director
Monroe	John Hughes	Director
Van Buren	Dale House	Director
Decatur	Dan Christensen	Director
Wapello	Brian Morgan	Director

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B. BUDGET, RECEIPTS, AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES DURING THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR.
The SIDCA financial records are tracked on a cash basis.

Non-state funds (also called Membership Funds) are tracked separately within the checking account. See the table below for annual financial information:

	Checking Account *State Appropriated Funds Portion*	**Checking Account** *Membership Funds Portion*	**Savings Account** *State Appropriated Funds*
Opening Balance — July 1, 2021	$1,774.31	$2,217.67	$51,398.17
Income			
Interest Earned	$4.11		$278.84
Transfers From Savings	$0		
Membership Dues		$5,000.00	
State of Iowa Appropriated Funds			$250,000.00
Expense			
Bank Fees and taxes	$2.10		
Transfers to Checking			$0
Administration Fees		$3,449.61	
Ending Balance — June 30, 2022	$1,776.32	$4,951.41	$301,677.01
Additional Funds Obligated for Approved Projects			$87,140.50
Balance of Unobligated Funds as of June 30, 2022			**$ 221,264.24**

C. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE END OF THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR AND STATUS OF RESERVE, SPECIAL AND OTHER FUNDS

Non-State Appropriated Funds include: Membership Funds – outlined above.

D. STATEMENT OF PROPOSED AND PROJECTED ACTIVITIES.

On-Road/Off-Road Structures – SIDCA utilizes earthen embankments with existing roads or on-road structures to effectively reduce culvert size and/or replace bridges. **This will often stop 95% of sediment, nutrients and pesticides from entering downstream water bodies and also provide savings to counties.**

Additionally, projects listed below were approved by the SIDCA Board of Directors and are in progress.

ADDITIONAL SIDCA PROJECTS APPROVED AND IN PROGRESS

County	Project Name	Description	Total Cost	SIDCA Funds	% Paid By SIDCA
Wayne	Walker Branch Wetland Restoration	This project is designed to reduce sediment infiltration into the Lake Rathbun Watershed which provides drinking water for Southeast Iowa	$3,200,000.00	$50,000.00	1.5%
Decatur	Stream Training Steel Creek	This project is to implement stream training measures to migrate the Steel creek channel back to its previous location. Steel Creek is meandering toward County Road R69 and is threatening to destabilize the road embankment. Bendway weirs will be constructed of Class E Revetment. The weirs will direct turbulent water back into the center of the channel. This will reduce soil erosion of the road embankment.	$74,281.00	$37,140.50	50%

E. BACKLOG OF UNFUNDED PROJECTS

SIDCA has not received funding for the last 9 years which has resulted in projects being proposed and not completed. The Board of Directors for SIDCA voted to **remove** the backlog of projects until funding was re-appropriated and then projects can be re-applied for and reviewed by the Board for approval. Funding for the SIDCA was appropriated by the Iowa Legislature in FY22. Projects are once again being reviewed for approval of funding.

F. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS DEEMED NECESSARY.

SIDCA appreciates the appropriation of funds in FY2002 and FY2004 - FY2011. While funds were not appropriated in FY2012 - FY2021. Funds were appropriated in FY2022, and the SIDCA board is working very diligently to get new projects started, and finished to help with water quality, sediment erosion, and improved infrastructure in southern Iowa.

SIDCA's main priority is the installation of on and off-road structures and related projects that provide both water quality and transportation infrastructure benefits in the 10-county region. **To continue the development and implementation of water quality projects in southern Iowa, the SIDCA is receiving $250,000 in funding for Fiscal Year 2023.**

The Iowa Code states SIDCA may use 5% of its appropriated funds for administrative costs, however, the SIDCA Board of Directors continues the practice of *using all appropriated funds for projects*. **In FY 2022, 100% of past state funds appropriated were used to cost-share the construction of on and off-road structures and related projects that provide water quality and transportation infrastructure benefits in the 10-county SIDCA area.** Member counties and existing public programs provide the balance of funds required for the projects.

The Authority thanks the Governor and General Assembly for consideration of their request.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS DEEMED NECESSARY.

Because of the support of the Iowa Legislature to assist these 10 southern Iowa counties in the unique approach of protecting water quality and improving transportation infrastructure, SIDCA will highlight a few of these efforts. To date, SIDCA's priority is the installation of on-road/off-road structures.

Benefits of SIDCA structures:

- **Improving Water Quality**
- **Reducing nutrient runoff** into Iowa's lakes and rivers used for drinking water.
- Effectively **capturing 95% of eroded soil** carried in runoff
- **Stabilizing eroding stream banks** and halting gully formation
- **Improving rural development potential** of the area
- Providing additional **fisheries and wildlife benefits**
- Enhancing **recreational and scenic qualities** of southern Iowa
- **Reducing infrastructure costs** for the counties **Removing rural bridge weight limits and width restrictions** for wide loads
- Providing **flood control** to county roads and bridges down stream
- Providing opportunities to **improve rural fire suppression** with the installation of dry fire hydrants
- Providing **livestock watering**

SUMMARY OF SIDCA APPROPRIATED FUNDS

FY 2022 appropriation ($250,000)

- 100% of FY 2022 funds obligated to approved projects
- 2 projects in construction.
- All funds to be expended on actual construction costs for projects
- *0% of appropriated funds to be used for administration or related expenses*

FY 2012 thru FY 2021 appropriation ($0)

No legislative funds were allocated to SIDCA between FY 2012 through FY 2021.

FY 2011 appropriation ($250,000)

- 100% of FY 2011 funds obligated to approved projects
- All funds to be expended on actual construction costs for projects
- *0% of appropriated funds to be used for administration or related expenses*

FY 2010 appropriation ($300,000)

- 100% FY 2010 funds expended on actual construction costs for projects
- 22 projects completed in 8 of the 10 counties
- *0% of appropriated funds to be used for administration or related expenses*

FY 2009 appropriation ($300,000)

- 100% of FY 2009 funds expended on actual construction costs for projects
- 10 projects completed in 6 of the 10 counties
- *0% of appropriated funds used for administration or related expenses*

FY 2008 appropriation ($300,000)

- 100% FY 2008 funds expended on actual construction costs for projects
- 10 projects completed in 6 of the 10 counties
- *0% of appropriated funds used for administration or related expenses*

FY 2007 appropriation ($300,000)

- 100% FY 2007 funds expended on actual construction costs for projects
- 15 projects completed in 8 of the 10 counties
- SIDCA state allocation dollars leveraged 2:1
- *0% of appropriated funds used for administration or related expenses*

FY 2006 appropriation ($300,000)

- 100% FY 2006 funds expended on actual construction costs for projects
- 20 projects completed in 8 of the 10 counties
- SIDCA state allocation dollars leveraged 2:1 overall

- Several projects leveraged SIDCA funds 10 to 1
- *0% of appropriated funds used for administration or related expenses*
- **Unique project: *SIDCA partnered with Van Buren County and FEMA to provide bank stabilization on Chequest Creek and save an endangered bridge***
- **Unique project: *SIDCA partnered with Little River Lake Sponsors in Decatur County reduce sedimentation into Little River Lake (a drinking water source and recreation area)***

FY 2005 Appropriation: $300,000

- 100% FY 2005 funds expended on actual construction costs for projects
- 16 projects completed in 9 of the 10 counties
- SIDCA state allocation dollars leveraged 3.5 to 1
- *0% of appropriated funds used for administration or related expenses*

FY 2004 Appropriation: $300,000

- 100% FY 2004 funds expended on actual construction costs for projects
- 9 projects completed in 8 of the 10 counties
- State allocation dollars were leveraged 3:1
- *0% of appropriated funds used for administration or related expenses*

FY 2003 Appropriation: Recalled

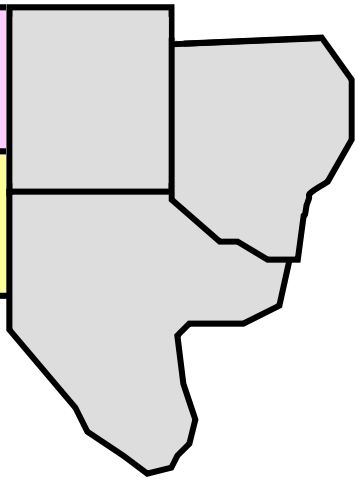
Legislative funds were initially allocated to SIDCA for FY 2003 appropriations, however the funds were recalled due to state budget cuts. Therefore, no FY 2003 funds were received.

FY 2002 Appropriation: $250,000

Due to state budget cuts, approximately 12% of the FY2002 allocation was de-appropriated from SIDCA. These funds were allocated to projects prior to the de-appropriation of funds by the state.

- 100% FY 2002 funds expended on actual construction costs for projects
- 11 projects completed in 7 of the 10 counties
- *0% of appropriated funds used for administration or related expenses*

Clarke $246,954	**Lucas $347,991**	**Monroe $84,215**	**Wapello $320,465**	**Jefferson $278,855**
Decatur $193,336	**Wayne $356,500**	**Appanoose $352,499**	**Davis $426,711**	**Van Buren $168,688**



SIDCA Funds Utilized in Each Member County for Completed Projects (2002—2022)

SIDCA Attracts and Leverages Outside Funding for Non-Infrastructure Projects

- ***$100,000*** funding for the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Recognizance Study of the Lower Des Moines River
- SIDCA sought to be the original sponsor of the COE Section 206 Project. This program has potential to generate ***$5 million*** of funding into the Rathbun Lake Watershed for aquatic habitat restoration. SIDCA now working with partners to pursue this project with a different sponsor.
- Partners on SIDCA Projects since 2002:
    1. State Legislature
    2. IDALS – Division of Soil Conservation
    3. Counties
    4. Cities
    5. Soil and Water Conservation Districts
    6. Natural Resources Conservation Service
    7. Chariton Valley, Pathfinders, & Southern Iowa RC&D's
    8. Iowa Department of Natural Resources
    9. Watershed Organizations
    10. Rural Water Associations
    11. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
    12. County Conservation Boards
    13. Private Landowners
    14. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
    15. Watershed Improvement Review Board (WIRB)
    16. Pheasants Forever
    17. Ducks Unlimited

Through the activities outlined in this report and through the continual exploration into new endeavors, SIDCA continues to make progress toward its mission:

To develop and coordinate plans for projects related to the unique natural resource, rural development, and infrastructure problems of counties in the most fragile areas of the southern Iowa drift plain.

The SIDCA Board of Directors thanks the State of Iowa for its cooperation and support.

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