

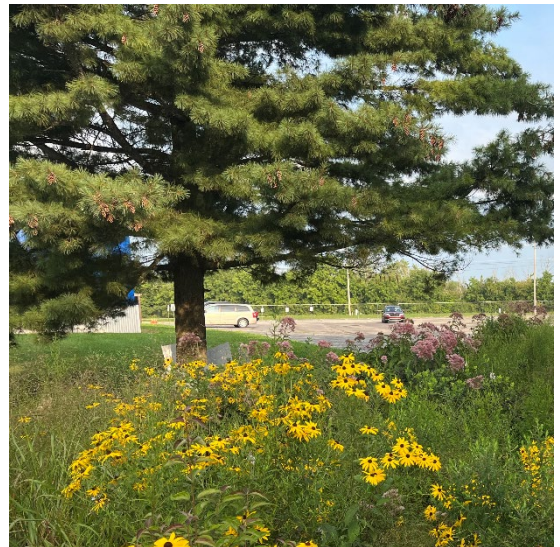


Clean Water Indiana Grants Report October 2023

SUCCESS STORY

Wayne Co SWCD 2022 CWI Grant

Wayne Co SWCD hosted a conservation tour for local, state, and federal constituents. The tour included county council, one state representative, SWCD staff and supervisors, and partnership staff. The SWCD highlighted their CWI grant of a pollinator rain garden and urban garden at the county fairgrounds. The pictures below are before and after of the completed rain garden and the final picture is the start to the urban garden.



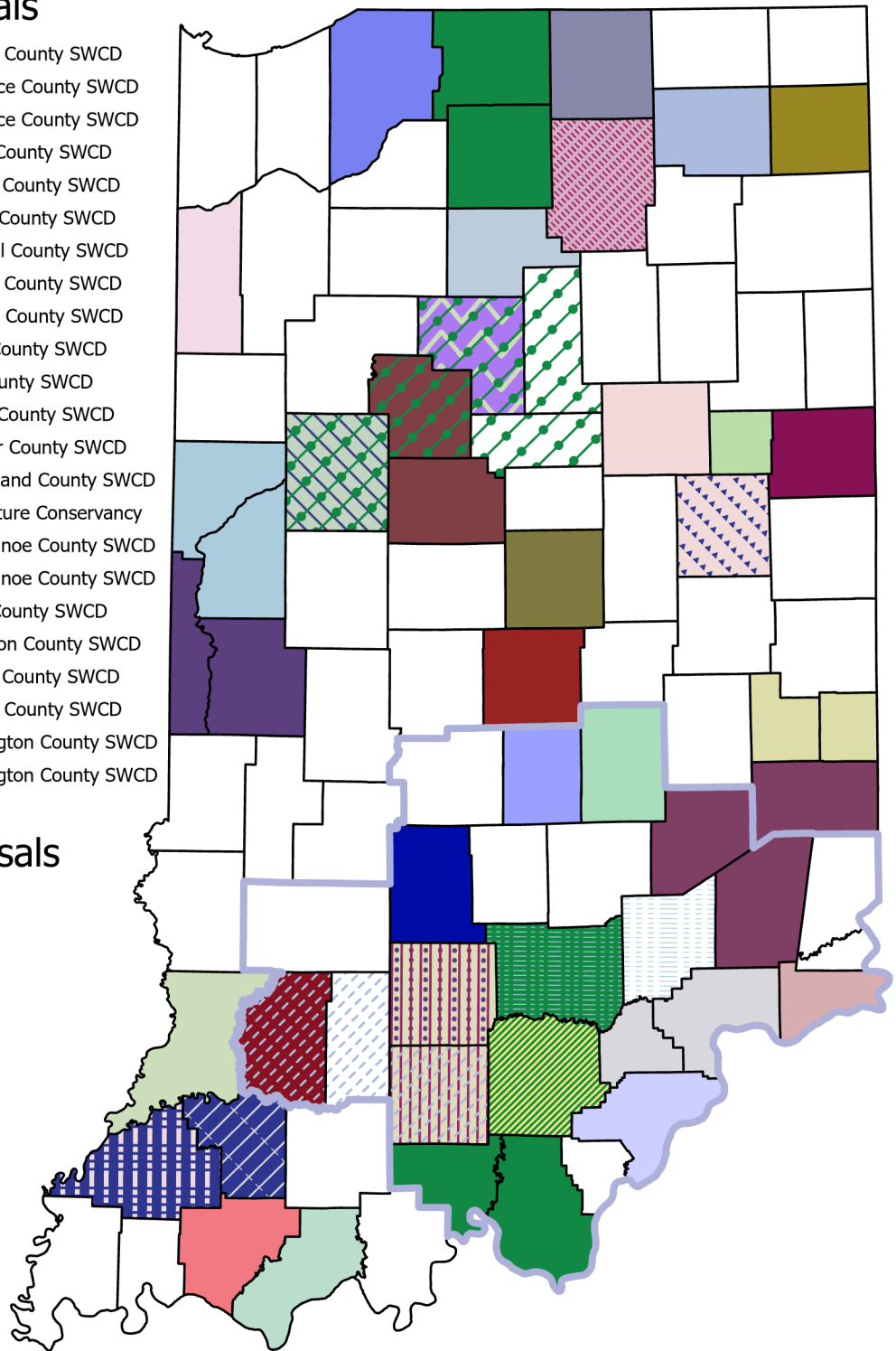
Clean Water Indiana

2024 Competitive Grants



Regional Project Proposals

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Blackford County SWCD | LaPorte County SWCD |
| Carroll County SWCD | Lawrence County SWCD |
| Cass County SWCD | Lawrence County SWCD |
| Cass County SWCD | Martin County SWCD |
| Clark County SWCD | Orange County SWCD |
| Clinton County SWCD | Marion County SWCD |
| Daviess County SWCD | Marshall County SWCD |
| Decatur County SWCD | Monroe County SWCD |
| DeKalb County SWCD | Newton County SWCD |
| Delaware County SWCD | Noble County SWCD |
| Delaware County SWCD | Pike County SWCD |
| Elkhart County SWCD | Shelby County SWCD |
| Fulton County SWCD | Spencer County SWCD |
| Gibson County SWCD | Switzerland County SWCD |
| Gibson County SWCD | The Nature Conservancy |
| Hamilton County SWCD | Tippecanoe County SWCD |
| Jay County SWCD | Tippecanoe County SWCD |
| Jennings County SWCD | Union County SWCD |
| Jefferson County SWCD | Vermillion County SWCD |
| Johnson County SWCD | Warren County SWCD |
| Knox County SWCD | Warrick County SWCD |
| Kosciusko County SWCD | Washington County SWCD |
| Kosciusko County SWCD | Washington County SWCD |



Statewide Project Proposals

- IASWCD
- IASWCD
- SICIM

Submitted Applications

Leah Harmon, ISDA Director of Information Systems
September 13, 2023



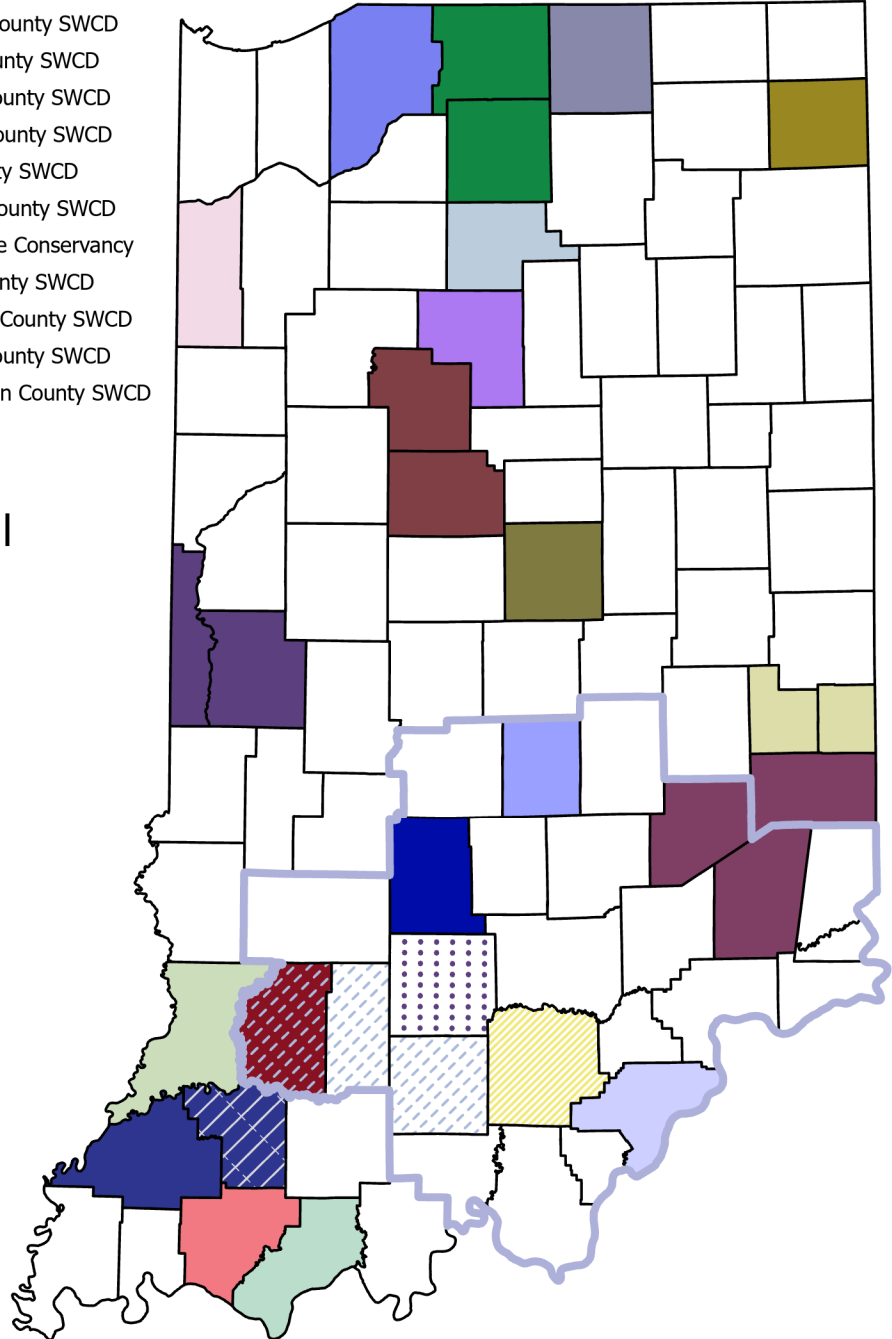
Clean Water Indiana

2024 Competitive Grants



Regional Project Proposals

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Cass County SWCD | Lawrence County SWCD |
| Clark County SWCD | Marshall County SWCD |
| Clinton County SWCD | Martin County SWCD |
| Daviess County SWCD | Monroe County SWCD |
| Decatur County SWCD | Newton County SWCD |
| DeKalb County SWCD | Pike County SWCD |
| Elkhart County SWCD | Spencer County SWCD |
| Fulton County SWCD | The Nature Conservancy |
| Gibson County SWCD | Union County SWCD |
| Hamilton County SWCD | Vermillion County SWCD |
| Johnson County SWCD | Warrick County SWCD |
| Knox County SWCD | Washington County SWCD |
| LaPorte County SWCD | |



Statewide Project Proposal

IASWCD



Funding Recommendations

Leah Harmon, ISDA Director of Information Systems

October 16, 2023

SSCB Grant Committee Funding Report

The State Soil Conservation Board Grants Committee met on October 13 to discuss the funding recommendations for the 2024 Clean Water Indiana Grant Applications. The committee members along with ISDA District Support and Resource Specialist scored each of the 50 applications ahead of the meeting. The scores were then reviewed on the 13th and each application was discussed in order to provide feedback to districts. Leah Harmon prepared the documents you have that show the recommendations made by the committee for 2024 funding.

Application Lead Funds Requested Funding Recommendation

IGG-503 Cass	\$ 48,600.00
IGG-466 Clark	\$ 23,967.84
IGG-528 Clinton	\$ 36,000.00
IGG-481 Daviess	\$ 76,956.18
IGG-526 Decatur	\$ 17,000.00
IGG-490 DeKalb	\$ 100,000.00
IGG-511 Elkhart	\$ 150,000.00
IGG-473 Fulton	\$ 145,460.50
IGG-506 Gibson	\$ 72,000.00
IGG-496 Hamilton	\$ 70,900.00
IGG-476 IASWCD	\$ 300,000.00
IGG-484 Johnson	\$ 15,995.00
IGG-485 Knox	\$ 73,000.00
IGG-517 LaPorte	\$ 259,570.00
IGG-518 Lawrence	\$ 62,000.00
IGG-487 Marshall	\$ 86,250.00
IGG-475 Martin	\$ 135,282.00
IGG-524 Monroe	\$ 22,000.00
IGG-512 Newton	\$ 62,222.00
IGG-468 Pike	\$ 159,000.00
IGG-513 Spencer	\$ 10,000.00
IGG-508 TNC	\$ 82,500.00
IGG-525 Union	\$ 75,000.00
IGG-488 Vermillion	\$ 175,000.00
IGG-469 Warrick	\$ 24,432.00
IGG-499 Washington	\$ 30,150.00
Total =	\$ 2,313,285.52

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Brown Temp/Vacant Appt

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

BrownSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Brown
Appointment Type
Vacant_Appointed_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Sara True
Term Expiration
2024
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Dawn Slack
Address
8350 State Rd 46 East
City, State, ZIP
Nashville, IN 47448
Qualifications
Dawn is a botanist and biologist by trade with extensive experience in the field working with landowners teaching the difference between native and invasive species, and the complex interactions between the two.
Occupation

Dawn is the current Project Coordinator for the Indiana Invasives Initiative. She previously held director-level positions at The Nature Conservancy and DNR.

Conservation Interests

Botany, invasive species management, wildlife management, community outreach

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

Scott Stephenson

Date of Submission

10/18/2023

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

Scott Stephenson Mon, Sep 18, 1:27 PM

This email could serve as a notice of resignation,

Scott

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sara True** <happyheartfarms15@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 4:53 PM
Subject: Re: supervisor position
To: Scott Stephenson <swstephenson76@gmail.com>

Hi Scott,

Thank you for reaching out and your patience with how little I have been able to be involved in the past few months! It has been my pleasure to serve on the board and hopefully in the future I can be a part of the organization again! Please let me know if I can ever offer assistance to anyone in the future and it has been a pleasure working with everyone!

Stay safe,

Sara

On Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 1:27 PM Scott Stephenson <swstephenson76@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi Sara,

I want to let you know that we have found a replacement for you (finally) on the board. The transition will not be official until the State Soil Conservation Board approves the new candidate, which as I have said, is just a formality. This may not be until September, but I got an email today that said they may be meeting more often than every other month.

If you would please shoot me an email statement that will serve as your official letter of resignation, that would be greatly appreciated. Thanks so much, Sara, for your patience in this process, but it kept us in compliance with state law!

Thanks also for your service on the board. If you ever get in a place where you feel you can serve again as a supervisor or as an associate, let us know!

All the best,

Scott

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 8:24 AM
To: Tyler, Geneva (ISDA); Harmon, Leah
Subject: White Recommendation for Temporary/Vacant Appointment

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

White has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
White
Appointment Type
Temporary_Elected_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Jaylen Hunt
Term Expiration
2024
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Bruce Reynolds
Address
903 S South St
City, State, ZIP
Brookston, IN 47923
Qualifications
Mr. Reynolds is a current Associate Supervisor for the White County SWCD. He has a strong agriculture background and is passionate about education and protecting our natural resources.
Occupation
Mr. Reynolds is retired but spent the majority of his life in agriculture-related careers.

Conservation Interests

Mr. Reynolds' conservation interests are related to his involvement in an agricultural community and wanting to protect our natural resources for the next generations.

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

Larry Kilmer

Date of Submission

1697644800000

Is a letter of resignation attached?

No

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).



MONTICELLO
1415 North 6th Street
Monticello, Indiana 47960
Phone: 574-583-8238
www.mfsag.com

FRANCESVILLE
5088 S. 1450 W.
Francesville, Indiana 47946
Phone: 219-567-9714

October 18, 2023

I hereby resign my position on the White County Soil & Water board, as I have moved outside of White County. I want to thank all fellow board members and Katelyn for allowing me to be a part of such a wonderful group of like minded conservationists.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaylen Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jaylen Hunt



State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA – DSC Director’s Report

October 24, 2024

Budget

54310: Clean Water Indiana:

Item	FY2024	Update
Training Reimbursements	\$50,000	Deadline March 15 2024
District Match	\$1,840,000	Deadline March 30 2024
CWI Competitive Grants	~\$2,300,000	~\$2,300,000
CREP & CREP PEA	~\$1,875,000	~\$1,875,000
IRA – IASWCD Proposal	\$540,000	Moving Forward
IDEA Proposal	\$4,400	Complete
Agreements/Equipment	\$100,000	~\$15,000 unallocated

Process Timeline:

Calendar Year 2023												Calendar Year 2024											
J	F	★	A	★	J	J	A	S	★	N	★	J	F	★	A	★	J	J	A	S	★	N	★
a	e	a	p	a	u	u	u	e	c	o	e	a	e	a	p	a	u	u	u	e	c	o	e
n	b	r	r	y	n	l	g	p	t	v	c	n	b	r	r	y	n	l	g	p	t	v	c
State Fiscal Year 2023						State Fiscal Year 2024						State Fiscal Year 2025											

★ SSCB Budget Vote Ahead of Next Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year Runs July 1 – June 30

★ CWI Award Vote in October

★ CWI Contracts

★ Annual Financial Reports Due – Match Dollars Distributed upon receipt.

Staffing

- Division of Soil Conservation has been fully staffed since September 5th, 2023. No plans to hire add any new positions this FY.
- Will hire one grant position under Kankakee RCPP later this year/early 2024.
- ISDA Grain Buyers is currently hiring:
 - [Grain Regulatory Analyst](#)
 - [Grain Regulatory Inspector](#)

Board Terms:

- Larry Clemens continues to serve until an appointment has been made. All appropriate filings have been submitted.
- Due to long wait times for appointments, we are awaiting a response on IC 14-32-2-4 which states “The terms shall be staggered so that at least three (3) members are appointed every two (2) years.”
- No one is currently near the end of their term.

First Name	Last Name	Organization	City	State	Term Expiration
Gene	Schmidt	SSCB	Laporte	IN	4/31/2026
Amy	Burris	SSCB	Loogootee	IN	12/31/2027
Kenny	Cain	SSCB	Crawfordsville	IN	4/31/2026
Ray	Chattin	SSCB	Decker	IN	12/31/2027
Larry	Clemens	SSCB	Angola	IN	4/31/2026
Brad	Dawson	SSCB	Guilford	IN	4/31/2026
Jane	Hardisty	SSCB	Greenfield	IN	12/31/2027

Annual Conference:

- Board Members, we have funds and encourage you to attend annual conference – if you’d like to attend, please let me know before November 3rd.

Strategic Planning for FY2025 CWI:

- I have received 5 responses, and right now the best date is November 27th. I will secure a space and send out invites after this meeting.

Division Programmatic Updates:

- ISDA Staff will provide updates on ISDA programs during ICP Reports section of SSCB Agenda

Key Performance Indicators:

Source: <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/>

Reporting: January 1, 2023 to October 1, 2023.

- Number of Best Management Practices Installed: **378**
- Acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): **1,373**
- Trees planted in floodplains through CREP Bottomland Timber Establishment: **107,358**
- Sediment prevented from entering waters of Indiana: **29,500,000 lbs/year**
 - Phosphorus reduced from entering waters of Indiana: **11,400 lbs/year**
 - Nitrogen reduced from entering waters of Indiana: **32,400 lbs/year**
- Facilitated/Hosted trainings focused on SWCD supervisors & staff: **17**
- Clean Water Indiana Grant Applications: **49**



State Soil Conservation Board

October 24th, 2023

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Work on the expansion of the CREP program is continuing:
 - These last two months I have been working to try and get a company lined up to complete the required Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA). There has been a delay on this.
 - ISDA's goal for the program expansion to start is in the first quarter of the calendar year 2024, but it will all depend on the completion of the required PEA and also on the approval of our contract with the FSA.
 - A letter was sent to all of the SWCD offices in early August to gauge the interest of the SWCDs in being a CREP Administrating District for the new CREP watersheds. Interest from the SWCDs around the state included 30 districts. The final selection of the Administrating SWCDs will be made at the discretion of the SSCB at the January Board meeting.
- Approximate acres signed up this calendar year are 1,504 acres.
- Attached to this report is the usual report showing 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 \$10.9 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$4-\$13 for every state dollar, which is currently between \$43.5 million and \$141.5 million of federal dollars depending on the practice.

IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)

- Component 1 – An online web tool has been developed and released displaying the results of the water quality trends report and making the results more accessible to conservation partners and the public. It can be found on the Science Assessment website at: <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/>.
- Component 2 - Work on the Science Assessment is continuing. Work on the first 10 practices is almost complete. Fact sheets showing the results of each individual practice will be available soon. The current grant that has been used to carry out the 2nd Component is almost expired, and work on getting INREP up and running is happening so that the work of the Science Assessment can continue without interruption. More details to come on this.
- Work on the next revision of the SNRS to be completed in calendar year 2025 will begin in 2024. I have met with IDEM to begin this discussion and determine next steps and a timeline.



State Soil Conservation Board

October 24, 2023
Information Systems
Leah Harmon



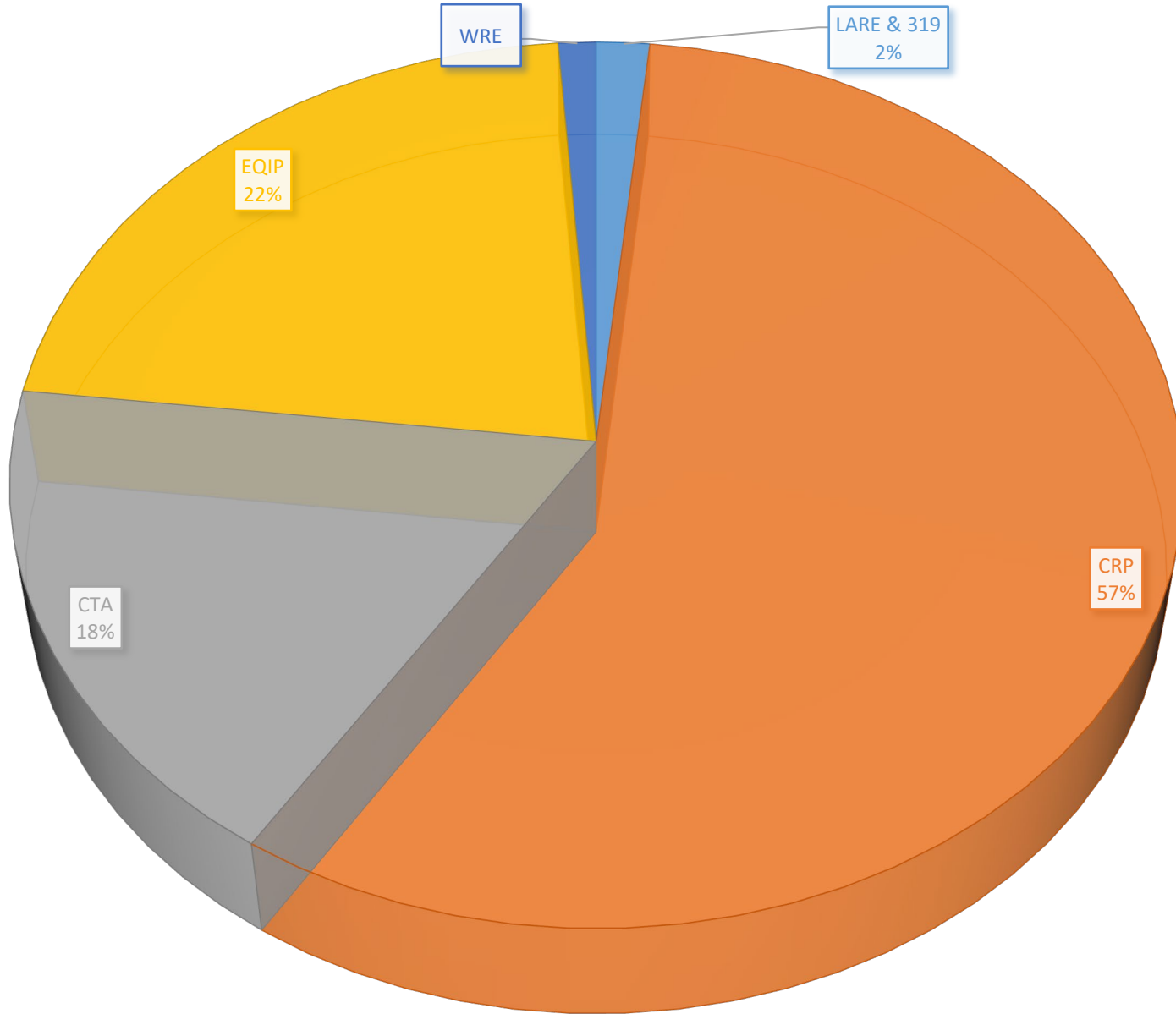
Update

SWCD Annual Financial Reports

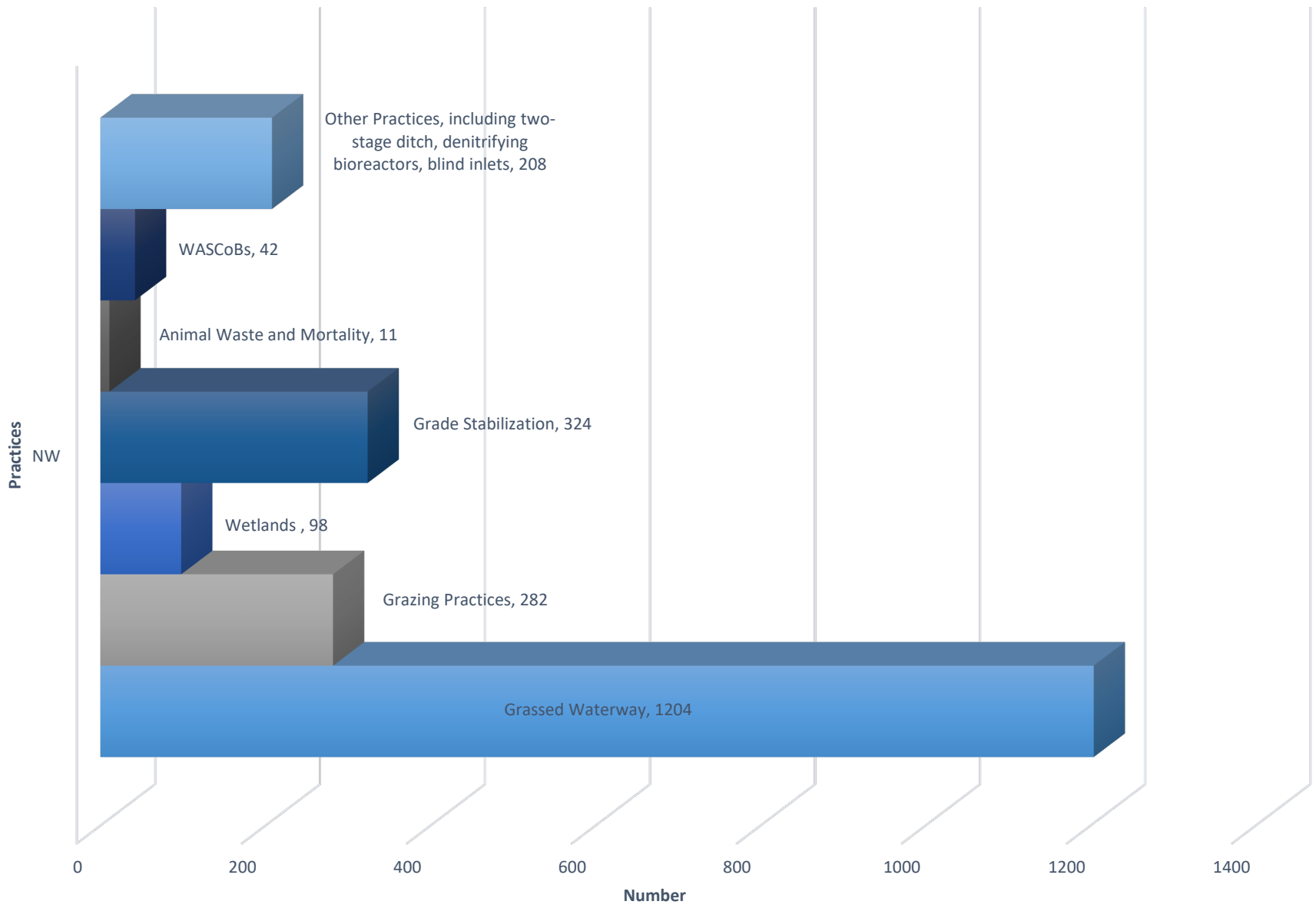
- The updated SWCD annual financial reporting process received a Best of Indiana Award at the Indiana Digital Government Summit.
- The Best of Indiana awards honor state and local technology projects that improve business functions/processes and citizen experience.
- ISDA was honored in the Best Application Serving the Public- State Government category, which is awarded to individuals and teams that have designed, developed, and deployed applications or improved existing applications that deliver services more effectively to the public or other external stakeholders. The award focuses on how applications effectively increase the transparency or accessibility of services.
- The award committee particularly appreciated that payments were processed more effectively, and that the data was used in multiple ways.
- The success of the AFR modernization was truly a team effort of ISDA, the SSCB, and districts. Without the buy-in and input from all parties, there is no way this would have run as smoothly as it did.

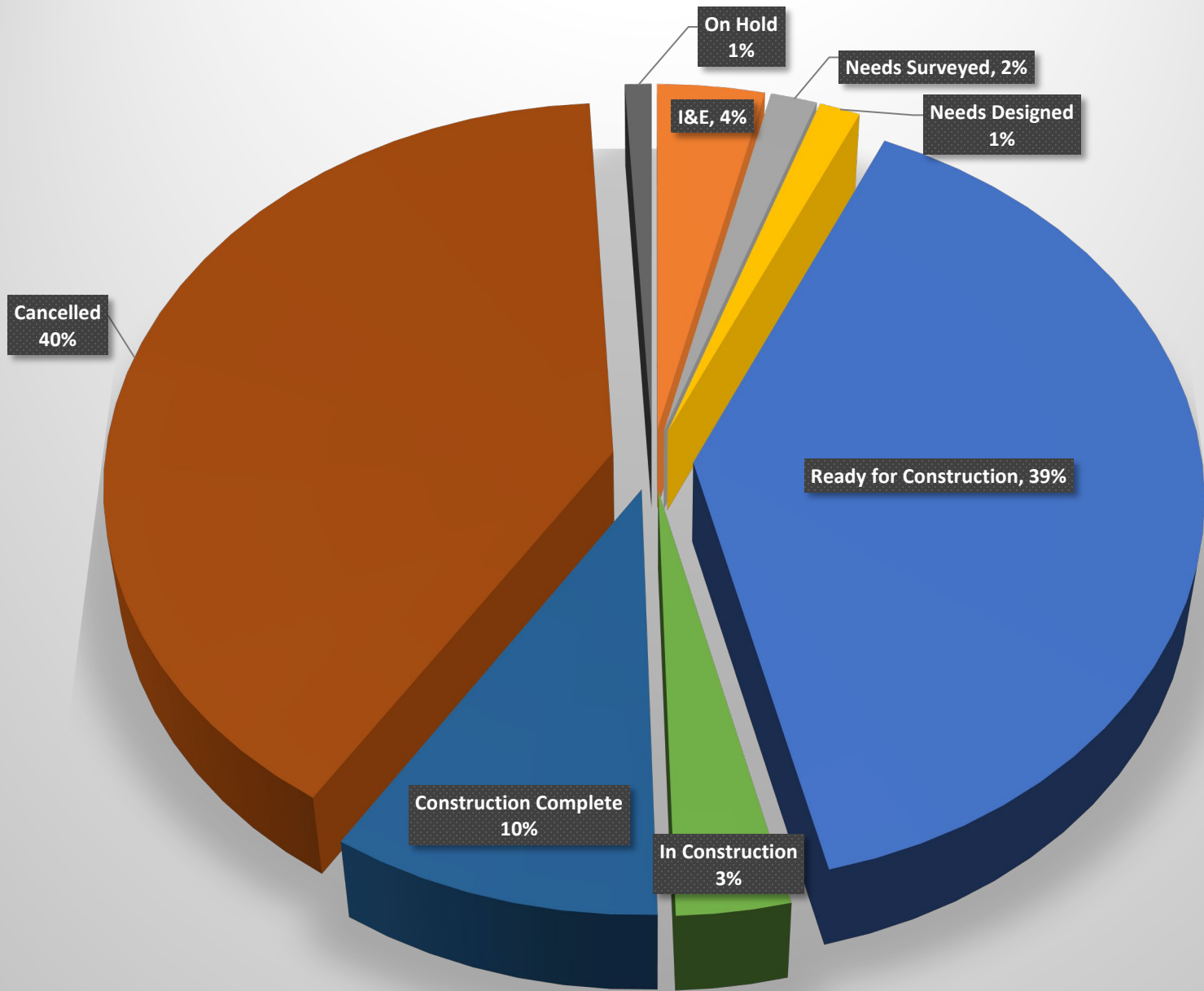


PROGRAM ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTHWEST



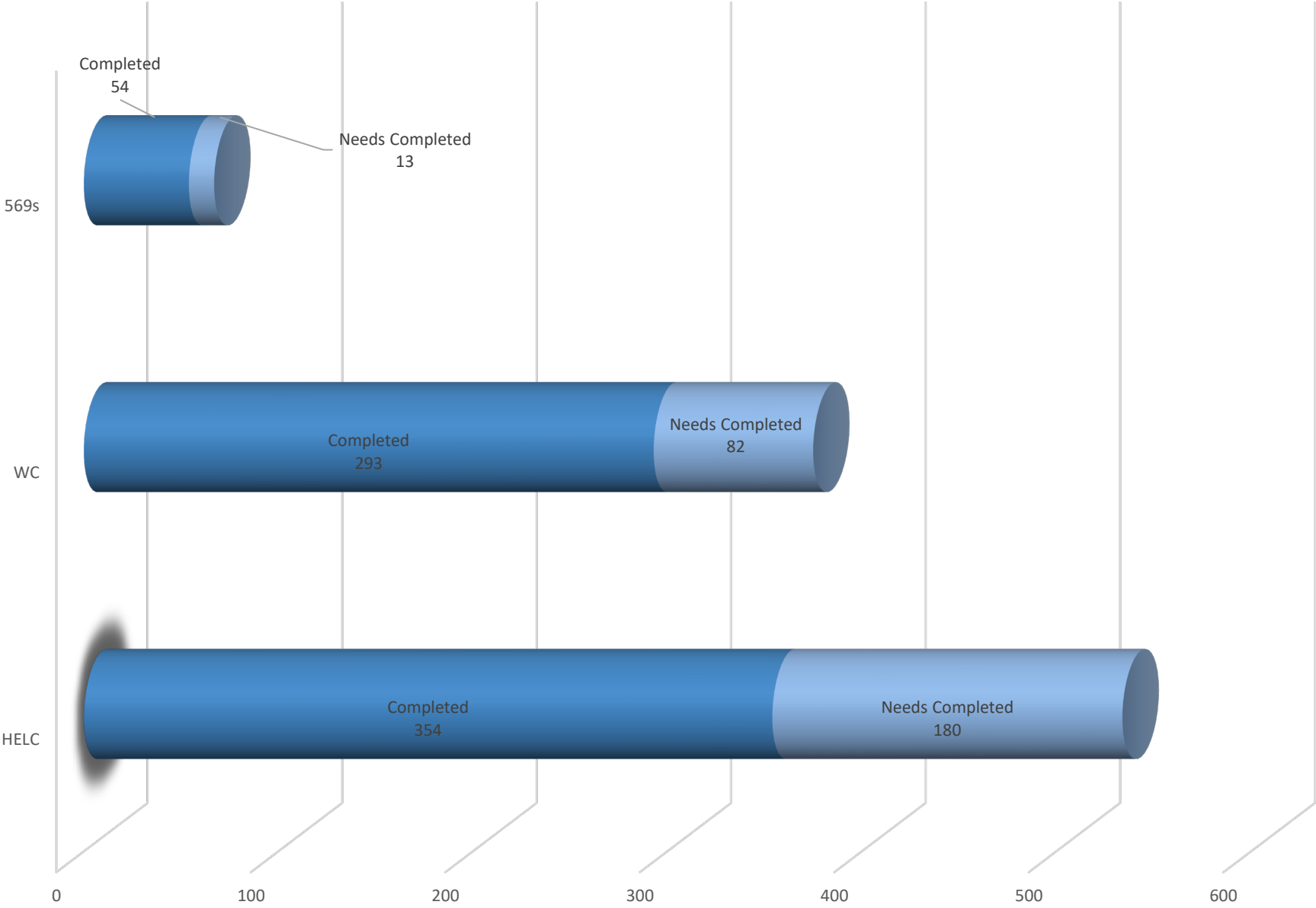
Conservation Practices in Northwest





NORTHWEST PROJECT STATUS

Northwest HEL and Wetland Compliance





State Soil Conservation Board

October 24th, 2023

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

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- Work on the next revision of the SNRS to be completed in calendar year 2025 will begin in 2024. I have met with IDEM to begin this discussion and determine next steps and a timeline.



State Soil Conservation Board

October 24, 2023

Nutrient Stewardship Updates, Breegan Andersen



Program Updates

Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP)

- Indiana's Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program officially launched on September 22, 2023.
- This program covers Indiana watersheds within the Mississippi River Basin and excludes the WLEB and Lake Michigan Basins. This is due to federal statutory language associated with the funds.
- The program webpage has been published and can be found on the [ISDA website](#).
- As of Oct. 19, 2023, there have been 85 farms sign up representing an estimated 6,200 acres across Indiana's portion of the Mississippi River Basin. Most participants have indicated they have never sampled before or haven't sampled in over 4 years.
- We continue working on developing a new procurement process with the State to reduce the burden of the contracting process. Making it more efficient for Ag Retailer and Certified Crop Advisor participation.
- We are anticipating pausing new sign-ups at the end of October because of the high volume of interest and sign-ups received.
- This is still all very fluid and subject to change as we continue to move forward.

CWI Audit Report

Each year Clean Water Indiana Grants are reviewed by ISDA staff to determine any issues the grant may be dealing with. This past year 7 grants were reviewed around the state with no major issues or findings. Among the 7 grants, \$512,000 of funded Clean Water Indiana Funds have been used to fund various projects around the state. An additional \$462,000 in cash match and in-kind have been used to get conservation on the ground in Indiana. Grant reviews will be discussed in February to conduct more audits in 2024. Thanks to all of the District Support Specialist and Resource Specialist who conducted these reviews this past year.

Comments from grant reports regarding what grantees like about the CWI Program include.....

-“ Additional staffing positions are possible because of the CWI Program.”

-“Helps new employees learn various partners and their roles.”

-“ It’s much easier to work with than the Federal programs. The application process is easier. It fills in niches that other programs don’t quite match. It’s not a whole farm plan, but we can go in and make a measurable difference with one practice/relative small amount of cost share dollars.”

-“ Puts conservation on the ground. Protect our water resources from nutrient runoff. It was a great way for us to meet grain farmers and guys with livestock.”

-“ Fills in the gap for those not funded with USDA programs. CWI has the ability to have a quick turnaround from application to payment. Able to be creative with practices when applying for grants. Staff grant helped bring in several other grants and funds with the extra help.”



State Soil Conservation Board
October 24, 2023 District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 8/29/23
to 10/9/23



Statewide or Regional Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff

- **Completed since last report:**

- SWCD Summer Summits: sessions were completed in Greensburg, Rensselaer, and LaGrange. Feedback for the seven sessions was positive (see evaluation excerpts below):

2. Related to your position, how helpful was the Phil Anderson session?

[More Details](#)

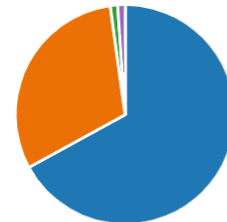
● Very helpful	61
● Somewhat helpful	25
● Neither helpful nor unhelpful	4
● Somewhat unhelpful	0
● Very unhelpful	1



3. Related to your position, how helpful was the Sticky Wall Brainstorming?

[More Details](#)

● Very helpful	61
● Somewhat helpful	28
● Neither helpful nor unhelpful	1
● Somewhat unhelpful	0
● Very unhelpful	1



- Laura hosted a training on Annual Meeting and Election season.
- Geneva and Nathan presented at the IDEA Conference: Business Planning & Disaster Plans. It touched on the importance of business plans and how to effectively complete those.

- **Upcoming events:**

- **SWCD Financial Training:** December 7 at the Indiana Farm Bureau building, Indianapolis. Presenters: Indiana State Board of Accounts, Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, and the ISDA DSS Team. DSSs will demonstrate the District Capacity Form that tracks CWI dollars.

- **New Supervisor Training:** available year-round via your ISDA DSS in both in-person and virtual options as well as a recorded link.

Clean Water Indiana

- 2024 CWI Competitive Grants: 49 applications were submitted. Thank you to all applicants for your interest! DSSs assisted applicants during this process and provided feedback on applications. They also scored all submitted applications and provided feedback to the CWI Grants Committee.
- 2021 – 2023 CWI Competitive Grants: DSSs assisted applicants with questions, modification possibilities, and other topics relevant to the management of these grants.
- CWI District Capacity and Statutory Match Reporting: a memo was sent to SWCDs outlining procedures and purpose.
- Grant Reviews: the 2021 Spencer/Dubois/Warrick grant was reviewed.

DSS Committee Work:

- All Employees Meeting
- Board Certification Program
- Clean Water Indiana
- Indiana Conservation Partnership Training and Certification Program Pollinator
- Indiana Conservation Partnership Training and Certification Program
- State Soil Conservation Board
- Summer Summits
- Women4TheLand

Board Certification Program

The first phase of rollout will be at the IASWCD Annual Conference in January 2024. There is no certification tied to the program at this time.

Elections, Appointments and Annual Meetings

Supervisor appointments, elections, and annual meeting planning is underway for SWCDs. DSSs are assisting with questions tying to these responsibilities and deadlines. November 1 is the deadline for both the Election Committee and Appointed Supervisors recommendations. December 1 is the deadline for Elected Supervisor nominees.

DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period	Total
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	13
Assistance with SWCD or Partner Strategic Planning	1
Other Visits with SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, CWI, etc.	38

Soil Health PARP Topic

Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems – by Hans Schmitz (SA), Ann Kline, Mathias Ingle, Ashley Adair and Matt Pearson is being developed and is in draft status.

Soil Health Demonstration Kits

- Rainfall Infiltration kits were assembled by Pike County FFA Earthteam Volunteers and have been distributed to all 92 counties
- Survey to assess kit replacement needs and staff training needs is ready for deployment.

November 30: CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Training – Economics of Soil Health

- Training has been designed to go beyond typical annual returns on investments presentations. Topics will include capitalization and marketing opportunities as well as insights from farm managers and ag lenders.
- Speakers and panelists include:
 - Alan Weber, Co-author of SARE Cover Crop Economics
 - Pat Karst, Vice-president Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management
 - Brenda Sermersheim, Vice-president of Agricultural Banking – German American Bank
 - Ken Rulon, Rulon Enterprises
 - Aaron Clark, Cloverleaf Farms
 - DeSutter Farms representative TBA
- Register: <https://bit.ly/CCSI-Economics23>

2024 National No-Till Conference

Registration Discounts are now available for *all* Indiana Conservation Partnership staff and supervisors.

- **The deadline to receive the discounted rates is December 8, 2023**, and pre-registration is required.
- Discount code: **INDIANA**
 - Full Conference Registration: Regular \$519 / ICP Discount \$299
 - Single Day Registration: Regular \$350 / ICP Discount \$255
- When registering by phone, be sure to mention the Indiana Conservation Partnership.
- Register online <https://www.no-tillfarmer.com/nntc>
- For additional information, please email info@no-tillfarmer.com or info@ccsin.org

Outreach and Education

- CCSI-SARE Engaging New Audiences trainings to help partners better target audiences and build events that better lead to soil health practice adoption. Four sites, 68 attendees
- 8 events in September, reaching approximately 800 attendees
- 13 2023 outreach events in progress

Full CCSI Reports may be downloaded at <https://www.ccsin.org/reports>

CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education

Economics of Soil Health

November 30, 2023

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM EST

Hendricks County Fairgrounds

1900 E Main Street, Danville, IN 46122



Economics of soil health systems is regularly identified as information critical to farmers and those who work with farmers. This training is designed to not only explore annual return on investments of soil health practices, but the longer term ramifications on economic resiliency and potential economic opportunities. We are bringing together a group individuals representing farmers, farm management, and ag banking to provide their insights into financial impacts of soil health systems.

Speakers and Panelists include:

- Alan Weber, Co-Author of SARE Cover Crop Economics
- Pat Karst, Vice-president, Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management
- Brenda Sermersheim, Vice-president of Agricultural Banking - German American Bank
- Ken Rulon, Rulon Enterprises
- Aaron Clark, Cloverleaf Farm
- DeSutter Farms

More Information / Register:

<https://bit.ly/CCSI-Economics23>

This event is presented as a partnership of the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) and Indiana SARE.

CCSI is a program of the Indiana Conservation Partnership with a mission of

Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland

www.ccsin.org



COVER CROPS FALL FIELD TRAINING

November 14, 2023
9am-3pm

Purdue University Agronomy Center
for Research & Education (ACRE)
4550 US 52 West
West Lafayette, IN 47907

This one-day in-person cover crop training is intended to provide important basics of cover crop management for field professionals working with farmers on cover crop implementation

- Presentations from specialists
- Hands-on experience in demonstration plots
- CEU and CCH credits pending

Training intended for
ag retailers, CCAs,
NRCS, SWCDs, and
Extension

REGISTER BY 11/1
Scan QR code or follow
the link to register



<https://tinyurl.com/4e33dssk>





PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2023

REGIONAL AG FORUM

Wed, Nov 29 | Toyota Events Center
709 N Embree St, Princeton, IN 47670, USA

Good information and great opportunity for networking with other producers in the region. Panel of regional farmers discussing relevant topics as well as up-to-date information on climate smart funding.

Adam Daugherty will speak on beginning cover crops, followed by a farmer panel. At 11 am, there will be climate smart funding speed talks. Lunch is provided free of charge, but registration is required. After lunch, Adam Daugherty will speak again on a more advanced topic. The day will start at 7:30 am CST with registration, doughnuts, coffee and networking and should wrap up around 2 pm CST.

Registration: Scan the QR Code above or use the link below
<https://www.ccsin.org/event-details/regional-ag-forum>



Sponsored By:

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, ADM Ag Services,
The Nature Conservancy, Purdue Extension, Clean Water Indiana, Alcoa, Bayer &
Daviess, Gibson, Knox, Pike, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick SWCD's

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



Farm
Production
and
Conservation

Indiana Farm Service Agency Written Report

October, 2023

Farm
Service
Agency

Indiana State FSA
Office
5981 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN
46278

Voice: 317-290-3030
TDD: 317-295-5799
FAX: 855-374-4066


Indiana Farm Service Agency issued a total of \$40,106,008.00 in fiscal year 2023 in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual payments, cost share, and incentive payments. This is a \$189,592.00 increase from fiscal year 2022.

Due to the expiration of the 2018 Farm Bill, FSA, currently has no authority to process any CRP offers and approval of all CRP contracts for all signup types after September 30, 2023. FSA is currently awaiting new authority to deliver CRP when it becomes law. Effective October 1, 2023, FSA will not approve any CRP contracts for all signup types and will not process offers for enrollment in CRP for all signup types. Contracts approved by COB September 30, 2023, will continue to receive annual rental and cost-share payments, and signing incentive and practice incentive payments, as applicable.

Unfortunately, with the expiration of the Farm Bill, our staff cannot discuss any policy about CRP practices which includes, incentives, technical specs, cost-share, etc. with any customer interested in new CRP. All Indiana COF's have been instructed to keep a register of interested persons with their contact information and a map showing the area they are interested in, and our staff will contact these customers as soon as possible when we receive a new Farm Bill or a Farm Bill extension. This will be extremely frustrating for our field staff and customers, but we cannot risk providing current policy to potential customers when it could possibly change with a new farm Bill.

FSA continues to work with ISDA regarding an updated Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreement. We are currently waiting for ISDA to complete the environmental requirements. Once this process is complete, Indiana FSA will work with ISDA to submit the final plan for National FSA Office approval. The goal is to allow all watersheds in Indiana to become eligible for CREP for a total of around 100,000 acres. The current CREP agreement has eleven designated watersheds for a total of 26,250 acres. If passed, this new agreement will increase the eligible acres in Indiana by 380%. Indiana FSA appreciates the commitment and partnership with ISDA during this process.

Respectfully submitted,


Jared C. Thomas

Jared Thomas
Indiana Farm Service Agency
Conservation/Compliance Chief

Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

October 2023 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

INDIANA STATE CONSERVATIONIST

We are pleased to announce Mrs. Damaris Mortenson as the newest Indiana State Conservationist. Mrs. Mortenson is a native of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Mechanization (Engineering) Technology from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez campus. Before being selected as state conservationist for Indiana, Mrs. Mortenson served as the assistant state conservationist for management and strategy, headquartered in West Virginia.

Mrs. Mortenson began her career with NRCS in 1992 as a soil conservationist trainee in Iowa and quickly moved through the ranks. She served as district conservationist in Iowa and Wisconsin and later moved to Michigan to become an area resource conservationist. In 2012, Mrs. Mortenson moved back to Iowa as assistant state conservationist for field operations. Mrs. Mortenson went on to serve as the state resource conservationist in West Virginia in 2016 before transitioning into the assistant state conservationist for management and strategy. Mrs. Mortenson has been with USDA-NRCS for 31 years.

In her free time, Mrs. Mortenson likes to travel, sew and quilt. She and her husband of 30 years, Kevin, have three adult children. Her start date is still being finalized.

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

CIG is a competitive grants program. Through creative problem solving and innovation, CIG partners work to address water quality, water quantity, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations. Two separate CIG funding opportunities are now available on grants.gov: \$50 million through [CIG On-Farm Trials](#) and \$15 million is available through [CIG Classic](#).

For CIG On-Farm Trials, this year's funding priorities are:

- Irrigation water management technologies
- Nutrient management
- Feeding management and enteric methane reduction
- Grazing lands
- Soil health demonstration trials

For CIG Classic, this year's funding priorities are:

- Forestry
- Habitat conservation and restoration for wildlife and invertebrates
- Managing agricultural lands to improve local water quality
- Energy conservation
- Economics
- Strengthening conservation through indigenous knowledge

This opportunity is open to all domestic non-federal entities and individuals based in the United States. Strong consideration will be given to proposals that include Historically Underserved entities and individuals. Applications are being accepted now through [October 30, 2023](#).

FARM BILL PROGRAM APPLICATION DATES

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Application deadline of [Dec. 8](#) for all funding sources.
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Application deadlines of [Dec. 8](#) and [March 15](#).

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

ACEP's Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) not only protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses, they also support environmental quality, wildlife habitat, historic preservation and protection of open spaces. State and local governments, non-governmental organizations and Native American Tribes that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS and individual landowners to protect farmland through easements. Eligible entities must submit applications for ALE's current funding pool on or before January 17, 2024.

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

Wetland reserve easements (WRE) allow landowners to successfully restore, enhance and protect habitat for wildlife on their lands, reduce damage from flooding, recharge groundwater and provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. Eligible landowners can choose to enroll in a permanent or 30-year easement. This announcement include ACEP-Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (ACEP-GRLI) Eligible entities must submit applications for WRE's current funding pool on or before November 17.

Wetland Reserve Easement Program (WREP)

WREP is part of the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) component of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). WREP enables local conservation partners to provide leadership and expertise to assist NRCS with acquiring and restoring private wetlands that have been previously altered for agricultural production. WREP easements can be enrolled as 30-year or perpetual, based on the landowners desired management of the offered property. Compensation rates are based on county location.

The Lower Wabash River and White River Oxbow project, led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), seeks to enroll 1,000 acres into wetland easements in parts of Knox, Gibson and Posey counties in Indiana and Gallatin, White, Edwards and Wabash counties in Illinois. This project aims to build on existing efforts of local partnerships between NRCS, TNC and the Conservation Law Center to enroll historically underserved landowners in areas like Lyle's Station, which was settled in the early 1800's and is one of the last remaining Black American settlements in the state. The project focus is to reduce nutrient export from the Wabash River and to improve important habitat around priority oxbow lakes for monarch butterflies, migratory birds and large river fish species.

WREP applications may be submitted at any time to NRCS; however, applications for the current funding round must be submitted on or before the closing date – November 17.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

NRI is the National Resources Inventory, a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Information collected includes the status, condition, and trends of land, soil, water, and related resources on the non-federal lands. The sampling units are areas of land called "segments", within which detailed data on soil properties and land use are collected at a random sample of points. Indiana's NRI data collection will begin on September 1, 2023, and run through until the end of January 2024. The soils staff at the state office will collect the data. Field office staff and FSA may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plans, cropping history, etc.

During the summer, a Pasture NRI study is also done. The main difference between the pasture NRI and the regular NRI is points are only on active grazing land and a lot more detailed information is collected at each point. Producers are usually interested in the statistics of forages and plants found on their site.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact John Allen, State Soil Scientist at john.allen@usda.gov.