

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

July 20, 2021

SureTech Laboratories

7501 Miles Dr, Indianapolis, IN 462

Conference call

- I. 9:30 am.: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of April 2021**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants Program- Geneva Tyler
  - b. Clean Water Indiana modifications
    - 1. Grant County SWCD- Katie Secrest
    - 2. Lawrence County SWCD (2021)- Geneva Tyler
    - 3. Montgomery County SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
    - 4. Scott County SWCD- Geneva Tyler
    - 5. Wayne County SWCD- Tara Wessler-Henry
  - c. Clean Water Indiana Non-SWCD led Concept Paper
    - 1. Maumee Watershed Alliance, Inc.
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
  - a. Budget - Trevor Laureys
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - a. Franklin County SWCD- Tara Wessler-Henry
  - b. Posey County SWCD- Geneva Tyler
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**
  - 2021 Meeting Date**
    - September 21, TBD
    - October 26, TBD
- 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.



**State Soil Conservation Board  
July, 2021  
Clean Water Indiana Grants**

**Program Updates**

**Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants**

*2019*

- Projects Expire 12/31/21
- Mid-year updates due 7/31/21

*2020*

- Projects Expire 12/31/22
- Mid-year updates due 7/31/21

*2021*

- All grants have requested their initial 50% claim.
- These grants have a first report due on July 31, 2021.

**Non-SWCD Led Projects**

*IASWCD*

Expires: 12/31/2022

Claim: \$22,500.00

Claim requested: \$22,000.00

Remaining funds: \$0

Expires 12/31/2023

Claim: \$45,000

Remaining funds: \$45,000

*SICIM*

Expires 12/31/2023

Grant number: CWI-21-115

Claim: \$66,000

Remaining funds: \$0

**Grant Reviews**

District Support Specialists have conducted 4 of 10 CWI reviews:

- Newton
- Vanderburgh
- Warrick
- Washington

The remaining 6 reviews are scheduled.



## Clean Water Indiana Grant Modification

Grantee	Lawrence County SWCD
Project Contact	Amanda Robbins
Grant Administration	G-01266

### Modification Information

<i>Activity to be Changed</i>
<p>The \$60k 2021 Lawrence CWI grant was approved with a total of seven different cost share practices. Anticipated demand was represented with dollar estimates for each practice within the CWI grant application. The request is to shift the dollar amounts allocated between the existing, approved cost share practices to meet actual demand of what we're seeing in local producer applications.</p>
<i>Proposed Change</i>
<p>We would like to adjust the following approved dollar amounts within our already approved cost share categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cover crops: approved amount is \$6k. Request: decrease to \$1k.</li><li>- Forage and biomass planting: approved amount is \$10k. Request: increase to \$24k.</li><li>- HUAP: approved amount is \$12,500k. Request: increase to 17.5k.</li><li>- Watering Facility/Pipeline: approved amount is \$10k. Request: decrease to \$9k.</li><li>- Erosion Practices: approved amount is \$4k. Request: leave the same</li><li>- Access Roads: approved amount is \$12,500k. Request: decrease to \$2,500.00.</li><li>- Invasive Species Control: approved amount is \$5k. Request: decrease to \$2k.</li></ul> <p>No additional funds are being requested. No additional practices are being requested. This is a request for financial flexibility within the already approved cost share categories by moving dollars from category to another based on landowners needs at this time.</p>
<i>Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.</i>
<p>The SWCD provided a best estimate within the 2021 CWI Grant Application regarding what practices would be needed and how much funding would go to each conservation practice. Specific funding requests based on actual producer applications is different than what was originally estimated. Adjusting these dollars to</p>

meet current need will further get conservation on the ground. The SWCD was under the understanding these estimates could be adjusted to some degree. Currently, the SWCD has funded more HUAPs and Watering Facilities/Pipeline than originally requested and would like to get the situation rectified. We are aware of the updated guidelines now and will manage our program accordingly as we proceed.

Submission Date: July 15, 2021



## Clean Water Indiana Grant Modification

Grantee	Montgomery County SWCD
Project Contact	Nathan Stoelting
Grant Administration	G-01084

### Modification Information

<i>Activity to be Changed</i>
Timeline of the grant. The term in which the grant will expire would like to be extended in order to achieve the original goals of the grant application.
<i>Proposed Change</i>
We would like to extend the grant for (1) year. We believe the funds will be fully spent before the final year is up, but in order to have plenty of time, we would like to request a full year of additional time to execute the grant.
<i>Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.</i>
Due to Covid, we were unable to hire a staff person as quickly as we would have liked. The first person hired worked 3 weeks in the position before they took a different job. We then had to start the hiring process over again. After another staff person was hired we had more staff turnover in the office which resulted in the position becoming vacant once again. We are in the process of hiring for a third time within the next month. The additional time added to the length of the grant will allow us to have a person in this position long enough to accomplish the goals we set out to accomplish while writing the grant originally.

Submission Date: June 30, 2021



**Clean Water Indiana  
Grant Modification**

Grantee	Wayne County SWCD
Project Contact	Kayla Welter
Grant Administration	G-01114

**Modification Information**

<p><i>Activity to be Changed</i></p> <p>Wayne County SWCD would like to request a transfer of funds within the cost-share portion of our grant. Despite many attempts through promotion, site visits, and communication with possible applicants we have not been able to grant enough projects to spend the funds in our cattle exclusion category. Since we are in the final months of our grant we would like to transfer these funds to another cost-share category (sediment and nutrient reduction) so that they can be utilized by the end of the year.</p>
<p><i>Proposed Change</i></p> <p>Wayne County SWCD would like to transfer \$11,300 from the cattle exclusion category. This amount is the remaining funds that need to be spent by the end of the year. We would like to transfer these funds to the reduce sediment and nutrient category to be utilized for cover crops.</p>
<p><i>Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.</i></p> <p>Wayne County SWCD currently has a waiting list of producers, with 900+ acres, interested in applying to install cover crops this fall through our CWI cost-share grant. Due to being in the final phase of our grant, we would like to transfer the remaining funds to be spent on cover crops with the guarantee of the projects being utilized and completed within the needed time frame. Continued promotion and installation of cover crops will benefit the land and further justify the benefits of cover crops to the producers.</p>

Submission Date: June 21, 2021



**Clean Water Indiana  
Non-SWCD Concept Paper  
2022**

*\* Directions: This Concept Paper is limited to two pages max. Provide a brief, big picture view of your project.*

*\* CWI applications will be distributed upon approval of the Concept paper by the State Soil Conservation Board.*

**Contact Information**

Lead Entity	Maumee Watershed Alliance, Inc.
Address	7009 North River Road, Suite 105
City, State, ZIP	Fort Wayne, IN 46815
Lead Entity Contact Name & Title	Anne Marie Smrcek, Chairman
Email Address	asmrcek@maumeewatershedalliance.org
Phone	260-427-5679

**Local SWCD Contact**

Cooperating SWCD	<b>Allen County</b>
Point of Contact	<b>Greg Lake</b>
SWCD Phone	<b>260-484-5848 ext. 3</b>
Total estimated CWI Funds Requested	<b>\$ 116,500.00</b>

**Purpose**

Describe the project.								
<p align="center"> <b>&gt;Increase efficiency and effectiveness of local watershed organizations</b>  <b>&gt;Strengthen local Soil and Water Conservation Districts through partnerships</b>  <b>&gt;Advance efforts to improve water quality and soil health</b> </p> <p>The Maumee Watershed Alliance, (MWA) is a 501(C)(3) organization that develops innovative solutions to improve natural resource management. The MW</p> <p>A works as a regional leader to establish partnerships by fostering common goal dialogue among stakeholders to create opportunities for varied interests to work together.</p> <p align="center"><b>Current Watershed Partners include</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Friends of the Cedar Creek</td> <td>Save Maumee Grassroots Organization</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative</td> <td>Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership</td> </tr> </table> <p align="center"><b>Other Maumee Watershed Alliance Members</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>City of Fort Wayne</td> <td>City of Defiance, Ohio</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Nature Conservancy</td> <td>Steel Dynamics, Inc.</td> </tr> </table>	Friends of the Cedar Creek	Save Maumee Grassroots Organization	St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative	Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership	City of Fort Wayne	City of Defiance, Ohio	The Nature Conservancy	Steel Dynamics, Inc.
Friends of the Cedar Creek	Save Maumee Grassroots Organization							
St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative	Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership							
City of Fort Wayne	City of Defiance, Ohio							
The Nature Conservancy	Steel Dynamics, Inc.							

Purdue University - Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne Outfitters and Bike Depot  
Local Citizen River Advocates

If funded, this project will:

1. Empower the long-term sustainability and growth of the Maumee Watershed Alliance and its partnering watershed organizations
2. Synergize efforts of member organizations
3. Share existing resources and develop new ones
4. Provide training opportunities to build capacity for long-range planning; financial management; grant writing; branding and marketing; goal setting and prioritization; and engaging target audiences
5. Provide ongoing education programs to member organizations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other interested parties on topics such as: climate change predictions relative to natural resource management; utilizing current and historical water quality data for planning purposes and utilizing watershed management plans for conservation planning and implementation
6. Pursue partnerships with organizations in the St. Marys and Auglaize River watersheds

How does the project meet the goals of the State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan?

The success of our project will increase the capacity of the MWA, our partner organizations and local SWCDs to better enable them to deliver effective messaging and programs related to natural resource management on rural, suburban and urban lands. Because the goals and achievements of each organization associated with the MWA are broad and far-reaching, this project is expected to accelerate efforts to improve water quality and soil health; reduce rill, sheet, gully and streambank erosion; and control invasive species in the Western Lake Erie basin. The expected outcomes are directly in line with the goals of the State Soil Conservation Board's Business Plan.

How will CWI funds be utilized?

In an effort to accomplish the aforementioned goals the CWI funds will provide 75% of the cost to hire a Maumee Watershed Alliance Director for a minimum of two years. The CWI funds will also provide 50% of other associated administrative costs such as travel, initial office equipment purchases (computer & printer), insurance, facility rental, training programs, speaker fees, program marketing (website & social media) and other misc. expenses.

The CWI funds will be matched with additional funds from Steel Dynamics, Inc, the Tides Foundation, the Waterfield Foundation and other local donations.







## State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA – DSC Director’s Report

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Budget

#### As noted last SSCB meeting (5/22)

<b>Clean Water Indiana</b>	FY21	Rollover(5/31)	FY22	Difference
General Fund	\$ 970,000	x	\$ 970,000	
Cigarette Tax	\$ 2,963,546	x	\$ 2,519,014	\$ (444,532)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,933,546</b>	<b>\$ 208,960</b>	<b>\$ 3,489,014</b>	<b>\$ (235,572)</b>
 <b>Soil Conservation</b>				
Cigarette Tax	\$ 1,418,471	0	\$ 1,205,700	\$ (212,771)

#### CWI FY22

- ISDA proposes taking the roughly \$235,000 cut from the traditional \$660,000 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) annual investment.
- Maintains the traditional dollar amount for CWI Competitive Grants (about \$1,000,000)

#### CWI FY23

- Same plan, but with larger cut to CREP since the rollover balance from our Soil Conservation dedicated fund will likely be significantly diminished.
- Maintains the traditional \$ amount for CWI competitive grants.

#### Proposal for today 7/20

<b>Clean Water Indiana</b>	FY21	Rollover(6/30)	FY22	Difference
General Fund	\$970,000	x	\$970,000	
Cigarette Tax	\$2,963,546	x	\$2,519,014	\$(444,532)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,933,546</b>	<b>\$466,408</b>	<b>\$3,489,014</b>	<b>\$(21,876)</b>
 <b>Soil Conservation</b>				
Cigarette Tax	\$1,418,471	0	\$1,205,700	\$(212,771)

#### Division of Soil Conservation FY 22 & 23

- Maintain some vacancies, reduce discretionary spending, bring in additional funds through grant administration.

## CWI FY22

- ISDA Proposes continuing the \$660,000 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) annual investment.
- Maintain the traditional dollar amount for CWI Competitive Grants (about \$1,000,000)
  - Will continue to seek outside dollars for CREP, and continue to monitor demand

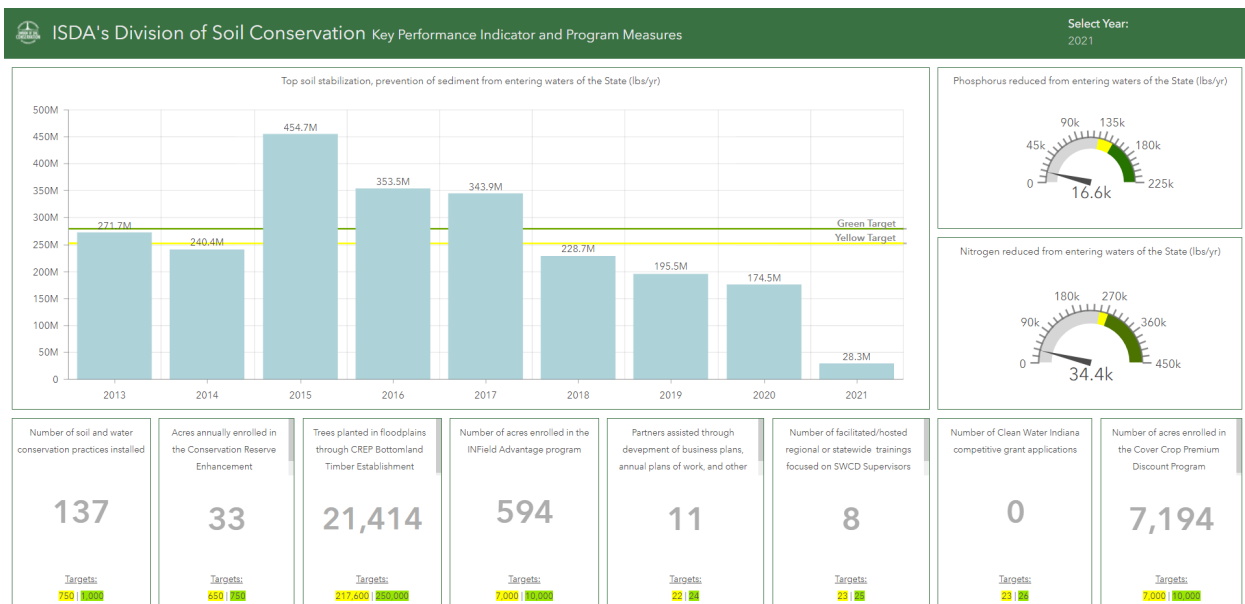
## CWI FY23

- Rollover balance from our Soil Conservation dedicated fund will likely be significantly less
  - Take cut from CREP investment
- Maintain the traditional dollar amount for CWI Competitive Grants (about \$1,000,000)
- Continue to seek outside investments and monitor demand

## SSCB Member Terms

- Per IN Code 14-32-2-3 Qualifications of members
  - Sec. 3. (a) A majority of the seven (7) appointed members of the board must have experience as district supervisors. (b) In making appointments to the board, the governor may invite and consider the recommendations of the following:
    - (1) The Purdue University cooperative extension service.
    - (2) The Indiana state department of agriculture.
    - (3) The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District
  - (c) All appointments to the board shall be made without regard to political affiliation.
  - (d) The members appointed to the board under section 2(1) and 2(2) of this chapter must be residents of at least four (4) different geographic regions of Indiana.

## Division of Soil Conservation Key Performance Indicator & Program Measures





**State Soil Conservation Board**  
**July 20, 2021**  
**District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 4/26/21 to 7/5/21**



### **DSS Coverage in the Northeast**

Jennifer Thum, who has been serving as DSS in the northeast, has been promoted to ISDA Division of Soil Conservation Deputy Director. Katie Secrest is acting DSS for this region during this transitional period. Katie has been working as an ISDA Resource Specialist since 2018 in the mid-Northeast, and serving in a DSS capacity role for four districts since April 2021.

### **Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff**

- **Virtual Tuesday Trainings:** register now for these virtual trainings geared towards supervisors and staff. Time for each training is 7PM Eastern.
  - July 20: District Insurance Needs and Liability  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqd-CpqD4rGtEI0qFdIIIk2En8GB5LrMnm>
  - August 24: Human Resources Management 101: Contract Employee vs. District Employee  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsfuqupz4vG9wPYGJb2aebU81lpxgmbt81>
  - September 21: Record Retention  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rcuipqjwuHtyMgDsypoe2MFKqJ46\\_eQp7](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rcuipqjwuHtyMgDsypoe2MFKqJ46_eQp7)
  - October 19: Turning Data into Action [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsc-mqqTgvH9CrzY7hK6C8GAwHgNeubr\\_9](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsc-mqqTgvH9CrzY7hK6C8GAwHgNeubr_9)
  - BONUS TRAINING: October 27, we'll offer a lunch webinar on electronic records management. This will complement the September 21 record retention training.
- **CWI Networking Sessions:** DSSs hosted four sessions statewide. If you are interested in your DSS hosting an additional session for your group, please reach out.  
<https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/district-support/>
- **June Region Meetings:** the IASWCD and DSS team planned the four meetings that were completed in June. Each meeting was individualized with partner representatives from each region giving updates, and highlighting a SWCD special project. View the recordings here:  
<http://wordpress.iaswcd.org/for-districts/>
- Katie attended the South Northeast District & IDEA meeting in Wells County and gave DSS updates.

### **New Supervisor Training with DSSs since January 2021**

- The DSS team is currently preparing a recorded version. If you've not already attended this training in-person or virtually, please reach out to your DSS. DSSs are also available to present this during a board meeting too, as a "refresher" to seasoned Supervisors/Staff and a learning opportunity for those that are new or newer.
- Virtual New Supervisor Training Session January 14. 8 attendees.
- Counties: Floyd, Marion, Scott, Warren
- JT and Tara hosted a new supervisor training in the NE

<b>DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period</b>	<b>Total</b>
Assistance With SWCD Strategic Planning	10
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	18
Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, CWI, etc.	57

### Highlights

#### Use of Expiring Funds

- Purdue Agricultural Centers (PACs)  
Through meetings / the Director and Assistant Director of PACs, along with PAC Superintendents, many research and demonstration projects related to soil health were identified. This list was prioritized by Superintendents and potential areas for funding were identified. (equipment modifications for projects, seed, etc.) Through CCSI contacts, cover crop seed companies are stepping forward to provide donations / discounts of cover crop seed. In addition, meetings are being arranged between cover crop seed companies and researchers to further discuss projects for potential cooperation and/or funding.
- Funded local level partnership have included distribution of free Midwest Cover Crop Field guides at elevators and seed companies, partnering with a new drone company to seed cover crop demonstrations, and purchase of soil temperature data loggers to demonstrate the myth that cover crops slow spring soil warm up.
- The application deadline for local level partnerships was extended through July 30, 2020 to submit proposals for soil health outreach and education projects targeting Indiana cropland and new(er) growers and landowners to practices.

#### NRCS Soil Health Division Videos

In June, the USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division dispatched a videography team to Indiana to record in-field soil health diagnostics and interviews with farmers over two days. These videos will be used as part of a national training program built upon the Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff Training (“3-day Soil Health Training”) that is required to become a NRCS Certified Planner. CCSI Agronomist participated in the recording of these videos at Clark Land and Cattle and Morgan Brothers LLC in West-Central Indiana.

### G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

#### • Innovative and Visionary Farmers

*Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)*

*Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.*

- May 12 – Middlefork Meadows Farm (A)
- May 13 – Mike Shuter (D)
- May 16 / 26 – Roger Wenning (SPM)
- May 19 – Ray McCormick (D)
- May 24 – Roger Wenning – Planting green into red clover (SPM)
- May 29 – David Brandt (D)
- June 14 – Dave Brandt (D)
- June 17 – Mike Shuter (D)
- June 17 – Ray McCormick (D)
- June 22 – Cameron Mills (D)

- June 23 – Rick Clark (D)
  - July 7 – Mike and Susan Brocksmith Shop Meeting (D w/ Purdue Corn Specialist)
  - July 8 – Mark and Michael Bender (D w/ Purdue Corn Specialist)
- **Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers**  
*Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.*  
Quarterly Targets: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)
    - May 17 – Mike Book ride-a-long – notilling beans (SPM)
    - May 21 – Dan Holderby ride-a-long – drilling beans (NPM)
    - July 8 – Denny Simpson shop meeting (D w/ Purdue Corn Specialist)
- **Farmer Influencers**  
Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)  
*Continued work with W4tL, IANA, and other influencer groups.*
    - May 10 – Pinney PAC / Liz Maynard (A)
    - May 13 – Purdue Student Farm (A)
    - May 19 – Hans Kok (D)
    - May 20 – Women4theLand Steering Committee (NPM)
    - June 2 – Caleb Smith, Yara Carbon Credit Program (A)
    - June 3 – Betsy Bower and Sina Parks, Ceres (A)
    - June 9 – Field Visit with Liz Maynard, Purdue (A)
    - June 10 – Dan Quinn, Purdue Corn Specialist (D)
    - June 18, 25 Purdue Ag Center Director, Assistant Director and Superintendent re use of CCSI funds for demonstrations (D, A)
    - June 22 – Don Villwock (D)
    - June 23-24 Emerging Professionals Leadership Program (A)
    - June 11 – Caleb Smith and Jon Shanahan, Yara Carbon Credit Program (D)
    - June 17 – Emily Thatcher, Wilbur-Ellis (D)
    - June 23 - Purdue Cover Crop Networking Meeting w/ AGRY, HORT, AGECE, BTNY, ABE staff (A)
    - June 28 – Risa DeMasi, Grassland Oregon (D)
    - June 29 – Sustainable Food Lab – Economic Tools Development (D)
    - June 30 John Obermeyer, Purdue IPM Specialist (A)
    - July 7 – Mike and Susan Brocksmith Shop Meeting (D w/ Purdue Corn Specialist)
    - July 8 – Andy Like (D w/ Purdue Corn Specialist)
- **Presentations**  
Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)
    - June 15 – Early Season Purdue Diagnostic Training Center “In-field Soil Health Diagnostics”, approx. 25 farmers and advisors (A)
    - June 22 – Huntington County PARP “Cover Crops and Nutrient Management” – approx. 50 farmers and advisors (A)
    - June 30 – Johnson County PARP “Soil Health Diagnostics” (A)

## G2. Local Level Partnership Support

## 1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership's Outreach and Education

Quarterly Target: CCSI as a group materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts groups (CCSI Team Goal)

### Workshops Completed

- 2021 CCSI Webinar and Virtual Shop/Field Visit Series
  - July 13 – John Pike “Precision Cover Crops Redux” – 25 attendees
- June – 4H Sustainable Ag Day
- June 22 and 24 - Summer Webinar Series – Farming for the Future (C Markets)
- July 13 and 15 - Summer Webinar Series – Farming for the Future (C Markets)

### Workshops in Progress:

- POSTPONED July 8 – Hoosier Chapter SWCS
- July 14 Morgan/Owen County Round Ttable
- July 15 – Cover Crop Cookout; SW SWCDs; Vanderburg Co Fairgrounds
- July 27 – Warrick County Cover Crop Field Day
- July 27 – Pence Group / Wea Orchard
- July 28 – DeKalb County Agronomy Field Day
- July 29 – FFA Students from 41 states
- July 29 – Carroll County Strip Till / Technology Workshop
- July 29 – Posey/Gibson County Farmer Round Table
- August 17 – Roger Wenning Round Table
- August 18 – Decatur Co Field Day (Roger Wenning)
- August 24 - Park / Vermillion SWCD Field Day
- Late August – Rush/Shelby Co Cover Crop Field Day
- September 8 – Adams/Wells/Huntington County Workshop
- September 8 – Roemke Field Day
- November 6 – Regional Ag Forum; Posey County.
- November 16 – Spencer/Perry Workshop with Rick Clark and Wayne Fredericks
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021
- 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day (tentative)
- December 10, 2021 Howard-Tipton County SWCD with Dr. Kris Nichols

## 2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

*Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health*

### Completed Trainings

- June 17 NRCS Soil Health Division – Soil Health video shoots at Clark Land and Cattle and Morgan Brothers LLC (A)

### Trainings in Progress:

- July 21-22 – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training
- August 31-Sept 2 – “3-Day Soil Health Training”
- September 15-16 – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training
- ICP “Bucket Training” / In-field Soil Health Diagnostics
- September 2021 Soil Health Nexus In-Service (A)
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review (A)



- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (A)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program Development (A)

### 3. Professional Development Opportunities

*Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.*

*Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills*

Trainings in Progress:

- 2021 Soil Health Training Curriculum / Adaptation Planning
- 2021 SARE PDP – Cover Crop in Vegetable Production – PAC Demonstrations
- Date / Topic TBD: Advanced CCSI-SARE Trainings
- Date TBD: Pilot Social Science Training
- Date(s) TBD: CCSI-SARE Livestock Integration Trainings (A)
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program (A)
- Specialty Crop Field Demos (A)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program (A)

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

Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NPM, SPM)

- May 4 – Jackson SWCD (SPM)
- May 5 – Dubois SWCD (SPM)
- May 6 – SW SWCDs (SPM)
- May 11 – ICP Leadership (D)
- May 12 – NW Soil Health Team Meeting (A, NPM)
- May 12 – NE Partners Meeting (NPM)
- May 14 – NNE IDEA Meeting (NPM)
- May 21 – SW Area CWI Networking Session (SPM)
- May 24 – SE & SW CCSI Regional Teleconferences (D, SPM, NPM)
- May 25 – NW NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)
- May 25 – Warrick Co SWCD (SPM)
- May 26 – NE & NW CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, SPM, NPM)
- June 1 - Purdue AGRY Extension Group Meeting (A)
- June 2 – NW Clean Water Indiana Networking session (NPM)
- June 8 – NW IASWCD Region Meeting (NPM)
- June 10 – SE IASWCD Region Meeting (NPM)
- June 11 – Leah Walthery, Cass SWCD (NPM)
- June 15 – SW IASWCD Region Meeting (SPM)
- June 17 – NE IASWCD Region Meeting (NPM)
- June 28 – SE and SW CCSI Regional Telcos (D, A, NPM, SPM)
- June 29 NW NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)
- June 30 – NE and NW CCSI Regional Telcos (D, A, NPM, SPM)

## G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

### 1. Marketing

Quarterly Targets: 3-4 “formal” CCSI Updates (CCSI Team Goal)

Annual Target: 1-2 New External Partners

*Ensure LLPs understand CCSI resources available to them; Ensure external partners are aware of CCSI strengths, tools, and opportunities.*

- May 3 – Events Newsletter; 949 delivered, 462 opened, 131 follow through
- May 18 – Events Newsletter; 945 delivered, 446 opened, 127 follow through
- June 7 – Events Newsletter; 949 delivered, 432 opened, 131 follow through
- July 6 – Events Newsletter; 956 delivered, 526 opened, 117 follow through
- July 12 – Virtual Field Visit; 940 delivered, 464 opened, 89 follow through

## **2. Soil Health Messaging**

*Quarterly Targets: 3 Podcasts; 3-6 Blog Posts; 6 Newsletters;*

*Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.*

*Completed Materials:*

- Podcasts:
  - Spring Management of Cover Crops in Vegetable Production – Steven Meyers, Purdue University and Dan Perkins, Perkins Good Earth
- Blogs
  - The Role of Pollinators in Agriculture
  - Cover Crops in Vegetable Production
  - Jerry Raynor Op-ed
- Social Media
  - Twitter:
    - May - 85 Tweets, 31.8K impressions, 29 mentions, 1,924 profile visits, 5 new followers.
    - June - 70 Tweets, 31K impressions, 6 mentions, 1,220 profile visits, 2 new followers.
  - Facebook:
    - May - 2,272 reach, 4,430 impressions, 262 engaged users
    - June - 1,976 reach, 3,212 impressions, 126 engaged users
- Website
  - May 284 Users / 380 sessions
  - June 342 Users / 429 sessions

*Materials in Progress:*

- Soil Compaction Video with Purdue Extension
- Adaptation of graphics to yard signs for download
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download
- Urban Soil Health Program – Small Scale Nutrient Management
- Soil Health Nexus – Soil Health Matrix

## **G4. Research**

*Quarterly Targets: None*

*CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.*

- Support - Indiana University SARE - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss (Yoder)
- Support – Purdue University SARE - Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (Armstrong)

- Support – No-till Pumpkin and Sweet Corn in Cover Crops (Maynard)
- Support – 2021-22 Purdue Agricultural Centers Demo and Research Plots

## OTHER

- Purdue Extension Organic Specialist Search Committee (A)
- May 5 - ACI Emerging Professionals Leadership Program (EPLP)
- May 26 – June 4 Director Vacation
- June 2-3 Indiana Climate Services Summit (NPM)
- June 11-12 - Northern Indiana Grazing School (A)
- June 14 - SEPAC Bulk Density Sampling (A)
- June 18 – Women in Ag “Tackling Tough Conversations” training (NPM, SPM)
- June 29 - Western Lake Erie Basin RCPP Kickoff (D)
- Arranged July 7-9 Farmer and Agronomist Meetings for Dan Quinn, Purdue Corn Specialist
- Connected Fred Whitford, Purdue Extension to NRCS state office re. ACPF

www.iaswcd.org



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

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



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**To:** State Soil Conservation Board

**From:** Bobby Hettmansperger, President, IASWCD

**Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021

**Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)**

- The CCSI request for proposals from districts deadline has been extended until the end of July.
- The next CCSI Oversight Committee meeting is a conference call, July 27. Refer to the separate CCSI report for more details.

**Urban Soil Health Program (USHP)**

- All new regional staff have been trained and are reaching out to districts. Staff are working on field days and tours, and have begun some individual site visits. Forms for event and materials match, along with site visits have been created.

**Pathway to Water Quality**

- Final preparations for the start of the State Fair have been on-going with weekly work days in the month of July. This will be the first year using the "Boy Scout Area" for soil health demonstrations, and new signage and seating has been completed through an Indiana American Water grant.
- Still have many spots open for volunteers, encourage folks to sign up.

**Other**

- Roger Wenning will be attending the NACD North Central Region and National Summer Board meetings next week in Chicago.
- River Friendly Farmer ceremony will be August 18 at the 4-H Exhibit Hall at 1 PM. We have a large amount of recipients this year, and welcome partners to attend.
- IASWCD and ISDA held four virtual regional meetings in the month of June, and have virtual training for districts scheduled on July 20 (Insurance Liability and Torte Law), August 24 (HR 101), September 21 (Records Retention), and October 19 (Turning data into Action). These webinar trainings are at 7 PM in the evening, and will be recorded. Registration is available on the IASWCD website.
- Resolutions information has been sent to Districts, and is available on our website, and they should be submitted before September 17.
- The next IASWCD Board meeting will be held Friday, September 17 at the Indiana Farm Bureau Building in Indianapolis.
- Award applications for Conservation Farmer of the Year, Friend of Conservation, and Supervisor of the Year will soon be available at [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org), and nominations due by September 3. District showcase applications are due Wednesday, August 4. We encourage districts to apply and take the opportunity to highlight the great work they are doing.

**THE IASWCD MISSION** *is to enable the conservation of natural resources of Indiana.*

# Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

July 2021 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

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## GRANTS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

Up to \$4 million in competitive grants is available nationally to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. USDA will accept applications on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for planning and implementation projects until midnight July 30.

Planning projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, urban agroforestry or food forests, and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production

Implementation projects that accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers. Projects will improve local food access and collaborate with partner organizations and may support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, educational endeavors and urban farming policy implementation

## WETLAND MITIGATION BANKING PROGRAM (WMBP)

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is investing up to \$5 million nationally in the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (WMBP), a grant program that supports the development of mitigation banks for use by agricultural producers seeking to maintain eligibility for USDA programs. Funds are available to Tribes, government entities, nonprofits and other organizations.

To participate in most USDA programs, agricultural producers agree to comply with the wetland conservation provisions, which means producers will not farm converted wetlands or convert wetlands to enable agricultural production. In situations where avoidance or on-site mitigation is challenging, the Farm Bill allows for off-site mitigation through the purchase of mitigation banking credits.

Awardees may use WMBP funding to support mitigation bank site identification, development of a mitigation banking instrument, site restoration, land surveys, permitting and title searches, and market research. WMBP funding cannot be used to purchase land or a conservation easement.

NRCS is accepting proposals through Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=Wetland%20Mitigation%20Banking%20Program>) until 11:59 p.m. ET on August 16. To learn more, visit the WMBP webpage (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=nrcseprd362686>)

## COVER CROP PILOT PROGRAM

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) have established a pilot cover crop initiative in the West Fork Upper White River watershed. This provides \$5/acre discount on the following year's crop insurance for every acre of cover crop enrolled. RMA will provide this as an additional insurance discount through normal crop insurance processes. The program targets first time cover crop users to expand adoption and improve farm resiliency. More information can be found at <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/cover-crop-premium-discount-program/>.

## NEW FARMERS.GOV WEBPAGES FEATURE RESOURCES FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

It is vital that all of our producers have equal access to USDA's programs and services, including those with limited English proficiency. The FPAC team has been working hard to provide translations on our web

pages, and we have several new pages and publications on farmers.gov that provide information in a variety of languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese. FPCA also provides free interpretation services for all of our USDA service centers. [To learn more about translations and interpretation services, visit myFPAC.](#)

### **TRANSECT SURVEY RESULTS**

Indiana farmers set a new record for adoption of cover crops, 1.5 million acres, the largest ever recorded by the Indiana Conservation Partnership's annual survey. This prevented 4.1 million pounds of nitrogen, over 2 million pounds of phosphorus and 1.6 million tons of sediment from entering Indiana's waterways. The survey also showed that 62 percent of farmed acres were using no-till, and 18 percent utilized reduced tillage. The conservation transect survey is a visual survey of cropland conducted between March and April 2021 by Indiana Conservation Partnership staff.

**TECHNICAL REPORT FOR JULY SSCB MEETING**  
**SPECIFIC TO SOUTHEAST REGION ONLY**

Southeast Division of Soil Conservation technical staff have been working with landusers and partnership staff on the following.

\*CLEAN WATER INDIANA—10 grants involving 19 counties. Some counties with multiple grants. Currently 36 on-going(ready for installation) practices and 23 completed practices for fiscal year.

\*IDEM 319 GRANTS—5 grants involving 6 counties. Some counties with multiple grants. Currently 11 on-going and 11 completed practices for fiscal year.

\*CREP—37 new or completed contracts for fiscal year.

\*CRP—Assisted with re-enrollment field visits for tracts not covered by NRCS contribution agreements with SWCDs.

\*Local Cost Share Program(Harrison County)—25 landuser visits and 51 on-going practices designed since April 1, 2021

Southeast currently has a Resource Specialist/CREP leader vacancy yet to be filled. We continue to rotate use of office space with other partners due to 50% maximum capacity.