

From the CEO

I am pleased to present the Soil and Water Conservation Society's (SWCS) achievements since the spring of 2022.

I begin and end SWCS's fiscal year in Washington, DC, where for the last two springs I have been taking the voice of conservation professionals to the desks of leadership and bringing back happenings on Capitol Hill to inform those advancing conservation locally.

My time in DC has helped me connect all the great work we do with the local and national policy implications for greater change. Much of this work is completed through special projects, funded through grants and foundations, to help us understand the challenges of getting conservation on the ground in an inclusive way and offer scientifically backed solutions that are more easily implemented. These mission-driven projects keep us



connected to the on-the-ground conservation community. Through them, we assess the needs of conservation professionals; serve and broaden the conservation community; and enhance, adapt, and streamline conservation practices for wider adoption. One of our most recent special projects is helping us advance toward our goal of better serving and building a diverse conservation community.

Shortly after my 2022 return from DC, SWCS traveled to Denver our first annual conference back in person since COVID-19. We also began plans to bring the 78th annual conference to Des Moines, where SWCS has been headquartered since our inception, for the first time in over 25 years. After canceling plans to celebrate our 75th in Iowa in 2020, we look forward to hosting conservationists this summer.

Our Journal of Soil and Water Conservation (JSWC) continues to provide readers with the latest in recent natural resource conservation research, practice, policy, and perspectives. This year's special issue, "Climate Change Impacts on Soil and Water Conservation," brought forward the most pressing climate-related issues, research, and solutions being faced by our conservation community.

As a grassroots organization, we depend on our members and chapters to offer education, technical training, professional networking events, and other opportunities to engage at the local level. To support their efforts, we have provided more opportunities for leaders within our Society to receive training, tools, resources, and individual support. We are also adding webinars, book clubs, new member meet and greets, and other valuable member benefits as I write this. During this fiscal year, we contributed over \$14,000 in funding back to our local chapters.

It is only through the leadership and guidance of the Board of Directors, the dedication of our chapters and members, and the relentless work and passion of the staff that the achievements within this report were made possible. To learn about our newest endeavors and successes, connect with our online community!

Clare Lindahl **CEO**

Click through to connect!











Who We Are

Our mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is the premier international organization for professionals who practice and advance the science and art of natural resource conservation. We believe sustainable land and water management is essential to the continued security of the earth and its people. Our goal is to cultivate an organization of informed, dynamic individuals whose contributions create a bright future for agriculture, the environment, and society. SWCS includes more than 2,000 members around the world. Society members promote and practice an ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and their environment.

Board of Directors

(as of March 31, 2023)

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Emma Harper

Communications Coordinator

Joe Otto

Special Projects and Partnerships Director/Historian

Jody Thompson

Editorial Assistant



2022 International Annual Conference

"Elevating Conservation to New Heights"

The 77th SWCS International Annual Conference, was held in Denver, Colorado, July 31 to August 3, 2022. After two years of virtual conferences, this stunning conference location offered an opportunity for the global conservation community to come together and collectively share solutions, combat obstacles, and accelerate conservation efforts. Specialty topics included "At the Intersection of Agriculture and Conservation," "Climate-Smart Agriculture," and "On the Frontier of Conservation in the West."

This year's Pritchard Keynote Lecture by University of Washington professor David Montgomery was "A Case for Conservation: Civilization, Communication and Climate." On Tuesday, USDA leadership provided opening remarks, followed by presentations on "Building a 'Foundation' to Elevate Soil Health," and "The Future of Farming."

The event brought together 370 conservationists, representing 5 countries and 47 states. Leaders from 23 chapters were in attendance, and they were able to network and share their perspectives. SWCS was excited to offer the virtual resources platform post event this year to conservation professionals who were unable to join us in Denver. The platform included general session and oral presentation recordings, presentation PowerPoints, poster presentations, and an opportunity for attendees to connect and network with other attendees through personal profiles.

Thank you to the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference Sponsors!

11th International Drainage Symposium

In August of 2022, SWCS and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers cohosted the 11th International Drainage Symposium in Des Moines, Iowa. The symposium provided an opportunity for the research, agency, industry, and practitioner communities to interact, share experiences, and address emerging issues related to agricultural drainage. Participants from 23 states and 11 countries attended the four days of presentations, posters, tours, and a workshop. The Drainage Hall of Fame Awards Banquet was also held in conjunction with the symposium.

Virtual Events

Throughout 2022 and 2023, SWCS developed several new webinar series to provide a platform to share research and professional development presentations with members, students, and partners.

SWCS Welcomes New Members

Beginning in February of 2022, SWCS staff introduced quarterly New Member Welcomes. On these virtual events new members learned more about their member benefits, how to connect with fellow conservationists, and upcoming opportunities with SWCS.

Student Professional Development Series

This year, SWCS teamed up with MANRRS and the Soil Health Institute to host a webinar series for students and early career professionals looking to enter the conservation field. The goal of this series was to provide professionals with ongoing and accessible development training to prepare them for positions of leadership and ultimately increase the diversity of leadership in agriculture and natural resource conservation and applied sciences. This four-part season covered finding the career for you, financial literacy, thriving at work and school, and personal branding. This series brought in a combined 668 registrations over four sessions.

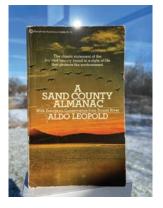


Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the **Adoption of Conservation Drainage**

This webinar series explored the adoption of conservation drainage across disciplines, regions, and landscapes. Through five, 75-minute sessions, leading stakeholders shared unique perspectives, engaged in dialogue, and generated a set of recommendations to be used to advance conservation drainage adoption locally and nationally. The series was intended for a broad audience of conservation professionals and the producers who implement conservation practices and ran monthly through May of 2023.

SWCS Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold

SWCS launched a book club opportunity for members in 2023 to read, or re-read, Aldo Leopold's classic work, A Sand Countv Almanac, like an actual almanac—one chapter per month! Each month, members meet virtually to reflect on the monthly reading and share reactions, explore Leopold's experiences that



shaped his writing, and discuss what Leopold's work and conservation ethic means for us today.

Conservation Matters

In February of 2023, SWCS began hosting a regular monthly webinar series to present hot topics related to science, practices, and policy to the membership of the Society. Presentations are often delivered in a panel format with time for Q&A from attendees at the end. Topics have included multiagency partnerships to advance conservation planning, climate change impacts on soil and water conservation, and state Nutrient Reduction Strategies in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. In order to ensure broad reach and robust discussion around these important conservation issues, all are invited to attend these sessions.



SWCS implemented over a half million dollars in special projects over the course of the year. These projects connect us with the on-the-ground conservation community; assess and share the needs of conservation professionals; serve to broaden the conservation community; and enhance, adapt, and streamline conservation for wider adoption.

Conservation at the Co-Op

SWCS is partnering with Truterra (Land O'Lakes) and four of their member-retailers to implement on-farm trials in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska, focused on zone nutrient management and cover crop adoption. Our organizations work to support agricultural retailers to engage producers in on-farm trials that demonstrate the agronomic, environmental, and economic incentives for conservation practice adoption. Through firsthand experience, the project's objective is to increase producer knowledge of these practices, integrate conservation management programs into retailer services, and broaden and accelerate conservation practice adoption. This project, which began in 2020, is funded by the USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials Grant Program and will run through December of 2023.

> Cover crops aerial view. This image and more are available in the SWCS Conservation Media Library. NRCS/SWCS photo by Lynn Betts.

Leading at the Edge: Building Capacity to Scale Edge-of-Field Practice **Implementation**

In partnership with the Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition, SWCS is working with partners and growers in Iowa to scale up edge-of-field practices through a "batch and build" process that allows for inclusive and simultaneous collaboration to implement multiple edge-of-field practice sites within priority watersheds. This planning process brings together funding and programming knowledge from an array of stakeholders and conservation professionals in order to achieve more efficient practice implementation. This project began in March of 2022 with support from the lowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and will continue through December of 2024.



Blue Ribbon Panels on Advancing Conservation through Technology and **Innovations**

This project, funded through USDA NRCS, convenes agricultural and conservation technology Blue Ribbon Panels twice a year. SWCS facilitates a technology identification, review, and evaluation panel to assist NRCS in technology adoption. Panels have been successfully held on topics such as edge-offield practices, irrigation technologies, forestry, and grazing practices. Though the original project was planned to conclude in 2022, SWCS has requested an amendment that will continue this project through March of 2024.

Conservationist's Guidebook to **Diversity and Equitable and Inclusive Conservation Delivery**

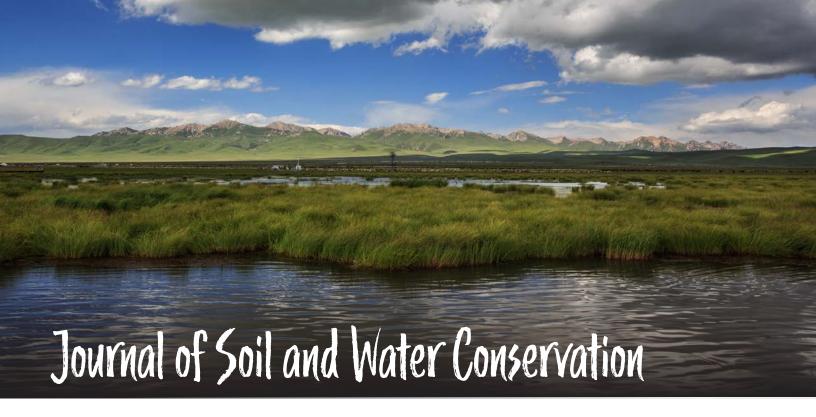
Building upon SWCS's commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, we launched a project in May of 2022 with the goal of identifying barriers, opportunities, successes, and solutions for how conservation professionals can better deliver USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs to historically underserved producers to address local natural resource concerns. To do so, SWCS and our project partner, the Meridian Institute, have convened roundtables of conservation professionals working in this space to discuss issues, share experiences, and generate meaningful guidance on how conservation professionals can better partner, reach, and provide technical assistance to underserved individuals and groups. Learnings will be translated into a resource guidebook for circulation to USDA NRCS field offices, the SWCS membership network, and other conservation professionals. Funded by a USDA NRCS cooperative agreement, the project is planned for completion in May of 2024.

> Top and middle: USDA photos by Preston Keres. Bottom: USDA Photo by Lance Cheung.









Published since 1946, the <u>Journal of Soil and Water Conservation</u> (JSWC) is the Society's flagship publication, with a circulation to over 2,000 individuals and libraries worldwide. The JSWC is a multidisciplinary journal of natural resource conservation research, practice, policy, and perspectives. The two sections of the Journal are designed to engage a diverse readership: a front section containing features, perspectives, and articles on practice, and a research section containing peer-reviewed applied research papers.

The March/April 2023 issue included a special collection of work that served to synthesize our knowledge of the state of soil and water conservation and advance understanding of the soil-water-climate system, emerging technologies, and climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and practices. The JSWC's impact continues to increase, with an impact factor of 3.209, a five-year impact factor of 3.816, and 5,866 total citations.

2022 Journal Awards

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality

Prokopy et al. 2019. Adoption of agricultural conservation practices in the United States: Evidence from 35 years of quantitative literature. JSWC 74(5):520-534.

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Honorable Mention

Marcillo and Miguez. 2017. Corn yield response to winter cover crops: An updated meta-analysis. JSWC 72(3):226-239.

Editor's Choice

Spratt et al. 2021. Accelerating regenerative grazing to tackle farm, environmental, and societal challenges in the upper Midwest. JSWC 76(1):15A-23A.

Editor's Choice Honorable Mention

Amonette et al. 2021. Integrated biochar research: A roadmap. JSWC 76(1):24A-29A.

JSWC Most-Read Articles

- 1. Wardropper et al. 2023. Policy process and problem framing for state Nutrient Reduction Strategies in the US Upper Mississippi River Basin. JSWC 78(1):70-81.
- 2. White et al. 2022. "How can you put a price on the environment?" Farmer perspectives on stewardship and payment for ecosystem services. JSWC 77(3):270-283.
- 3. Kasper et al. 2022. Cover crops may exacerbate moisture limitations on South Texas dryland farms. |SWC 77(3):261-269.
- 4. Lal. 2022. Sustaining soil for advancing peace: World is one family. JSWC 77(3):43A-47A.
- 5. Williams et al. 2023. Twenty years of conservation effects assessment in the St. Joseph River watershed, Indiana. JSWC 78(1):12A-19A.



On Location in Washington, DC

Between March and May of 2023, SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl, lived and worked in Washington, DC, taking the voices of conservation professionals to the desks of leaders, building collaborations to advance member issues and conservation, and bringing back learnings from the Hill to strengthen the SWCS's advocacy impact and inform those working locally on conservation.

This year, Lindahl grew existing relationships made during last year's visits and created new connections in the conservation community. Additionally, Lindahl gathered information to better define how SWCS can play an effective role in advocacy and policy. Highlights of her time at the nation's capital include the following:

- Met with over 50 leaders in congress, agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, foundations, private sector, and media
- Worked closely with the National Capital Chapter of SWCS to plan and host three networking socials and one service event
- Joined the National Soil and Water Conservation District's (NACD) Fly In to learn from national members and partners about the issues regions across the nation are facing
- Participated in water conservation discussions, including an in-person US Water Alliance Board of Directors Meeting, Water Week sessions, and Source Water Collaborative events
- Spoke at and attended the National Conservation Drainage Network Annual Meeting in Easton, Maryland, bringing forward the incredible body of work SWCS has accumulated on edge-of-field practices over
- more than a decade Created a plan to bring a strategic advisor onto SWCS staff to consult on advancing recommendations around advocacy and other organization growth



Internship Program

Thanks to the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE), SWCS has been able to continue our internship program for students to gain professional work experience, interact with national leaders in agriculture and natural resource conservation, and learn about the operations of an international nonprofit.

Our interns have enhanced the annual conference experience and other projects. We are giving back to these interns as well! As Kailey stated in her exit letter, "The skills and knowledge I have gained in this internship will play a large role in determining what positions I will be interested in and what I expect from my career."



Kailey Thompson, a senior at the University of Kentucky studying agricultural education and agricultural economics, with an emphasis in animal science, joined the SWCS staff virtually as

the Student Leader Project Intern during the summer of 2022. During the internship she developed a student session and assisted in the operations and logistics of the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference as well as assisting ARCSE, the intern sponsor, on website and communication development.



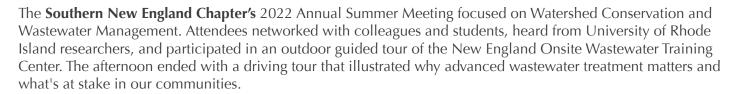
SWCS chapters are a valuable piece of our conservation network. At the local level, our members can address the most relevant concerns facing their environments while building strong community connections. Chapter work creates meaningful opportunities for engagement within the Society. In 2022, SWCS chapters

- hosted 50 events;
- gave out \$28,980 in scholarship funds;
- partnered with 21 other organizations;
- provided financial support to 33 members; and
- sent 24 chapter leaders to the SWCS International Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Below are some examples of SWCS chapter work.



SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl and a team of members and volunteers spent the morning picking up and sorting trash and recyclables, fishing interesting debris from the shallows, and enjoying each other's company. The team removed several truckloads of trash and left the river cleaner and closer to the AWS's goal of a swimmable and fishable Anacostia by 2025. These seemingly small actions, when taken with together, have a big impact on our local environments!



In September, the Wisconsin Chapter hosted a multistop conservation tour of Dunn County, Wisconsin. The goal of the tour was to introduce attendees to the diversity of crops, agricultural products, and conservation efforts in northwest Wisconsin. The tour also provided space for conservation conversations and resource and information sharing. Attendees toured an ethanol production facility to learn more about grain acquisition and processing and by-product use. They then learned about precision conservation efforts on Lake Family Farms and the impact targeted cropping and perennial systems have had on wildlife, water quality, and farm profitability.



Awards and Honors

SWCS was pleased to showcase the 2022 award winners during the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference.

Hugh Hammond Bennett Award

The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award recognizes extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.



2022 Recipient: Ann Sorensen

The 2022 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award was presented to Ann Sorensen from Washington, DC, for her widely recognized, major contributions to the conservation of natural resources. Sorensen, as senior research advisor for American Farmland Trust, has contributed to the advancement of soil conservation and land protection, both through pioneering research and transformative public policy. She has advanced the science, policy, and implementation of conservation through applied research, innovative pilot

projects, farmer engagement, and science-based advocacy. She understands the value of sound research in the public policy process, and her work directly helped shape public policy at a level rare for researchers. Countless researchers have been influenced by her work and passion, and many USDA and Congressional staffers have been persuaded by her data and diplomacy.

Sorensen has built upon Norm Berg and Hugh Hammond Bennett's soil conservation work by linking the land and the soil through farmland protection and soil health. She is a well-deserving recipient of the SWCS Hugh Hammond Bennett Award.

Fellow Award

The designation of Fellow is conferred on Society members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. This award is given first and foremost for professional excellence. Professional achievement may be in practicing, investigating, administering, or teaching soil and water conservation or closely related fields.

2022 Recipients:

J. Arbuckle, Iowa Mark Liebig, North Dakota DeAnn Presley, Kansas



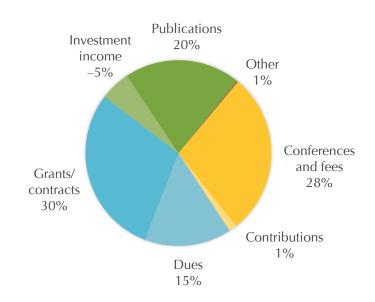


Financial Summary

Income

	2022–2023*	2021–2022*
Conferences and fees	\$391,089	\$233,332
Contributions	\$18,627	\$21,247
Dues	\$210,186	\$220,139
Grants/contracts	\$407,659	\$535,224
Investment income	(\$73,056)	\$28,379
Publications	\$276,879	\$282,541
Other	\$6,779	\$110,246
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,238,163	\$1,431,108

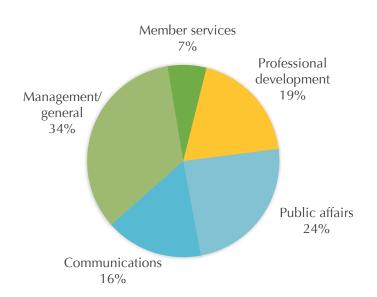
^{*}For the annual period April 1 to March 31



Expenses

	2022–2023*	2021–2022*
Member services	\$101,310	\$65,048
Professional development	\$294,908	\$105,377
Public affairs	\$372,345	\$500,141
Communications	\$254,508	\$235,320
Management/general	\$523,504	\$366,735
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,546,575	\$1,272,621

^{*}For the annual period April 1 to March 31



Net Assets

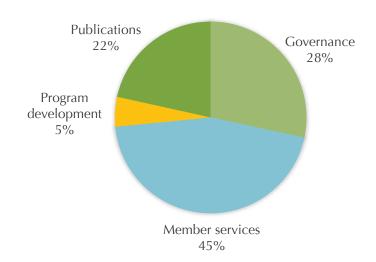
	2022–2023*	2021–2022*
Beginning of year	\$2,296,281	\$2,137,794
End of year	\$1,936,731	\$2,296,281
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(\$359,550)	\$158,487

^{*}For the annual period April 1 to March 31

What Dues Supported

	2022–2023*
Governance	\$59,610
Member services	\$94,768
Program development	\$10,530
Publications	\$45,278
TOTAL	\$210,186

^{*}For the annual period April 1 to March 31



Recognition of Contributions

SWCS is deeply grateful to all the people who have generously donated to the Society to support soil and water conservation. People who donate to SWCS through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC 11797) may designate whether they want to donate anonymously. Those individuals who released their names are included here.

\$1,000+

Rich Duesterhaus Karan Edgemon Jerry Hatfield Charlie Schafer

\$500 to \$999

Kylie Collins Clark Gantzer Iane Hardistv Thornton Hole Gary Kerofsky Ananth Ramasamy Jeffrey Zinn

\$150 to \$499

Iames Ahrenholz Stefanie Aschmann Ion Bartholic Shelby Callaway Adam Fox **Daniel Kesselring** Moonerah Lao Clare Lindahl Little Blue NRD Julius Mai Raymond Mueller Andrew Oxford Mamta Patel Jon Scholl Sterling Associates Group Ryan Trusevitch lason Weller Don Wysocki

\$100 to \$149

Adrian Achtermann **James Barr** California Dairy Campaign

James Canterberry Kenneth Cookson Laura Good Ion Gotz James Gulliford Eric Hurley Steve Kadas Krista Kirkham Douglas Kleine John Messner Paul Messner James Ragsdale Floyd Rathbun Stephanie Ritchie Charles Shapiro **Jean Steiner Jeanine Swift Edward Thomas** Stephen Thompson Paul Unger

\$50 to \$99

John Akers Fred Alcott Deborah Allan American Online Giving Foundation Claire Baffaut Harold Blume Randy Davis Rebecca Fletcher Leonard Gilson James and Darlene Grady Milo Harpstead Ronald Hensler Roy Jemison Zahangir Kabir Harry Manges Luke McConnell Donald McCool

Gerald Miller Marshall Nelson Lillian Woods Shawver W. Stuart Towns Clair Welbon John Wiener

\$49 and under

Henry Brass **Dennis Bunger** Chester Bush Laura Christianson Peggy Rash Daniels Otto Doering Duane Drockelman Leslie Everett Steven Evett **Lindsey Forbis** Mark Fritz Kelly Goward Ralph Gray James Hill Kenneth Kaneshiro

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Contributors

Chris Giovannoni Roy Jemison James Lake



Member Recognition

SWCS's most valuable resource is its members. The list of names is too long to print here, but it is these people who make the Society what it is. We would like to acknowledge those who have made the commitment to be a member at the President's Club and Leader levels. Visit http://www.swcs.org to become a member today!

Dorcas Franklin

President's Club

Heidi Ackerman James Ahrenholz Bert Allen Keith Berns Angela Biggs Ross Braun **Anthony Burns** Warren Busscher Cecil Currin Seth Dabney Otto Doering Rich Duesterhaus Bob Eddleman Thomas Esgate Ion Field Rebecca Fletcher Ellen Gilinsky Wendi Goldsmith James Gulliford Amanda Gumbert Jane Hardisty Christopher Hartley Jerry Hatfield Tom Hebert Todd Higgins C. Wayne Honeycutt **Jessica Howe** Steve Kadas Douglas Karlen Bruce Knight

Keegan Kult

Tyrone Larson

Clare Lindahl

Rex Martin

Iohn Piotti

Andrew Manale

Susan Meadows

Melanie Oliver

Rebecca Power

Linda Prokopy James Ragsdale **Becky Ross** Cheryl Simmons Jean Steiner Gary Steinhardt Stephen Thompson Dale Threatt-Taylor Robert Warner Ray Weil lason Weller Roger Wolf Larry Wright Don Wysocki Jeffrey Zinn

Leaders

Michael Aide Beth Baker Bruce Barnhart Donald Bartolina Erik Beardsley Dave Beck Carlos Bonilla Jimmy Bramblett Hugh Brown Lee Burras Steven Davied Morgan Davis Sanjit Deb Curtis Dell Lisa Duriancik Leah Duzy Megan Dwyer Scott Edwards Nancy Ferlow Cornelia Flora Robin Foulk Jane Frankenberger Keira Franz Norman Friedrich Brian Gelder Michael Gunn Russell Hatz Carlos Henning Ronald Hensler Sheldon Iones Kenneth Kaneshiro lane Karinen Matthew Kinane Eileen Kladivko James Klang Curtis Knueven Deepthi Kolady Susan Kozak William Kuenstler **Brent Lawrence** Pat Leavenworth Chris Lee Gene Matzat Richard McLaughlin Erin Meier Raymond Mueller Stephanie Murphy Louis Nagy Renae Nicholson Earl Norton Larry Oldham Austin Omer Joe Otto Timothy Palmer Thanos Papanicolaou Michelle Perez Carzella Pritchett Zeyuan Qiu Caleb Rasmussen

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Bronze

Iowa Learning Farms/ Water Rocks ISG Inc.



Soil and Water Conservation Society 945 SW Ankeny Road Ankeny, IA 50023

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