



DODGE COUNTY'S SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD was photographed in the Dodge Center high school last Thursday examining the Minnesota State and Tribune certificate awarded to Walter and Francis Weis, Pine Island, for doing the outstanding soil conservation in Dodge County during 1949. The occasion was the district's annual meeting. Left to right are board chairman Klaus Alberts, Mankatoville, Clifford Toquam, Blooming Prairie, Henry Olive, Mankatoville, Erland McMartin, Carleton, Alf Larson, Verona Township, and Nels Svanstad, head of the district's soil conservation staff. —Photo courtesy Rochester Post-Bulletin.

1947 Supervisors



2006 Supervisors

60 Years

June 18, 2007 the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District will be 60 years old. On June 18, 1947 the Secretary of State certified that the Dodge County Soil Conservation District had been duly organized and constitutes a governmental subdivision of the State of Minnesota.

The District was organized somewhat earlier. In 1940, three townships in Dodge County and eight townships in Olmsted County were organized into the Upper Zumbro Soil Conservation District. In September of 1944, the remaining nine townships of Dodge County were added. Two months later, the remaining ten townships of Olmsted County were also added. In 1945 the soil conservation district established an office in Dodge Center to take care of the Dodge County part of the Upper Zumbro District. On March 11, 1947 Dodge County completed the legal procedure required to separate itself from the Upper Zumbro District and on June 18th the Secretary of State issued the certificate of organization for the Dodge County Soil Conservation District. On December 6, 1961, through a resolution, the Dodge County Soil Conservation District became the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District.

The original Board of Supervisors was Henry Olive, Klaus Alberts, Clifford Toquam, Erland McMartin and Alf Larson. Today's Board of Supervisors are Muriel French (serving 6 years), Darrel Faulkner (serving 5 years), John Kvasnicka (serving 5 years), Glen Hahn and David Livingston (starting as new supervisors in January, 2007). Orlo Toquam retired in December 2006 as supervisor after serving on the Board for 22 years.

Over the years, there have been a lot changes with supervisors, staff, objectives of workload. One thing that has remained the same is that the District encourages landowners to conserve the soil and water resources through the implementation of conservation practices that effectively reduce or prevent soil erosion thus preserving water quality, soil productivity, and reduce flooding within Dodge County.