

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**April 4, 2018**  
**NRCS State Office**

- I. 1:00 pm.: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of January 2018**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon
    - 1. Grants Committee Report- Bob Eddleman and Ray Chattin
    - 2. Fayette SWCD-Dave Caldwell
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
  - a. Appointment of Officers
  - b. Appointment of Committees
  - c. CCSI Oversight Committee Representative
  - d. Pathway to Water Quality Representative
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - a. Grant SWCD- Jennifer Thum
  - b. Marion SWCD- Leah Harmon
  - c. Porter SWCD- Geneva Tyler
  - d. Randolph SWCD- Tara Wesseler-Henry
  - e. Jefferson SWCD- Laura Fribley
  - f. Spencer SWCD- Laura Fribley
- VI. 10 Minute Break**
- VII. ISDA Updates**
  - a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger
  - b. Technical Report- George Reger
  - c. Soil Health-Jordan Seger
  - d. Accountability and Technology- Jordan Seger
  - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
  - f. Water Quality and CREP- Jordan Seger
- VIII. Conservation Partner Reports**
  - a. IASWCD Report
  - b. IDEM Report
  - c. DNR Report
  - d. Purdue Report
  - e. FSA Report
  - f. NRCS Report
  - g. CCSI Report
  - h. IDEA Report
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**
  - 2018 Meeting Dates**
  - May 15: Knox County
  - July 24: NRCS State Office
  - September 18: NRCS State Office
  - October 30: TBD District Showcase
- XI. Adjourn**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.

DRAFT



# State Soil Conservation Board

April 4, 2018  
Clean Water Indiana Grants



## Program Updates

### **Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants**

2018

- I have been working with the grantees to get payments to them and get their projects rolling.

2019

- I have been working to develop the 2019 CWI grant guidance and application based upon SWCD and partner feedback from 2018.
- The grants committee met on March 2 to discuss the 2019 cycle.
- Their recommendations will be presented by Bob and Ray. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

### **Annual Financial Report Grants**

- The AFR was due to ISDA on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- All 92 counties qualified for at least part of the match.
  - Total match qualification: \$916,085.26
- With the updated code, I would like to clarify if the SSCB intends to match CWI to itself.
  - This would affect 1 district.

### **Training Reimbursement/Sponsorship**

- Training applications were due on March 15<sup>th</sup>. They were reviewed by the grants committee on March 21.
- Total training reimbursement requested: \$34,586.50
  - 32 SWCDs: 100 Staff, 73 supervisors and associates
  - Total Awarded: \$26,541 (each district capped at \$1000)
  - 2 districts requested grant writing training, which put them above the \$1000 cap.
- The grants committee approved \$2500 to host two grant writing trainings for SWCD staff this summer.
- These payments will be made with the AFR payment this month.

### **Grant Reviews**

- 11 grants have been selected to review in 2018.
- Selections will be made per the CWI communication policy with DSS input for both marginal and routine grants.
- I am currently working with SWCDs to schedule these reviews and will be completed before the State Fair.
- I am working on updating the review forms to better align with my quality control efforts.

### **Videos**

- The DSC will be developing a video this summer to highlight CWI. We have a summer intern for this project.
- I am currently developing the overarching vision for the video and will start gathering footage soon.
  - Other ISDA-DSC videos are also on the docket for this summer.

**CWI Committee Talking Points**  
**SSCB Meeting**  
**April 4, 2018**

*\*\*Each of these three main points will need a motion and a vote by the full board.*

- Competitive Grants
  - Incorporated SWCD feedback from 2018 round. Recommended changes are highlighted in the documents presented.
  - Major changes:
    - New application questions
      - The new questions will allow SWCDs to have more flexibility in explaining their project.
    - Character counts for questions were increased by 33%.
      - This allows more space for SWCDs to provide clarity in their proposal.
    - New Format for application template
      - Fillable PDF- this should allow for the same formatting as the online application.
    - Clarified claims process.
    - Match standards have been revised to have a single figure of all ICP staff/supervisors.
    - The self-assessment has been revised for better tracking and to reflect current ISDA events.
- Non-SWCD Led CWI
  - Revised application and guidance to reflect SWCD led CWI program.
  - New application questions to match SWCD led program
  - Clarified claims process.
- Communication Policy
  - Detailed typical DSS and RS resources for grant proposals/projects
  - Added review selection methodology





# State Soil Conservation Board

## Clean Water Indiana Grants Communication Policy



### Questions from Districts

- The grants program manager will be the central point of contact for CWI grants, both competitive and AFR.
- Questions, both programmatic and process related, regarding CWI grants should be sent to the program manager.
- The grants program manager will maintain an FAQ document for CWI grants and will distribute the document to the DSS team and the SSCB.
  - The FAQ document will also be posted on SharePoint and the CWI website for SWCDs to access.
- Having the grants program manager as the central point of contact provides a consistent message to all SWCDs.
- ISDA District Support Specialists and Resource Specialists are key resources for proposal development assistance and assisting partnerships with other districts and outside organizations.

### Grant Modifications

- All modifications must be submitted using the standard state paperwork.
- Modification requests totaling up to \$1000 or 7% of the grant amount (whichever is less) will be reviewed/approved by the grants program manager.
- Modification requests over \$1000 but less than 7% of the grant amount will be reviewed/approved by the CWI grants committee.
- Modification requests totaling 7% or more of the award amount will be presented at the next SSCB meeting.
  - Districts submitting modification requests of 7% or more of the grant amount are strongly encouraged to attend the SSCB meeting at which the request is considered.
- The grants program manager will notify SWCDs on the status of their modification request.
- No modification requests will be accepted following the last SSCB meeting in the final year of the grant term.

### Grant Reviews

- The grants program manager will work with the DSS team to schedule CWI grant reviews.
- The grants program manager will be present at every review.
- ISDA will select 10 grants to be reviewed annually. These reviews will feature both marginal and routine grants.

- Any grant that has requested a modification of more than 7% of the grant amount will automatically be reviewed.
- Any grants that have missed a reporting deadline will be reviewed the next year.
- Grants in their final year with more than 40% of funds remaining will be reviewed.
- Remaining reviews will be selected from grants at least 50% complete (either in time or funds spent) and will be selected from various regions of the State.
- The Grants Program Manager will provide a list of items needed for review and any personnel who should be present for the visit. If applicable, the Grants Program Manager will also request to visit sites improved with cost share dollars.
- Results from grant reviews will be sent to all district staff in both lead and participating districts as well as their boards.
- Results will be presented at the next SSCB meeting.

CWI 2019 Application Template

*\*Please note that applications will be scored blindly. Beyond the initial contact information county and/or watershed names should not be used.*

*\*Character counts for the questions below include spaces.*

**Contact Information**

Lead District	
Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Lead District Contact Name & Title	
Email Address	
Phone	
Project Amount Request	
Lead District Chairman Name	
Chairman Email	
Participating District(s), if applicable	

**Project Information**

Project Name
Please describe your project. (Maximum 4000 characters)

Please describe why this project is needed. (Maximum 2000 characters)

What are the goals of the project and how will you track progress toward these goals? This tracking should go beyond the required reporting in SharePoint. (Maximum 2000 characters)

Describe all partners and their specific contributions to the project.

Describe how CWI funds will be utilized. (Maximum 2000 characters)



## Self Assessment

*These items are not specified in district law but are considered essential for district operations and will be considered for CWI 2019.*

District Annual Meeting Information: January 1, 2018	Yes	No
Updated SharePoint Directories: Within 30 days of changes	Yes	No
District Success Story: Due date determined by ICP outreach committee	Yes	No
The district has a current business plan.	Yes	No
The district has had at least one current supervisor/staff/active associate attend a Leadership Institute workshop session since 2008. *Note that in order for an associate supervisor to count toward this item, they must be listed in the SharePoint directory.	Yes	No
The district has at least one current supervisor/staff/active associate graduate of the Leadership Institute program. *Note that in order for an associate supervisor to count toward this item, they must be listed in the SharePoint directory.	Yes	No
District Staff or supervisors participated in the 2017 spring tillage or fall 2018 cover crop transects.	Yes	No
District has applied for a grant other than CWI in the last 3 years.	Yes	No
If so, how many?		

## Attachments

Please attach any documentation, up to 5 (8.5x11) pages total, that you feel will help the grants committee. This documentation may include, but not limited to, letters of support from project partners, example cost share ranking systems, etc.... Attachments should provide material support and clarity for the application narrative for the proposal but will not be scored on their own.

Attachments are limited to 5 pages total. For example a district could submit 1 document containing no more than 5 pages or up to 5 single page documents. Attachments must be submitted in word or pdf format. Other file types will not be considered.



## **Clean Water Indiana 2019 Competitive Grants Guidance**

**Executive Summary:** The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the Clean Water Indiana Fund to Support Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in efforts to improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrients from nonpoint sources. The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is accepting competitive proposals for targeted projects up to three years in length.

**Application Process:** The link to the online application is available on the Clean Water Indiana Page of the ISDA website. (<http://www.in.gov/isda/3441.htm>) Applications are completely online and can be updated in your browser. Applications will be submitted via a web portal. Districts should complete the online application and may attach zero (0) to five (5) additional 8.5x11 pages if desired. Attachments will be accepted in word document or pdf format and are limited to 5 pages total. For example a district could submit 1 document of no more than 5 pages or up to 5 single page documents. Attachments should provide material support and clarity for the application narrative for the proposal but will not be scored on their own.

**Application Deadline:** The application must be submitted by **September 14, 2018 at 4 pm EDT**. By submitting the application, the lead SWCD certifies that each partnering district has agreed to the terms outlined in the application.

**Eligible Applicants:** Applications can be submitted by any SWCD in the State of Indiana. However, only one application is permitted per project and must be submitted by the lead SWCD. SWCDs may be lead on only one application in the 2019 grant cycle. All districts must be current on SharePoint reporting for previous grants, including both financial and conservation practice tracking.

**Ineligible Projects:** The 2019 CWI grant program cannot be used to fund research equipment. Conservation practices and lab analysis of soil and water that are components of research projects are eligible. Projects relating to urban practices that will reduce sediment and nutrient are eligible; however, no funding will be awarded for cost-share on rain barrels. Cost-sharing is also not allowed on specific practices that an entity is required to install to comply with a state or local rule or ordinance. *Example: CWI funds cannot be used to meet MS4 requirements unless the proposed use of funds goes above and beyond the requirement outlined in the MS4 permit's Storm Water Quality Management Plan.*

**Proposal Logistics:** This grant opportunity is competitive. Proposals can be for any amount that would accomplish the project described. A lead district must be selected to serve as the



grantee to receive and administer the grant. However grant funds can be shared between districts through cooperative agreements locally. The grant proposal must document how the grant funds will address at least two of the State priority resource concerns referenced in the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB's) Business Plan adopted in 2016. Proposals that outline how CWI funds will leverage additional funding from other sources as well as engage other partners are strongly encouraged. CWI project proposals that will be in tandem with ongoing projects are encouraged. *Example: CWI funds might be used to add technical assistance to help implement sediment and nutrient reduction practices cost-shared through a LARE or 319 project.*

**Project Dates:** All 2019 Clean Water Indiana Grant projects shall take no longer than three full years to complete. Projects will start on January 1, 2019 and must be finished and all funds spent by December 31, 2021.

**Project Description:** The proposal must identify the current nonpoint source water quality concern(s) in the selected district(s). The proposal must also identify how addressing this resource concern pertains to both the SWCD business plan(s) and the SSCB business plan.

**Partnerships:** Each application must state clearly what each partner and participating district will be contributing to the proposed project (i.e. outreach, professional assistance, estimated funds, etc.) Partnering districts and organizations must be identified with a point of contact for the project, their contact information, and an explanation of any anticipated cash or in kind match from the partner.

**Conservation Practices:** Conservation practices and structural measures shall follow NRCS Field Office Technical Guide where applicable. New technologies not currently in the technical guide may be implemented if reviewed and concurred in by a technical representative of the Conservation Implementation Teams (CIT) or their designee. *Please note that pollinator plantings must be free of species that are noxious, invasive, and/or pigweed. To verify that seed mixes are free of these species, a district can request the seed lab card from the distributor. For more information, please contact your DSS.* For cost-share practices, CWI funds may be used to pay up to a maximum of 75% of the total conservation practice cost. At least 25% of the cost must be provided by the landowner/producer as match. However, cover crop cost share is limited to a maximum of \$20/acre. Cost share funding for cover crops shall be limited to three years per field for any CWI grants. *Example: A producer who has received cover crop cost share on a previous CWI grant for two years is only eligible to receive cost share for that field for one year on a new grant.* If applying for cost share, please describe the process you will implement to select grant recipients. Priority will be given to SWCDs who demonstrate a strategic process for managing cost share dollars.

**Funding Restrictions:** Proposals must fall within the funding context allowed under the Clean Water Indiana Law (IC 14-32-8). The law prohibits funds to be used for food, food related

paper products, office equipment or district self-promotional materials (i.e. mugs, t-shirts, pens, etc.)

**Match Requirements:** A 50 percent cash and/or in-kind match is required. Match contributions can be federal, state, and/or local sources including such things as landowner costs, staff time, supervisor time, equipment use, purchase, rental, etc. Proposals that request funds for staffing require a 25% cash or in-kind match for the staffing component. *Example: District A submits a \$10,000 for solely a staff position. District A's proposal requires a match of \$2,500. District B submits a \$10,000 proposal that includes \$5,000 for staff and \$5,000 for cost share. Proposal B is required to have \$3,750 match.* The match is applicable only if directly related to the purpose of the proposed project. The grants committee may give preference to cash match rather than in kind during the scoring process. Grant proposals must use the match standards outlined below to develop their project budget.

**Match Standards:** (all figures are per hour of project work)

ICP Staff/SWCD supervisors (including associates) \$25\*

Landowner Time: \$25

Professional Services: \$25

Student/Intern/Volunteer: \$10

\*ICP match rates were calculated from publicly available data in Gateway and public transparency portals.

Any landowner contribution toward the remaining portion of cost share practices should be counted as cash match.

In general, time spent working on the project should be considered in-kind match; whereas money would be considered cash match.

**Leveraging Funds:** SWCDs are encouraged to partner with traditional and non-traditional organizations/agencies at the local, state, and federal level to leverage additional funds for their project/initiative. However, the SSCB will show preference to projects which do not add to the percent cost-share/incentive rate offered through another program. *Example: A project where CWI funds are used for cost share and 319 funds for technical assistance would be preferred over a project where CWI and 319 funds are both used to give producers a larger cost share amount.*

**Scoring Procedures:** All applications will be scored blindly by the scoring committee to reduce bias. This process includes removal of all identifying details. These identifying details include but are not limited to county name, watershed name, names of water bodies, and regions of the state. SWCDs should consider this scoring process when developing proposal narratives and should not use these identifying details in their proposal narrative beyond the initial contact section. The SSCB will utilize a scoring sheet to aid in ranking the proposals. The SSCB may use discretion when awarding grant funds.

**Process of Payments:** Once the proposal is approved by the SSCB, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) will issue an electronic contract to the designated lead SWCD. SWCDs should return their electronically signed contract to ISDA within 30 days of receipt in order to receive their funds. Funds must be utilized in a timely manner. Districts will receive 50 percent of their grant funding up front and the remaining 50 percent as reimbursement to the lead district. *Please note that reimbursement claims may be made no more frequently than quarterly and require updated SharePoint financial reporting, conservation project tracking (if applicable), a claim voucher and a Quickbooks or similar financial report showing that requested funds have been paid by the SWCD(s).*

**Reporting Requirements:** Financial and project status reports through SharePoint will be required for the duration of the grant and a final report will be due at the end of the grant. This report must be completed semi-annually (every 6 months) and summarize the outcomes and achievements of the project. These reports will be due 30 days following the anniversary date of the grant and are cumulative. *Example: grants that begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> will have reports due January 31<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>.* The first report will be due on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Tracking of conservation practice implementation (following FOTG standards) must be reported through SharePoint's conservation tracking system on a (minimum) quarterly basis.

**Grant Reviews:** ISDA routinely visits with its grantees to ensure projects and grants are proceeding as intended and offer guidance and support if needed. Each year, ISDA will strategically select grants to review. These reviews can include open grants and grants that have been completed in the last three years. Upon completion of a review, ISDA will send a summary of results to all districts involved in the project and their board(s). If found during formal review or routine reporting checks, failure to make progress on the project or report progress as specified in the grant agreement will be noted in a project's file and may jeopardize a district's ability to receive competitive grant funds in future cycles.

**Questions:** For programmatic questions about the guidance and application, contact the Leah Harmon, Grants Program Manager at [lharmont2@isda.in.gov](mailto:lharmont2@isda.in.gov) or (317) 607-4127.

For assistance with proposal development, please contact your DSS.

*Central*

Leah Harmon            [lharmont2@isda.in.gov](mailto:lharmont2@isda.in.gov)            (317) 607-4127

*Northeast*

Jennifer Thum            [jthum@isda.in.gov](mailto:jthum@isda.in.gov)            (260) 341-6966

*Northwest*

Geneva Tyler            [gt Tyler@isda.in.gov](mailto:gt Tyler@isda.in.gov)            (317) 518-4036

*South*

Laura Fribley            [lfribley@isda.in.gov](mailto:lfribley@isda.in.gov)            (812)595-5641

*Southeast*

Tara Wesseler-Henry    [twesseler@isda.in.gov](mailto:twesseler@isda.in.gov)            (765) 745-0306

*Southwest*

Nathan Stoelting            [nstoelting@isda.in.gov](mailto:nstoelting@isda.in.gov)            (812) 320-9873

**Deadlines that SWCDs must meet to be eligible for CWI 2019:**

- Election Committee Report: November 1, 2017
- Recommendation for Supervisor Appointment: November 1, 2017
- Nominee for Election: December 1, 2017
- Annual Financial Report entered into Gateway: March 1, 2018
- Annual Meeting Held: March 31, 2018
- Election held at Annual Meeting: March 31, 2018
- Annual Financial Report and Audit Form/Page 2 of AFR: March 31, 2018
- Certification of Election of Supervisors: Within 7 days of election
- CWI Grant Reports and Conservation Project Tracking: Due dates established in grant agreements)
- Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment: Within 30 days of vacancy

*The items are not specified in district law but are considered essential for district operations and will be considered for CWI 2018. These questions will appear as a self-assessment on the CWI application.*

- District Annual Meeting Information: January 1, 2018
- Updated SharePoint Directories: Within 30 days of changes
- District Success Story: Due date determined by ICP outreach committee
- The district has a current business plan.
- The district has had at least one current supervisor/staff/active associate attend a Leadership Institute workshop session since 2008. *\*Note that in order for an associate supervisor to count toward this item, they must be listed in the SharePoint directory.*
- The district has at least one current supervisor/staff/active associate graduate of the Leadership Institute program. *\*Note that in order for an associate supervisor to count toward this item, they must be listed in the SharePoint directory.*
- District Staff or supervisors participated in the 2017 spring tillage or fall 2017 cover crop transects.
- District has applied for a grant other than CWI in the last 3 years and how many.



## Clean Water Indiana Non-SWCD Led Proposal Guidance

**Executive Summary:** The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the Clean Water Indiana Fund to Support Indiana conservation groups (nonprofits or units or subdivisions of government), in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in efforts to address the priority concerns of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) business plan. The SSCB is accepting competitive proposals for targeted projects up to three years in length. The Clean Water Indiana fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) under the direction of the SSCB (IC 14-32-8-6).

**Application Process:** Applications are available from the Clean Water Indiana program manager ([cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov)) and are accepted on a rolling basis. In addition to the application form, organizations must present their projects for up to 20 minutes at an SSCB meeting of their choosing.

**Application Deadline:** Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. Funding decisions will generally be made at the September SSCB meeting annually for projects presented at the previous meeting or earlier. The SSCB may approve funding at other times based upon special circumstances. Applications are due at the time of presentation. It is recommended that applications are submitted before the July SSCB meeting. Applicants should send a request to the grants program manager to be added to the SSCB agenda at least one week prior to the SSCB meeting.

**Eligible Applicants:** Applications can be submitted by conservation groups in the State of Indiana. Preference may be given to projects tied to the Indiana Conservation Partnership and its shared goals.

**Proposal Logistics:** The grant proposal must document how the grant funds will address at least two of the State priority resource concerns referenced in the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB's) Business Plan adopted in 2016. The plan can be found at [http://in.gov/isda/files/SSCB\\_Business\\_Plan\\_2016\\_approved.pdf](http://in.gov/isda/files/SSCB_Business_Plan_2016_approved.pdf). Proposals can be for any amount that would accomplish the project described. The SSCB may use discretion when awarding grant funds. Proposals that outline how CWI funds will leverage additional funding from other sources as well as engage other partners are strongly encouraged.

**Project Dates:** All Clean Water Indiana Grant projects shall take no longer than three full years to complete. Projects will generally start on January 1 and will follow the calendar year.

**Project Description:** The proposal must identify the current natural resource concern(s) in the selected district(s). The proposal must also identify how addressing this resource concern pertains to both the organization's business plan and the SSCB business plan.

**Funding Restrictions:** Proposals must fall within the funding context allowed under the Clean Water Indiana Law (IC 14-32-8). The law prohibits funds to be used for food, food related paper products, office equipment or self-promotional materials (i.e. mugs, t-shirts, pens, etc.)

**Match Requirements:** A 50 percent cash and/or in-kind match is required. The match is applicable only if directly related to the purpose of the proposed project. The grants committee may give preference to cash match rather than in kind during the scoring process.

**Process of Payments:** All funded entities are required to register as a bidder with the State of Indiana. Instructions for registration can be obtained from the CWI program manager. Once the proposal is approved by the SSCB, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) will issue an electronic contract to the grantee. Grantees must return their electronically signed contract to ISDA within 30 days of receipt in order to receive their funds. Funds must be utilized in a timely manner. Up to 50 percent of grant funding may be disbursed at the beginning of the grant, if justified by the applicant in their proposal and approved by the SSCB. All other payments will be made as reimbursement 45 days in arrears upon receipt of an updated report and claim voucher. *Please note that reimbursement claims may be made no more frequently than quarterly and require updated financial reporting, a claim voucher and a Quickbooks or similar financial report showing that requested funds have been paid by the lead entity.*

**Reporting Requirements:** Financial and project status reports are required for the duration of the grant and a final report will be due at the end of the grant. The report form will be provided by the CWI Program Manager and returned digitally to the Program Manager. This report must be completed semi-annually (every 6 months) and summarize the outcomes and achievements of the project. These reports will be due 30 days following the anniversary date of the grant and are cumulative. *Example: grants that begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> will have reports due July 31<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.*

**Grant Reviews:** ISDA routinely visits with its grantees to ensure projects and grants are proceeding as intended and offer guidance and support if needed. Each year, ISDA will strategically select grants to review. These reviews can include open grants and grants that have been completed in the last three years. Upon completion of a review, ISDA will send a summary of results to the organization involved in the project and their board (if applicable). Failure to make progress on the project or report progress as specified in the grant agreement, as observed in a formal review or routine reporting checks, will be noted in a project's file and may jeopardize an organization's ability to receive competitive grant funds in future cycles.

**Questions:** Please contact the Leah Harmon, Clean Water Indiana Program Manager at [lharm2@isda.in.gov](mailto:lharm2@isda.in.gov) or (317) 607-4127.



**Clean Water Indiana  
Non-SWCD Led Proposal  
Application**

*\*Character counts for the questions below include spaces.*

*\* If funded, lead entities will need to set up a vendor and bidder profile with the State of Indiana.*

**Contact Information**

Lead Entity	
Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Lead Entity Contact Name & Title	
Email Address	
Phone	
Project Amount Request	
Signatory Authority	
Signatory Authority Email	

**Local SWCD Contact**

Cooperating SWCD	
Point of Contact	
SWCD Phone	

**Project Information**

Project Name
Please describe your project. (Maximum 4000 characters)

Please describe why this project is needed. (Maximum 2000 characters)

What are the goals of the project and how will you track progress toward these goals? (Maximum 2000 characters)



Describe all partners and their specific contributions to the project.

Describe how CWI funds will be utilized. (Maximum 2000 characters)

If requesting disbursement of up to 50% of funds at the beginning of the grant, please provide a justification. (Maximum 2000 characters)



# FAYETTE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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"Our Mission is to conserve and protect our soil, water and other natural resources by working with local and governmental partners to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance for Fayette County."

April 4, 2018

**Clean Water Grant funding" IN Kind" proposal:**

**Summary** of the proposal:

Include "in kind" values in considering direct matching funding to SWCD districts from the Indiana Clean Water program under IC 14-13-8, paragraph 8.

**Discussion:** Due to local economic conditions, some Indiana SWCD districts have limited or no support from their local municipal government, and therefore qualify only for limited or no Clean Water Indiana matching funds.

The first of the 3 purposes of the Clean Water Indiana Program listed in paragraph 5 of the act is "*To provide financial assistance to; (1) soil and water conservation districts*". However, the dollar matching fund criteria can impede compliance of this purpose to districts most in need.

The current matching fund criteria are understandable because in paragraph IC 14-32-8-8 **Additional funds from division of soil conservation**, matching funds are measured against the terms "dollar" or "money":

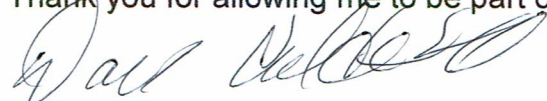
*IC 14-32-8-8(a) "...shall pay to the district one dollar (\$1) for every one dollar (1\$) the district receives from a political subdivision."*

*IC 14-32-8-8(c) "... a district must certify to the division of soil conservation the amount of money the district received from all political subdivisions .."*

However, according to the Federal Department of the Treasury Publication 525, the dollar value of services should be viewed as equivalent to actual dollars under certain conditions. Page 19 under Miscellaneous Income states: "*You must include in your income, at the time received, the fair market value of the property or services you receive...*" if "...you both have agreed ahead of time on the value of the services...."

A way to comply with the purpose of the Clean Water Indiana program and with the matching fund requirement is to include the dollar value of services provided by the district by requiring agreement by the government subdivision on the service and its value.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the agenda today.



Dave Caldwell, Chairman  
Fayette County SWCD

## **IC 14-32-8**

### **Chapter 8. Clean Water Indiana Program**

#### **IC 14-32-8-1**

##### **"Fund" defined**

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "fund" means the clean water Indiana fund established by this chapter.

*As added by P.L.160-1999, SEC.4.*

#### **IC 14-32-8-2**

##### **"Political subdivision" defined**

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "political subdivision" means a county, township, city, or town.

*As added by P.L.160-1999, SEC.4.*

#### **IC 14-32-8-3**

##### **"Program" defined**

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "program" means the clean water Indiana program established by this chapter.

*As added by P.L.160-1999, SEC.4.*

#### **IC 14-32-8-4**

##### **Program established**

Sec. 4. The clean water Indiana program is established. The division of soil conservation established within the department of agriculture by IC 15-11-4-1 shall administer the program subject to the direction of the board.

*As added by P.L.160-1999, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.1-2006, SEC.231; P.L.2-2008, SEC.36.*

#### **IC 14-32-8-5**

##### **Purpose of program**

Sec. 5. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to:

- (1) soil and water conservation districts;
- (2) land occupiers; and
- (3) conservation groups;

to implement conservation practices to reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

*As added by P.L.160-1999, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.175-2006, SEC.18.*

#### **IC 14-32-8-6**

##### **Clean water Indiana fund**

Sec. 6. (a) The clean water Indiana fund is established to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The fund shall be administered by the division of soil conservation subject to the direction of the board.

(b) The fund consists of:



(7) To make distributions as provided under section 8 of this chapter.

(8) Implementation of geographic information systems (GIS) or similar technology.

*As added by P.L.160-1999, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.175-2006, SEC.19; P.L.129-2011, SEC.6.*

#### **IC 14-32-8-8**

##### **Additional funds from division of soil conservation**

Sec. 8. (a) In addition to funds provided to a district under section 7 of this chapter or from any other source, the division of soil conservation shall pay to the district one dollar (\$1) for every one dollar (\$1) the district receives from a political subdivision.

(b) The state is not obligated to match more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) under this section.

(c) In order to receive funding under this section each year, a district must certify to the division of soil conservation the amount of money the district received from all political subdivisions during the one (1) year period beginning January 1 of the previous year. The information prepared under this subsection must be part of the annual financial statement prepared and provided to the board under IC 14-32-4-22. The division of soil conservation shall make distributions under this section not later than July 15 of each year.

(d) Before making distributions under this section, the division of soil conservation shall determine the total amount of money that has been certified by all districts as having been provided by political subdivisions. If the cumulative amount to be distributed to all districts exceeds the amount appropriated to the fund, the division of soil conservation shall reduce the distribution to each district proportionately.

(e) A district must spend money received under this section for the purposes of the district.

*As added by P.L.160-1999, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.155-2002, SEC.9 and P.L.158-2002, SEC.8; P.L.175-2006, SEC.20; P.L.1-2007, SEC.129.*

#### **IC 14-32-8-9**

##### **Report**

Sec. 9. The districts shall coordinate with the division of soil conservation to compile and provide a report to the executive director of the legislative services agency each year. The report must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 and must describe:

(1) the expenditures of the clean water Indiana fund; and

(2) the number, type, status, and effectiveness of conservation efforts funded by the clean water Indiana program.

*As added by P.L.160-1999, SEC.4. Amended by P.L.28-2004, SEC.133.*



them in your income if they are for an on-the-job injury.

**Black lung benefit payments.** These payments are similar to workers' compensation and aren't taxable in most cases.

**Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA).** Payments received under this Act for personal injury or sickness, including payments to beneficiaries in case of death, aren't taxable. However, you are taxed on amounts you receive under this Act as continuation of pay for up to 45 days while a claim is being decided. Report this income on line 7 of Form 1040 or Form 1040A or on line 1 of Form 1040EZ. Also, pay for sick leave while a claim is being processed is taxable and must be included in your income as wages.



*If part of the payments you receive under FECA reduces your social security or equivalent railroad retirement benefits received, that part is considered social security (or equivalent railroad retirement) benefits and may be taxable. See Pub. 554 for more information.*

You can deduct the amount you spend to buy back sick leave for an earlier year to be eligible for nontaxable FECA benefits for that period. It is a miscellaneous deduction subject to the 2%-of-AGI limit on Schedule A (Form 1040). If you buy back sick leave in the same year you used it, the amount reduces your taxable sick leave pay. Do not deduct it separately.

**Qualified Indian health care benefit.** For benefits and coverage provided after March 23, 2010, the value of any qualified Indian health care benefit isn't taxable. These benefits include any health service or benefits provided by the Indian Health Service, amounts to reimburse medical care expenses provided by an Indian tribe, coverage under accident or health insurance, and any other medical care provided by an Indian tribe.

**Other compensation.** Many other amounts you receive as compensation for sickness or injury aren't taxable. These include the following amounts.

- Compensatory damages you receive for physical injury or physical sickness, whether paid in a lump sum or in periodic payments. See *Court awards and damages* under *Other Income*, later.
- Benefits you receive under an accident or health insurance policy on which either you paid the premiums or your employer paid the premiums but you had to include them in your income.
- Disability benefits you receive for loss of income or earning capacity as a result of injuries under a no-fault car insurance policy.
- Compensation you receive for permanent loss or loss of use of a part or function of your body, or for your permanent disfigurement. This compensation must be based only on the injury and not on the period of your absence from work. These benefits aren't taxable even if your employer pays for the accident and health plan that provides these benefits.

**Reimbursement for medical care.** A reimbursement for medical care generally isn't taxable. However, it may reduce your medical expense deduction. If you receive reimbursement for an expense you deducted in an earlier year, see *Recoveries*, later.

If you receive an advance reimbursement or loan for future medical expenses from your employer without regard to whether you suffered a personal injury or sickness or incurred medical expenses, that amount is included in your income, whether or not you incur uninsured medical expenses during the year.

Reimbursements received under your employer's plan for expenses incurred before the plan was established are included in income.

Amounts you receive under a reimbursement plan that provides for the payment of unused reimbursement amounts in cash or other benefits are included in your income. For details, see Pub. 969.

## Miscellaneous Income

This section discusses various types of income. You may have taxable income from certain transactions even if no money changes hands. For example, you may have taxable income if you lend money at a below-market interest rate or have a debt you owe canceled.

### Bartering

Bartering is an exchange of property or services. You must include in your income, at the time received, the fair market value of property or services you receive in bartering. If you exchange services with another person and you both have agreed ahead of time on the value of the services, that value will be accepted as fair market value unless the value can be shown to be otherwise.

Generally, you report this income on Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule C-EZ (Form 1040). However, if the barter involves an exchange of something other than services, such as in *Example 4*, later, you may have to use another form or schedule instead.

**Example 1.** You are a self-employed attorney who performs legal services for a client, a small corporation. The corporation gives you shares of its stock as payment for your services. You must include the fair market value of the shares in your income on Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule C-EZ (Form 1040) in the year you receive them.

**Example 2.** You are a self-employed accountant. You and a house painter are members of a barter club. Members contact each other directly and bargain for the value of the services to be performed. In return for accounting services you provided, the house painter painted your home. You must report as your income on Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule C-EZ (Form 1040) the fair market value of the house painting services you received. The house painter must include in income the fair market value of the accounting services you provided.

**Example 3.** You are self-employed and a member of a barter club. The club uses credit units as a means of exchange. It adds credit units to your account for goods or services you provide to members, which you can use to purchase goods or services offered by other members of the barter club. The club subtracts credit units from your account when you receive goods or services from other members. You must include in your income the value of the credit units that are added to your account, even though you may not actually receive goods or services from other members until a later tax year.

**Example 4.** You own a small apartment building. In return for 6 months rent-free use of an apartment, an artist gives you a work of art she created. You must report as rental income on Schedule E (Form 1040) the fair market value of the artwork, and the artist must report as income on Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule C-EZ (Form 1040) the fair rental value of the apartment.

**Form 1099-B from barter exchange.** If you exchanged property or services through a barter exchange, Form 1099-B, or a similar statement from the barter exchange should be sent to you by February 15, 2018. It should show the value of cash, property, services, credits, or scrip you received from exchanges during 2017. The IRS also will receive a copy of Form 1099-B.

**Backup withholding.** In most cases the income you receive from bartering isn't subject to regular income tax withholding. However, backup withholding will apply in certain circumstances to ensure that income tax is collected on this income.

Under backup withholding, the barter exchange must withhold, as income tax, 28% of the income if:

- You don't give the barter exchange your taxpayer identification number (generally a social security number or an employer identification number), or
- The IRS notifies the barter exchange that you gave it an incorrect identification number.

If you join a barter exchange, you must certify under penalties of perjury that your taxpayer identification number is correct and that you aren't subject to backup withholding. If you don't make this certification, backup withholding may begin immediately. The barter exchange will give you a Form W-9, or a similar form, for you to make this certification. The barter exchange will withhold tax only up to the amount of any cash paid to you or deposited in your account and any scrip or credit issued to you (and converted to cash).



*If tax is withheld from your barter income, the barter exchange will report the amount of tax withheld on Form 1099-B, or similar statement.*

### Canceled Debts

In most cases, if a debt you owe is canceled or forgiven, other than as a gift or bequest, you

## SWCD Time -

Total	102	
Date	Hours	Task
1/5/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting
1/15/2017	2	Annual Meeting prep/flyer
2/1/2017	2	Annual Meeting Setup/directions
2/2/2017	1	Annual meeting cleanup
3/2/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting
3/15/2017	5	Envirothon
4/6/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting
4/25/2017	3	MS 4 meeting - Water Trt plant
5/1/2017	4	Courthouse Rain Barrels
5/1/2017	2	Barr River meeting prep/flyer
5/8/2017	1	Ag Day setup
5/9/2017	7	Ag Day presentations
5/11/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting
6/2/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting
6/15/2017	4	River Cleanup prep/flyer
7/6/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting
7/7/2017	3	County Budget prep and submission
7/12/2017	1	Barr meeting setup
7/13/2017	1	Barr meeting setup and cleanup
7/14/2017	3	River Cleanup reschedule and notification
7/27/2017	2	County Fair tent setup
7/31/2017	3	County Fair tent
8/1/2017	3	County Fair tent
8/2/2017	3	County Fair tent
8/3/2017	3	County Fair tent
8/9/2017	2	County Council budget hearing
8/11/2017	1	Renegotiate River cleanup insurance
8/15/2017	4	River cleanup - target placement
8/16/2017	3	River Friendly Farmer ceremony
8/19/2017	7	River Cleanup
9/7/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting
9/18/2017	2	Pollinator meeting prep and flyers
10/12/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting
10/24/2017	4	Equipment setup for Wildlife field day
10/25/2017	2	Equipment return
11/1/2017	1	Meeting agenda and financial summary
11/2/2017	3	Finances/ meeting location / Practical Farming site and speakers
12/7/2017	8	SBOA training - Indianapolis
12/14/2017	1.5	SWCD preparation and meeting



## RECOMMENDATION FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Instructions for submitting this form:

**STOP! If you haven't read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit forms, please do so before proceeding.**

**If you opened another Recommendation for Temporary Appointment form by mistake, click on the Close button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Then read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit new forms and update/save previously submitted forms.**

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**If you previously submitted the Recommendation for Temporary Appointment form and re-opened the form to make some changes or additions, click on the Save button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Click Close.**

**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**

### ELECTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13

#### Sec. 13

**(a) If a vacancy in the position of elected supervisor occurs during the district's operating year:**

**(1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position;**

**(2) at the first board meeting held after the board receives a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation and appoint an individual to temporarily fill the vacancy; and**

**(3) the board shall notify the supervisors of the appointment made by the board.**

**(b) The individual appointed to temporarily fill a vacancy under subsection (a) shall serve until the district's next annual meeting.**

**(c) At the annual meeting immediately following the appointment of an individual to temporarily fill a vacant elected supervisor's position, the position shall be filled through the regular election procedures set forth in sections 6 through 9 of this chapter.**

**("Board" as used in the state statute refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)**

The Supervisors of the  County Soil and Water Conservation District certify that  (name) maintains a permanent residence within the district and is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that are imposed on supervisors by law.

Address

City, State and Zip

IN

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of  whose term began in (month, year)  and was scheduled to expire in (year)

**YOU MUST SUBMIT THE RESIGNATION LETTER TO YOUR DISTRICT SUPPORT SPECIALIST AS WELL AS KEEP A COPY IN YOUR DISTRICT RECORDS.**

Death of  whose term began in (month, year)  and was scheduled to expire in (year)

No election held

**We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of supervisor.**

**We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.**

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS (signatures)

Duane Phipps (typed)

Date 3/15/2018

Keep a signed copy of this form in the District office. Do not send to your DSS.

**IC 14-32-4-1**

***(b) To hold the position of elected supervisor, an individual:***

***(1) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is located within the district;***

***(2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district; and***

***(3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.***

NAME

Nolan Thomas Holloway

PHONE NUMBER

765-251-7055

DATE OF BIRTH

9/3/1995

ADDRESS

2565 Shildmyer Rd.

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Marion, IN 46952

EDUCATION

High School Diploma

OCCUPATION OR TYPE OF BUSINESS

Farmer

LIST CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Installation and maintenance of grassed waterways.

**LAND OWNERS OR OPERATORS ONLY**

If applicable, list some of the soil and water conservation practices you have installed or performed

Installation and maintenance of grassed waterways.

**TEMPORARY APPOINTEE**

Have you previously served as an SWCD supervisor?

Yes

What was the date of last service?

What was the reason for termination of last service?

How many years did you serve as a supervisor? # Years #Months

No

**I currently hold a public service position/office**

Yes

I have been informed about "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide

Yes

No

No

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

APPOINTEE:

\_\_\_\_\_

Nolan Holloway (typed)

3/15/2018 Date

**Keep a signed copy of this form in the District office. Do not send to your DSS.**

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3/6/18

Attention Soil + Water Board,

Due to ill health in the last six months, I feel I must tender my resignation.

It has been a pleasure to serve with you this many years.

Sincerely,

Charles Haisley



on how to submit

mistake, click on the Close or SWCD SharePoint Tutorial

or the first time, click on the Save or Write Existing File. Enter the County would Enter

form and re-opened the form to the top or bottom of this form.

's operating year: occurs, recommend to the lation under subdivision (1), temporarily fill the vacancy; and board. shall serve until the district's lual to temporarily fill a gular election procedures set

rd)

onservation District certify that district and is qualified by training

2505 Solummyer Rd.

City, State and Zip

Marion IN 46,952

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of Charles Haisley whose term began in (month, year) February 2017 and was scheduled to expire in (year) 2020

YOU MUST SUBMIT THE RESIGNATION LETTER TO YOUR DISTRICT SUPPORT SPECIALIST AS WELL AS KEEP A COPY IN YOUR DISTRICT RECORDS.

Death of whose term began in (month, year) and was scheduled to expire in (year)

No election held

We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of supervisor. We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS (signatures)

Duane Phipps (typed)



## RECOMMENDATION FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

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### ELECTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13

#### Sec. 13

**(a) If a vacancy in the position of elected supervisor occurs during the district's operating year:**

**(1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position;**

**(2) at the first board meeting held after the board receives a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation and appoint an individual to temporarily fill the vacancy; and**

**(3) the board shall notify the supervisors of the appointment made by the board.**

**(b) The individual appointed to temporarily fill a vacancy under subsection (a) shall serve until the district's next annual meeting.**

**(c) At the annual meeting immediately following the appointment of an individual to temporarily fill a vacant elected supervisor's position, the position shall be filled through the regular election procedures set forth in sections 6 through 9 of this chapter.**

**("Board" as used in the state statute refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)**

The Supervisors of the  County Soil and Water Conservation District certify that  (name) maintains a permanent residence within the district and is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that are imposed on supervisors by law.

Address

City, State and Zip

IN

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of  whose term began in (month, year)  and was scheduled to expire in (year)

**YOU MUST SUBMIT THE RESIGNATION LETTER TO YOUR DISTRICT SUPPORT SPECIALIST AS WELL AS KEEP A COPY IN YOUR DISTRICT RECORDS.**

Death of  whose term began in (month, year)  and was scheduled to expire in (year)

No election held

**We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of supervisor.**

**We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.**

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS (signatures)

Heather Buck (typed)

Date 4/3/2018

Keep a signed copy of this form in the District office. Do not send to your DSS.

**IC 14-32-4-1**

**(b) To hold the position of elected supervisor, an individual:**

- (1) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is located within the district;**
- (2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district; and**
- (3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.**

NAME

Scott Minor

PHONE NUMBER

317/409-9447

DATE OF BIRTH

8/26/1974

ADDRESS

4808 Broadway Street

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Indianapolis, IN 46205

EDUCATION

Master of Landscape Architecture-Ball State University, B.A. Religion and Philosophy-Wabash College

OCCUPATION OR TYPE OF BUSINESS

Environmental Planning

LIST CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Scott's experience includes extensive work as an Environmental Planner managing the Clear Choices, Clean Water program and helping to manage the White River Alliance organization.

**LAND OWNERS OR OPERATORS ONLY**

If applicable, list some of the soil and water conservation practices you have installed or performed

native plantings and cover crops

**TEMPORARY APPOINTEE**

Have you previously served as an SWCD supervisor?

Yes

What was the date of last service?

What was the reason for termination of last service?

How many years did you serve as a supervisor? # Years #Months

No

**I currently hold a public service position/office**

Yes

I have been informed about "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide

Yes

No

No

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

APPOINTEE:

\_\_\_\_\_

Scott Minor (typed)

4/3/2018 Date

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**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**

## Harmon, Leah

---

**From:** John Hazlett <jhazlett76@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 4, 2018 9:14 AM  
**To:** Brian NEILSON; maggie goeglein; Heather Buck; Blake Wilson; Harmon, Leah; Paula Baldwin  
**Subject:** Board Resignation

\*\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\*\*

---

Hi everyone,  
I'm excited to start the DM position and will email from my IASWCD address once I have it all squared away tomorrow.

In the meantime, please note I am resigning my position on the Marion County SWCD Board of Supervisors effective today (March 4th, 2018).

Thanks much!  
John



RECOMMENDATION FOR VACANT APPOINTMENT POSITION

**APPOINTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13**

**Sec. 13 (a) If a vacancy in the position of appointed supervisor occurs during a district's operating year:**

**(1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position,**

**(2) at the first board meeting held after the board received a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation, and**

**(3) the board shall notify the supervisor of the appointment made by the board.**

**(b) The individual appointed to fill a vacant appointed supervisor position under subsection (a) shall serve the unexpired term of the individual's predecessor.**

**("Board" as used in the state statue refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)**

Instructions for submitting this form:

**STOP! If you haven't read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit forms, please do so before proceeding.**

**If you opened another District's Recommendation for Vacant Positions form by mistake, click on the Close button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Then read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit new forms and update/save previously submitted forms.**

If you are submitting the **Recommendation for Vacant Appointment** form for the first time, click on the **Save As** button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. **Uncheck Overwrite Existing File.** Enter the **name of your county followed by the date** in the File Name box. For example Allen County would Enter **Allen03.12.12**. Click **Save**. Click **Close**.

If you previously submitted the **Recommendation for Vacant Appointment** form and re-opened the form to make some changes or additions, click on the **Save** button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Click **Close**.

**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**

The Supervisors of the Porter  
certify that:

Name Brad Hunter

Address 536 E. 1400 S.

City Kouts

State Indiana

Zip 46347

County Soil and Water Conservation District


This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of Seth Little

whose term began in (Month, Year)


March 2017

and was scheduled to expire in (Year) March 2020 . (If supervisor

has resigned, you **MUST** attach copy of resignation letter. See SharePoint Tutorial for instructions on attaching a file.)  Click here to attach a file

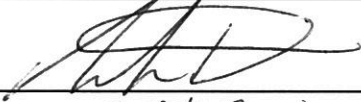
Death of \_\_\_\_\_ whose term began in (Month, Year) \_\_\_\_\_ and was scheduled to expire in (Year) \_\_\_\_\_

The District Supervisors failed to recommend a qualified individual to fill the position by November 1<sup>st</sup>. (Please attach a letter from the SWCD Board explaining their situation and steps they will take in the future to meet deadlines as stated in Indiana Code. See

SharePoint Tutorial for instructions on attaching a file.)  Click here to attach a file

**We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of Supervisor. We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.**

**DISTRICT SUPERVISORS SIGNATURES**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman (Nate Ruge)

3/21/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(typed)

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

**IC 14-32-4-1**

***(c) To hold the position of appointed supervisor, and individual:***

- (1) must be of voting age***
- (2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district, and***
- (3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.***

Name Brad Hunter

Phone Number 219-242-3115

Date of Birth 9/3/1982

Address 536 E. 1400 S.

City Kouts

State IN

Zip Code 46347

Education

College Degree

Occupation or Type of Business

Farmer

List Conservation and Other Leadership Experiences

Cover Crops

Wildlife Habitat Project-Indiana Bat

Hardwood TRee Planting

No-till

**Please check one of the following:**

**New Appointment**

**Reappointment**

**I currently hold a public service position/office**

**Yes**

**If yes, I have been informed about the "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide**

**Yes**

**No**

**No**

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

Date 3/21/18



Signature of Appointee

Please keep a copy of this on file at the SWCD office and notify your District Support Specialist.

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**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**



**Benson, Michelle - NRCS-CD, Valparaiso, IN**

---

**From:** Seth Little <sethjlittle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 28, 2018 4:20 PM  
**To:** Benson, Michelle - NRCS-CD, Valparaiso, IN  
**Subject:** Re: resignation from board

Yes I agree. I apologize to the board as well - I've been thinking that its very unlikely that I will ever make a meeting for quite a while, and I should have made a motion back in July when I started my new job.

Thank you all for your work. I will always be an advocate, and a practitioner, if I ever get to get back into farming. On a side note, I'm working on a water use efficiency for irrigated almonds in CA, and a waste water filtration project with my new job.

Thank you,  
Seth

On Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 2:30 PM, Benson, Michelle - NRCS-CD, Valparaiso, IN  
<[michelle.benson@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:michelle.benson@in.nacdnet.net)> wrote:

Hi Seth,

I'm sorry to leave a phone message and send an E-mail, but we need to address the situation. As I explained on the phone we would just need an E-mail noting that time constraints prohibit you from participating as a board member at this time. We would then be able to forward that E-mail to the State Soil Conservation Board so that we could move forward with installing a replacement.

Just so you know all of the board members were impressed with your knowledge. There's no doubt you have much to contribute in promoting conservation.

We all understand, though, that with work and family you have a full plate.

Thanks, Seth.

*Michelle Benson*

Porter County Soil & Water Conservation District

2602 Chicago St., Ste. 300 (new address)\*\*\*\*\*

## RECOMMENDATION FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Instructions for submitting this form:

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**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**

### ELECTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13

#### Sec. 13

**(a) If a vacancy in the position of elected supervisor occurs during the district's operating year:**

**(1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position;**

**(2) at the first board meeting held after the board receives a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation and appoint an individual to temporarily fill the vacancy; and**

**(3) the board shall notify the supervisors of the appointment made by the board.**

**(b) The individual appointed to temporarily fill a vacancy under subsection (a) shall serve until the district's next annual meeting.**

**(c) At the annual meeting immediately following the appointment of an individual to temporarily fill a vacant elected supervisor's position, the position shall be filled through the regular election procedures set forth in sections 6 through 9 of this chapter.**

**("Board" as used in the state statute refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)**

The Supervisors of the  County Soil and Water Conservation District certify that  (name) maintains a permanent residence within the district and is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that are imposed on supervisors by law.

Address

City, State and Zip

IN

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of  whose term began in (month, year)  and was scheduled to expire in (year)

**YOU MUST SUBMIT THE RESIGNATION LETTER TO YOUR DISTRICT SUPPORT SPECIALIST AS WELL AS KEEP A COPY IN YOUR DISTRICT RECORDS.**

Death of  whose term began in (month, year)  and was scheduled to expire in (year)

No election held

**We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of supervisor.**

**We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.**

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS (signatures)

Mark Darnold (typed)

Date 3/8/2018

Keep a signed copy of this form in the District office. Do not send to your DSS.

**IC 14-32-4-1**

**(b) To hold the position of elected supervisor, an individual:**

- (1) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is located within the district;**
- (2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district; and**
- (3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.**

NAME

Casie Auxier

PHONE NUMBER

812-599-1479

DATE OF BIRTH

10/28/1978

ADDRESS

6426 N Halls Ridge Road

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Madison, IN 47250

EDUCATION

Associate Degree in Paralegal from Ivy Tech State College.

OCCUPATION OR TYPE OF BUSINESS

Program Director of Historic Hoosier Hills R, C & D

LIST CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Farms with fiance, Chris Streamns in the Canaan, Indiana area. They practice no-till on their crops and use cover crops. They also run a beef cattle operation on their farm. She was the former district coordinator for Switzerland County SWCD and a former NRCS employee.

**LAND OWNERS OR OPERATORS ONLY**

If applicable, list some of the soil and water conservation practices you have installed or performed

No-till planting and cover crops.

**TEMPORARY APPOINTEE**

Have you previously served as an SWCD supervisor?

Yes

What was the date of last service?

What was the reason for termination of last service?

How many years did you serve as a supervisor? # Years #Months

No

**I currently hold a public service position/office**

Yes

I have been informed about "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide

Yes

No

No

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

APPOINTEE:

\_\_\_\_\_

Casie Auxier (typed)

3/8/2018 Date

**Keep a signed copy of this form in the District office. Do not send to your DSS.**

Instructions for submitting this form:

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To: Vicki Wehner

Subject: Resignation from SWCD Board

As of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, I am resigning from my position on the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District board. Conflicts with work and family are making it unjustifiable to hold a position on the board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chancey T. May". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a distinct 'T'.

Chancey T. May

## RECOMMENDATION FOR VACANT APPOINTMENT POSITION

### **APPOINTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13**

**Sec. 13 (a) If a vacancy in the position of appointed supervisor occurs during a district's operating year:**

**(1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position,**

**(2) at the first board meeting held after the board received a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation, and**

**(3) the board shall notify the supervisor of the appointment made by the board.**

**(b) The individual appointed to fill a vacant appointed supervisor position under subsection (a) shall serve the unexpired term of the individual's predecessor.**

**("Board" as used in the state statue refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)**

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The Supervisors of the  County Soil and Water Conservation District certify that:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip


This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of  whose term began in (Month, Year)  and was scheduled to expire in (Year) . (If supervisor has resigned, you **MUST** attach copy of resignation letter. See SharePoint Tutorial for

instructions on attaching a file.)

Death of [ ] whose term began in (Month, Year) [ ] and was scheduled to expire in (Year) [ ].

The District Supervisors failed to recommend a qualified individual to fill the position by November 1<sup>st</sup>. (Please attach a letter from the SWCD Board explaining their situation and steps they will take in the future to meet deadlines as stated in Indiana Code. See SharePoint Tutorial for instructions on attaching a file.)

 State Board letter regarding Appointment.pdf  
309.3 KB

**We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of Supervisor. We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.**

**DISTRICT SUPERVISORS SIGNATURES**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Date</b>
Brian Rahman [ ] (typed)	

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

**IC 14-32-4-1**

***(c) To hold the position of appointed supervisor, and individual:***

- (1) must be of voting age***
- (2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district, and***
- (3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.***

Name [ Alan Waninger ]  
Phone Number [ 812-719-4741 ]  
Date of Birth [ ]  
Address [ 13498 E County Road 1550 N ]  
City [ St. Meinrad ]  
State [ IN ] Zip Code [ 47577 ]

Education

Occupation or Type of Business

List Conservation and Other Leadership Experiences

**Please check one of the following:**

- New Appointment
- Reappointment

**I currently hold a public service position/office**

- Yes
  - If yes, I have been informed about the "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide**
  - Yes
  - No
- No

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

Date  

Signature of Appointee

Please keep a copy of this on file at the SWCD office and notify your District Support Specialist.

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vSpencer County  
Soil & Water Conservation District  
996 N State Road 66 Suite 102  
Rockport, IN 47635  
Phone: 812-649-9136 x3  
Fax: 1-855-391-1917  
www.spencerswcd.org

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### SWCD Board of Supervisors

#### Chairman

Brian Rahman

#### Vice Chair

Burke Sibrel

#### Secretary

Alan Waninger

#### Supervisors

Mark Lubbehusen

#### Associate

#### Supervisors

David Gogel

Tim Luecke

Phillip Schmidt

Zach Tischendorf

---

### SWCD Staff

#### District Administrator

Courtney Hall

#### District Technician

Dave King

---

### USDA/NRCS District

#### Conservationist

Randy Van Matre



[www.spencerswcd.org](http://www.spencerswcd.org)

To whom it may concern:

Courtney Hall (District Coordinator) errantly submitted Brian Rahman's name to SharePoint as the 2018 appointed person. The person who's turn for reappointment was Alan Waninger. The error was not noticed until the evening of January 22, 2018 at the annual meeting.

Thank you for your time,

Spencer County Soil and Water Conservation District



# State Soil Conservation Board



April 4, 2018  
 ISDA – DSC Director’s Report  
 Jordan Seger

## FY 18 Budget(s)

- Detailed budgets posted here: <http://www.in.gov/isda/2361.htm>

### Clean Water Indiana

	<b>Appropriation</b>
Appropriation	
Total Operating General Fund*	<b>\$1,000,000.00</b>
Total Operating Cigarette Tax Fund	<b>\$2,923,775.00</b>
FY17 Carryover	<b>\$31,224.82</b>
Total	<b>\$3,954,999.82</b>
3% reserve - on general fund only	<b>(\$30,000.00)</b>
Allotment	<b>\$3,924,999.82</b>

\*YTD Transfer from General Fund \$750,000

*Notes:*

*Appropriation is estimate based on cig tax revenue month by month*

*Reserve only being pulled from General Fund*

*As of 2/28/18 there is a \$7,325 (.1%) estimated balance at end of FY (6/30/18)*

### Division of Soil Conservation

	<b>Appropriation</b>
Appropriation	
Total Operating Cigarette Tax Fund	<b>\$1,378,144.00</b>
Total	<b>\$1,378,144.00</b>
3% reserve	<b>\$0.00</b>
Allotment	<b>\$1,378,144.00</b>

*Notes:*

*116k increase from FY17, Funds 2 Lake Erie employees*

*The entire DSC budget is utilized for staff salaries and general staff support like IT, Gas, Vehicle maintenance, Travel, etc*

*As of 2/28/18 there is a \$75,963 (5.5%) estimated balance at end of FY (6/30/18)*

### Fish Kill/Field Days Fund

Amount	Receiving Entity - Project	Cash Match Ratio	Total \$ Leveraged
30k	TNC/USGS – Streamflow gage in Wabash River @ New Harmony	1:8.5	255k
74k	2018 Clean Water IN Grants	At least 1:1	74k
19k	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	1:7 – 1:10	Low end = 133k
25k	IN Ag Nutrient Alliance (five year agreement – 5k/year)	1:4	100k
148k			562k

## **Other Investments**

- \$83k Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) investment from The Nature Conservancy, Nestle Purina, and the Lilly Endowment to plant trees and build wetlands on Ag lands. This investment will secure \$580k from the Feds/USDA. 90% of \$663k will go towards landowners with the remaining 10% going to Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

## **SSCB Appointments**

- Awaiting updates on reappointments/new appointments

## **State Legislation**

- Short Session = no big wins or losses for conservation
- Special Session starts May 15<sup>th</sup>

## **Federal Legislation**

- Omnibus clears away red tape for participants in conservation programs by exempting them from having to obtain SAM and DUNS numbers

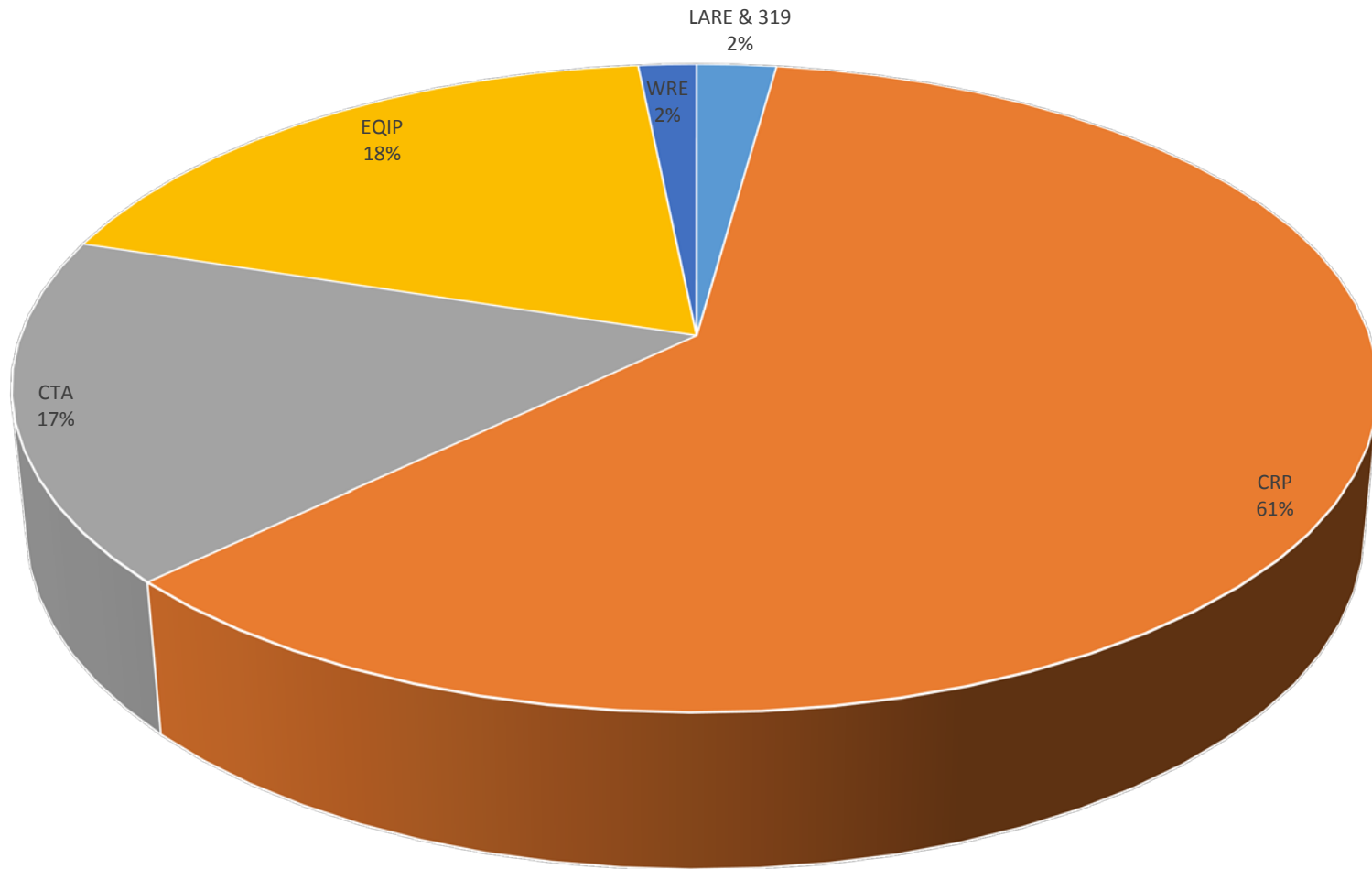
## **Other**

- IDEM – 2018 Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence
  - Nominations due May 7
  - “Land Use/Conservation” new category added this year
  - Nomination and application process: [idem.in.gov/GovAwards](http://idem.in.gov/GovAwards)
- ICP Cooperative Working Agreement
  - Between NRCS, FSA, SSCB, ISDA, PU, and each of the 92 SWCDs
  - Expire 12/31/18
  - NRCS, IASWCD, ISDA working with ICP Leaders to lay out renewal process
- ICP Webinar completed 3/13, recorded here: <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/b8ogt>
- IASWCD seeking Executive Director, resumes and cover letters are being accepted through April 6 (or until the position is filled), info to [executivedirectorsearch@iaswcd.org](mailto:executivedirectorsearch@iaswcd.org)

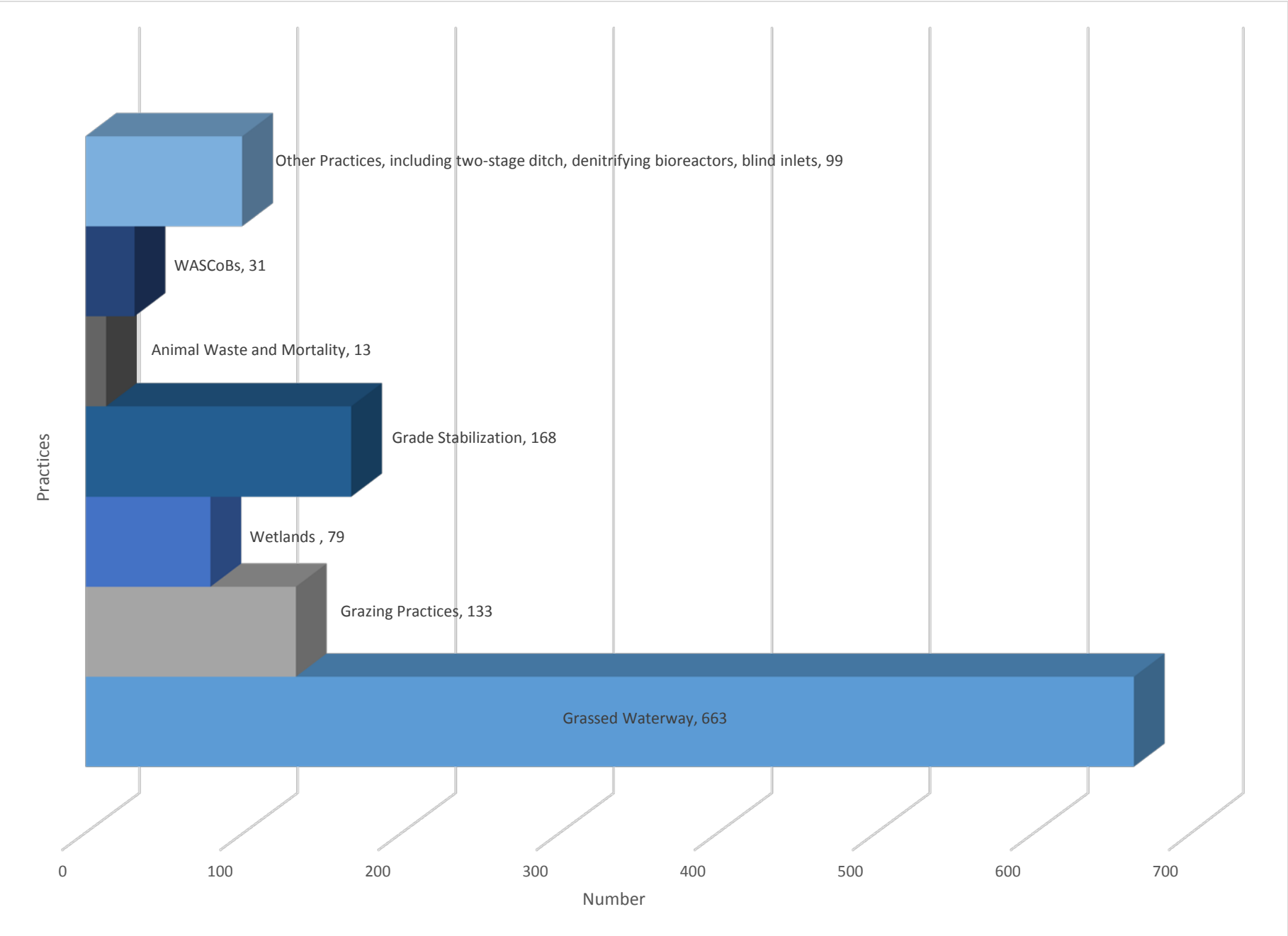
*An in depth look into water quality activities in each of IN’s 10 major river/lake basins:*  
<http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>



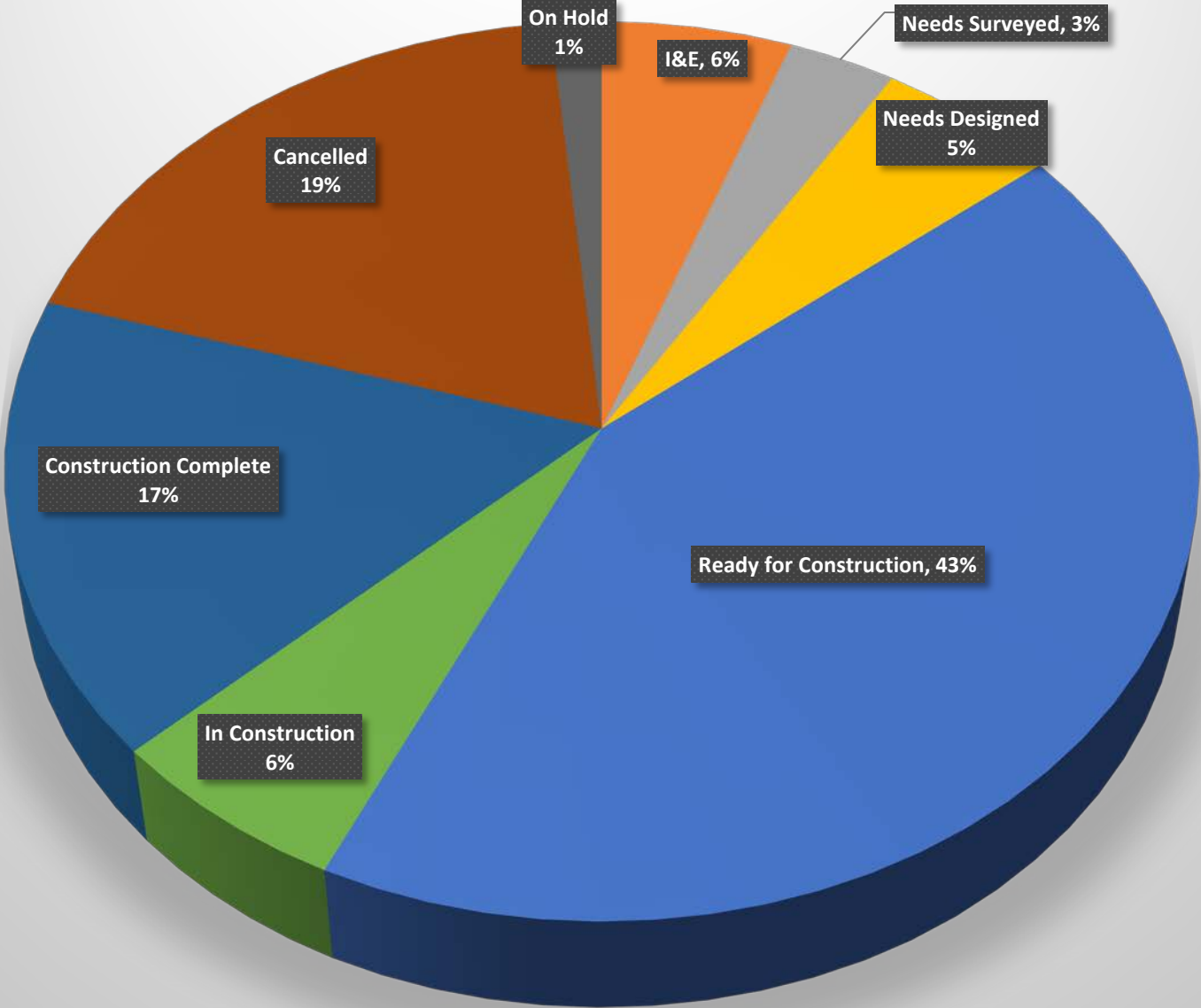
# Program Assistance in the Northwest



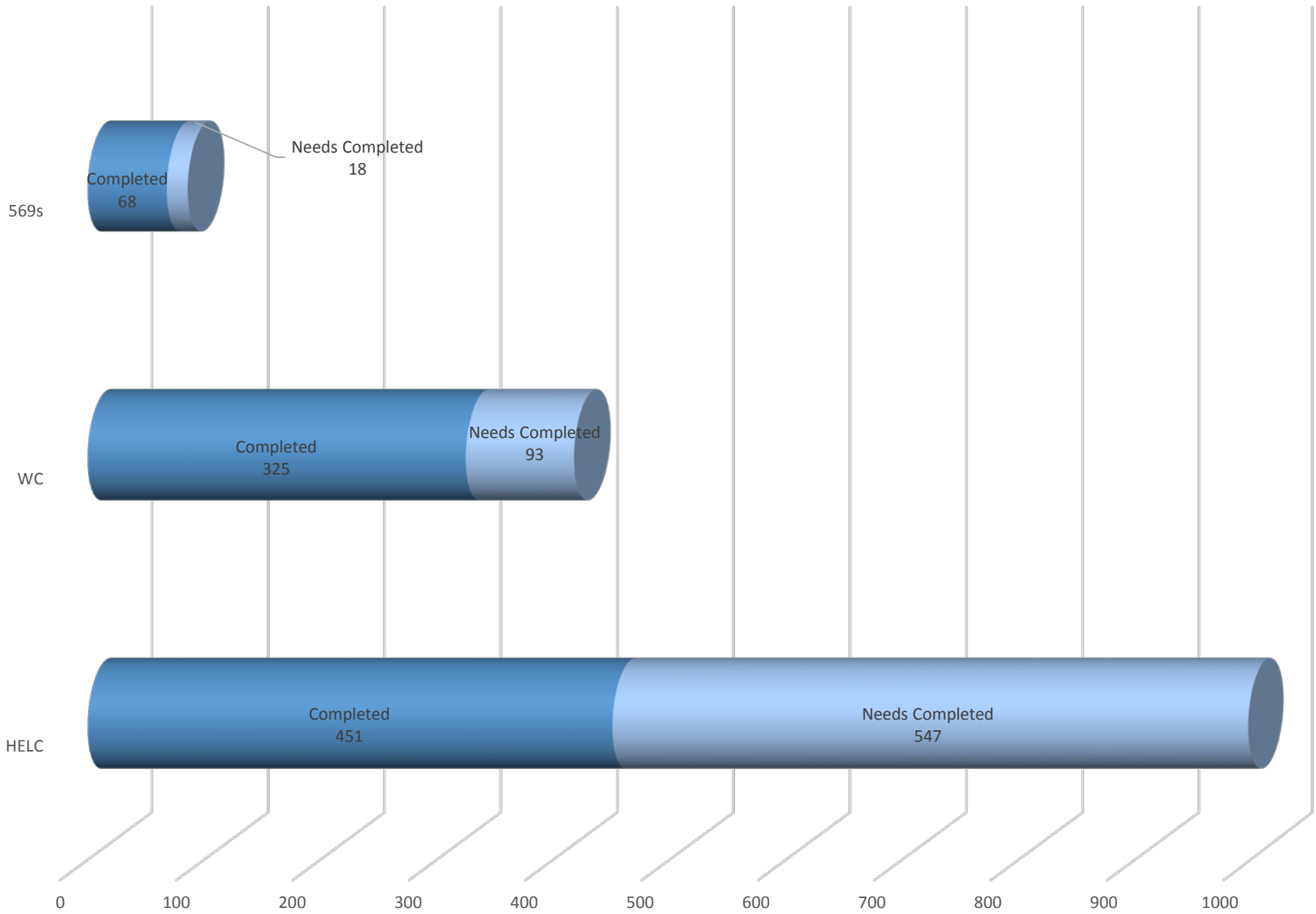
# Engineering Practices in the Northwest



# NORTHWEST PROJECT STATUS



# Northwest HEL and Wetland Compliance





# State Soil Conservation Board

April 4, 2018  
Director of Soil Health



## Program Updates

### ➤ INfield Advantage

- The 2017 Winter Grower Meetings concluded on March 14.
  - 11 groups held their meeting as part of one of the Regional Meetings. Approximately 180 people attended one of the Regional Meetings.
  - 24 groups held a traditional Winter Meeting. More than 225 people attended one of these meetings.
  - This year more time was devoted towards field discussion amongst farmer participants
  - Most meetings went the full three hours, with a few going over due to intensive field discussions
  - Visitors for the field discussion portion of the Regional Meetings and the entire traditional meetings included:
    - ISDA – Bruce Kettler, Melissa Rekeweg, Jordan Seger, Ben Gavelek and Regan Holtsclaw
    - NRCS – Tony Bailey, Stephanie McLain
    - Also Randy Pearson and Josh Pritsolas, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and Nate Taylor, Aeroptics
  - Meeting feedback gave the discussion its highest marks yet, 96% satisfaction.
- Dr. Shaun Casteel's (PU) work looking at the response of putting sulfur on soybeans is getting a lot of attention from INFA meeting participants. Numerous INFA participants are considering enrolling a soybean field into this new INFA offering in 2018
- Purdue Extension has recently purchased several UAVs/Drones for use by local, licensed Extension Agents and is looking to potentially partner with INFA to learn how UAVs can be best utilized by farmers in gathering valuable information from their own fields
- Soil Health Partnership (National Corn Growers Association and others: [soilhealthpartnership.org](http://soilhealthpartnership.org)) and INFA have a pilot project in 11 fields across Indiana.
  - The fields are in five counties. The locations coincide with other projects.
    - Benton – Big Pine Watershed (TNC and CTIC)
    - Vermillion/Parke – 2017 CWI grant
    - Howard/Tipton – Upper White River Watershed (Indiana Corn and Soy and Becks)
  - Fields are either a split field or paired field study focusing on different tillage, nutrient management and cover crops. More data would be collected (including soil samples) paid for by SHP with this data returned back to participants.

- Goal of the Pilot is to identify how SHP can reach more farmers while utilizing existing on the ground resources including existing programs, CCA's, and conservation groups.
- Media
  - Amie Sites, Brownfield Ag News, attended the morning of a Regional Meeting. Articles here: <https://brownfieldagnews.com/news/program-improves-soil-health-bottom-line/> and: <https://brownfieldagnews.com/news/indiana-farmers-learn-nitrogen-management-cover-crops/>
  - Tom Bechman, Indiana Prairie Farmer, attended the beginning of a Winter Grower Meeting held with Danny Greene Crop Consulting's clients. His article is here: [http://www.indianaprairiefarmer.com/soybean/infield-advantage-adds-soybean-sulfur-project?NL=FP-007&Issue=FP-007\\_20180213\\_FP-007\\_144&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article\\_2&utm\\_rid=CPG02000000721202&utm\\_campaign=24844&utm\\_medium=email&elq2=ed86c808cff84779af38748d36beb13c](http://www.indianaprairiefarmer.com/soybean/infield-advantage-adds-soybean-sulfur-project?NL=FP-007&Issue=FP-007_20180213_FP-007_144&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_2&utm_rid=CPG02000000721202&utm_campaign=24844&utm_medium=email&elq2=ed86c808cff84779af38748d36beb13c)

➤ **Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative**

- Morgan – Johnson “Discover the Cover” Field Day
  - Logistical assistance – very helpful for new SWCD staff to understand how to build a workshop.
  - Dave Brandt – 3<sup>rd</sup> of 3 events organized w/ CCSI
  - Had to cut off registration – very high demand
  - Tom Bechman, Indiana Farm Bureau facilitated panel – and wrote articles on cover crops, roots in tile from the event.
  - NRCS staff from SW Soil Health Team jumped in to help man a soil pit (unplanned extra)
- Events in general
  - 470 attendees
  - 14 events in 12 counties – Field level staff from at least 15 counties involved in development of the local events
- Research – Recommendations made to wind down current CCSI research project:
  - 2018 last year for field sampling
  - Analysis through Feb 2019
  - Data to be held in a public domain.

➤ **Red Gold Tomato Conservation Stewardship Award**

- The 2018 Conservation Stewardship Award applications were released on March 12. This is the 10 year anniversary of the award. Over half the applications have been returned. They are due on April 17.
- Joe Rorick, CCSI Agronomist, presented at the Red Gold Grower Meetings on March 22 and 26 at our request. He discussed residue management.



# Clean Water Indiana - 2018 Practices Installed

January 1, 2018 through March 29, 2018

## Clean Water Indiana 2018 Sediment and Nutrient Load Reductions

**Total Practices Installed: 218**

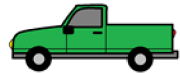
**Sediment Reduced: 55,564,000 lbs.**  
Which is enough to fill 1,188 standard 50' freight cars (maximum load).



x 277

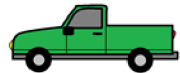
If placed end to end, the freight cars would stretch almost 3 miles.

**Phosphorous Reduced: 26,711 lbs.**  
Which is enough to fill 116 F150 pick-ups with an 8' bed (maximum load).



x 26

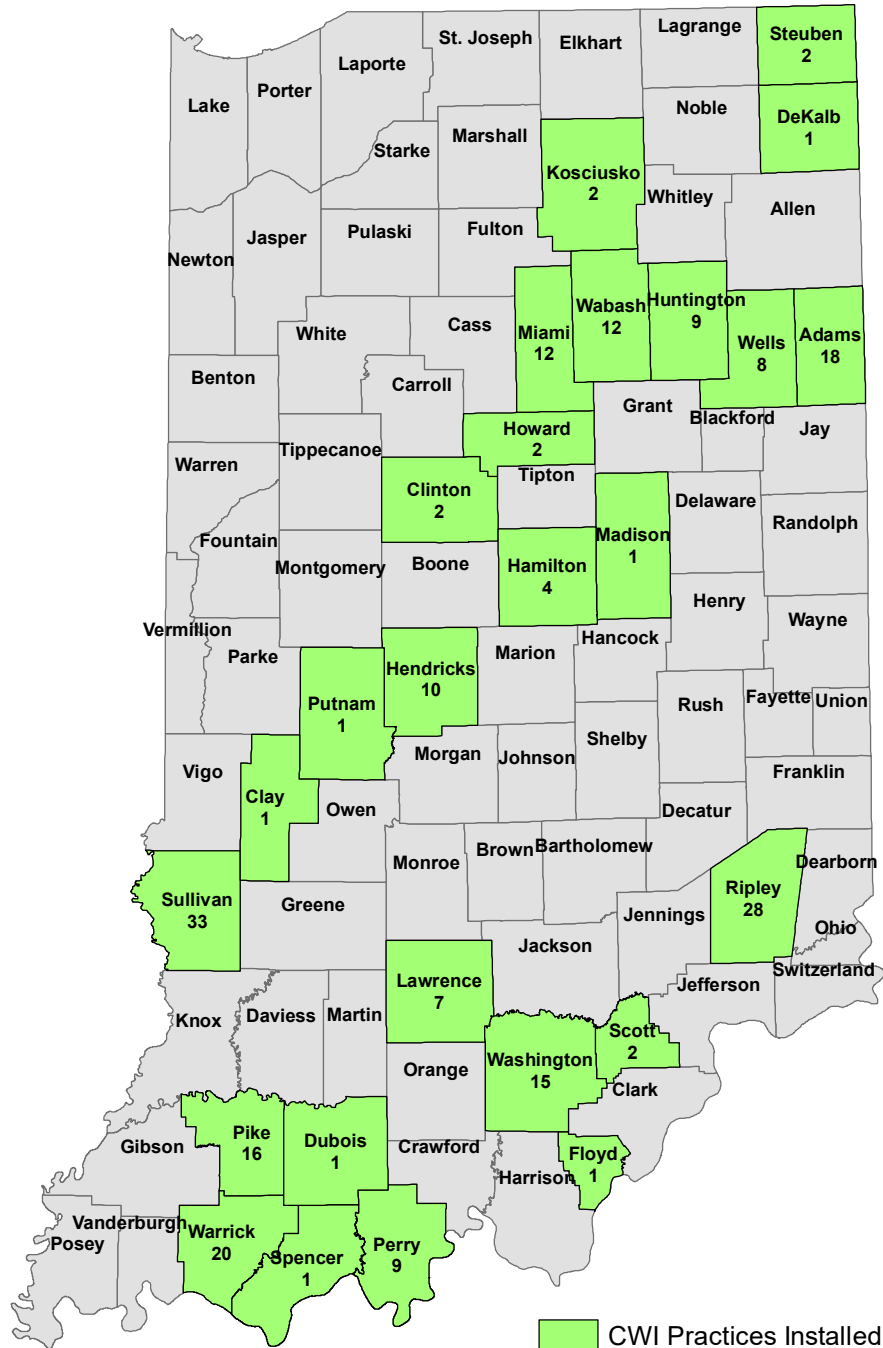
**Nitrogen Reduced: 53,691 lbs.**  
Which is enough to fill 233.75 F150 pick-ups with an 8' bed (maximum load).



x 53

\*Nutrient estimates only consider sediment bound N and P, not dissolved.  
\*Load reductions are based off the EPA's Region 5 Load Reduction Model.

Total practices installed include practices funded by 2015, 2016 and 2017 CWI grants.



CWI Practices Installed

Practice	Total Practices	Installed	Installed (Voluntarily)	Unit	Sediment (lbs)	Phosphorus (lbs)	Nitrogen (lbs)
Access Road	1	1,000.00	0.00	Feet	12,000	6	13
Conservation Cover	3	78.00	0.00	Acres	46,000	21	42
Cover Crop	152	6,982.00	8,068.92	Acres	52,094,000	25,314	50,892
Filter Strip	1	5,440.00	0.00	Feet	0	0	0
Forage and Biomass Planting	1	9.00	0.00	Acres	156,000	64	127
Grade Stabilization Structure	7	8.00	0.00	Number	0	0	0
Grassed Waterway	12	15.00	0.00	Acres	0	0	0
Gypsum	20	1,654.00	61.00	Acres	0	0	0
Heavy Use Area Protection	5	18,610.00	0.00	Square Feet	214,000	63	128
Nutrient Management	1	120.00	0.00	Acres	0	0	0
Pest Management	1	120.00	0.00	Acres	0	0	0
Pollinator Habitat	3	5.00	2.20	Acres	8,000	5	10
Residue and Tillage Management - No Till	6	138.00	132.98	Acres	3,034,000	1,238	2,479
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	1	35.00	0.01	Feet	0	0	0
Sub-surface Drainage	2	1,913.00	0.00	Feet	0	0	0
Tree and Shrub Establishment	1	0.25	0.25	Acres	0	0	0
Waste Facility Closure	1	1.00	0.00	Number	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218</b>				<b>55,564,000</b>	<b>26,711</b>	<b>53,691</b>

Highlighted data: Sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen reductions have not been calculated for these practices.



# State Soil Conservation Board

April 4, 2018

District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 12/23/17 to 3/23/18



## Board Development Leadership Institute:

- March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vevay: 18 participants attended the Board Development workshop in the southeast. Heather Strohm, Purdue Extension, led the training. It went really well (evaluations averaged 9 on a scale of 10) and attendees really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk with other SWCDs. Eight of these attendees (and one county) were new to the Leadership Institute program.
- March 9<sup>th</sup>, Albion: 23 participants attended the Board Development workshop in the northeast. Stacey McGinnis, Noble SWCD was key to this workshop's success. Ed Farris, Purdue Extension, led the training. It went well; there was the great discussion on how each of the districts handles board meetings to supervisor recruitment. Ten of these attendees were new to the Leadership Institute.
- Congratulations to these individuals who've now graduated from the Cornerstones of Leadership series!
  - Leah Harmon, ISDA, CWI Program Manager & DSS
  - Tracey Johnson, Knox County SWCD, Staff
  - Vicki Wehner, Jefferson County SWCD, Staff
  - Mary Lou Musselman, Miami County SWCD, Staff
  - Jon Roberts, Kosciusko County SWCD, Staff
- Finally, we'd like to recognize Nola Gentry (graduate 2010) for her commitment to the Leadership Institute Committee and program. Nola's positive attitude, support and energy helped make the program what it is today and she is missed.

**New Supervisor & Staff Trainings:** the eight sessions planned this spring focus on key responsibilities and resources that are available to further the SWCD mission. Partners as well as seasoned SWCD staff and supervisors are invited. To schedule a separate training for an individual or Board, please contact your DSS.

## Grant Management Workshops:

- May 22<sup>nd</sup>: North
- June 7<sup>th</sup>: South

DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period	Total
Assistance With SWCD Business Plans/Annual Plans of Work	5
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	31
Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, Input, etc.	30





# State Soil Conservation Board

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



## Program Updates

### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**

- ISDA was given by The Nature Conservancy through Nestle Purina, a total of \$300,000 for flood plain restoration over the next 5 years (with breakdown of \$25,000 in fiscal year 2017) and through the Lilly Foundation, \$25,000 in fiscal year 2017 for floodplain and/or wetland restoration. The first installment of this agreement was fully executed in February and \$29,136.00 has already been spent. The second installment of this agreement is in the signature process on the state end, which will give us the money earlier to begin using for the next fiscal year.
- Through the ISDA Budget, there will be an additional \$100,000 going towards CREP.
- With the SSCB appropriation, the support dollars from TNC, and the additional dollars from the ISDA budget, we are able to cover all the projects that are currently enrolled in CREP with dollars left over for signing up new practices.
- CREP Contract Amendments with the six SWCD CREP Administrating counties went out last month for signature and 5 of those amendments are fully executed. The last one should be done this month. These Amendments were to cover the SSCB appropriation and the first round of TNC support dollars.
- Attached to this report is a report on the current status of acres and dollars in CREP, including total completed acres and total enrolled acres since the beginning of the program, and total dollars paid out through the CREP program. To date, the state has paid out more than \$5 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$7-\$10 for every state dollar.

### **IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)**

- The Strategy can be found on the ISDA webpage at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>.
- Comments on the SNRS can be sent to [ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov](mailto:ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov).
- Work in 2018 will focus on an update to the SNRS document.
- Marylou Renshaw and I met with Ben Wicker of the IANA to discuss the SNRS and how we can all work together to support this strategy.
- To view the Basin Story maps, visit the ISDA webpage at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>.
- I did a presentation on the Basin Story Maps to the Northwest area and Southeast Area NRCS meetings, and also an update on CREP at the Northwest area meeting. I also did a presentation on the Basin Story Maps at the Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS) meeting at Pokagon.

### **Gulf Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)**

- ISDA is continuing to work with the LGU's SERA-46 group and members of the HTF Coordinating Committee on a Walton Family Foundation (WFF) project to look at the sharing and measuring of conservation data at a state level, and the framework for how we track nutrient load reductions throughout the Mississippi River Basin.

### **Western Lake Erie Basin**

- To view the Indiana WLEB Domestic Action Plan (DAP) and other information, visit the following webpage, <http://www.in.gov/isda/3432.htm>.
- To view the National Lake Erie DAP, visit <https://www.epa.gov/glwqa/us-action-plan-lake-erie>

SSCB Meeting - April 4th, 2018 - CREP Summary

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total		
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 3/28/2018	194.32	14.00	4,291.39	25.24	570.11	5,373.18	613.70	1,817.77	12,899.71	26,250.00	49.14%
Total CREP Enrollment	209.92	14.00	4,521.68	34.53	573.86	6,736.63	1007.47	2,522.28	15,620.37	26,250.00	59.51%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90		

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fee	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total CREP Dollars	\$ 19,432.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 429,139.00	\$ 10,342.00	\$ 241,473.00	\$ 2,256,397.00	\$ 546,505.00	\$ 1,196,751.50	\$ 4,701,439.50	\$ 328,681.45	\$ 5,030,120.95

Federal Match of \$7-\$10 is between \$ 32,910,076.50  
 \$ 47,014,395.00

SSCB Meeting - April 4th, 2018 - CREP Acres (broken down by watershed)

**Post-Expansion Acres**

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.10	103.50	0.00	0.00	106.60
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	515.34	0.00	0.00	515.34
Lower East Fork White	33.50	7.00	38.37	5.40	41.10	637.40	0.00	0.00	762.77
Lower White	10.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.86	1177.99	16.00	0.00	1263.55
Middle Wabash-Busseron	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.29	1195.21	109.95	0.00	1308.45
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	24.60	0.00	0.00	57.99	0.00	0.00	89.19
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	0.00	6.97	13.20	161.44	220.96	43.90	450.97
Tippecanoe River	93.84	0.00	177.57	0.00	3.41	21.40	73.30	705.74	1075.26
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	100.08	0.00	24.70	74.16	0.00	0.00	198.94
Upper Wabash	20.28	7.00	342.52	1.07	12.23	218.54	71.79	66.85	740.28
Upper White	20.80	0.00	63.75	0.00	269.52	152.31	0.00	61.28	567.66
<b>Reported Completed as of 3/28/2018</b>	<b>190.22</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>746.89</b>	<b>13.44</b>	<b>429.41</b>	<b>4,315.28</b>	<b>492.00</b>	<b>877.77</b>	<b>7,079.01</b>
<b>Enrolled as of 3/28/2018</b>	<b>205.82</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>977.18</b>	<b>22.73</b>	<b>433.16</b>	<b>5,678.73</b>	<b>885.77</b>	<b>1582.28</b>	<b>9,799.67</b>

**Pre-Expansion Acres**

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.50	0.00	215.00	10.80	16.40	109.20	0.00	0.00	353.90
Tippecanoe River	0.00	0.00	2916.80	0.00	7.80	20.40	121.70	924.00	3990.70
Upper White	1.60	0.00	412.70	1.00	116.50	928.30	0.00	16.00	1476.10
<b>Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,544.50</b>	<b>11.80</b>	<b>140.70</b>	<b>1,057.90</b>	<b>121.70</b>	<b>940.00</b>	<b>5,820.70</b>

	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total Extension Acres
Extension Acres -Tippecanoe			14.80	121.70		136.50
Extension Acres -Upper White		1.00	53.70	413.70	6.00	474.40
<b>Total Extension Acres</b>		<b>1.00</b>	<b>53.70</b>	<b>428.50</b>	<b>121.70</b>	<b>610.90</b>

SSCB Meeting - April 4th, 2018 - CREP Dollars (broken down by watershed)

**Post-Expansion Dollars**

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fees	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 41,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,640.00	\$ 4,264.00	\$ 46,904.00
Lower Wabash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 206,136.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 206,136.00	\$ 20,613.60	\$ 226,749.60
Lower East Fork White	\$ 3,350.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 3,837.00	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 16,440.00	\$ 254,960.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 281,447.00	\$ 28,144.70	\$ 309,591.70
Lower White	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,544.00	\$ 471,196.00	\$ 15,200.00	\$ -	\$ 511,010.00	\$ 51,101.00	\$ 562,111.00
Middle Wabash-Busseron	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,316.00	\$ 478,084.00	\$ 104,452.50	\$ -	\$ 583,852.50	\$ 58,385.25	\$ 642,237.75
Middle Wabash-Deer	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 2,460.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,196.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,316.00	\$ 2,631.60	\$ 28,947.60
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,788.00	\$ 5,280.00	\$ 64,576.00	\$ 209,912.00	\$ 41,705.00	\$ 324,711.00	\$ 32,471.10	\$ 357,182.10
Tippecanoe River	\$ 9,384.00	\$ -	\$ 17,757.00	\$ -	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 8,560.00	\$ 69,635.00	\$ 664,100.50	\$ 770,800.50	\$ 77,080.05	\$ 847,880.55
Upper East Fork White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,008.00	\$ -	\$ 9,880.00	\$ 29,664.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,552.00	\$ 4,955.20	\$ 54,507.20
Upper Wabash	\$ 2,028.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 34,252.00	\$ 428.00	\$ 4,892.00	\$ 87,416.00	\$ 68,200.50	\$ 55,230.00	\$ 253,146.50	\$ 25,314.65	\$ 278,461.15
Upper White	\$ 2,080.00	\$ -	\$ 6,375.00	\$ -	\$ 107,808.00	\$ 60,924.00	\$ -	\$ 58,216.00	\$ 235,403.00	\$ 23,540.30	\$ 258,943.30
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,980.00
<b>Reported Paid as of 3/28/2018</b>	<b>\$ 19,022.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 74,689.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,376.00</b>	<b>\$ 173,564.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,726,112.00</b>	<b>\$ 467,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 819,251.50</b>	<b>\$ 3,286,814.50</b>	<b>\$ 328,681.45</b>	<b>\$ 3,615,495.95</b>

**Pre-Expansion Dollars**

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 4,316.00	\$ 6,564.00	\$ 43,680.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,310.00
Tippecanoe River	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 291,680.00	\$ -	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 8,160.00	\$ 48,680.00	\$ 369,600.00	\$ 721,240.00
Tippecanoe River Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 30,425.00	\$ -	\$ 34,125.00
Upper White	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 41,270.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 46,600.00	\$ 371,320.00	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 466,150.00
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 11,625.00	\$ 103,425.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 116,800.00
<b>Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP</b>	<b>\$ 410.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 354,450.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,966.00</b>	<b>\$ 67,909.00</b>	<b>\$ 530,285.00</b>	<b>\$ 79,105.00</b>	<b>\$ 377,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,414,625.00</b>



**Indiana Association of  
Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts**

Protecting and enhancing Indiana's soil  
and water resources for all Hoosiers



**IASWCD**

225 S. East Street  
Suite 740  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317.692.7325  
Fax: 317.423.0756  
Web: [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org)

**PRESIDENT:**

Jamie Scott  
Kosciusko County

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Roger Wenning  
Decatur County

**TREASURER:**

Jeff Baker  
Warrick County

**SECRETARY:**

Kerry Ames  
Putnam County

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Jennifer Boyle Warner  
[Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org](mailto:Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org)

**To:** State Soil Conservation Board  
**From:** Jamie Scott, President, IASWCD  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018

**Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)**

- Proposal with NRCS for a Cooperative Agreement for 2 field positions is moving along.

**Pathway to Water Quality**

- Sara Peel will continue to coordinate PWQ for 2018 thanks to extension of IDEM 319 grant and match funds from CWI.

**Legislative Issues**

- Jamie Scott, Roger Wenning, Sarah Delbecq, Gene Schmidt, and Jill Reinhart visited with all 11 congressional offices in Washington, DC in March to discuss the Farm Bill programs, Conservation Technical Assistance and support the 319 grant program.
- Short session – Cress Hizer was able to help with language that kept the SWCDs seat as part of the St. Joe River Basin Commission.

**Other**

- River Friendly Farmer applications are available on the [iaswcd.org](http://iaswcd.org) website.
- The SWCD Funding Task Force is meeting again and narrowing down funding ideas to pursue.
- ISDA, IDEA and IASWCD working together to plan fall region meetings.
- ICP webinar was given on March 13.
- 2019 SWCD Conference Planning committee meeting is Monday, April 23 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the IN Farm Bureau building.
- 4 Districts are participating in the sub-license option for the Clear Choice Clean Water Campaign.
- IASWCD still taking applications for Executive Director Position – go to [iaswcd.org](http://iaswcd.org) for more information.

# NRCS State Conservationist's Report

April 2017

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## FARM BILL

### **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Easement Application Due Date Change**

ACEP applications for the FY-2019 funding period will now be due August 17, 2018. This earlier date will allow the field staff more time to complete ranking and application follow up information. Please get the word out to potential applicants and partners.

## UPDATING DUNS/SAM NUMBERS

The newly signed Omnibus bill exempts those participating in NRCS conservation programs from having to comply with 2 CFR Parts 25 and 170. In particular, producers and landowners will no longer need a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Number System (DUNS) number or be actively registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) in order to participate in NRCS conservation programs or receive payments.

Initial guidance, including financial- and easement-assistance, program-specific exemption statuses, ProTracts and other systems updates, should be available as early as the first week of April. Revisions to policies, letters, websites, and other systems will take some time, but updates will be provided as we move forward with these changes.

## COOPERATIVE WORKING AGREEMENTS

The current partnership Cooperative Working Agreements expires on December 31, 2018. The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) Leaders are currently developing the new agreements. It is their goal that SWCDs will receive the new agreements for their review in June with a return date of early September. Instructions on answering questions and where to return the SWCD signed agreements will be coming soon.

## AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST NON-OPERATING LANDOWNER SURVEY

The ICP and many of our partners are interested in ramping up our efforts to work with non-operating landowners. There are currently many discussions and activities going on here in the Indiana. We know that if we want to see increased conservation on rented lands we must be reaching out to the landowners as well as the farmers. To accomplish this, we need more information about the non-operators who lease out their farmland.

American Farmland Trust started their non-operator landowner survey in the 10 highest farmland rental states the first week of March in Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. The purpose of the survey is to better understand land management goals and conservation practices from the perspective of the non-operating landowner. Non-operating landowners will receive a postcard first announcing the survey, followed by the survey.

The survey results will help both AFT and the ICP in our efforts to reach this important audience. For more information contact Jennifer Filipiak, Midwest Director at [jfilipiak@farmland.org](mailto:jfilipiak@farmland.org) or (515)868-1331.

## WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE – BLANDING'S TURTLE





With more than two-thirds of the continental United States under private ownership, wildlife depends heavily on working lands for habitat and food. Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) is a targeted, science-based effort to help producers restore and protect habitat for declining species on farms and forestlands. Projects focus on species that have needs compatible with agricultural practices and rural land management that can benefit from conservation on private lands. Five new projects have recently been added to WLFW. In Indiana our efforts will be focused on the Blanding's turtle.

Farmers and forestland owners in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan can help reverse the decline of the Blanding's turtle by increasing available high-quality habitat to support their recovery through land protection, as well as restoration and enhancement of habitat. NRCS and conservation partnership staff will help producers with a conservation plan that benefits both the species and the agricultural operation. Examples of practices include conservation covers, riparian forested buffers, wetland creation and restoration, and management of invasive plants. Financial assistance is available to cover part of the cost of conservation practices.

We have requested more information regarding targeted watersheds and eligible counties. In the meantime, here is the initial county list: Allen, Benton, DeKalb, Delaware, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Lagrange, Lake, Marion, Marshall, Miami, Newton, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke, Steuben, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Wabash, Wayne, White, and Whitley.

#### **STILL TIME TO BE COUNTED IN THE 2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**

Indiana farmers still have time to be counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Although the first deadline has just passed, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will continue to accept Census information through the spring to get a more complete and accurate picture of American agriculture that represents all farmers. Census data is used to make important decisions about farming and rural communities, such as farm policy, disaster relief, insurance or loan programs, infrastructure improvements, or agribusiness setup.

Federal law mandates that everyone who received the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete it and return it even if not currently farming. The Census can be completed online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) or returned by mail. For more information about the 2017 Census, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). For questions or assistance filling out the Census, call toll-free (888) 424-7828.

# Indiana NRCS 2017 Annual Report

THE USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)  
PROVIDES INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS TO RESTORE,  
ENHANCE AND PROTECT INDIANA'S LANDS.

NRCS is an agency that does work no one else is doing. Each day we work with our conservation partners and private landowners in Indiana to improve the health of our communities by protecting and improving our soil, water, forestry, energy, and wildlife resources. We are doing this in ways where farmers do not have to sacrifice production for conservation, or profitability for sustainability.

Our voluntary Farm Bill programs provide technical and financial assistance to help our customers address natural resource concerns such as soil erosion, water quality, wildlife habitat, and much more. We work with farmers and landowners whether they have one acre or thousands to develop conservation plans and provide advice that helps them manage natural resource concerns on their land.

I am pleased to provide this report of Indiana NRCS investments and successes in fiscal year 2017.

- Jill Reinhart, Acting State Conservationist

## Indiana NRCS FY17 Investments on Private Agricultural Lands



**Environmental Quality Incentives Program**  
Contracts .... 1,240  
Acres ..... 172,272  
Dollars ..... \$21,741,789



**Conservation Stewardship Program**  
Contracts .... 261  
Acres ..... 90,944  
Dollars ..... \$1,496,831



**Regional Conservation Partnership Program**  
Contracts .... 46  
Acres ..... 10,108  
Dollars ..... \$1,069,490



**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**  
*Wetland Reserve Easements*  
Contracts .... 46  
Acres ..... 2,960  
Dollars ..... \$11,100,000



**Voluntary Conservation Works**  
[www.in.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov)



## National Program Initiatives



**On-Farm Energy Initiative**  
 Contracts .... 5  
 Acres ..... 55  
 Dollars ..... \$20,719



**Organic Initiative**  
 Contracts .... 14  
 Acres ..... 653  
 Dollars ..... \$139,524



**Specialty Crop Initiative**  
 Contracts .... 60  
 Acres ..... 281  
 Dollars ..... \$541,393

## Special Audiences



**Beginning Farmers**  
 Contracts .... 82  
 Acres ..... 6,639  
 Dollars ..... \$1,307,469



**Limited Resource Farmers**  
 Contracts .... 8  
 Acres ..... 476  
 Dollars ..... \$44,871



**Socially Disadvantaged Farmers**  
 Contracts .... 2  
 Acres ..... 83  
 Dollars ..... \$24,282

## Earth Team Volunteers

NRCS is proud of the dedicated Earth Team volunteers and staff who have committed their time and talents to conserving and protecting our natural resources.



Earth Team Volunteers perform tillage transect in southern Indiana.

During Fiscal Year 2017, more than 1,500 Indiana Earth Team volunteers donated 11,060 hours. Time dedicated by these volunteers to educational efforts, conservation planning and clerical services saved NRCS approximate \$267,000 and supported conservation in every single field office in Indiana.

## TOP FIVE MOST CONTRACTED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

1. Cover Crops
2. Brush Management
3. Forest Stand Improvement
4. Water and Sediment Control Basins
5. Waste Storage Facility

## TOP FIVE NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS IN INDIANA

1. Excess Sediment and Nutrients
2. Invasive Plants
3. Wildlife Habitat
4. Energy Efficiency
5. Livestock Management

17% of Indiana is Public Land

83% of Indiana is Private Land

14.7

Millions of acres in Farms

57,700

Number of Farms in Indiana

255

Average size of Indiana Farm

2nd  
in U.S. for tomatoes

3rd  
in U.S. for chicken and eggs produced

4th  
in U.S. for peppermint, turkeys, cantaloupe, spearmint, snap beans





## WORKSHOP LEADS TO HEALTHIER PASTURES

When Scott Hiler attended his first pasture management workshop, he didn't anticipate one day he would be hosting one on his own farm, but that is exactly what he was doing five years later.

The Hiler farm has been in the family for nearly 65 years. Scott took over the cattle farm from his grandparents almost 20 years ago. Prior to attending the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS workshop in August 2012 Scott was grazing 8-10 cows on around 22 acres of land.

During the program, he listened as Robert Zupancic, NRCS Grazing Specialist spoke on several soil health and grazing management topics. 2012 was a tough year for most Indiana farmers - one of the worst droughts in history and many farmers were thinning or selling herds. Afterwards, Scott talked with Zupancic and they scheduled a farm visit to discuss ideas to improve his pastures and livestock. Problems that concerned Scott included soil erosion, almost no water infiltration and weeds. Scott credits the workshop and his visit with the Zupancic as the motivation he needed to make some changes in his operation.

Scott now manages his grazing acres in a way that allows him to have a total of about 50 head of cattle on 35 acres. That's a lot of cows and a lot of manure, so to do it successfully, he moves them every two days among 13 paddocks, on a 26-day rotation. When he started this management technique, he carefully

watched the grazing heights in each paddock and made adjustments as needed.

With a rotational grazing system, Scott is now able to graze exclusively from mid-April through mid-September and then



*Scott Hiler's pastures are much healthier and productive since he began his rotational grazing system.*

he utilizes a fall sacrifice lot to allow time for pastures to recover before grazing again before moving cattle off to another sacrifice lot for the winter. In the sacrifice lots, he uses a conservation practice called heavy-use areas which are built with geotextile fabric and stone overspread with lime that stabilize the soil and prevents a muddy feedlot.

When asked about the benefits he has seen with this type of management, Scott says "The cows don't want to go out of the lot because they always have something to eat. I like knowing what is growing in

the pasture and because the cows see us often, they are easier to work with and move."

Scott had his soil tested recently (another recommended soil health management practice for pasture land) and he says the test results are proof the system is working. Organic matter ranged from 3.5 to 4.5 percent, pH levels were just under 7 percent and nutrient values were generally in a medium to high range. That means little additional nutrients are recommended for application to this fields. Nutrients are naturally added as part of the rotational system, and the sacrifice lots are scraped after feeding for manure application onto cropped fields. This allows Scott to reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer on his land.

Scott continues to work with the NRCS's grazing specialist and district conservationist staff to make adjustments to his operations. He wants to help others who raise livestock in the area so he is serving on a watershed steering planning committee to encourage farmers to install conservation practices that will protect the environment and improve their bottom line.

Scott has advice for farmers who want to start a rotational grazing system. "First, talk with your local NRCS field staff, especially the grazing specialist. Second, don't overgraze - the further you take the forage to the ground, the longer it's going to take to grow back. And most importantly, don't give up - be willing to make changes. It's paid off for me!"



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## Highlights

- Morgan – Johnson “Discover the Cover” Field Day
  - Logistical assistance – very helpful for new SWCD staff to understand how to build a workshop.
  - Dave Brandt – 3<sup>rd</sup> of 3 events organized w/ CCSI
  - Had to cut off registration – very high demand
  - Tom Bechman, Indiana Farm Bureau facilitated panel – and wrote articles on cover crops, roots in tile from the event.
  - NRCS staff from SW Soil Health Team jumped in to help man a soil pit (unplanned extra)
- Events in general
  - 470 attendees
  - 14 events in 12 counties – Field level staff from at least 15 counties involved in development of the local events
- Research – Recommendations made to wind down current CCSI research project:
  - 2018 last year for field sampling
  - Analysis through Feb 2019
  - Data to be held in a public domain.

## G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

### 1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting set (02/26). Invitations issued
- National No-Till Conference – (D, PM, A)
- First draft – list of “Soil Health Pro-Team” – List of farmers, current advocacy program affiliations (NWF Cover Crop Champ, NACD Soil Health Champ, etc)

### 2. Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

- IASWCD Annual Conference roundtable (listening session). Key take-aways:
  - Need to teach basic soils / how soils work
  - Target outreach to female farming partners – often responsible for bookkeeping, key part of financial decisions
  - Target outreach to non-operating landowners (NOLOs)
  - Tillage transect may not be most accurate/best measurement of success, nor may it be the best tool for targeting geographic regions
  - Look at working w/ FSA to note tillage and/or cover crop intentions when farmers are certifying acreage.
  - Make economic resources like Rulon Case Study readily available to “show other farmers”
- Use of INFA meetings as listening sessions for issues, concerns, etc

### 3. Farmer Influencers

- NOLO focus group, led by TNC and partnering with CCSI, SHP, IANA, W4tL set for March



- 1/25 – ACI Conference, Indianapolis. Presentation on why soil health should be a priority (D) (20 att)

### **Upcoming / Work in Progress**

- NOLO outreach / communications package development with NRCS, ISDA, oth3er partners

## **G2. Local Level Partnership Support**

### **1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership’s efforts to deliver soil health messaging**

- 1/7 – SSCB Meeting – 2017 Annual Accomplishments (A, D, PM)
- 1/8 -9 – IASWCD Annual Conference
  - i. CCSI round table. See G1P2 for take-aways (D, A, PM (15)
  - ii. NE Region Meeting. Visit w/ staff/supervisors on CCSI options for partnerships with districts (PM) (40)
  - iii. Visit w/ Pulaski SWCD Supervisors re assistance w/ LARE grant promotion and recognition of project (PM)
  - iv. Visit w/ Benton SWCD staff and partners re needs for a spring soil health day. (PM)
- Local Workshops
  - i. 1/4 – INFA W Central Regional Meeting, Covington - D, PM, A part of breakout sessions (50)
  - ii. 1/17 – INFA SW Region Meeting, Ft Branch - - D, PM, A part of breakout sessions (40)
  - iii. 1/23 – INFA, Noblesville (A) (15)
  - iv. 1/23 – INFA, Franklin (A) (15)
  - v. 1/24 – INFA, Greenscastle (PM)
  - vi. 1/25 – INFA, Lebanon (A)(20)
  - vii. 1/25 – INFA Crawfordsville (A)(15)
  - viii. 1/26 – INFA Jasonville (D)(20)
  - ix. 1/30 – Southern Region Soil Health Workshop, Salem
    1. Secured Dave Brandt as speaker
    2. Vole presentation by Agronomist
    3. 150 attendees
  - x. 1/30 – Putnam County Roundtable
    1. Secured guest – Dave Brandt
    2. Assisted w/ logistics (PM)
    3. 20 attendees
  - xi. 1/31 – Morgan-Johnson Soil Health Workshop
    1. Secured Dave Brandt as Speaker
    2. Provided logistical support (PM)
    3. 50 attendees
  - xii. 1/31 – INFA, Reynolds (A) (15)
  - xiii. 1/31 – INFA, Winamac (A) (20)
  - xiv. Tipton County Beginning Farmers series – Arrange Cameron Mills as speaker (20)

### **2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging**

- 1/25 – ACI Conference, Indianapolis. Presentation on why soil health should be a priority (D) (20 att)

### **3. Professional Development Opportunities**

- Presentation and Media Skills trainings set for May 24 and 25
- Began compilation of all training attendees since 2013

### **4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships**

- 1/16 – Soil Health Star WebEx featuring Stephanie McLain, IN NRCS State Soil Health Specialist (A, PM) (20)

## **G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication**

### **1. Marketing Campaign / Strategies**

- Directive from CCSI Oversight Committee to develop outreach / communications package targeting NOLOs

### **2. Soil Health Messaging**

## **G4. Research**

### **1. Current Obligations**

- 1/2 - 1/23 CCSI Research roles discussed by Eileen Kladviko, Barry Fisher, Stacy Zuber, Joe Rorick and Lisa Holscher.
- Recommendations submitted to CCSI Oversight Committee – Rec 2018 as final year for sampling on current CCSI sites and treatments; Analysis through Feb 2019

### **2. Action Plan**

### **3. Vetting System**

### **4. Other**

- Work w/ Shalamar Armstrong re no-till planting / contracting w/ farmer to put out no-till plots (A)

## **G5. Funding**

### **1. Budget Development**

### **2. Capital Structure Plan**

### **3. Funding Model**

## **General Organization**

- Oversight Committee Members set for 2018:
  - Jordan Seger, ISDA, Director, Division of Soil Conservation
  - Meg Leader, ISDA, Director of Soil Health, Division of Soil Conservation
  - Eileen Kladviko, Purdue University, Professor of Agronomy
  - Walt Sell, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Asst Program Leader for Soil Health
  - Shannon Zezula, USDA-NRCS, Indiana State Resource Conservationist
  - Jill Reinhart, USDA-NRCS, Indiana State Conservationist (Acting)
  - Jamie Scott, IASWCD, President, Board of Directors
  - Les Zimmerman, IASWCD, Associate Supervisor, Vermillion County SWCD
  - Bob Eddleman, SSCB, Member
  - Robert Woodling, SSCB, Chairman
  - Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD Executive Director (non-voting)
  - Lisa Holscher, CCSI Director (non-voting)





# General Report February 2018

## Highlights

- Non-Operating Landowner (NOLO) Soil Health Outreach Strategy
  - Strategy and package outlined, first cost estimate
  - Partners: CCSI, TNC, W4tL, USDA-NRCS, ISDA, Extension
  - Two-pronged approach:
    - Printed and electronic resources for use by Local Level Partnerships in their outreach efforts
    - Building on a prior USDA-NRCS I-state program. Target 2-3 watershed for direct outreach to Non-operating landowners.
- Events in general
  - 321 attendees
  - 13 – Field level staff from at least 15 counties involved in development of the local events
- Technical Advisory Committee and Annual Meeting – 2/26 (see attached recommendations and annual meeting notes)

## G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

### 1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

- Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (02/26) – See Annual Meeting Notes for Recommendations
- Iowa Soybean Alliance Farmer Research Conference (2/5-2/8) – listening sessions (PM, A)
- Newton County Dicamba and Soil Health Workshop (2/28) – farmer panel on Cover Cropping Woes / listening session (A)

### 2. Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

- From Technical Advisory Committee – Consider developing small “support groups”.
  - Focus on *listening* to build trust.
  - Identify and celebrate victories; Capitalize on what they do well.
  - Message, Messaging, and Messenger will all be important
- TNC-Coke cover crop grant. Cameron Mills providing technical support for growers receiving cover crop cost share.
- Use of INFA meetings as listening sessions for issues, concerns, etc (D, PM, A)
- United Soybean Board – High-oleic Soybean Sustainability Program – review 2017, opportunities for 2018 enrollment with partners (D, PM)

### 3. Farmer Influencers

- From Technical Advisory Committee: Non-operating landowners (NOLOs), Youth (high school and 18-28 year-olds), and Ag Retailers/Lenders should be priorities.
- Ag Retailer Outreach with Indiana Ag Nutrient Alliance (IANA)
  - 2018 Expansion of Retailer Roundtables outlined
  - Adaptation of CCSI-SARE Soil Health Curricula to Ag Retailer Audience drafted.
- Non-Operating Landowner (NOLO) Soil Health Outreach Strategy

- Strategy and package outlined, first cost estimate
- Partners: CCSI, TNC, W4tL, USDA-NRCS, ISDA, Extension
- Two-pronged approach:
  1. Printed and electronic resources for use by Local Level Partnerships in their outreach efforts
  2. Building on a prior USDA-NRCS I-state program. Target 2-3 watershed for direct outreach to Non-operating landowners.

### **Upcoming / Work in Progress**

- Draft EPA Environmental Education grant to support outreach to NOLOs
- SARE Professional Development Program grant proposal with IANA

## **G2. Local Level Partnership Support**

### **1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership’s efforts to deliver soil health messaging**

- Local Visits (Target of 2-3 visits / month reached)
  - i. 2/20 – Delaware SWCD new and existing employees visit (PM)
  - ii. 2/28 – Warren and Benton SWCD and Extension visit (PM)
  - iii. 2/28 – Tippecanoe SWCD Annual Meeting “meet and greet” (A)
- Local Workshops
  - i. 2/1 – INFA, Camden (PM), 12 att
  - ii. 2/1 – INFA, Tipton (PM), 30 att
  - iii. 2/13 – INFA, Jasper (D), 15 est.
  - iv. 2/13 – INFA, Chrisney (D), 20 est.
  - v. 2/15 – Starke/St. Joseph/Marshall County Clean Water Indiana Soil Health Event (PM), 80 att
    1. Assist with speakers (Barry Fisher, Shalamar Armstron)
    2. Assist with day of event logistics/support/guidance to county organizers
  - vi. 2/20 – INFA, Muncie (PM), 18 att
  - vii. 2/20 – INFA, Portland (PM), 10 att
  - viii. 2/21 – INFA, Urbana (A), 19 att
  - ix. 2/21 – INFA, Bluffton (A), 10 att
  - x. 2/22 – INFA, Rochester (PM), 15 att
  - xi. 2/22 – INFA, Warsaw (PM), 11 att
  - xii. 2/23 – INFA, Frankfort (A), 15 att
  - xiii. 2/28 – Newton County Dicamba/Soil Health Workshop (A), 60 att
    1. Soil Health Presentation (A)
  - xiv. 2/28 – Benton Co / Big Pine Watershed Soil Health Event Planning Meeting (PM)

### **2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging**

- April Core Cover Crops and Core Soil Health Systems
  - i. Trainings locations set, speakers being finalized
  - ii. 2/20 Email campaign to NRCS, SWCD staff, SWCD Supervisors, ISDA staff, ANR Extension Educators, IDEM watershed managers. Leadership emails included NRCS state office, IASWCD board members, ISDA and IDEM division heads

### **3. Professional Development Opportunities**

- 2/2 – Hoosier Chapter SWCS Event Planning meeting (PM)

- 2/19 - Training/Research Teleconference (Fisher, Kladviko, McClain, Rorick, Sell, Holscher)
  - i. Skills assessments questions (deployed 2013/14 by NRCS) to be reviewed and updated by Fisher, Zezula, Rorick, McClain. Question phrasing to be reviewed / adjusted by Sell. Upload/platform for deployment managed by CCSI.
  - ii. Advanced Soil Health Systems training to be moved to week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rafiq Islam, OSU to provide training on new soil health tool.

#### **4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships**

- Monthly Webex topics and potential speakers outlined based upon interagency soil health communications plan.
- CCSI Soil Health Newsletter draft template complete (monthly, focusing on successes)

### **G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication**

#### **1. Marketing Campaign / Strategies**

- 2/1 – Soil Health Communications Plan draft to interagency team, roles to be filled in for each deliverable
- 2/1 NOLO Outreach strategy developed by interagency team (See Goal 1.3, above)

#### **2. Soil Health Messaging**

- 2/20 Writing Meeting for Fact Sheets and Other Publications
  - i. CCSI (A), NRCS, and Extension collaborating
  - ii. First focus will be on soil health crib notes from either landowner or farmers perspective. Target May / June completion
- Soil Health Events Newsletters
  - i. 2/7 – 1073 recipients, 23.9% open rate (20% industry average), 6% click rate (2.3% industry average)
  - ii. 2/21 – 1073 recipients, 23.1% open rate, 8.7% click rate

### **G4. Research**

#### **1. Current Obligations**

- 2/22 – Field sampling meeting. Decision on parameters for each site (A, Kladviko)

#### **2. Action Plan**

#### **3. Vetting System**

#### **4. Other**

- Vole research email through CCSI list; Set up on-line form for researchers use (D)

### **G5. Funding**

**1. Budget Development** – 2018-19 Budget in place, expenditures left for CTA agreement to be reviewed by Oversight Committee

#### **2. Capital Structure Plan**

#### **3. Funding Model –**

- 2018-19 Funding Models in place
- 2/9 – Meeting w/ IANA, Indiana Poultry, Director to discuss strategy for outreach to integrators, potential funding mechanisms.
- Draft EPA Environmental Education grant to support outreach to NOLOs
- SARE Professional Development Program grant proposal with IANA

## General Organization

- Professional Development
  - 2/5-2/8 – Iowa Soybean Alliance Farmer Research Conference (A, PM). Attendance funded by ICMC and ISA
  - CCA 4R NMS Specialty Exam (A)
- 2/9 – IASWCD Board Meeting (D)
- 2/14 – Agronomy Extension Group Meeting (A)

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative  
Annual Meeting  
Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Hamilton County 4H Fairgrounds

**Present:**

Stephanie McLain, USDA-NRCS, Indiana State Soil Health Specialist  
Walt Sell, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Asst Program Leader for Soil Health  
Mark McCauley, Hamilton County SWCD, Resource Conservationist  
Eileen Kladviko, Purdue University, Professor of Agronomy  
Mike Dunn, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Indiana Freshwater Conservation Programs  
Meg Leader, ISDA, Director of Soil Health, Division of Soil Conservation  
Gene Matzat, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, LaPorte County Ag & Natural Resources Educator  
Lisa Holscher, CCSI Director  
Les Zimmerman, Vermillion County SWCD, Associate Supervisor  
Ashley Brucker, CCSI Program Manager  
Joe Rorick, CCSI Conservation Agronomist  
Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD, Executive Director  
Jill Reinhart, USDA-NRCS, Indiana State Conservationist (Acting)  
Robert Woodling, SSCB, Chairman  
Ginger Davis, Hamilton County SWCD, District Administrator  
Steve Metzger, Fulton County SWCD, Supervisor  
Matt Harsh, Fulton County SWCD, Supervisor  
Sheila Schroeder, Fulton County SWCD, staff  
Don Donovan, USDA-NRCS, Vermillion-Parke County District Conservationist  
Tony Bailey, USDA-NRCS, Indiana State Conservation Agronomist  
Mark Anson, Anson Farms  
Aaron Johnson, Riverview Farms  
Brian Daggy, Boone County SWCD, Natural Resource Conservationist  
Alan Smock, Dubois County SWCD, Supervisor / VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative  
Melissa Ruschau, Dubois County SWCD, Project Technician / VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative  
Angie Garrison, USDA-NRCS, Boone-Hamilton County District Conservationist  
Dave Lefforge, ISDA, Resource Specialist, Division of Soil Conservation  
Susannah Hinds, USDA-NRCS, NW Indiana Area Grazing Specialist  
Joe Schmees, IDEM, Chief, Watershed Planning and Restoration Section  
Geneva Tyler, ISDA, District Support Specialist, Division of Soil Conservation  
Julie Morris, ISDA, Resource Specialist, Division of Soil Conservation

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After an overview of general priorities identified by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that morning, the attendees discussed at individuals tables. More specific points, actions, and other comments have been added to the TAC actions below.

*Note: "Conservative" farmers will be re-labeled "Legacy" farmers in future documents*

**Farmer Outreach Actions:**

1. Reach out to Conservative Legacy growers.
  - a. One-on-one is key

- b. *Message and Messenger* are equally important. Work with staff on messaging – How we talk with Conservative Legacy farmers and *who* the best messengers will be = a paradigm shift for many, if not most staff.

#### Annual Meeting Comments

- Focus on establishing *relationships*
  - Don't forget: farmers are competitors (for land and other)
  - Look into a simple spreadsheet to cover short-term economics – similar to a home energy audit, but it's an economic audit.
  - Use winter meetings / crop outlook meeting as platform to open minds a little to adoption of soil health practices
  - Need to rebuild relationships with farmers who have tried cover crops and had a bad experience.
  - "have to want to" = the next groups of farmers we are trying to work with have to be interested and want to do things differently. Consider building on successes – like cover crops seeded in highly erosive areas (draws) with success.
  - LISTEN
2. Build pilot support groups modeled upon INField Advantage and Tipton County's Soil Health 101
    - a. Focus on economic returns –
      - i. profit and recovery of costs
      - ii. Help them consider how they will deal with financial implications
      - iii. Promote programs as a method of risk reduction – not crutch.
    - b. Small groups – pulled together by Local Partners
      - i. Use lists of financial assistance recipients
      - ii. Work with local seed dealers, etc to build support groups for their clients
    - c. LISTEN – understand *why* Pragmatic/~~Conservative~~ Legacy farmers do what they do *before* making suggestions for practice adoption
      - i. Do not oversell a practice.
      - ii. Understand where the farmer is on the continuum of soil health
    - d. Identify victories and capitalize upon what the group does well. Conservative Legacy farmers have a *great* strength in timing... they can plant crops in 5 days.

#### Annual Meeting Comments

- Think about smaller breakfast meetings... Ex – VUJC meeting invited 50, but only the first 25 were "allowed" to attend
- Don't overlook drainage boards, traditional farmers to be part of group. Also include bankers, equipment dealers and landowners.

#### Influencer Outreach Action

1. Youth / Young Adults
  - i. Support promote efforts like the Purdue Soil Health curricula website
  - ii. Investigate IFB Young Farmer group for outreach potential.

#### Annual Meeting Comments

- Need to make sure 4H, FFA, IVYTech are aware of available soil health curricula.
2. Non-operating Landowners (NOLO) – work with Women4theLand, TNC, others on current CCSI NOLO outreach project

#### Annual Meeting Comments

- FSA newsletters can be conduit for information
3. Ag Dealers
    - a. IANA Soil Health Training

- b. Ag Lender Conference, support local lender outreach.

#### Annual Meeting Comments

- Focus on establishing *relationships*
- Most farmers listen to 3 groups of people: bankers, equipment dealers, and landlords. Make sure those groups are invited to the table. Make explicit invitations.
- Provide seed retailers, local co-op, etc., with packet of information to hand out to people who buy seed – include contact information, program information, where to find workshops, etc.

#### Training Action

1. Geographically target pilots, projects in areas based upon practice adoption rates
  - a. Dig into tillage transect / practice adoption data at county levels.
  - b. Identify stars of adoption and reasons
  - c. Adapt, target area, and replicate to efficiently use resources.
2. Train a Team
  - a. Pick 6-8 Local Level Partnership. Spend time picking them based upon what they are already doing (Geographically target pilots, above)
  - b. Provide training by people like Shalamar Armstrong and Steve Gauck on how to work w/ Legacy Farmers
    - i. Help them identify who already has connection to farmers and how (CCAs, retirees, etc)
    - ii. Focus on language and message to people Pragmatic/~~Conservative~~ Legacy farmers are connected to.
  - c. Get team comfortable with getting out to fields and dynamically talking with farmers – not a lecture. More like cab time / ride-a-long time.

#### Annual Meeting Comments:

- Work at county / local level to train not only as a team, but also team but also *team-building*.
- ID potential team members and build so that individual team members may be leveraged – Ex: FSA for farmer access.
- Perform “Asset Mapping” in pilots – identify what assets each team member brings to the table.
- Soil Health “knowledge leveling” will be a challenge to be addressed.
- Use Boone and Dubois SWCD Partnerships as models of cooperation

#### Research Action

1. Concentrate on providing connectivity between researchers and collaborators/stakeholders
2. Work w/ ICMC/ISA and others to provide research project briefings, introductions of researchers to board members well before decision meetings.



## Key Terms:

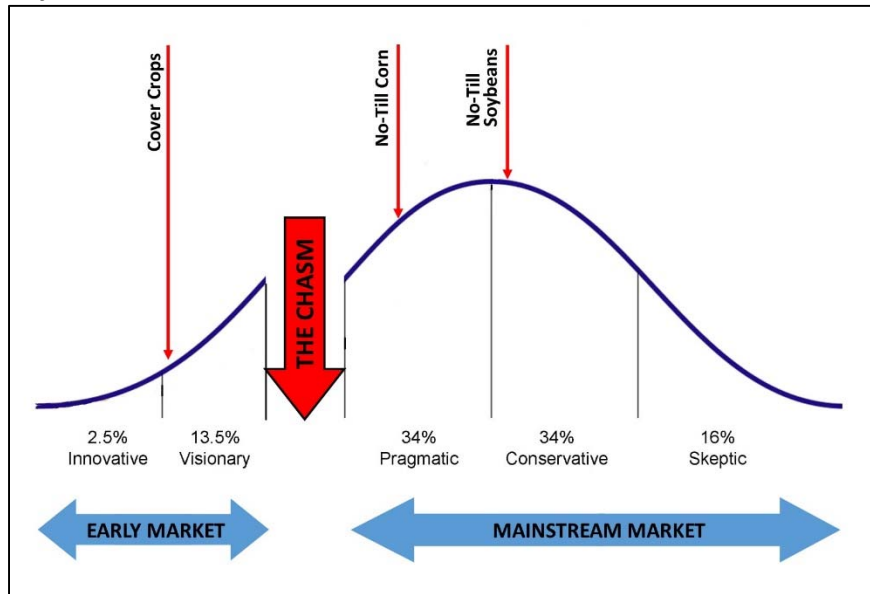


Figure 1 Based on Everett Rogers Diffusion of Innovations Theory, successive groups of adoptors may be placed in five major categories. Red arrows reflect current rate of practice adoption in Indiana

- **Innovators:** The first individuals to adopt an innovation. They are the gatekeepers for any new technology. They tend to be willing to take risks, younger, and have financial liquidity.
- **Visionary:** The second fastest category of individual who adopt an innovation. They typically *not* just looking for improvements, but are looking for leaps forward.
- **Chasm** – gulf between early adopters and mainstream adopters.
- **Pragmatic:** Looking for percentage improvements – incremental, measurable, predictable progress. They tend to reference people like themselves when making decisions – not innovative or visionaries.
- **Conservative-Legacy:** Typically believe more in tradition than progress. RENAME “LEGACY”
- **Skeptics:** Generally will not be participating in evolving markets.