

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
September 19, 2017
NRCS State Office

- I. 9:30 a.m.: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of July 2017**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon
 - 1. Montgomery SWCD-Marc Roberts
 - 2. Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management- Troy Hinkle
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
 - a. SSCB Chairman’s Report-Robert Woodling
 - 1. Executive Committee Report
 - b. Funding Committee Report- Rex Blanton
 - c. CCSI MOU
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Martin SWCD-Nathan Stoelting
- VI. 10 Minute Break**
- VII. ISDA Updates**
 - a. Director’s Report- Jordan Seger
 - b. Technical Report- Jim Woody
 - c. Soil Health-Meg Leader
 - d. Accountability and Technology- Deb Fairhurst
 - 1. Story Maps
 - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
 - f. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold
- 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:**
2017 Meeting Date
October 31- Randolph County Fairgrounds
- 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

September 19th, 2017
Clean Water Indiana Grants



Program Updates

Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

- CWI grant applications were due on September 15th.

| | 2017 | 2018 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Total Applications | 31 | 26 |
| Total Districts Participating | 57 | 41 |
| Total Amount Requested | \$2,529,142 | \$1,997,050.50 |

- Initial scoring will take place in the next few weeks.
- Grant funding recommendations will be presented at the October SSCB meeting

Non-SWCD Led Grants

- SICIM submitted a non-SWCD led proposal for your review.

Annual Financial Report Grants

- All claims have been processed, we are just waiting on the last few payments to be made.
- Once districts submit a claim voucher, it takes approximately 45 days for payment to get to their checking account.
- I am starting to develop documents for next year's AFRs.

Training Reimbursement/Sponsorship

- The training program will be discussed in the grants committee at their upcoming meeting. Decisions about funding for FY 2018 will be made then.

Grant Reviews

- The DSS team has conducted two grant reviews since the last meeting.
- Projects reviewed are going well. Some updated reporting was necessary, but it has been taken care of.
- No modifications or findings at this time.
- Results of the review were sent to all districts involved in the grants as well as their boards of supervisors.

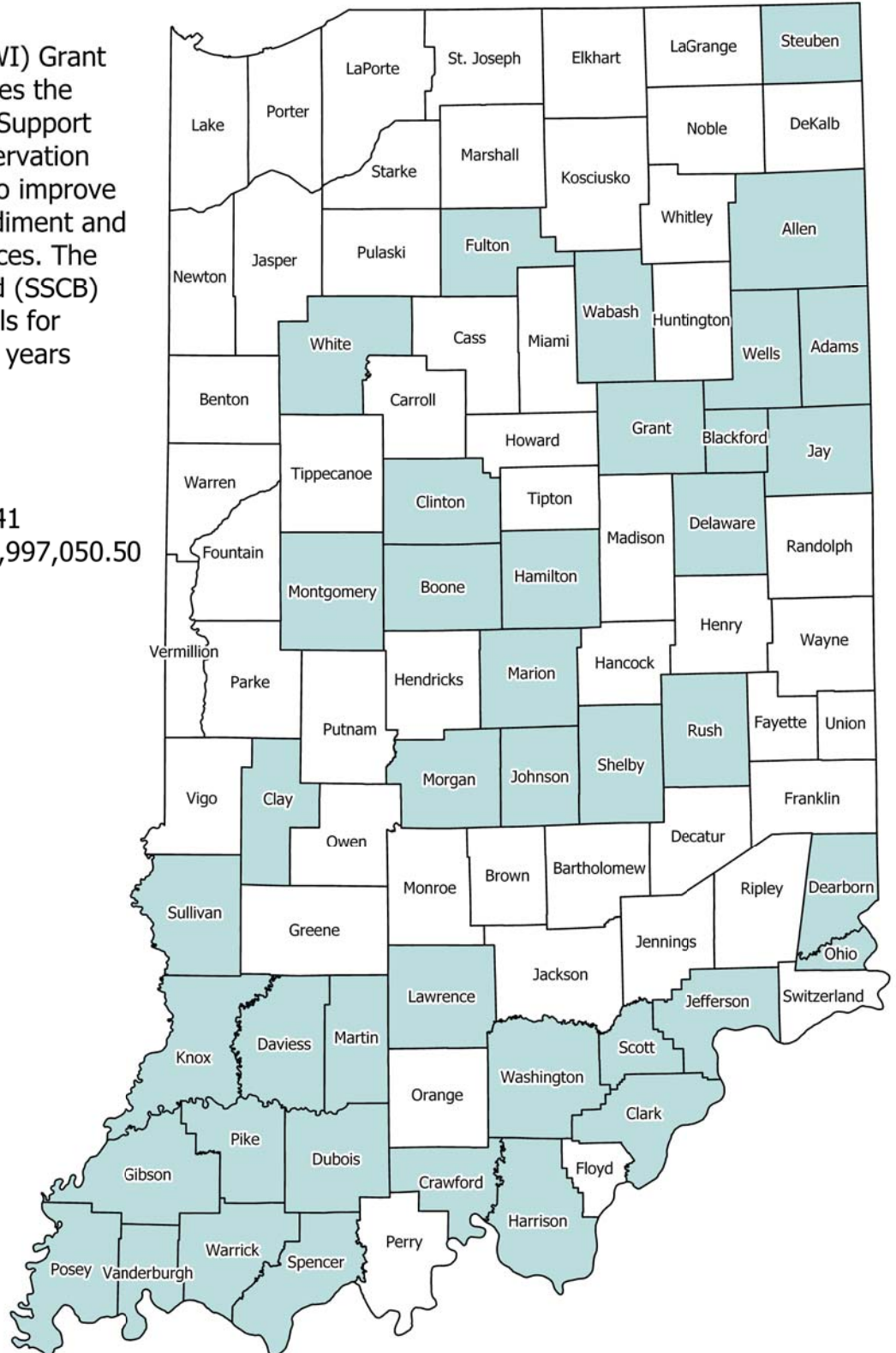
Clean Water Indiana

2018 Competitive Grants



The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the CleanWater 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) accepted competitive proposals for targeted projects up to three years in length.

Total Proposals: 26
Total Districts Represented: 41
Total Funding Requested: \$1,997,050.50



All Districts



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 | Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) |
| Address | 1919 Steven Drive |
| City, State, ZIP | Bedford, IN 47421 |
| Lead Entity Contact Name & Title | Steve Cotter, Chairman |
| Email Address | cotters@bloomington.in.gov |
| Phone | (812) 349-3736 |
| Project Amount Request | \$300,000 |
| Signatory Authority | Steve Cotter |
| Signatory Authority Email | cotters@bloomington.in.gov |

Local SWCD Contact

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Cooperating SWCD | Knox County SWCD |
| Point of Contact | Troy Hinkle |
| SWCD Phone | 812-882-8210, ext. 3 |

Project Information

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|--|
| Project Name |
| The Local CISMA Initiative |
| Please describe your project and include information about project costs and timeline. (Maximum 3000 characters) |
| Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have entered into a contribution agreement for the purpose of developing local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) throughout Indiana. Both SICIM and the NRCS have been working for many years to combat invasive plants and raise public awareness of the devastation being caused by these non-native pests, and both have come to the realization that we will not begin to make any headway until the problem is addressed by CISMAs at the local level by local people using local resources. |

SICIM helped the Dubois and Knox SWCDs develop CISMAs and is currently working with eight other SWCDs to develop CISMAs. The success of this model in Dubois and Knox counties has proven that local CISMAs can strengthen SWCDs by attracting knowledgeable and passionate people who have never before seen a reason to be involved with the SWCD. These people extend the SWCDs' reach into their spheres of influence in the community and tap into resources not heretofore available to the SWCD.

Under the five-year contribution agreement, NRCS will provide partial funding for SICIM to hire staff who will work with SWCDs and other natural resource organizations to develop CISMAs. SICIM will help these new CISMAs develop their organizational infrastructure and find the human and financial resources needed to begin effectively combating invasive plants in their communities.

SICIM staff and volunteers will also provide free technical assistance to landowners who want to control invasive plants. Landowners can have their properties surveyed to determine whether non-native plants have invaded their property, and management plans will be written for landowners who want to control invasive plants.

The NRCS has put \$917,400 into the contribution agreement, and SICIM will raise an equal amount through grants, donations, and contributions from public and private funders for a project total of \$1,834,800. Cost items are:

- \$1,600,000 for personnel;
- \$60,00 for training for ICP staff and the public;
- \$174,800 to reimburse CISMAs/SWCDs for landowner assessments and technical assistance.

The project began September 1, 2017, and SICIM expects to hire two Regional Specialists and a Project Coordinator by the end of 2017. These Regional Specialists, under the tutelage of the Project Coordinator and the members of SICIM's Steering Committee, will immediately begin the work of developing the local CISMAs. SICIM expects to hire the two remaining Regional Specialists in 2018. The agreement with NRCS runs through August 2022.

Who is the target audience for the project, and what efforts will be made to reach them? (Maximum 1500 characters)

There are two target audiences for this project. The first audience is the general public in which we intend to instill an awareness of invasive species and the problems they cause. We will reach the general public through public meetings and training sessions, public events, newsletters, presentations to civic groups, media outlets, etc. The Knox and Dubois county CISMAs/SWCDs have had great success getting coverage in print and broadcast media, and have hosted many well-attended events. We intend to duplicate their successes with every new CISMA.

Our second target audience is the people and organizations that will form the CISMA in each county, e.g. ICP staff and representatives, forestry professionals, county officials, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, etc. In each county, SICIM staff will work with the SWCD board and staff to identify potential CISMA participants and we will contact them one-on-one to invite their participation. SICIM will also conduct public call-out meetings in each county to inform attendees of the problems caused by invasive species and invite them to participate in the CISMA.

What are the measurable goals of the project and how do these goals relate to your organization's business plan and the SSCB business plan? (Maximum 1500 characters)

The goal of this project is to develop a CISMA in each of Indiana's 92 counties. SICIM's 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan contains the following goals and objectives related to this project:

Objective 1.8: Establish at least one new county or multi-county invasive species management group annually.

Goal 3: By 2019, build a constituency within each county of SICIM's region through invasive species education and outreach.

Objective 3.1: By July 1, 2015, develop a template for the establishment of local level CISMAs.

Objective 3.3: Develop new or strengthen existing partnerships with MIPN, IDNR, NRCS, IASWCD, Purdue Extension, The Nature Conservancy, local nurseries, highway departments, etc., through educational opportunities and supporting partners' education efforts.

This project address two of the four statewide priority natural resource concerns in the SSCB's 2016-2020 Business Plan:

Invasive Species, both flora and fauna

Other soil and water related natural resources concerns including forest lands, wildlife habitat area and protection, pasture and forage lands and air quality

This project also addresses three of the goals in the SSCB's 2016-2020 Business Plan:

- **By 2017, the State Soil Conservation Board will explore the creation of SWCD/Cooperative Weed Management Areas**
- **Work with ISDA, DSC, IASWCD, and 3 local Districts to increase the number of cooperative conservation projects with non-governmental organization and private industry** – this project will involve an NGO (SICIM) and local Districts in a state-wide cooperative conservation project.
- **By 2020, see an increase by 3% federal leveraged funds for conservation implementation in the state** – this project will leverage \$917,400 in federal funds for conservation implementation.

Please provide information describing all project partners. Also, please provide a point of contact for each partner and briefly describe their role in the project and any anticipated cash or in kind match contributions.

SICIM

Contact: Steve Cotter, Chairman cotters@bloomington.in.gov 812-349-3736
Role: SICIM will provide overall project management and will hire project staff. SICIM has committed \$30,000 in cash to get the project started and the Steering and Finance committees have taken on the task of raising the balance of funds needed for the project.

NRCS

Contact: Brian Kruse Brian.Kruse@in.usda.gov 317-295-5864
Role: NRCS is providing \$917,400 in cash over the next five years through a contribution agreement, and will cooperate with SICIM on training events.

DNR – Division of Forestry

Contact: Jack Seifert jseifert@dnr.IN.gov 317-232-4116
Role: The Division will provide \$107,160 worth of in-kind in the form of office space for the four regional specialists, two vehicles, and a representative on SICIM's Steering Committee.

Knox County SWCD

Contact: Troy Hinkle troy.hinkle@in.nacdnet.net 812-882-8210 ext. 3
Role: Knox County SWCD has committed \$13,500 worth of staff time to coordinate the project through December of 2017.

We are in discussions with other conservation organizations who are not listed as partners due to a lack of formal commitments as of yet. We are also reaching out to several public and private funding sources in an effort to secure the funds needed to meet out project budget.

If requesting disbursement of up to 50% of funds at the beginning of the grant, please provide a justification. (Maximum 1500 characters)

We are requesting 50% of the funds at the beginning of the grant.

Under the terms of the contribution agreement with NRCS, SICIM will hire four full-time Regional Specialists and one part-time Project Coordinator who will be tasked with developing the local CISMAs. The Agreement also stipulates that NRCS will reimburse SICIM quarterly and in arrears for tasks completed under the agreement, meaning that SICIM will need to have enough cash on hand to cover salaries and expenses for at least three months at a time.

SICIM has sufficient cash reserves and donation commitments to cash flow the project through January of 2018 since we will only be partially staffed with two full-time and one part-time positions filled. We will, however, need additional cash in January of 2018 to be able to fill the two remaining full-time positions. Receiving 50% of the CWI funds at the beginning of the grant will enable SICIM to fully staff this project in early 2018.

Budget Information

Please fill out the following table with your project budget:

| Entity/Line Item | CWI Funds Requested | Cash Match | In Kind Match |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| CWI/personnel | \$300,000 | | |
| SICIM/personnel | | \$30,000 | |
| NRCS/personnel | | \$800,000 | |
| NRCS/training | | \$30,000 | |
| NRCS/SWCD-CISMA reimbursements | | \$87,400 | |
| DNR/personnel | | | \$107,160 |
| Knox SWCD/personnel | | | \$13,500 |
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| TOTAL | \$300,000 | \$947,400 | \$120,660 |

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) BY-LAWS

DATE APPROVED: 7 September 2017

Section 1: Name

The name of this program shall be the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative. The official abbreviation of its name shall be CCSI.

Section 2: Activities

To carry out the activities of the program, it will conduct training, educational events, communications, technical assistance, and/or other work concerning the promotion of the use of soil health management systems.

Section 3: Purposes

The purpose of this program shall be confined to: (1) the exchange of information relating to the administration and operation of CCSI; (2) promoting the establishment of and cooperation with local working groups to promote the adoption of soil health practices and soil health management systems on Indiana croplands; (3) promoting the interests or activities of other organizations and agencies in adoption of soil health practices and soil health management systems on Indiana cropland; (4) developing, supporting, and carrying out projects and educational activities to promote the understanding and adoption of soil health practices and soil health management systems on Indiana cropland.

Section 4: Members

Section 4.01 Voting Members

The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative is governed by an Oversight Committee. The members of the Oversight Committee were set forth during the formation of the program. The members include: The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD); the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC); the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB); Purdue Extension, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS).

Each member shall appoint two representatives to serve on the Oversight Committee. One representative shall be appointed annually (January) to serve staggered two-year terms. Terms may be renewed.

The Executive Director of the IASWCD shall normally serve as a non-voting, third representative from the IASWCD, but will serve as a voting representative in the following cases:

1. as an alternate in absence of a regular IASWCD representative, or
2. as a tie-breaking vote.

Each representative shall be a voting representative, with the understanding that recusals may be necessary to comply with State and Federal laws and agency guidelines.

Each member may appoint an alternate voting representative to serve in lieu of a regularly-appointed representative during an absence.

Section 4.02 Non-voting Representatives and Affiliate Organizations

The Director of the CCSI program will be considered an ex-officio member with no voting privileges.

Affiliate partnering and/or stakeholder organizations may be invited to serve on the oversight committee by nomination and second by voting representatives and approval by the majority of the Oversight Committee.

Affiliate members may be invited to appoint a single, non-voting representative to the oversight committee by nomination and second by voting representatives and approval by the majority of the Oversight Committee. Affiliate representatives shall serve for a period of 1 year. Terms may be renewed.

Section 4.03 Removal of a Representative or Affiliate Organization

A voting representative, affiliate organization, or affiliate representative may be removed for cause by a 3/5 vote of the voting representatives.

Section 5: Executive Committee

The CCSI Executive Committee shall consist of one representative appointed per each of the five members, with the CCSI Chairperson being the appointed representative from their organization. The Executive Director of the IASWCD shall serve as a sixth voting representative. The CCSI Director shall serve as a non-voting representative.

The duties and authorities of the Executive Committee shall include the following:

1. Acting for the full Oversight Committee in between meetings in case of urgent need;
2. Coordinating the full Oversight Committee's review of the CCSI Director's performance and compensation;
3. Serving as a sounding board / liaison for the Director;
4. Overseeing that the Oversight Committee is functioning in accordance with the mission, goals, and priorities of the CCSI program.

Three representatives shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee. It is understood that recusals may be necessary to comply with State and Federal laws and agency guidelines.

Any representative of the Executive Committee can call a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 6: Powers and Duties of the Oversight Committee and Chairperson

The Oversight Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

1. The Oversight Committee shall annually elect a Chairperson
2. The Oversight Committee shall determine the policies and procedures of the CCSI program, and shall formulate, and keep updated, a written plan of action for the program, all of which shall be consistent with the purposes and activities as stated in these bylaws.

3. The Oversight Committee representatives shall assure that the members of their respective organizations are informed of the program's activities, projects, , accomplishments, and any challenges.
4. The Oversight Committee shall assure that members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership are informed of the program's activities, projects, accomplishments, and any challenges
5. The Oversight Committee shall approve an annual budget.
6. The Oversight Committee shall recommend the rate of compensation of employees, and recommend entering into agreements by member organizations on behalf of CCSI.
7. The Oversight Committee shall recommend the hiring of CCSI employees, including a Director, to their respective member organizations. . The CCSI Director shall be accountable to the Oversight Committee, as defined in the CCSI Director job description.

The Chairperson shall have the following duties:

1. Preside at Oversight Committee Meetings (executive committee meetings and special meetings as called)
2. Delegate Chairperson responsibilities to others as appropriate.
3. Appoint chairpersons of committees and assist chairpersons in soliciting committee members as needed or as defined by committee structure.
4. Along with the Executive Committee, coordinate annual review of the Director
5. Perform other duties as assigned by the Oversight Committee.

Section 7: Fiscal Agency

The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts shall serve as fiscal agent for the CCSI program.

Section 8: Meetings

1. The Oversight Committee shall determine on a yearly basis a schedule of meetings for the upcoming year. The Chairperson may call special meetings, including remote meetings such as teleconferences or web-based meetings, at any time.
2. The presence of a majority, 6 voting representatives from at least 3 different voting member organizations, of the Oversight Committee shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Oversight Committee.

Section 9: Committees

The Oversight Committee may form committees and other work groups (ad-hoc or advisory) as needed. Only the Oversight Committee has the authority to create committees or work groups.

Section 10: Rules of Order

Meetings of the Oversight Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order unless inconsistent with any policy or special rule adopted by the Oversight Committee.

Section 11:Amendments

The by-laws may be amended, added to, or repealed by a 2/3 vote of full voting membership of the Oversight Committee, with the vote conducted by email for any members not present at the meeting where amendments are discussed.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) Memorandum of Understanding

Purpose

This agreement provides the framework to jointly carry out the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) program, whose mission is to improve soil health on Indiana cropland, as described by the CCSI by-laws.

The Oversight Committee shall assure that the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) is kept informed of the program's activities, projects, accomplishments, and challenges/opportunities.

This agreement is in effect for three (3) years and shall be renewed as appropriate.

Roles and Responsibilities of Partners

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD)

- Collect and administer the funds for the CCSI program;
- IASWCD Executive Director will provide day to day supervision of the CCSI Director
- Communicate about the project in the Weekly Update e-newsletter;
- Serves as fiscal agent for the program.
- Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program; and
- Assign the IASWCD Executive Director to the Oversight and Executive Committees

USDA NRCS

- Provide base funding for the program as available;
- Provide additional technical resources and training as needed and available;
- Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program; and
- Assist in future growth of the program.

Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)

- Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program;
- Assist in future growth of the program; and
- Provide additional technical resources and training as needed and available

State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB)

- Support CCSI in the SSCB Business Plan;

- Provide base funding for the program as available;
- Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program; and
- Assist in future growth of the program.

Purdue University Extension Service

- Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program;
- Provide additional technical resources and training as needed and available;
- Explore new/on-going research needs related to program; and
- Assist in future growth of the program.

Jamie Scott
IASWCD

Jane Hardisty
USDA NRCS

Robert Woodling
SSCB

Melissa Rekeweg
ISDA

Jason Henderson
Purdue University Extension

This agreement affirmed _____
DATE



State Soil Conservation Board

September 19, 2017
ISDA – DSC Director’s Report
Jordan Seger



FY 18 Budget(s)

Clean Water Indiana

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

Notes:

Appropriation is estimate based on cig tax revenue month by month

Reserve only being pulled from General Fund

As of 9/18 appears to be slightly over 1 million available for 2018 CWI Grants

ISDA – Division of Soil Conservation

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Operating Cigarette Tax Fund | \$1,378,144.00 |
| Total | \$1,378,144.00 |
| 3% reserve | \$0.00 |
| Allotment | \$1,378,144.00 |

Notes:

116k increase from FY17, Funds 2 Lake Erie employees

Annual Financial Reports (10k State Match + Training Reimbursements)

- 3 SWCDs need to submit claims for their training funds (they claimed the \$10,000 but not training funds, work with DSS)
 - Clark (\$175)
 - Fulton (\$750)
 - Hendricks (\$455)
- Working on processing issue for Parke

ISDA Director

- Director Ted McKinney nominated to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs within USDA
- Hearing on 9/19 with the Senate Committee on Ag, Nutrition, and Forestry

Sexual Harassment Training for SWCD Supervisors

- State unable to provide this training (Supervisors would need Peoplesoft #'s)
- ISDA working with FFA who uses outside vendor to provide this training, will be associated cost
- More to come

USDA Certified Conservation Planning

- More to come – makes sense for IASWCD and ISDA to work together on this
- 1st tier for certification = select SWCD employees involved with some NRCS Contribution Agreements

IN AG Nutrient Alliance: impactindiana.com/

- Public/Private partnership of Ag groups, forming non-profit, hiring coordinator with office at Farm Bureau
- Applied for NRCS Contribution Agreement - Annual budget of \$200,000 per year, for five years, with a contribution of \$150,000 per year from NRCS and a contribution of \$50,000 from the Indiana agricultural organizations, with \$10,000 per year being in-kind.
- Total budget of \$1 million, with a total contribution of \$750,000 from NRCS and total contribution of \$250,000 from the Indiana agricultural organizations, with \$50,000 total being in-kind.
- DSC pledged 5k for five years out of DSC budget

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Record year in 2016, may see new record in 2017
- Thanks to the 10 SWCDs who help administer the program!

Western Lake Erie Basin

- Received 190k grant from the Great Lakes Commission to continue 4R and Soil sampling work in the WLEB
- Working on complimentary 174k NRCS Contribution Agreement, may hire contractor focused on soil sampling
- Stakeholders meeting 10/4 in Ft. Wayne

Congratulations to the 2017 SWCD Showcase Award Recipients

- Pike Showcase 10/3
- Randolph Showcase 10/31 (in Conjunction with SSCB meeting)
- Boone Showcase 11/2
- Warrick

Upcoming ICP Leader SWCD Visits

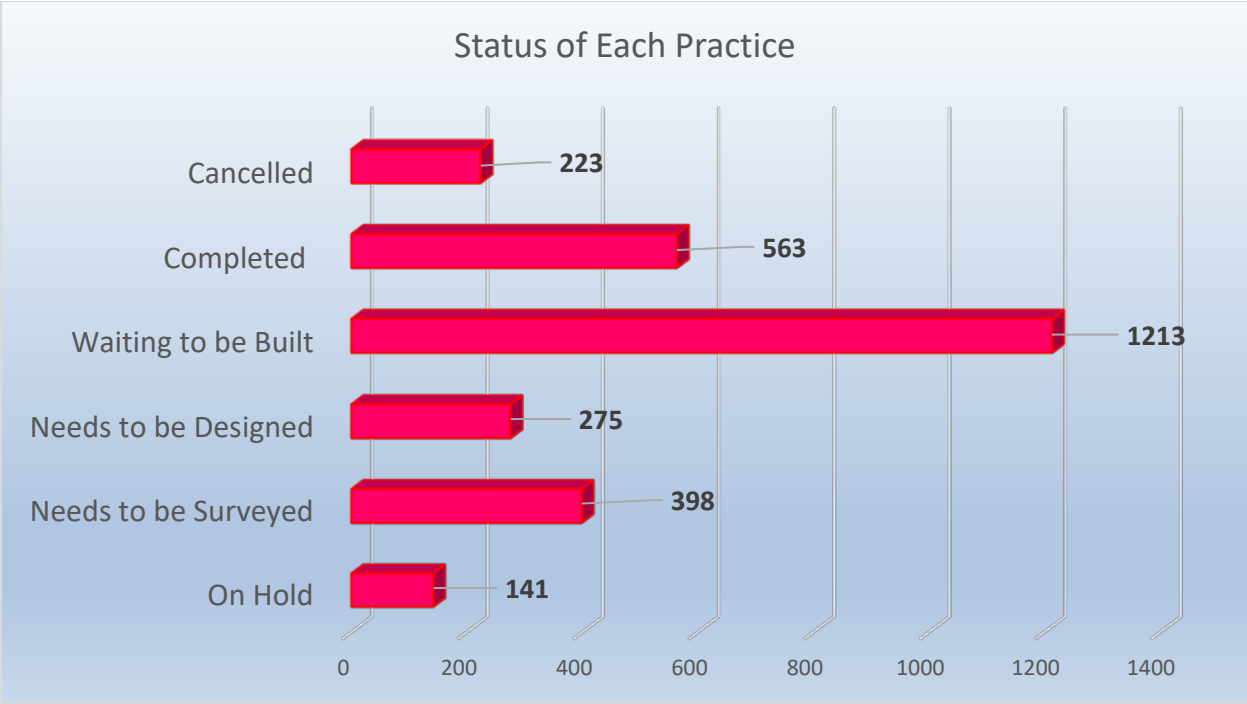
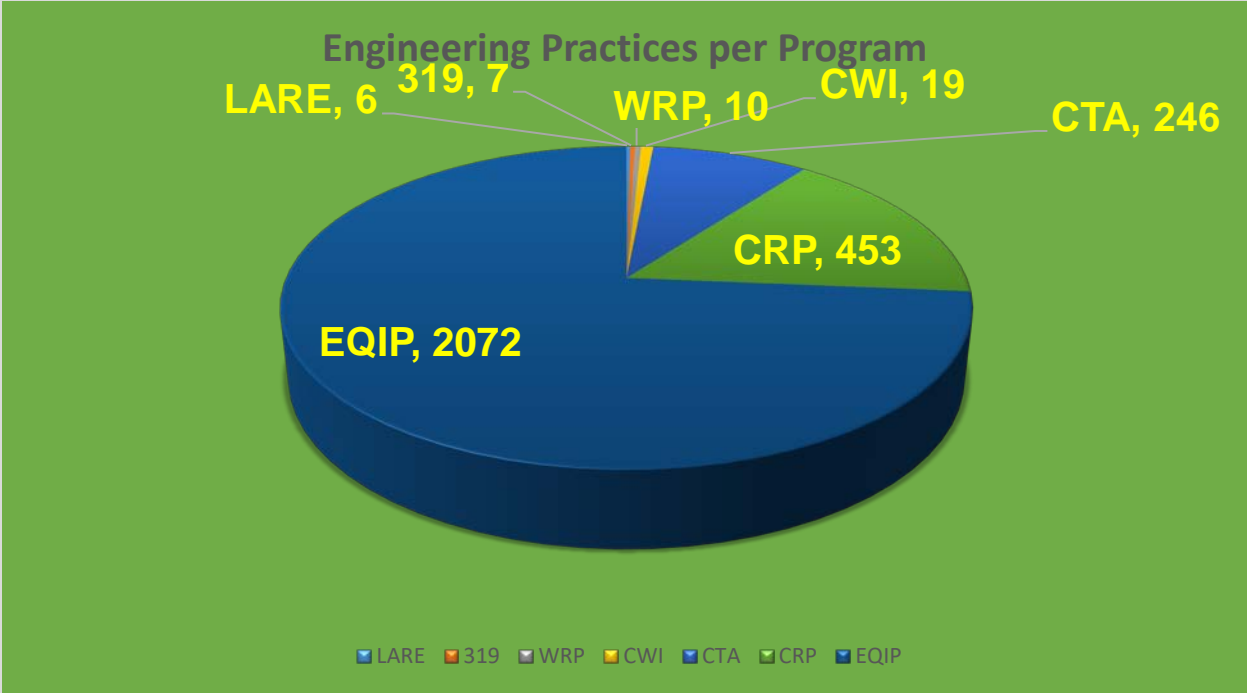
- Knox – 9/21

2016 ICP Accomplishments Report:

Google “2016 ICP Accomplishments”

*2016 ISDA – Division of Soil Conservation Annual Report: <http://arcg.is/2j1Wwj0>

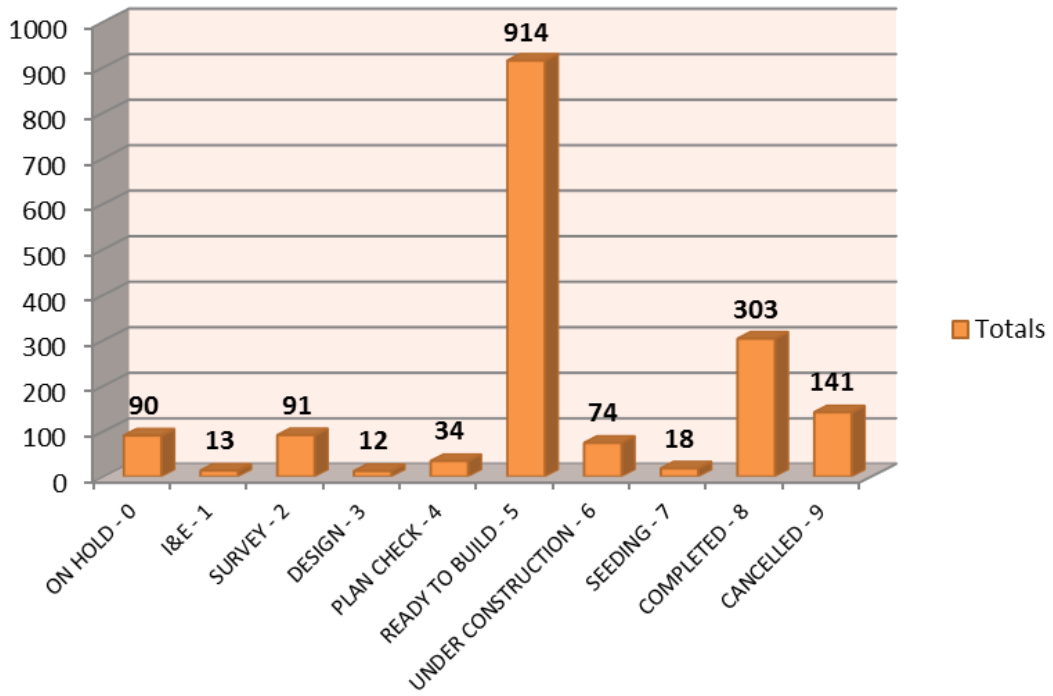
*An in depth look into water quality activities in each of IN’s 10 major river/lake basins: <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>



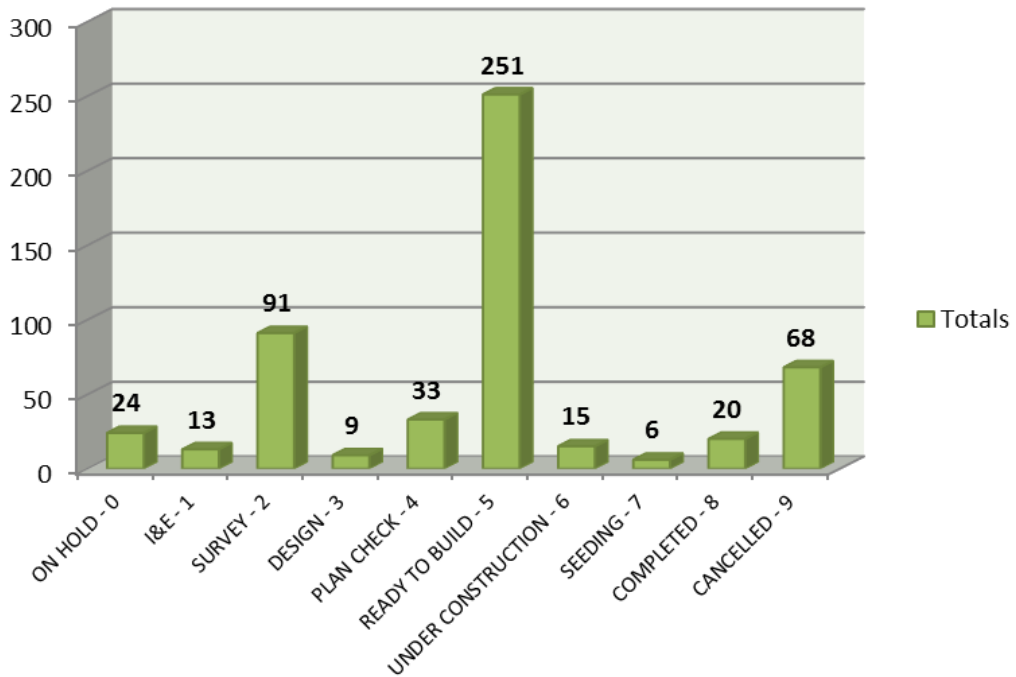
Princeton Conservation Delivery Team

September 12, 2017

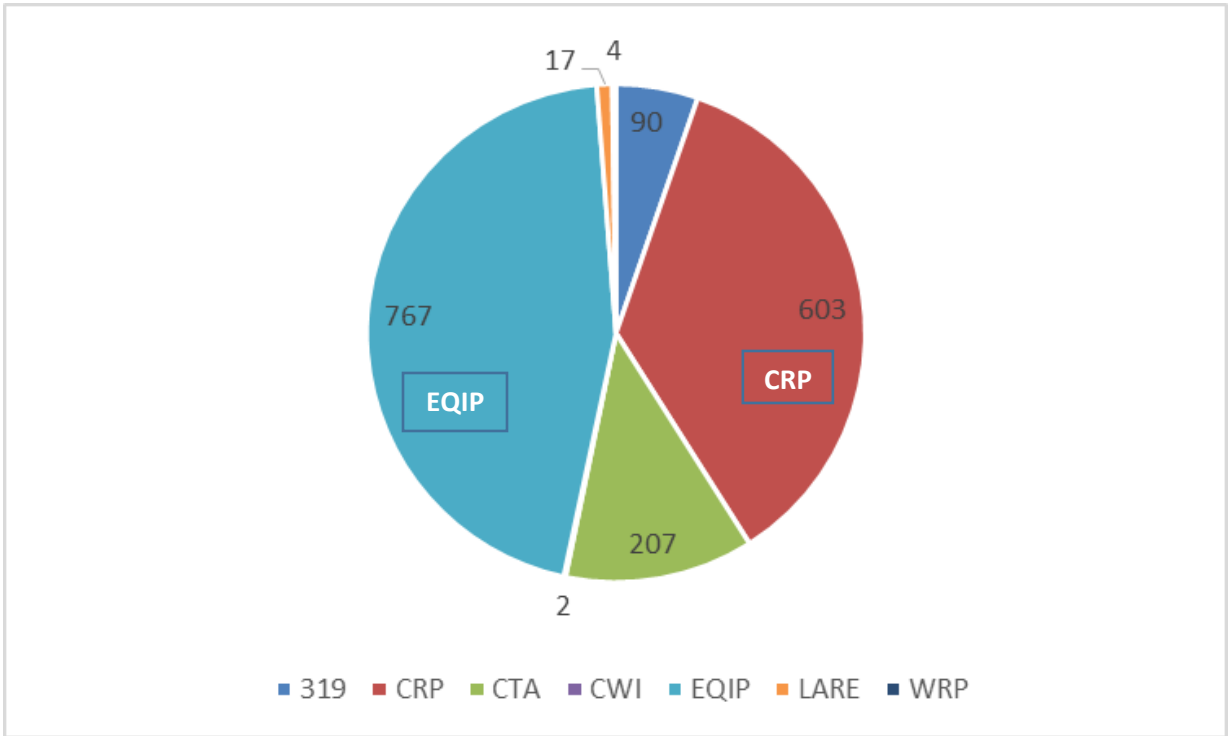
Greencastle CDT Engineering Jobs by Status



Practices Requested in FY 2017 by Status



Greencastle CDT Engineering Jobs by Program





State Soil Conservation Board

September 19, 2017
Director of Soil Health



Program Updates

➤ INfield Advantage

- Roughly 110 assorted ICP staff attended one of the two supply meetings. The presentations, arranged by Corey Gerber, PU DTC, on late season scouting were informative and well received.
- Crews have been collecting stalk samples since August 23. As of September 14, 13% of the samples have been collected. At this point:
 - Maximum CSNT has been under 13,000 ppm and only 2% of the fields are over 10,000 ppm
 - About 20% of the results show nothing to negligible nitrates
- The Advisory Committee met in August to review the program and the changes.
- The Group Leader Appreciation Lunch is scheduled for November 20 at ICMC/ISA's office. The agenda is still being finalized.
- Two agronomists have been approached and are interested in assisting with the new pilot Regional Winter Meetings.
- The Winter Grower Meeting schedule should be finalized by the end of the month.
- An agreement has been reached between Indiana Corn and Soy and National Corn Growers and effective October 1, Hans Kok will be working full time for the Soil Health Partnership. Approximately a fifth of his time will be dedicated to working with INfield Advantage. Indiana Corn and Soy will pay National Corn Growers for his work with INFA.

➤ Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- July 21st Facilitated Strategic Planning Meeting with 25 participants from ICP, farmers and the Ag Nutrient Alliance.
- Rollout of United Soybean Board – High-oleic Soybean Sustainability program.
 - Grower outreach by ADM, Bunge, Indiana Soy, Syngenta, Agrible
 - CCSI will coordinate meetings between enrolled growers and local conservation staff to discuss technical and financial assistance programs
 - SWCDs will receive \$1600 per grower assisted.

- Paperwork for CESU agreement between USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division and IASWCD (on behalf of CCSI) submitted. \$155,000 over two years to be used for continued field sampling, payments to farmer-cooperators and non-farmer cooperators, and contracted field sampling by others
- Mission Statement updated. Vision and Values statements created

Mission: *To improve soil health on Indiana Cropland*

Vision: *CCSI envisions an Indiana:*

- *With healthy and productive soils*
- *With clean water*
- *With profitable and resilient agriculture*
- *With healthy, diverse ecosystems*
- *Where our communities embrace a conservation ethic*

Values:

- *CCSI is farmer-focused and farmer-driven*
- *CCSI values knowledge-based, farmer-proven solutions.*
- *CCSI values the strength of grassroots leadership.*
- *CCSI values improving soil health – the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.*
- *CCSI values building an additive, synergistic, systems approach to improving soil health.*
- Formal by-laws reviewed and edited by Oversight Committee. (Adopted as amended 9/7)
- Memorandum of Understanding between IASWCD, USDA-NRCS, ISDA, SSCB, and Purdue University updated. To be forwarded to ICP leadership.
- Strategic Plan Drafts completed
- Approximately 490 people attended a workshop/field day that had a CCSI connection between July and August

➤ **Red Gold Tomato Conservation Stewardship Award**

- The 2017 winner and runner up were announced on August 4. The winner, Parker Farms of LaPorte, is only the second Indiana farm to win since the award started in 2009.
- The runner up, McDonnall Farms, was located in Delta, OH.



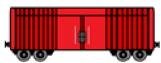
Clean Water Indiana - 2017 Practices Installed

Clean Water Indiana 2017 Sediment and Nutrient Load Reductions

Total Practices Installed: 162

Sediment Reduced: 46,726,000 lbs.

Which is enough to fill 111 standard 50' freight cars.



x 111

If placed end to end,
the freight cars would
stretch 1 mile.

Phosphorous Reduced: 24,049 lbs.

Which is enough to fill 4.75 F150 pick-ups with an 8' bed.



x 4.75

Nitrogen Reduced: 47,641 lbs.

Which is enough to fill 7.75 F150 pick-ups with an 8' bed.



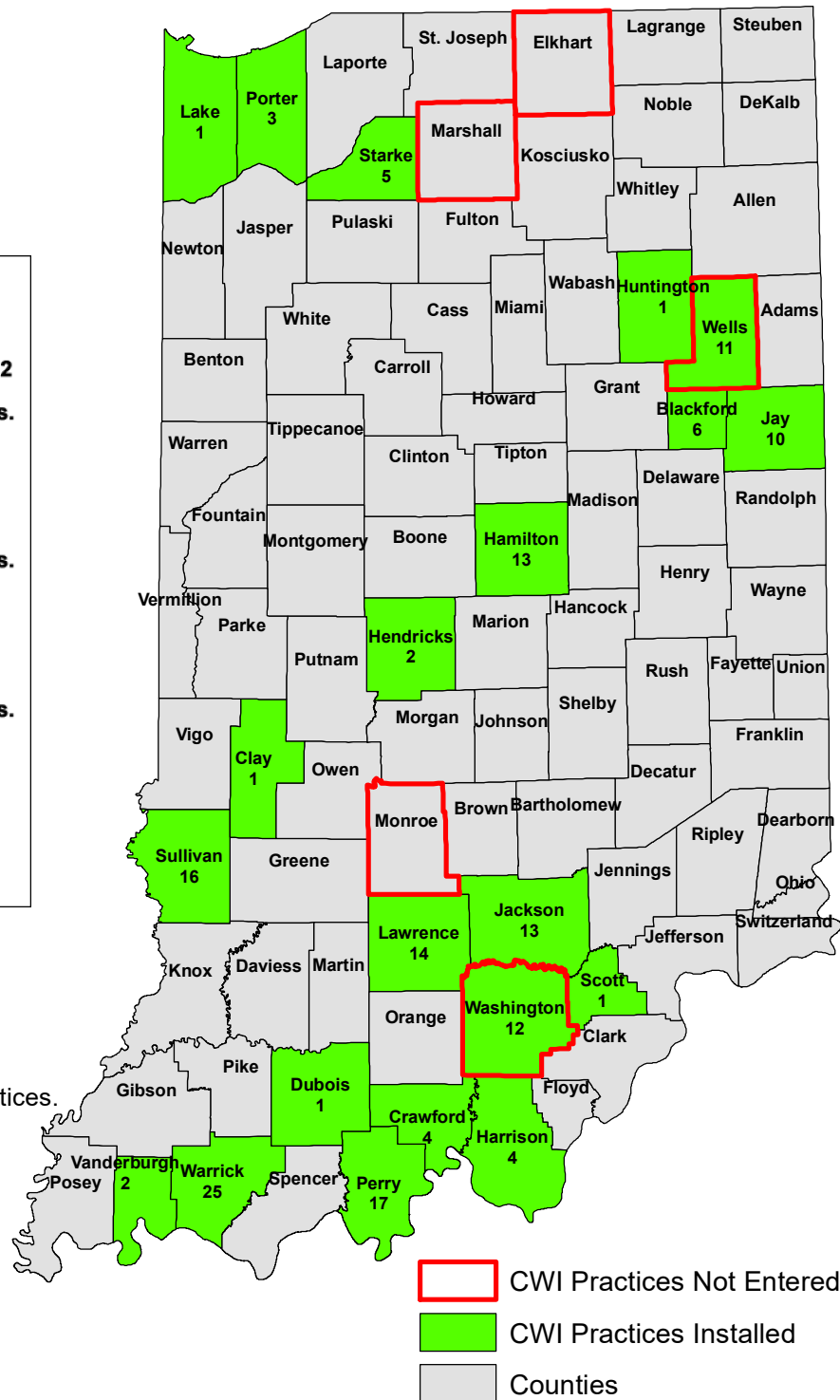
x 7.75

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

Currently, the following Districts have not entered their CWI conservation workload into SharePoint:

- Elkhart - 2016 CWI Grant
- Marshall - 2016 CWI Grant
- Monroe - 2017 CWI Grant
- Washington - 2017 CWI Grant - Map shows 2016 practices.
- Wells - 2017 CWI Grant - Map shows 2015 practices.

All CWI grant recipients are required to enter their conservation workload by the end of each grant year.



| Practice | Total Practices | Installed | Installed (Voluntary) | Unit | Sediment (LBS) | Phosphorus (LBS) | Nitrogen (LBS) |
|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Conservation Cover | 3 | 271 | 218 | Acres | 856 | 947 | 1,897 |
| Cover Crop | 118 | 4,925 | 2,022 | Acres | 17,811 | 19,173 | 37,705 |
| CREP Easement | 1 | 96 | | Acres | 54 | 64 | 129 |
| Forage and Biomass Planting | 13 | 330 | 22 | Acres | 3,150 | 3,314 | 6,614 |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | 5 | 12,474 | | Square Feet | 72 | 51 | 99 |
| Pipeline | 1 | 460 | | Feet | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pollinator Habitat | 10 | 13 | 4 | Acres | 106 | 164 | 307 |
| Residue and Tillage Management - No Till | 1 | 100 | | Acres | 138 | 236 | 462 |
| Streambank and Shoreline Protection | 1 | 50 | | Feet | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rain Garden | 5 | 6,728 | | Square Feet | 1,103 | 54 | 338 |
| Watering Facility | 4 | 4 | | Number | 73 | 46 | 90 |
| TOTALS | 162 | | | | 46,726,000 | 24,049 | 47,641 |



State Soil Conservation Board

September 19, 2017

District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 7/15/17 to 9/8/17



DSS Regional Updates: *this report focuses on highlights from two DSSs. Other regions and DSSs will be featured in upcoming reports on a rotating basis.*

- Geneva Tyler:
 - I attended a commissioner’s meeting in Benton Co to support the SWCD and be on hand to answer questions about District Law.
 - I assisted with Montgomery Co’s annual 4th grade field day, which is always a large 2 day event. I assisted with one class all day, but there an estimated 170 students total for one day.
 - I’ve been assisting Meg with INFA, checking for missing data and contacting group leaders to get information as complete and accurate as possible.
- Jennifer Thum:
 - These past months, business plans have been the NE foremost area of concern. Allen, Fulton, Grant, LaGrange, Marshall, Steuben and St. Joseph are in the process of being updated. A few of these boards have taken a different angle to the process, and we are updating in between their board meetings and then discussing them in sections when they meet at their monthly board meetings. It’s a long process, but we are getting some great discussions. A unique plan so far is LaGrange’s. We took the updated business plan format and merged it with an annual plan of work to create a working document.
 - The WLEB counties partnered on a field day, with the Soil Health Partnership and NRCS to hold a field day at one of their demonstration farms in Allen County. The event was a huge success with over 220 farmers in attendance. We had speakers from Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio. The local farmer panel was the biggest success. The members of the group spoke about their challenges and success with converting to no-till and cover crops.

Key DSS Statewide Activity Updates

- State Fair: DSSs provided staffing and outreach support to exhibits such as the Pathway to Water Quality and the Normandy Barn.
- August Supervisor Summit: the focus of this year’s workshop was “Effective Meetings”. In an effort to increase attendance and reduce driving time for Supervisors statewide, the workshop was offered in two locations this year instead of one. Excluding ISDA and the speakers, 42 participants were in attendance representing 22 counties. When asked on the evaluation to rank “workshop content: included useful information that I will be able to use in the near future” on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being poor and 4 being excellent, the workshops averaged 3.6.

| DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period | Total |
|--|--------------|
| Assistance With SWCD Business Plans/Annual Plans of Work | 3 |
| Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings | 22 |
| New SWCD Supervisor & Staff Training | 1 |
| Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, Input, etc. | 27 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Presentations At Events, Workshops, Trainings, etc. | 0 |
|---|---|

Upcoming Events:

- December 7th: State Board of Accounts Training for SWCDs, Indiana Farm Bureau, Indianapolis- please send any specific topic requests to District Support Specialists <https://www.in.gov/isda/2373.htm> by the end of September



State Soil Conservation Board

September 19th, 2017

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Currently have over 2,100 acres enrolled this calendar year.
- TNC has agreed to provide funds from Purina to help support CREP and to supplement the state CREP dollars. It will be \$300,000 for flood restoration over the next 5 years to be used in the Lower Wabash and/or Middle Wabash-Busseron watersheds. \$25,000 for the first two years, then just over \$83,000 for years 3, 4 and 5.
- For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$7-\$10 for every state dollar. Refer to the estimated dollar amount on the attached CREP report.
- CREP enrollment is still not affected at this time by the CRP cap.
- Attached to this report is a report on the current status of acres and dollars in CREP.

IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)

- 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.
- The Basin Story Maps are completed and are available for reviewing on the ISDA webpage <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>.

Gulf Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)

- The 'dead zone' in the Gulf of Mexico this year is the largest measured since mapping began in 1985. It is 8,776 square miles, about the size of New Jersey, and a little larger than forecasted by NOAA in June.
- The next HTF meeting will be in Biloxi, MS with just the Coordinating Committee members on September 26th-28th. I will be going to Biloxi to represent Indiana. A full HTF meeting will likely not take place until January or February once the federal leadership is in place.
- 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

- Indiana's draft GLWQA Annex 4 Domestic Action Plan (DAP) for the Western Lake Erie Basin is out for public notice and comment from August 14th - October 13th, 2017. The draft plan, the public notice and link to the survey monkey for comments is located on ISDA's WLEB webpage at <http://www.in.gov/isda/3432.htm>, and on IDEM's *Public Notices: Northeast Indiana* webpage located at <http://www.in.gov/idem/6397.htm>.
- Several public meetings have been held within the WLEB area in Indiana, with one more scheduled for Indianapolis on September 26th at the Farm Bureau Building.
- The next DAP Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled in October to review the comments received and begin making any final edits to the plan. The final plan is to be completed by February of 2018.

SSCB Meeting - September 19th, 2017 - 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 9/15/2017 | 186.57 | 14.00 | 3,978.68 | 25.24 | 537.69 | 5,136.86 | 443.76 | 1,707.38 | 12,030.18 | 26,250.00 | 45.83% |
| Total CREP Enrollment | 209.92 | 14.00 | 4,347.97 | 33.04 | 563.40 | 6,454.32 | 923.26 | 2,391.03 | 14,936.94 | 26,250.00 | 56.90% |
| 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 | \$ 18,657.00 | \$ 1,400.00 | \$ 397,868.00 | \$ 10,342.00 | \$ 228,505.00 | \$ 2,161,869.00 | \$ 385,062.00 | \$ 1,094,372.50 | \$ 4,298,075.50 | \$ 288,345.05 | \$ 4,586,420.55 |

Federal Match of \$7-\$10 is between \$ 30,086,528.50
 \$ 42,980,755.00

SSCB Meeting - September 19th, 2017 - 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 | 0.00 | 5.40 | 41.10 | 567.80 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 654.80 |
| Lower White | 10.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 58.86 | 1101.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1170.59 |
| Middle Wabash-Busseron | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1120.82 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1120.82 |
| Middle Wabash-Deer | 6.60 | 0.00 | 5.80 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 52.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 64.89 |
| Middle Wabash-Vermillion | 4.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6.97 | 0.00 | 161.44 | 220.96 | 36.80 | 430.67 |
| Tippecanoe River | 93.84 | 0.00 | 169.10 | 0.00 | 3.41 | 21.40 | 73.30 | 610.05 | 971.10 |
| Upper East Fork White | 0.00 | 0.00 | 43.19 | 0.00 | 24.70 | 74.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 142.05 |
| Upper Wabash | 12.53 | 7.00 | 152.34 | 1.07 | 0.00 | 208.67 | 27.80 | 59.25 | 468.66 |
| Upper White | 20.80 | 0.00 | 63.75 | 0.00 | 265.82 | 152.31 | 0.00 | 61.28 | 563.96 |
| Reported Completed as of 9/15/2017 | 182.47 | 14.00 | 434.18 | 13.44 | 396.99 | 4,078.96 | 322.06 | 767.38 | 6,209.48 |
| Enrolled as of 9/15/2017 | 205.82 | 14.00 | 803.47 | 21.24 | 422.70 | 5,396.42 | 801.56 | 1451.03 | 9,116.24 |

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 |
| Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP | 4.10 | 0.00 | 3,544.50 | 11.80 | 140.70 | 1,057.90 | 121.70 | 940.00 | 5,820.70 |

| | 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 |
| Total Extension Acres | | 1.00 | 53.70 | 428.50 | 121.70 | 610.90 |

SSCB Meeting - September 19th, 2017 - 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 | \$ - | \$ 2,160.00 | \$ 16,440.00 | \$ 227,120.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 249,770.00 | \$ 24,977.00 | \$ 274,747.00 |
| Lower White | \$ 1,070.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 23,544.00 | \$ 440,412.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 465,026.00 | \$ 46,502.60 | \$ 511,528.60 |
| Middle Wabash-Busseron | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 448,328.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 448,328.00 | \$ 44,832.80 | \$ 493,160.80 |
| Middle Wabash-Deer | \$ 660.00 | \$ - | \$ 580.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 20,996.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 22,236.00 | \$ 2,223.60 | \$ 24,459.60 |
| Middle Wabash-Vermillion | \$ 450.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,788.00 | \$ - | \$ 64,576.00 | \$ 209,912.00 | \$ 34,960.00 | \$ 312,686.00 | \$ 31,268.60 | \$ 343,954.60 |
| Tippecanoe River | \$ 9,384.00 | \$ - | \$ 16,910.00 | \$ - | \$ 1,364.00 | \$ 8,560.00 | \$ 69,635.00 | \$ 571,506.50 | \$ 677,359.50 | \$ 67,735.95 | \$ 745,095.45 |
| Upper East Fork White | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 4,319.00 | \$ - | \$ 9,880.00 | \$ 29,664.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 43,863.00 | \$ 4,386.30 | \$ 48,249.30 |
| Upper Wabash | \$ 1,253.00 | \$ 700.00 | \$ 15,234.00 | \$ 428.00 | \$ - | \$ 83,468.00 | \$ 26,410.00 | \$ 52,190.00 | \$ 179,683.00 | \$ 17,968.30 | \$ 197,651.30 |
| Upper White | \$ 2,080.00 | \$ - | \$ 6,375.00 | \$ - | \$ 106,328.00 | \$ 60,924.00 | \$ - | \$ 58,216.00 | \$ 233,923.00 | \$ 23,392.30 | \$ 257,315.30 |
| Upper White Extensions | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,800.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,800.00 | \$ 180.00 | \$ 1,980.00 |
| Reported Paid as of 9/15/2017 | \$ 18,247.00 | \$ 1,400.00 | \$ 43,418.00 | \$ 5,376.00 | \$ 160,596.00 | \$ 1,631,584.00 | \$ 305,957.00 | \$ 716,872.50 | \$ 2,883,450.50 | \$ 288,345.05 | \$ 3,171,795.55 |

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 |
| Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP | \$ 410.00 | \$ - | \$ 354,450.00 | \$ 4,966.00 | \$ 67,909.00 | \$ 530,285.00 | \$ 79,105.00 | \$ 377,500.00 | \$ 1,414,625.00 |



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

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



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Warrick County

SECRETARY:

Kerry Ames
Putnam County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Jennifer Boyle Warner
Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org

To: State Soil Conservation Board
From: Jamie Scott, President, IASWCD
Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

- Strategic plan still being finalized
- Updated MOU to be sent to leaders
- Bylaws adopted
- Proposal in to NRCS for a Cooperative Agreement for 2 field positions

Pathway to Water Quality

- All went well...thanks again to everyone for their hard work and dedication
- Committee already making plans for 2018

Legislative Issues

- IASWCD in attendance at EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt visit to Mike Starkey's Farm
- Mark Lawson represented IASWCD at the USDA Ag Secretary Farm Bill hearing at the State Fair
- Roger Wenning represented IASWCD at Senator Donnelly's Farm Bill hearing at the State Fair. Roger presented Donnelly a 25th PWQ anniversary pin.
- IASWCD has formed a Funding Task Force; first meeting was Sept. 13
- Five resolutions submitted for consideration at the IASWCD Business meeting in January.

Other

- River Friendly Farmer awards ceremony held Aug. 16 with over 160 people in attendance. This continues to be a well received event.
- Fall regions meetings to be scheduled for this fall. Still waiting on dates, but Dec. 5 is set for N-NW region. Topics of discussion will include an update on CCSI strategic planning, contribution agreements, and others.
- An ICP leaders' visit was conducted in Jefferson County. Scheduled to meet with Knox County on Sept. 21.
- Annual Conference Keynote Speaker announced – Peterson Farm Brothers

On August 14th, Indiana's draft DAP was put on public notice (<http://www.in.gov/isda/3432.htm>) for a 60-day public comment period, which ends October 13th. Six of seven public meetings have been held in the following locations:

- Fort Wayne, August 23rd
 - 1:00 PM session- 14 attendees (EPA attended)
 - 5:30 PM session- 16 attendees
- Auburn, August 24th (EPA attended)
 - 10:30 AM session- 30 attendees
 - 5:30 PM session- 12 attendees
- Decatur, August 28th
 - 8:00 AM session- 18 attendees
 - 5:30 PM session- 9 attendees

The recurring concerns raised at the public meetings included the following:

- Manure (mis)management issues, particularly with the livestock operations that are below the threshold for CFO regulations
- Inadequate responses and/or lack of investigation from the state authorities to reports of manure/fertilizer mishandling
- A perception that there is a lack of enforcement of existing regulations by IDEM and the Indiana State Chemist Office
- General consensus amongst attendees that new regulations are not warranted at the state level, rather rigorous enforcement of existing regulations should be pursued [This is consistent with the DAP recommendations]
- Local planning commissions have their hands tied by state laws that preclude them from instituting more stringent local land use planning ordinances, particularly for AFOs
- One comment that watershed planning projects cost too much
- One comment that drainage boards should not be bound to getting permits from IDEM and IDNR
- One comment that it is shocking that CSO communities may have a 20-year span to implement their long-term-control plans
- One comment that Indiana's not signing the WLEB Collaborative gives Indiana a black eye

Most of the comments regarding manure mismanagement came from livestock farmers.

The final public meeting will be held in Indianapolis and hosted by Indiana Farm Bureau on Tuesday, September 26th at 6:00 PM at the Farm Bureau building in Assembly Halls A and B.

- Parking is available in the Louisiana Street parking garage. Enter the building through the set of glass doors in the middle of the building. There will be signs directing to the assembly halls.

Next Steps

- September 22nd meeting of the monitoring entities to examine/assess data collected more frequently than monthly by local agencies to help prioritize watersheds at the 12-digit HUC scale. Hypotheses will be established from which the DAP adaptive management plan will be developed.
- September 27th- Indiana will participate in the Erie Stats meeting in Ohio.

- September 28th- Indiana will attend the load calculation meeting in Ohio where the Environment Canada tool will be demonstrated.

Once the public comment period is over, the DAP advisory committee will:

- convene to review and address public comments
- revise the draft DAP to:
 - incorporate those public recommendations and actions that are in keeping with the DAP guiding principles
 - include the 12-digit HUC priority watersheds and the adaptive management plan
 - include an appendix summarizing public comments
- finalize the DAP by December

After the February 2018 GLWQA deadline for final DAPs, convert the DAP to a web-based story map.

DAP Background

Indiana has been an active member of the Nutrients Annex 4 Binational Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) since its establishment in 2013. The Subcommittee is charged with coordinating actions to manage phosphorous loadings and concentrations in the Great Lakes, commencing with Lake Erie. One of the commitments under the Nutrients Annex is for each of the member states to develop a Domestic Action Plan (DAP) by February of 2018 that is designed to meet the nearshore and open water phosphorous objectives and loading targets for Lake Erie. Indiana's goal is to meet the spring-time flow weighted mean concentration (FWMC) targets of 0.23 mg/L and 0.05 mg/L for total phosphorus (TP) and dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) respectively in the Maumee River as it flows across the border into Ohio.

Founded on the principle of adaptive management, the DAP is the product of a dedicated Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from different stakeholder sectors and led by the IDEM. The focus of Indiana's DAP is the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) as Indiana's only tributary to Lake Erie is the Maumee River, which has its mouth in the WLEB at Maumee Bay near Toledo, Ohio. The DAP is informed by the intensive planning, research and steadfast work that is already underway in the WLEB. It is in keeping with the principles and approaches in Indiana's State Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Based on the comments received and a further refinement of small scale watershed prioritization, the Advisory Committee will revise the DAP after the public comment period ends and prior to the February 2018 deadline.



Highlights

- Operational:
 - Strategic Planning - July 21st Facilitated Strategic Planning Meeting – Bradford Woods.
 - 25 participants from ICP, farmers, ANT represented
 - Drafted Key Goals and Strategic Priorities; Began re-drafting Mission Statement
 - Began development of formal by-laws for CCSI
- Outreach:
 - Rollout of United Soybean Board – High-oleic Soybean Sustainability program
 - Grower outreach by ADM, Bunge, Indiana Soy, Syngenta, Agrible
 - CCSI will coordinate meetings between enrolled growers and local conservation staff to discuss technical and financial assistance programs
 - SWCDs will receive \$1600 per grower assisted.
 - July 12th Legislative Breakfast – La Porte
 - Target Audience: legislators, state and local governments
 - CCSI Overview and General Soil Health presentations to 35 +/- attendees
- Research:
 - Paperwork for CESU agreement between USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division and IASWCD (on behalf of CCSI) submitted. \$155,000 over two years to be used for continued field sampling, payments to farmer-cooperators and non-farmer cooperators, and contracted field sampling by others

General Workshops, Presentations, and Outreach Programs

Past

- July 10th (Frankfort) and July 11th (Decatur) – United Soybean Board – High Oleic Sustainability pilot rollout meetings (D, A)
 - Target: high-oleic soybean producers near Bunge and ADM elevators (NE and NW IN)
 - Presentation on Soil Health with emphasis on “Small Changes. Big Impact.” campaign
 - Goal: incremental adoption of soil health practices
 - 20 growers total
- July 12th Legislative Breakfast “*Healthy Soil Healthy Farms Health LaPorte County*” (A, PM)
 - Target: legislators, state and local governments
 - Presentations: CCSI overview (PM) and General Soil Health (A)
 - 35+/- attendees
- July 26th Central Indiana Ag Field Day, Kempton (A)
 - Target: commodity crop producers
 - Presentation: Cover Crops for Soil Health
 - 50+/- attendees over two sessions
- July 26th Prime Farmland Field Day
 - Target: growers who farm reclaimed minelands; conservation staff
 - +/- 100 attendees
 - Arranged speaker

Upcoming

- Aug 1 – Indiana CCA Presentation, NEPAC (A)
- Aug 2 – Cover Crop Round Table (pilot) – Gibson Co SWCD
CCSI helping to start project; Target demographic – farmers new to cover crops
First topic – herbicide persistence in soils and herbicide resistant weeds
- Aug 3 – Red Gold Growers Meeting (A)
- Aug 3 - Back to the Basics of Cover Crops – Decatur (Roger Wenning)
CCSI providing organizational, promotional support
Target demographic – farmers newer to cover crops; focus on water quality; termination by self and termination by commercial applicators
- Aug 7 – Ag Retailer Workshop, Scottsburg
Target demographic – retailers in South Central Indiana; Local organization by USDA-NRCS, Purdue Extension, SWCDs, IFB, Land-o-Lakes
CCSI provided organizational support, connectivity to Ag Nutrient Taskforce members for support and promotion
- Aug 10 - Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather, MJ Starkey Farms, Brownsburg
Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, Blake Vince presenting
Target demographic – more conventional-tilling farmers, non- cover cropping farmers
Partnered with ICMC/ISA, IFB and Ag Nutrient Taskforce – they are leading outreach to their constituency
- Aug 15 – Fulton County Farmer Roundtable (A)
- Aug 17 – Wabash RCD Annual Meeting “Digging Deeper into Ag” – arranged speakers

General Publications / Outreach / Work in Progress

- Agronomy Tech Note w/ USDA-NRCS
 - Topic: Strip Till
 - Timeline: for Sept Advanced Cover Crops Trainings
- Lender Outreach
 - Aug 17 Filming – Natasha Cox, Farm Credit (CM)
- Crimping Video
 - Draft completed of Mike Shuter crimping cover crops
 - Deploy Aug/Sept
- 2018 Tri-County Soil Health Field Day
 - Starke, Marshall, St. Joe Counties
 - July 6 - Initial Planning (PM)
 - Speaker arrangements
- Fall 2017 Jasper County Field Day – Marketing, Speaker(s)

Train-the-Trainer Workshops (trainings for ICP staff, ag professionals, farmer-mentors and others who work one-on-one with farmers)

Upcoming

- Aug 8 – Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather, Indiana State Fairgrounds
Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, Blake Vince presenting
Target demographic – state fair goers, ICP staff

- Aug 9 - Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather, IVY Tech Culinary & Conf Ctr, Indy
Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, Blake Vince presenting
Target demographic – ICP staff, ag professionals
Partner with Hoosier Chapter SWCS for promotions
- Early Aug - Initial planning for fall Advanced Cover Crops – Commodity Crop Track
- Late Aug - Initial planning for fall Advanced Soil Health Systems – Specialty Crop Track

General / Partner Events

Past

- July 6th Ag Nutrient Taskforce, Indianapolis (D)
- July 13-14 – Soil Health Institute Annual Meeting, St Louis (D)
 - National leaders of soil health programs, research, outreach
 - Member of Communications and Education Subcommittee
- July 20th – USDA-NRCS Soils mapping meeting, Indianapolis (A)
- July 25th – State Soil Conservation Board, Indianapolis (D)
- July 30 – Aug 2 SWCS Annual Meeting, Madison WI (PM)
- July 31 – MCCC Veg Tool development teleconference (A)

Upcoming

- Aug 14th – Pathway to Water Quality
- Aug 17th – IDEA Conferenced Planning (PM)
 - CCSI will have sessions at fall conference

Research

Past

- Coordination of CSNT sampling supplies with INFA
- Continued work on individual farm reports (A, Post-Doc)
- Templates created for individual farmer reports (CM)

Upcoming

- Distribution of individual farmer reports – late August to mid Sept
- Suggested alterations to current CCSI strip trial treatments by mid-August; Finalization of individual reports will guide process;
- Reconfirmation of cooperators willingness to continue
- Lists and contacts of potential sampling contractors
- CSNT sampling – Aug-Sept

Organization

Past

- July 11 – CCSI Oversight Committee, Indianapolis
- July 21 – CCSI Strategic Planning, Bradford Woods
 - Draft Mission Statement
 - Draft Goals / Priorities

Upcoming

- Aug 14 – CCSI Oversight Committee, Terre Haute

Funding

- Paperwork for CESU agreement between USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division and IASWCD (on behalf of CCSI) submitted. \$155,000 over two years to be used for continued field sampling, payments to farmer-cooperators and non-farmer cooperators, and contracted field sampling by others



Highlights

- Mission Statement updated. Vision and Values statements created
 - **Mission:** *To improve soil health on Indiana Cropland*
 - **Vision:** *CCSI envisions an Indiana:*
 - *With healthy and productive soils*
 - *With clean water*
 - *With profitable and resilient agriculture*
 - *With healthy, diverse ecosystems*
 - *Where our communities embrace a conservation ethic*
 - **Values:**
 - *CCSI is farmer-focused and farmer-driven*
 - *CCSI values knowledge-based, farmer-proven solutions.*
 - *CCSI values the strength of grassroots leadership.*
 - *CCSI values improving soil health – the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.*
 - *CCSI values building an additive, synergistic, systems approach to improving soil health.*
- Formal by-laws reviewed and edited by Oversight Committee. (Adopted as amended 9/7)
- Memorandum of Understanding between IASWCD, USDA-NRCS, ISDA, SSCB, and Purdue University updated. To be forwarded to ICP leadership.
- Strategic Plan Drafts completed

General Workshops, Presentations, and Outreach Programs

Past

- Aug 1 – Indiana CCA Workshop, NEPAC (A)
 - Target: Certified Crop Advisors
 - Presentation: Cover Crops for Soil Health
 - 27 attendees
- Aug 2 – Cover Crop Round Table (pilot) – Gibson Co SWCD (D)
 - Target – farmers new(er) to cover crops
 - 8 farmers/supervisors, 5 staff
 - Aided in facilitation
- Aug 3 - Back to the Basics of Cover Crops – Decatur (Roger Wenning)
 - Target demographic – farmers newer to cover crops
 - Goal: Help insure success with termination (including testing their own water)
 - Approximately 30 attendees
 - Provided organizational support
- Aug 7 – Ag Retailer Roundtable, Scottsburg (A, D)
 - Target demographic – retailers in South Central Indiana
 - Approximately 15 retailers + 15 ICP staff in attendance
 - Presentation: Sustainable and Regenerative Soil Health Systems (A)

- Presentation: Cover Crop Selection and Seeding Tools (D)
- CCSI provided organizational support, connectivity to Ag Nutrient Taskforce members for support and promotion
- August 10th Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather, Brownsburg (A, PM, CM)
 - Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, Blake Vince presenting
 - Target audience: Farmers not currently in soil health management systems – promotions by ICMC/ISA and IFB
 - Approximately 30 attendees (most in soil health systems)
- Aug 15 – Fulton County Farmer Roundtable (A)
 - Helped facilitate discussion on cover crops / soil health (A)
 - Approximately 35 attendees
- Aug 17-31 – Lender Outreach
 - In partnership with NRCS and ISDA
 - Natasha Cox, Farm Credit videoed. 8/17
 - Editing in progress. One video complete. Two more in process

Upcoming / Work in Progress

- Sept 7 - AGRY 560 Soil Physics field lab on Soil Health and Soil Penetration Resistance (A)
- Dec 7-8 – Buffet-SARE National Conference on Cover Crops, Indianapolis
 - On planning committee
 - Along with Hoosier Chapter SWCS, organizing farm tours

Train-the-Trainer Workshops (trainings for ICP staff, ag professionals, farmer-mentors and others who work one-on-one with farmers)

Past

- August 8th and 9th Building Resiliency to Extreme Weather Indianapolis
 - Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Dan DeSutter, Blake Vince presenting
 - Partner w/ Hoosier Chapter SWCS, IFB for promotion
 - Target demographic – ICP staff, ag professionals
 - Approximately 120 attendees

Upcoming

- Sept 25 (Greensburg) and Sept 26 (Vincennes) Advanced Cover Crops – Commodity Crop Track
- Nov 16 – Soil Health-Beneficials Insects and Pollinators (with Hoosier Chapter SWCS)

General / Partner Events

Past

- Aug 3 – Red Gold Field Day (A)
- Aug 14 – Pathway to Water Quality volunteers (A, PM, CM)
- Aug 16 - River Friendly Farmer (PM, CM)
- Aug 17th – IDEA Conference Planning (PM)

Upcoming

- Sept 5-6 – CTIC Conservation in Action Tour
- Sept 7 – Purdue Agronomy Field Day
- Sept 28 - NRCS Soil Health Team Meeting
- Sept 29-30 – Beginning Farmer Veteran tour (A)

Research

Past

- First *Interim* Individual Farmer Report Complete

Upcoming

- Remaining farmer, VUJC, and Wabash Individual Reports in process – ETA September
- Summary Initial findings in process – ETA end of September
- Webinar on initial findings - October

Organization

Past

- Aug 14 – Oversight Committee, Terre Haute
 - Mission, Vision, Values Statements Completed
 - Memorandum of Understanding between IASWCD, ISDA, SSCB, USDA-NRCS, and Purdue updated (final revision 9/7; being forwarded for execution)
 - By-laws reviewed and edited (adopted as amended 9/7)
- Strategic Plan, Action Plan Drafts completed, reviewed, in edit

Upcoming

- Sept 7 – CCSI Oversight Committee, Lafayette

Funding

- USDA-NRCS presented Collaborative Agreement opportunity to fund two new positions. Focus on providing assistance to local level partnerships by providing training and technical direction and facilitating events; Serve as an advocate for CCSI to SWCD's, and assist them to engage in outreach / education activities. Duration: 3 years. Match required: \$0.00

State Conservationist's Report

September, 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

The EQIP application deadline will be announced to the public later this week. Applications are accepted throughout the year, but those received after December 15, 2017 will be considered in future announced application rounds.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program available for agricultural producers. Through EQIP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water and air quality, and create wildlife habitat.

Many applicants have an interest in using funds to address soil erosion and water quality issues on their land; however, funds are also available for pasture and grazing land, confined livestock operations, organic producers, drainage water management, invasive plant control, and wildlife habitat improvement. Also included in this sign up are the

- National Organic Initiative
- National On-Farm Energy Initiative
- NRCS Landscape Conservation efforts:
 - Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects
 - University of Notre Dame
 - St. Joseph
 - WLEB
 - Big Pine
 - Improving Working Land for Monarch Butterflies
 - Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)
 - Tippecanoe SWCD - Little Wea
 - TNC - Big Pine I
 - IUPUI - Big Cicero
 - Sullivan SWCD-Busseron
 - Owen SWCD - Fish Creek
 - TNC- Big Pine II
 - Greene SWCD - Plummer Creek
 - Western Lake Erie Basin Initiative (WLEB)
 - Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Initiative (EQIP)
 - Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Initiative
 - Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative (EQIP)
 - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

In addition, EQIP offers financial assistance for payment of practices and conservation activities involving the development of plans appropriate for the eligible land, known as a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). EQIP applications for CAP may be submitted, accepted and considered for funding at any time pending available funding and program eligibility requirements.



REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Indiana NRCS has entered into a new RCPP memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DNR Division of Forestry called the Southern Indiana Young Forest Initiative (SIYFI). This project will last from 2017 until 2021. SIYFI addresses a lack of early successional habitat and corresponding declines in at-risk wildlife species in 43 counties in southern Indiana that contain the majority of forested land.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING PARTNERSHIP WEBINARS

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) is continuing their peer-to-peer web conference series called "What Works in the Field" to support the training needs of conservation planning staff and partners. August featured two of our own district conservationists, Jennifer Kipper (Scottsburg) and Deb Knepp (South Bend). If you missed the webinar you can view it at <https://nrcs.box.com/s/1wez1qj55grpsvtwjrww55x02zwqcdxg>. Additional interactive workshops are planned (see dates below). All workshops will be held at 1:00 p.m. (eastern). Topics will be announced a few days ahead of time and emailed out through partnership contact lists.

Sep 26 – South Dakota

Oct 24 – Oregon

Nov 28 – Maine

Dec 19 – New York

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

The latest NRI data collection cycle will begin on July 10th and will run through November. Field offices could receive questions from the NRI Data collectors during that time period. Any assistance the field office staffs can provide to the collectors would be greatly appreciated. Questions from the field should be directed to Rick Neilson, Assistant State Soil Scientist at rick.neilson@in.usda.gov or at 317-295-5875.

PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALISTS (PSS) AND CRP AGREEMENT UPDATE

The PSS – CRP agreement with the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was recently amended to include additional training for the PSS. Four one-day PSS training sessions were completed in August. The next step will be to survey PSSs to determine additional training needs. Also included in amendment to the agreement are additional trainers in each NRCS administrative area to provide one-on-one support and training.

NO CEAP STUDY PLANNED FOR 2018

Over the past two years the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has conducted a Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Survey of farmers in Indiana. No survey is planned for 2018.

FFA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The FFA National Convention and Expo will be returning to Indianapolis this year and will run from October 25-28, 2017. As in years past, NRCS will be supporting the Natural Resources and Environment Judging events and is asking for volunteer assistance from partnership staff. Please see the volunteer opportunities below.

Natural Resources and Environment Judging Event Volunteer

The purpose of the environmental and natural resource career development event is to foster student interest and promote environmental and natural resource instruction in the agricultural ed curriculum.

This event will take place on October 25th at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Judges are separated into two categories: verbal and teamwork. All volunteers should report to the fairgrounds at 10:00 AM for orientation and will be released of their duties at approximately 3:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

Verbal Judging:



Students will be provided a scenario that addresses an environmental/natural resource problem from soils, water, ecosystems and waste management. Teams are required to develop a statement that addresses the questions in the scenario and give an oral presentation justifying the decisions made by the team. Each team will have eight minutes to make their presentation. There will be an additional five minutes given to each team to address questions from the judges. We need approximately 45 volunteers for verbal judging.

Teamwork Judging:

While the students are preparing their oral presentations, a group of 12 judges will evaluate how well the team members work together to develop their statement and presentation. Judging will be based on the following areas:

- Managing team dynamics
- Awareness of personality styles of others
- Using positive and mature language and mannerisms
- Reacting to changes
- Handling tasks

If you would like to volunteer for one of these events, please contact Kris Vance at: kris.vance@in.usda.gov.

EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS – TIME TO REPORT

As of early September we have 1,234 volunteers, 7,709.75 volunteer hours, and 67 offices (82%) using volunteers. We are getting close to 100% office participation!

Remember: Every field office has volunteers whether you realize it or not! Event volunteers, field day hosts, locally led meeting participants, tillage/cover crop transects volunteers, watershed groups, associate supervisors, women’s learning circles, anyone helping in the office or out in the field...these are ALL volunteers! Make sure you report their hours.

All hours must be submitted by September 30, 2017. If you have any questions regarding the Earth Team Volunteer program, please contact the Area Coordinator or Kris Vance. kris.vance@in.usda.gov.

NE: Arelis Ortiz
NW: Randy Dickson
SE: Ashley Pine
SW: Betsy Wilkinson0

