

NAME: Elaine Ilvess

TOWNSHIP: Des Moines

EMPLOYMENT: retired Program Planner

COMMUNITY/SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS/AWARDS:

2010 Iowa Water Conference Special Achievement Award for Implementing policy that protects Iowa's water resources;

2010 Recogniton of Outstanding Leadership and Service in the Iowa Soil Conservation Program by the Division of Soil Conservation and the Soil Conservation Committee

OTHER:

Previous Parent Advisory Board of the Des Moines Public Schools; Boy Scouts of America local chapter; involvement in youth religious and sports activities

DO YOU HAVE AN AGRICULTURAL, CONSERVATION, WATER, OR SOIL BACKGROUND? **I grew up on farms in Story County, Iowa, and have had a lifelong love of the soil. In 1970, I assumed a position in the State Soil Conservation Committee, which was later the Department of Soil Conservation and most recently the Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. I retired as a Program Planner in the Water Quality Bureau after 43 years of employment with the State of Iowa.**

WHAT EXPERIENCES (agricultural, conservation, soil, water, or urban) HAVE SHAPED YOUR INTEREST IN BEING A POLK SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER?

Growing up on a farm and loving the soil and marveling at its wonder in producing food, fuel, fiber and the beauty of our landscape Iowans can enjoy every day. Through my career in the Iowa Department of Agriculture, I became more and more aware of the correlation between soil conservation and water quality. Healthy soil results in healthier water, a more prosperous Iowa and a better way of life.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IMPROVED AS FAR AS THE PROTECTION OF SOIL AND WATER WITHIN POLK COUNTY?

I want to continue to pursue soil health and water quality; and to do that, Iowa must have a dedicated, long-term funding source. Soil and water conservation districts were created 75 years ago as a result of the devastation of the Dust Bowl. Districts programs have grown and changed with the times and we have the mechanism in place to address these vital issues that are crucial to Iowa's economic well being and the quality of life we enjoy. With a dedicated, long-term funding source, we can work with the citizens in Iowa, both urban and rural, to make positive changes on the land.