



## Clean Water Indiana Grants Report July 2023

**2021, 2022 and 2023 Grants-Conservation practices were due in Conservation Project Tracking on July 7<sup>st</sup>. Grant report updates are underway, and will be due in GMS on July 31<sup>st</sup>. DSSs will be reviewing updates as they come in.**

**The 2024 CWI Networking and Information meeting** was hosted by ISDA on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Tara Wesseler-Henry presented the guidelines for the 2024 grant guidance via Teams and the presentation can be found on Conservation Link.

### **2019 Grants-1 extension wrapping up**

Grant Co. extension ended December 31<sup>st</sup> with final report being due January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Final payments have been made and final claims are currently being processed.

**CWI Grant Audits** have been scheduled for 2023 and are coming up soon. SWCD CWI grants that will be reviewed this year are:

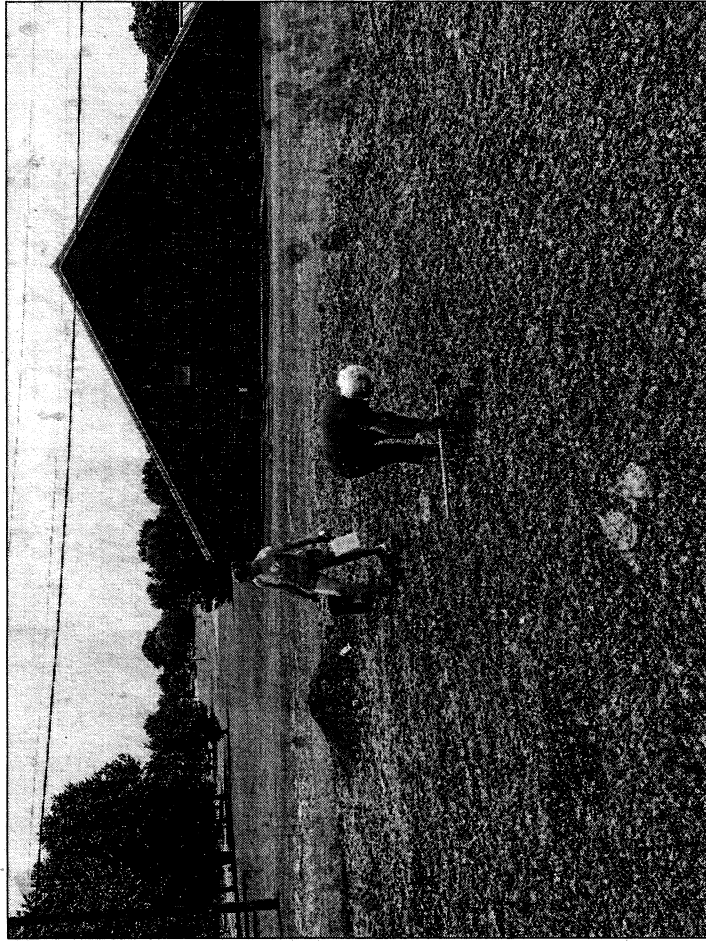
- Brown 2022- completed
- Orange 2023- completed
- St Joseph 2021- completed
- Vigo 2022
- Spencer 2021
- Wabash 2021

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### **SUCCESS STORY**

#### **Perry County \$2,000 Capacity Payment**

The Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District has partnered with the William Tell Elementary School to begin a community garden, using techniques used by the Native Americans for many years. In addition, side gardens will be planted for pollinator and wildlife purposes. See the accompanying news article for more information.



Carly Kuric, left, and Mickey McMahon help start the William Tell Elementary garden.



Bruce Dupont participated in the garden's inception at William Tell Elementary.

# WTE begins a community garden

BY PAT JARBOE  
WILLIAM TELL ELEMENTARY

TELL CITY — William Tell Elementary, in cooperation with the Perry County Soil and Water District, have begun a Community Garden. The garden is currently

in its beginning stages. The garden will be laid out in "The Three Sisters" method, where corn will be planted, then pole beans to use the stalk as a climbing apparatus, and then squash or another low crawling plant will be planted next to the beans. The idea being the corn stalk serves as a climbing pole for the beans, and the squash with its big leaves will shade the ground eliminating or hampering weed growth. This technique has been

used by the Native Americans for many years.

In addition to the main garden, there will also be side gardens, which will be pollinator, and wildlife gardens. These gardens will be groomed specifically for

those purposes. There are individuals assigned to these gardens and we wait to see the creativity they come up with. Once the plants reach harvesting age, the food will be available for everyone to enjoy.



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[AFR \(](#)



## Soil Health Initiative - Scope of Services Modification

Future verbiage

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Grantee

Knox County SWCD

Project Title

Soil Health Initiative

Grant Amount

\$75,000.00

### PROJECT CONTACT

Name

Troy Hinkle

Phone

8128828210 x116

Email

troy.hinkle@in.nacdnet.net

### MODIFICATION INFORMATION

\* (required) Activity to be Changed

No change in activities.

\* (required) Proposed Change

We request an extension to allow more time for us to complete the grant requirements. An additional 18 months would be ideal to allow us to fill the position and meet the grant requirements.

\* (required) Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.

We have not been able to attract any candidates to fill the Soil Health Specialist position, and thus have not made any progress on our grant deliverables. The SWCD board voted on May 17 to increase the salary offering to a maximum of \$75,000 per year in order to attract qualified candidates. We will re-post the position through various channels, including some new ones, and expect to fill the position this summer. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this modification request.

SIGNATURE



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Clear

Submission Date

May 17, 2023 

Submit

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## Grazing Sediment and Nutrient Runoff Reduction Project 2021 -

### Scope of Services Modification

Future verbiage

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

Grantee

Spencer County SWCD

Project Title

Grazing Sediment and Nutrient Runoff Reduction Projec

Grant Amount

\$80,100.00

#### PROJECT CONTACT

Name

Jessica Deller

Phone

Email

spencercoswcd.in@gmail.com

#### MODIFICATION INFORMATION

\*(required) Activity to be Changed

Remove Spending Caps in Current Contract Budget (except the education funds) on grant IGG-135. Our current caps are listed below.  
 Inter-seeding/Cover Crop: \$43,500.00  
 HUAPS, Watering Facilities, Livestock Pipeline, and Internal Fencing: \$35,100.00  
 As a tri-county grant, we all would find it best to combine all remaining funds of \$37,754.96. We have currently used \$42,345.04, which is a little over half of the \$80,100.00 grant.


\*(required) Proposed Change

Re-distribute balance of funds to cover crop cost-share if needed (except the education funds). Being the remaining 6 months, this would allow us to use the remaining funds of \$37,754.96 in the absolute best way possible.

\*(required) Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.

This modification will remove current spending caps in cost-share categories and distribute all remaining funds to other cost-share practices included in the original grant contract. Due to COVID restrictions and all the districts' transitioning to new administrative and technical employees, our ability to reach and develop relationships with new and traditional producers and advertise the grant was greatly diminished. District staff has been busy establishing these relationships and educating producers on the services SWCD's can offer them. As a result, the districts are confident the funds currently assigned could be better utilized as cover crop cost share practices based on our past successes. At least one district has been unable to fund cover crop applications due to the

SIGNATURE



Save Clear

Submission Date

Jul 7, 2023 

Submit

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## State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA – DSC Director’s Report

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Budget & Staffing

#### 54310: Clean Water Indiana:

Recap of SSCB budget vote on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Item	FY2024	FY23 vs FY2024
Training Reimbursements	\$50,000	+\$10,000
District Match	\$1,840,000	+\$970,000
CWI Competitive Grants	\$2,375,600	+\$1,375,000
CREP	\$2,000,000	+\$1,340,000
CREP PEA	\$100,000	+\$100,000 (One time cost)
IRA – IASWCD Proposal	\$540,000	+\$540,000
IDEA Proposal	\$4,400	+\$4,400
Agreements/Equipment	\$100,000	+\$100,000

Source: [https://www.in.gov/isda/files/SSCB-Draft-minutes-051623\\_condensed.pdf](https://www.in.gov/isda/files/SSCB-Draft-minutes-051623_condensed.pdf)

#### Considerations:

- +\$5,000,000 for CWI in FY2024
- The State has instituted a 2% Reserve on budgets. ISDA has submitted a reserve exemption request. This would equate to roughly \$170,000 a FY or \$340,000 a biennium for CWI.
  - This is roughly \$200,000 across CWI & Soils Dedicated funds, or \$400,000 a biennium for Division.
- CWI is a non-reverting fund. Given the start of the new FY was only 10 business days ago we don’t know what balance, if any, we carried over from FY23 to FY24.
- Budget can be impacted by operating costs, retirements, board decisions, etc. As we near CWI awards, I will provide breakdown of budget, updates on reserve, and CWI Competitive grant or CREP award limitations.

#### Staffing

- Set a goal for FY2024 to be full staffed for the first time since 2019.
  - We’ve hired three (3) new Resource Specialists since the beginning of FY24

- Courtney McFall joined us July 10<sup>th</sup> and will serve in the NW, housed in Crown Point covering Benton, Jasper, Lake, Newton, and White counties.
- Colson Doyle also joined us July 10<sup>th</sup> and will serve in the SW, housed in Petersburg covering Gibson, Pike, and Warrick counties.
- Billy Pigg will join us July 24<sup>th</sup> and will serve in the SW, housed in the Greencastle tech team office and cover Putnam, Owen, Morgan, and Johnson counties.
- Interviewing individuals currently for a position in the SE housed in Connserville. This position will cover Fayette, Hancock, Henry, Wayne, and Union counties.

**SSCB Terms & Appointments**

IC 14-32-2-3Qualifications of members

Sec. 3. (a) A majority of the seven (7) appointed members of the board must have experience as district supervisors.

(b) In making appointments to the board, the governor may invite and consider the recommendations of the following:

- (1) The Purdue University cooperative extension service.**
- (2) The Indiana state department of agriculture.**
- (3) The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.**

(c) All appointments to the board shall be made without regard to political affiliation.

(d) The members appointed to the board under section 2(1) and 2(2) of this chapter must be residents of at least four (4) different geographic regions of Indiana.

[Pre-1995 Recodification Citation: 13-3-1-4(a) part.]

*As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.25. Amended by P.L.136-1997, SEC.10; P.L.1-2006, SEC.220; P.L.175-2006, SEC.6; P.L.120-2008, SEC.12.*

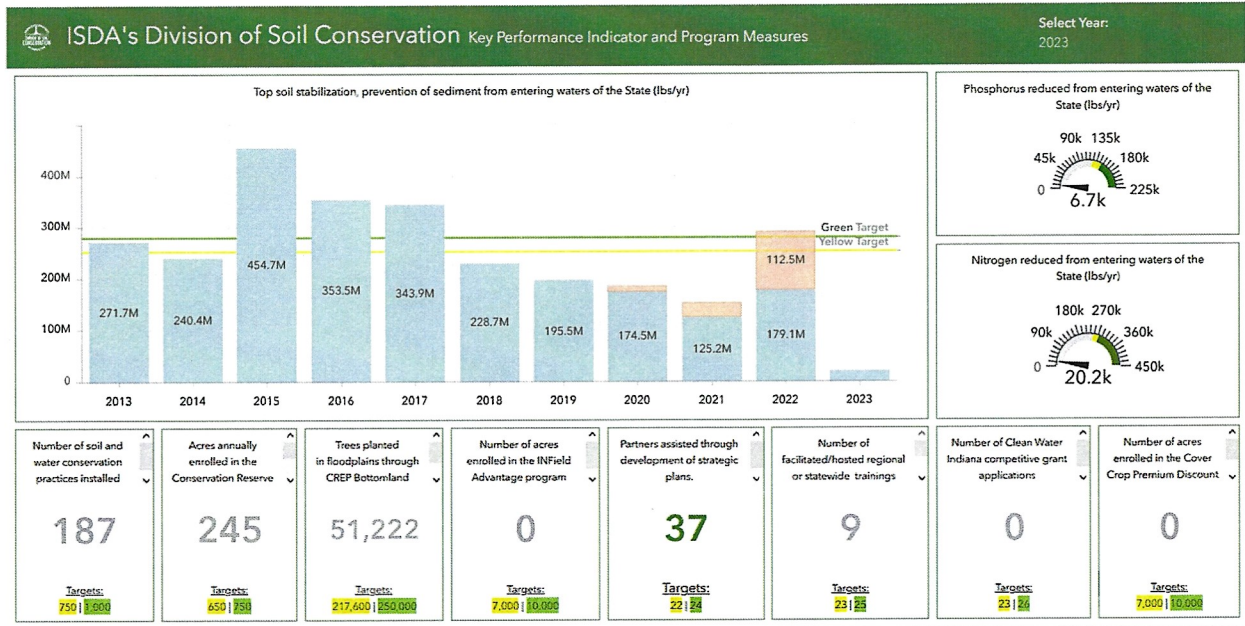
- Arrive on consensus for candidates.
- Provide resume, contact info, short bio for Gov’s office. Ultimately appointed by Governor.
- This process is ongoing we are in contact with potential candidates now.

Name	Organization	County	Term Expiration
Gene Schmidt	SSCB	Laporte	4/31/2026
Amy Burris	SSCB	Martin	12/31/ <del>2026</del> 2027
Kenny Cain	SSCB	Montgomery	4/31/2026
Ray Chattin	SSCB	Knox	12/31/ <del>2026</del> 2027
Larry Clemens	SSCB	Steuben	4/31/2026
Brad Dawson	SSCB	Dearborn	4/31/2026
Jane Hardisty	SSCB	Hancock	12/31/ <del>2026</del> 2027

**Other ISDA Updates:**

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

# Key Performance Indicators



## Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

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**From:** Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** Tyler, Geneva (ISDA); Harmon, Leah  
**Subject:** Dubois 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. \*\*\*\*

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

<b>SWCD</b>
Dubois
<b>Appointment Type</b>
Temporary_Elected_Position
<b>Who is the Candidate Replacing?</b>
Andrew Helming
<b>Term Expiration</b>
2024
<b>Reason for Vacancy</b>
Resignation
<b>Supervisor Candidate Name</b>
Mark Welp
<b>Address</b>
5017 S 700 E
<b>City, State, ZIP</b>
St. Anthony, IN 47595
<b>Qualifications</b>
Mark is a very conservation minded individual. He has participated in various EQIP programs. Welp Farms produces grain and livestock in the Richland Creek-Flat Creek watershed. They use soil sampling to determine whether manure or fertilizer needs to be spread on their fields. They also use rotational grazing and have installed exclusive fencing to keep the cattle out of their ponds. Mark was nominated and awarded the River Friendly Farmer Award in Dubois County in 2020.
<b>Occupation</b>

Mark works for St. Anthony Mill delivering feed to farmers along with owning and operating Welp Farms.

**Conservation Interests**

Mark has work with NRCS previously to implement conservation practices himself. He is interested in conservation and utilizing no till and cover crops on his family farm.

**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**

Brenda Sermersheim

**Date of Submission**

1687449600000

**Is a letter of resignation attached?**

Yes

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



# State Soil Conservation Board

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



## Program Updates

### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**

- We are working on expanding the CREP program to go statewide. The required Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) will be completed in the second half of this year. The draft revised contract between ISDA and FSA is at the national office for review at this time. Goal is to have the program expansion going in the calendar year 2024.
- Process to recruit SWCDs to be CREP Administrators for the new watersheds will be happening in the next few months. Those selections will be made at the October Board meeting.
- Approximate acres signed up so far this calendar year are 255 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 \$10.6 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$4-\$13 for every state dollar, which is currently between \$39.2 million and \$127.5 million of federal dollars depending on the practice.

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

- Component 1 – ISDA is working on the development of a web tool that will display the results of the water quality trends report and to make the results more accessible to conservation partners and the public. This web tool is planned to be available later in 2023. The information within the water quality trends report will be used to draw comparisons of the basins in the state to determine the watersheds with the highest trends in nutrient loads and concentrations.
- Component 2 - Work on the Science Assessment is continuing. A [progress report for Year 2](#) has been completed and is available on the Science Assessment website. Work on the first 10 practices is almost complete. Fact sheets showing the results of each individual practice will be available soon. <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/>
- Work on the next revision of the SNRS to be completed in calendar year 2025 will begin soon. I will be meeting with IDEM next month to begin that discussion.

## State Initiatives Information & Updates July 2023

### **Western Lake Erie Basin RCPP-Year two (Indiana, Ohio, & Michigan)**

- Ranking sheet for next round of signups was submitted for IN.
- Communication teams from the three states met. Documents and outreach are in draft.
- On going in-kind tracking for the project and reporting being completed
- Successful Conservation Education Tour Completed on July 12.
- Up and coming :
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> funding round of practices
  - Manure Management Field Day August 30 (Adams County)/ August 29<sup>th</sup> at Purdue University- Partnership with Purdue and UW Madison

### **Kankakee RCPP- Still working on negotiations with USDA (Indiana and Illinois)**

- At a standstill for the moment, but still meeting and collaboration happening to get the project up and going.
- Outreach to underserved communities is part of this funding.
- Working on documents and programs and tracking mechanisms for in-kind and cash match.
- Held technical committee meetings with partners.
- Emails and phone calls to keep in contact with all partners.
- The Copenhagen Tribe gave a generous donation for the establishment of wetlands for the watershed.

Meetings and discussions for ***potential*** RCPP with Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin

Meetings and discussions for ***potential*** RCPP with Sand County Foundation and Illinois

## Grants and Training

- Organized the WLEB Education Tour
- Monthly WLEB meetings with IN and MI
- Assisting with partners applying for CWI grants, reading proposals
- Helping current CWI grants with reporting
- Kankakee Technical Committee meeting
- Completed CWI Webinar in June
- Assisted with a CWI Audit
- Assisting a CWI grant with modifications
- Met with a district to help them wrap up the remaining funds of their CWI grant.
- Meeting with partners for the training portion of the position and looking into a potential agreement.
- Working on communication pieces for WLEB
- Draft Kankakee Guidance document
- Meetings with NRCS USDA for Kankakee proposal
- Manure management training planning meetings
- Helping plan the Supervisor Summer meetings.
- Attended the Kankakee Commission meeting
- Meetings and discussions with potential RCPP with Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin
- Meetings and discussions with potential RCPP with Sand County Foundation and Illinois
- Organizing RCPP files and partner in-kind support
- Assisting CWI and DSSs with program management of CWI grants, training reimbursements, and AFR claims
- Assisting a district to prepare for a budget ask.
- Working on trainings for soil health field assessments for ISDA RSs
- Helping screen and interview SE RS candidates.



## SSCB Meeting - July 18, 2023 - 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	Acres	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 7/14/2023	235.08	52.20	6,986.04	62.93	880.58	8,280.89	2,297.76	3,876.25	22,671.73		26,250.00	86.37%
Total CREP Enrollment	235.08	53.20	7,286.36	74.14	900.48	8,444.20	2,364.63	4,298.64	23,656.73		26,250.00	90.12%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90			
										Difference =	985.00	
									22,509.01		26,250.00	85.75%

	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	\$ 23,508.00	\$ 5,220.00	\$ 745,141.00	\$ 29,814.00	\$ 382,577.00	\$ 3,513,153.00	\$ 2,082,160.50	\$ 3,024,752.50	\$ 9,806,326.00	\$ 839,170.10	\$ 10,645,496.10

Federal Match of \$4-\$13 is between \$ 39,225,304.00  
\$ 127,482,238.00

	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
Total CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 7/14/2023	0.00	0.00	569.28	4.08	43.13	304.48	0.00	226.75	1,147.72

Note: These acres are not re-counted in the total above, however they do receive incentive payments.

## SSCB Meeting - July 18, 2023 - 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	20.86	0.00	1.12	134.60	0.00	0.00	156.58
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	11.63	0.00	0.00	663.30	0.00	0.00	674.93
Lower East Fork White	53.50	45.20	164.61	41.60	85.91	751.44	287.16	0.00	1429.42
Lower White	10.70	0.00	198.28	0.00	129.29	2,349.07	286.19	0.00	2,973.53
Middle Wabash-Busseron	2.00	0.00	17.96	0.00	19.70	1,580.22	840.81	91.60	2,552.29
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	119.35	0.00	0.00	73.10	50.86	71.77	321.68
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	174.94	6.97	87.12	774.75	505.89	177.70	1,731.87
Tippecanoe River	93.84	0.00	846.71	0.00	3.41	21.40	87.30	2,434.90	3,487.56
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	517.55	0.00	48.30	264.58	0.00	0.00	830.43
Upper Wabash	23.15	7.00	1095.17	2.56	73.98	282.43	117.85	89.10	1691.24
Upper White	36.69	0.00	274.48	0.00	291.05	328.10	0.00	71.18	1001.50
<b>Reported Completed as of 7/14/2023</b>	<b>230.98</b>	<b>52.20</b>	<b>3,441.54</b>	<b>51.13</b>	<b>739.88</b>	<b>7,222.99</b>	<b>2176.06</b>	<b>2,936.25</b>	<b>16,851.03</b>
<b>Enrolled as of 7/14/2023</b>	<b>230.98</b>	<b>53.20</b>	<b>3,741.86</b>	<b>62.34</b>	<b>759.78</b>	<b>7,386.30</b>	<b>2,242.93</b>	<b>3,358.64</b>	<b>17,836.03</b>

### Pre-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.50	0.00	215.00	10.80	16.40	109.20	0.00	0.00	353.90
Tippecanoe River	0.00	0.00	2,916.80	0.00	7.80	20.40	121.70	924.00	3,990.70
Upper White	1.60	0.00	412.70	1.00	116.50	928.30	0.00	16.00	1476.10
<b>Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,544.50</b>	<b>11.80</b>	<b>140.70</b>	<b>1,057.90</b>	<b>121.70</b>	<b>940.00</b>	<b>5,820.70</b>

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

### CREP to CREP reenrollment

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	0.0	0.0	31.95	4.08	2.90	26.6	0.0	0.0	65.50
Tippecanoe	0.0	0.0	402.05	0.00	0.00	14.1	0.0	209.55	625.66
Upper White	0.0	0.0	135.28	0.00	40.23	263.9	0.0	17.2	456.56
<b>CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 7/14/2023</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>569.28</b>	<b>4.08</b>	<b>43.13</b>	<b>304.48</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>226.75</b>	<b>1147.72</b>

## SSCB Meeting - July 18, 2023 - 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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,033.00	\$ 1,632.00	\$ 1,272.00	\$ 64,468.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,405.00	\$ 7,140.50	\$ 78,545.50
Lower Wabash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,163.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 265,320.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 266,483.00	\$ 26,648.30	\$ 293,131.30
Lower East Fork White	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 4,520.00	\$ 16,461.00	\$ 16,640.00	\$ 34,364.00	\$ 300,576.00	\$ 272,802.00	\$ -	\$ 650,713.00	\$ 65,071.30	\$ 715,784.30
Lower White	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ 19,828.00	\$ 2,764.00	\$ 51,716.00	\$ 939,628.00	\$ 253,109.00	\$ -	\$ 1,268,115.00	\$ 126,811.50	\$ 1,394,926.50
Middle Wabash-Busseron	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,796.00	\$ -	\$ 7,880.00	\$ 629,032.00	\$ 774,569.50	\$ 87,020.00	\$ 1,500,497.50	\$ 150,049.75	\$ 1,650,547.25
Middle Wabash-Deer	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 11,935.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,240.00	\$ 34,787.00	\$ 38,745.50	\$ 115,367.50	\$ 11,536.75	\$ 126,904.25
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 11,264.00	\$ 2,788.00	\$ 34,848.00	\$ 309,900.00	\$ 480,595.50	\$ 163,315.00	\$ 1,003,160.50	\$ 100,316.05	\$ 1,103,476.55
Tippecanoe River	\$ 9,384.00	\$ -	\$ 124,126.00	\$ -	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 14,184.00	\$ 75,235.00	\$ 2,223,871.50	\$ 2,448,164.50	\$ 244,816.45	\$ 2,692,980.95
Upper East Fork White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,855.00	\$ -	\$ 19,320.00	\$ 80,768.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,943.00	\$ 15,094.30	\$ 166,037.30
Upper Wabash	\$ 2,315.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 109,364.00	\$ 1,024.00	\$ 29,592.00	\$ 112,972.00	\$ 111,957.50	\$ 59,799.50	\$ 427,724.00	\$ 42,772.40	\$ 470,496.40
Upper White	\$ 3,669.00	\$ -	\$ 39,866.00	\$ -	\$ 132,512.00	\$ 236,780.00	\$ -	\$ 74,501.00	\$ 487,328.00	\$ 48,732.80	\$ 536,060.80
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,980.00
<b>Reported Paid as of 7/14/2023</b>	<b>\$ 23,098.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 390,691.00</b>	<b>\$ 24,848.00</b>	<b>\$ 314,668.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,982,868.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,003,055.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,647,252.50</b>	<b>\$ 8,391,701.00</b>	<b>\$ 839,170.10</b>	<b>\$ 9,230,871.10</b>

### Pre-Expansion Dollars

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

### CREP to CREP reenrollment

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	Total
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,835.00	\$ 1,632.00	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 10,628.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,255.00
Tippecanoe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,205.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,624.00	\$ -	\$ 83,820.00	\$ 129,649.00
Upper White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,528.00	\$ -	\$ 16,092.00	\$ 105,540.00	\$ -	\$ 6,880.00	\$ 142,040.00
<b>CREP to CREP reenrollment reported paid as of 7/14/2023</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 56,568.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,632.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,252.00</b>	<b>\$ 121,792.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 90,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 287,944.00</b>

Note: These incentive dollars are figured in the total above. This table shows only the breakdown of what is paid for reenrolled CREP to CREP acres.



# State Soil Conservation Board

July 18, 2023

Nutrient Stewardship Updates, Breegan Andersen



## Program Updates

### **Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP)**

- Working diligently on planning the implementation of the soil sampling program funded by the BIL-Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP) dollars.
- This program will cover Indiana watersheds within the Mississippi River Basin and exclude the WLEB and Lake Michigan Basins. This is due to federal statutory language associated with the funds.
- Our priorities have been drafting a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for EPA approval and getting ISDA technical staff involved in planning the implementation process.
- There are two key avenues for implementation ISDA is taking with this program: 1) ISDA field staff collecting samples and 2) collaborating with CCAs on collecting samples for growers.
- Anticipate submitting the QAPP for approval at the end of July. Which will allow us to move forward with collecting environmental data associated with this program.
- Two labs have been selected to help with sample analysis. Contracts should be starting by the end of July. Labs will be providing nutrient recommendations based on yield goals and soil test results along with providing training and educational assistance for ISDA staff, producers, and partners.
- The first nutrient management workshop will be hosted in Fall 2023 and act as our kickoff event, but we will be “soft launching” in late-September with the hope of getting early sign-ups to address initial issues that may come up.
- Actively discussing on how to get partners involved, especially with workload concerns as other programs continue to expand.
- This is still all very fluid and subject to change as we move forward.

# SW Area 2023

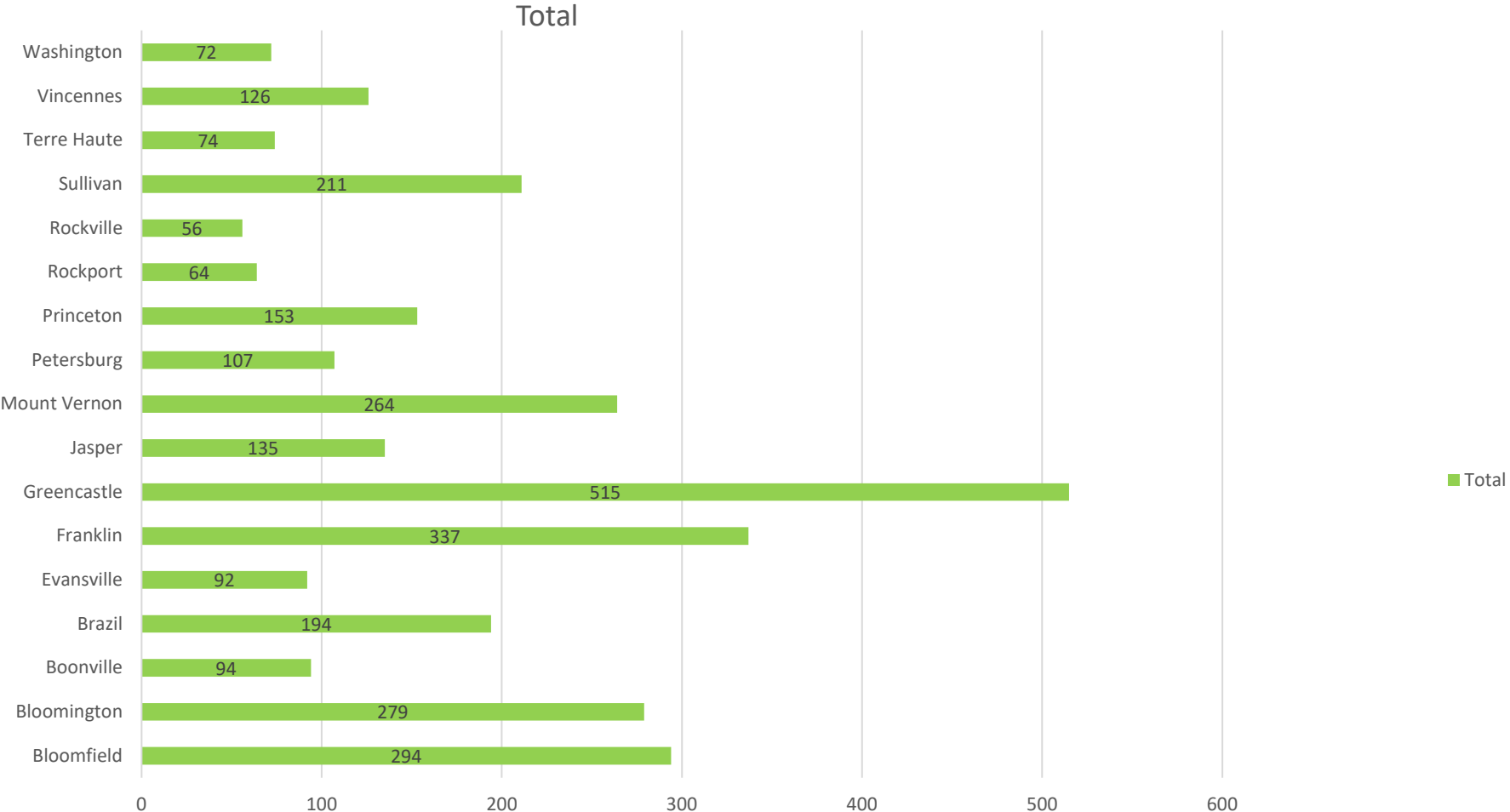
Program and Engineering Workload Report

By:

Andrea Gogel

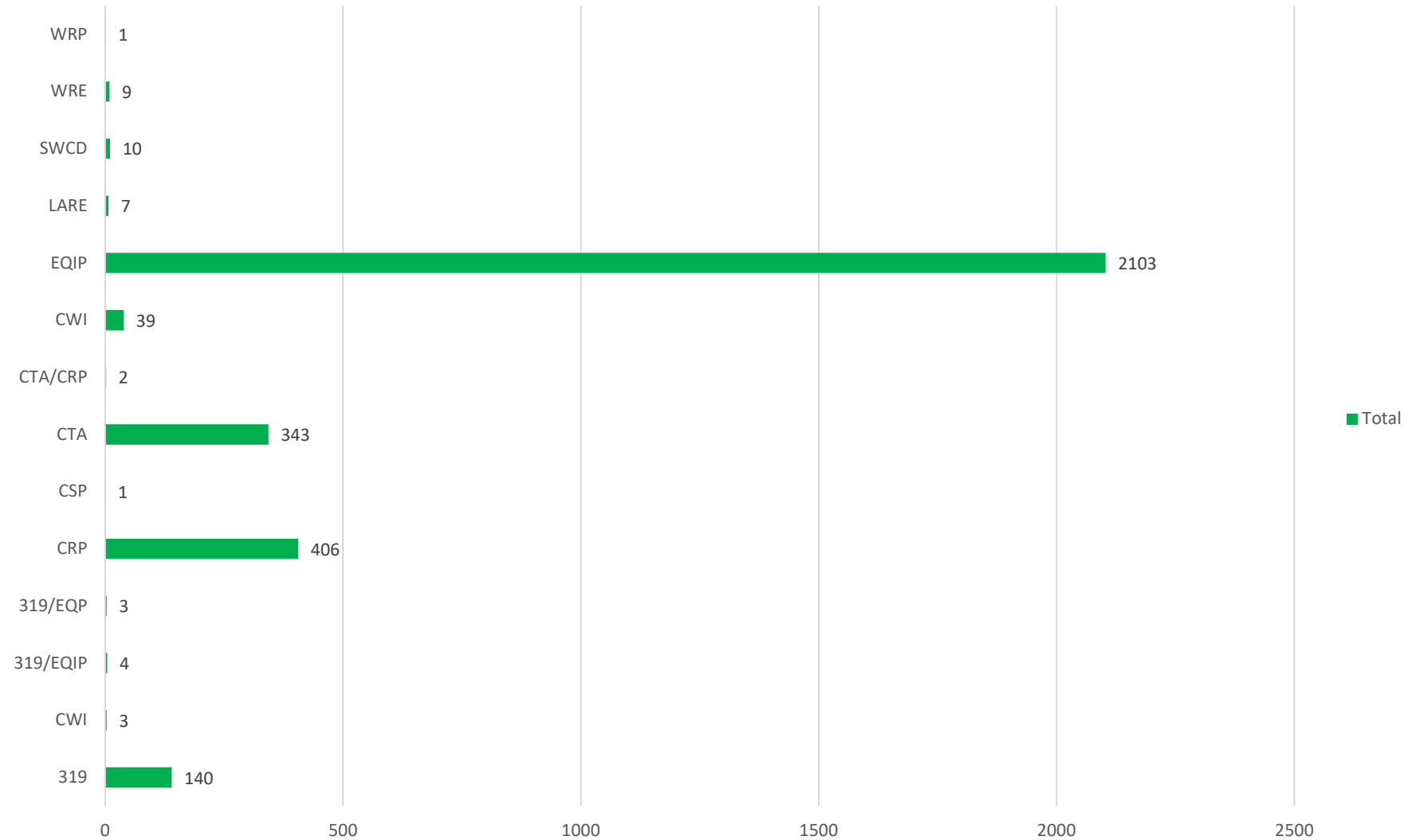


# SW Area Engineering Practices 2022



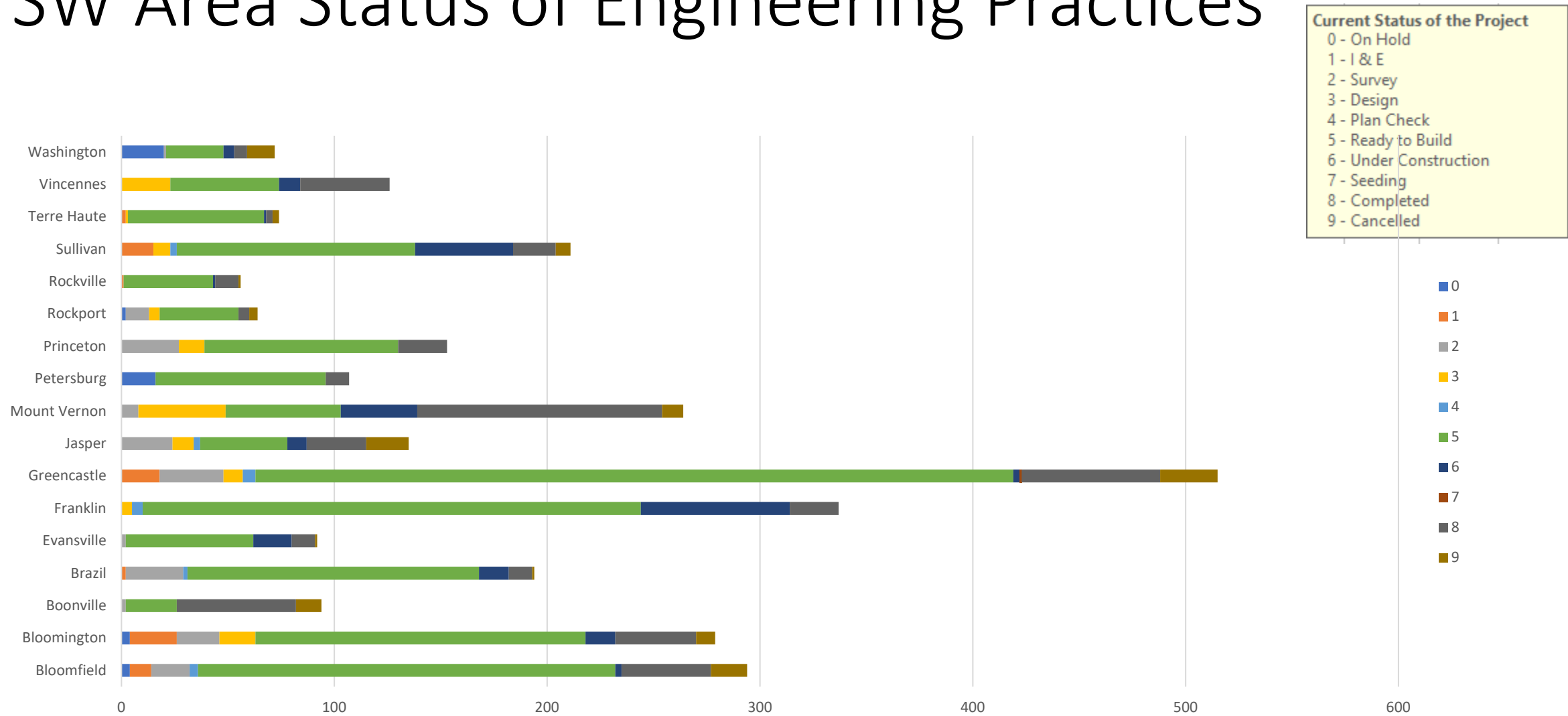


# 2023 SW Area Practices by Program

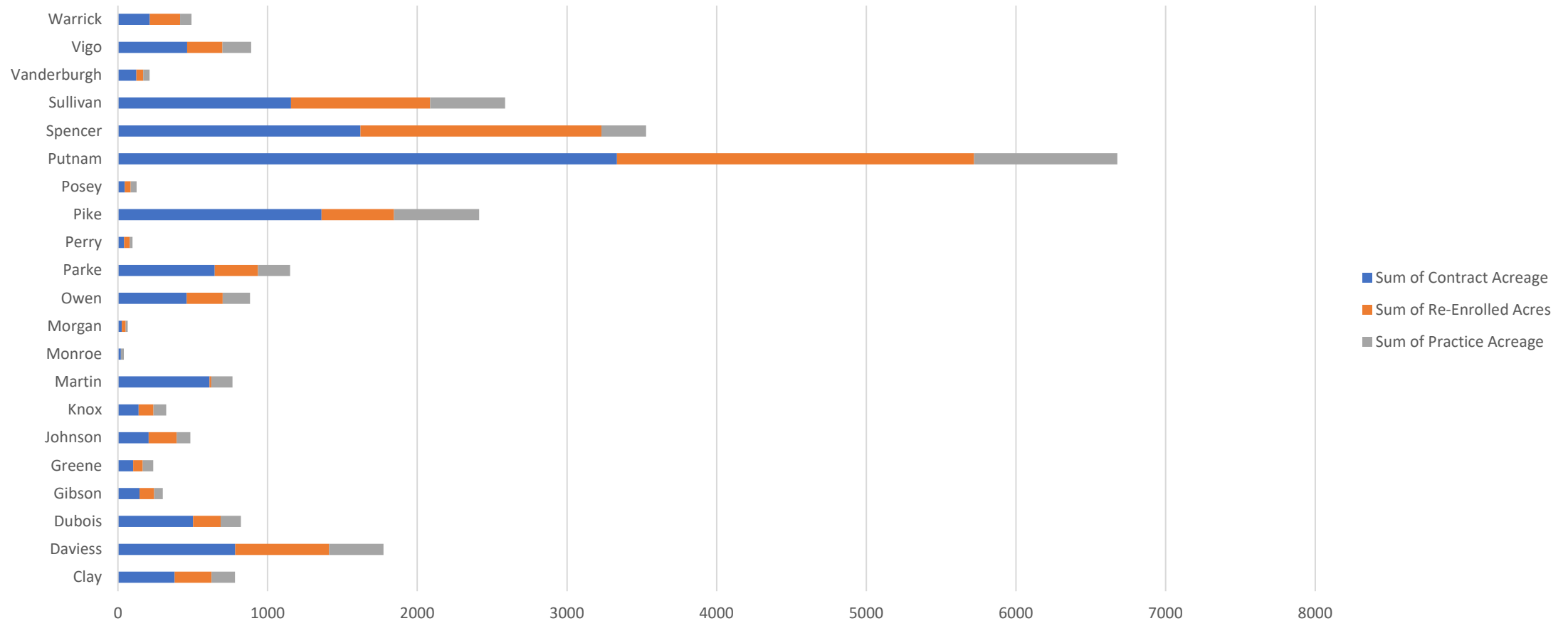




# SW Area Status of Engineering Practices

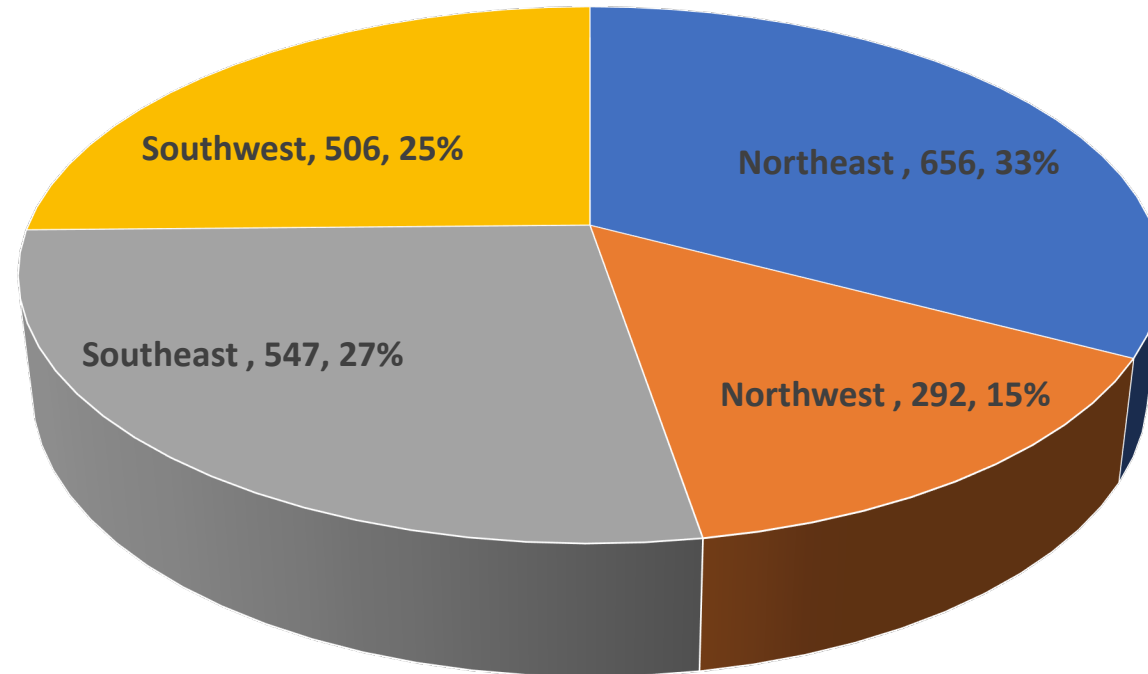


# 2023 CRP Workload SW Area by Service Center



# Indiana Active EQIP Contracts by Area

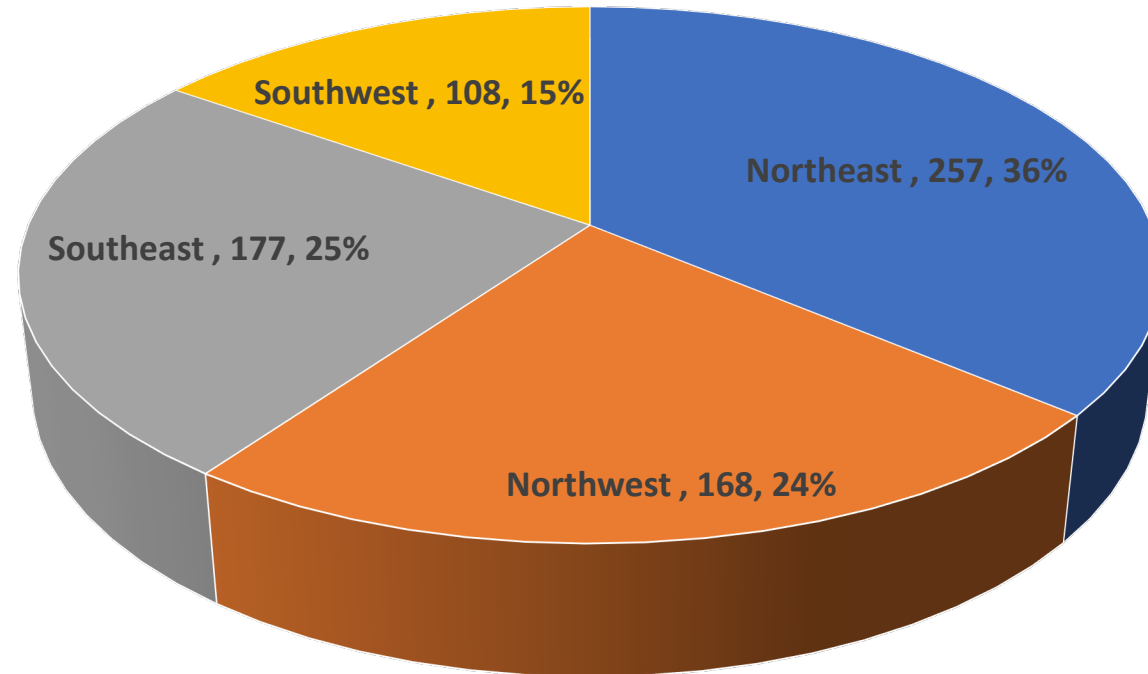
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■ Northeast ■ Northwest ■ Southeast ■ Southwest

# Indiana Active CSP Contracts by Area

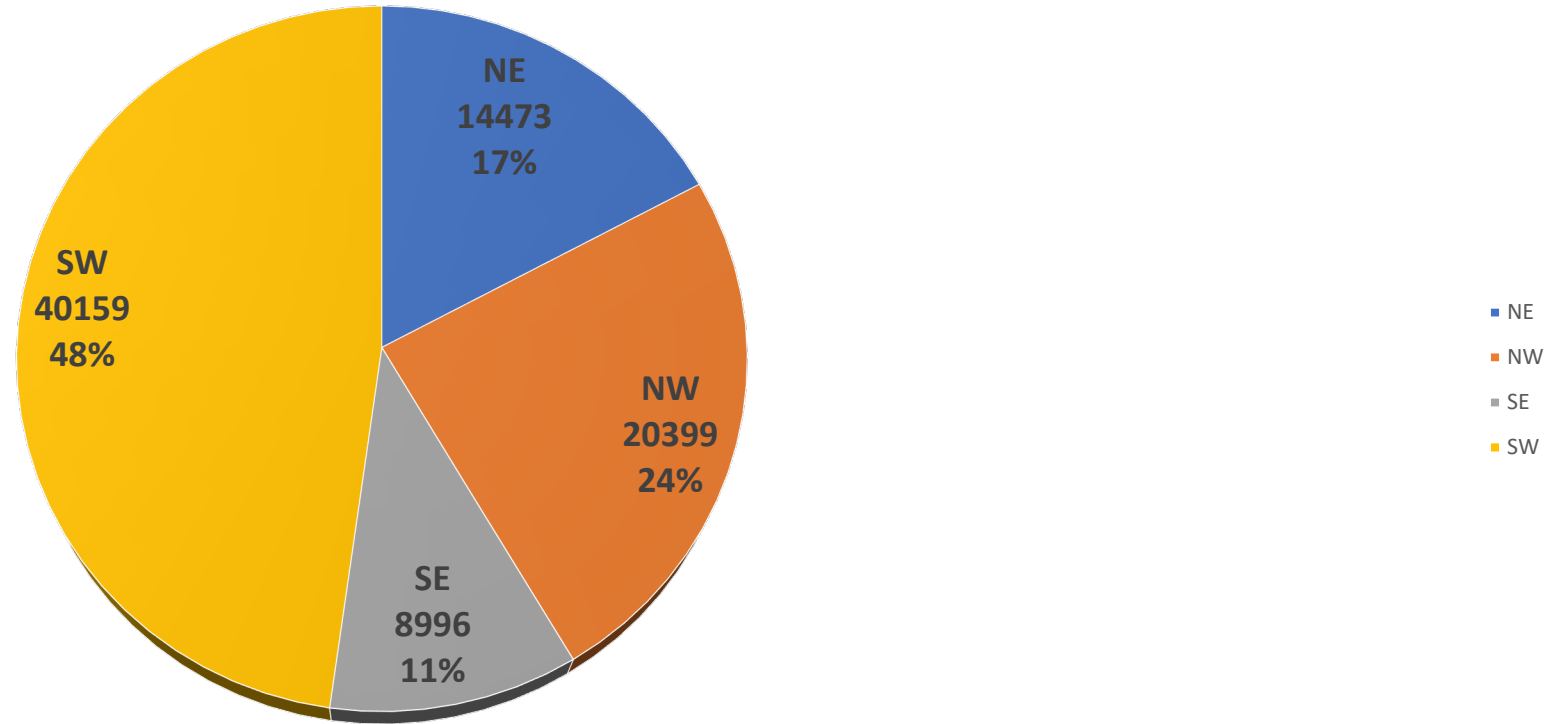
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■ Northeast ■ Northwest ■ Southeast ■ Southwest

# Indiana Easement Acres by Area

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**State Soil Conservation Board**  
**July 18, 2023 District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 4/25/23 to 7/3/23**



**Statewide or Regional Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff**

- **Completed since last report:**
  - **June 15: CWI 2024 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Information Session.** The recording is now available on ISDA's Conservation Link under the current CWI cycle resources page section.
- **SWCD Summer Summits:** these evening meetings feature keynote speaker Phil Anderson. With the increase in CWI funds available, Phil will help spur ideas when considering how districts can "rethink" projects and initiatives. Thank you for the funding towards this initiative!
  - August 1: Petersburg IN
  - August 8: Corydon IN
  - August 15: Muncie IN
  - August 22: Thorntown IN
  - August 24: Greencastle IN
  - August 29: Greensburg IN
  - August 31: Rensselaer, IN
  - September 7: LaGrange IN
- **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**

- **Competitive grants:**
  - DSSs have been working with current grantees on tasks including project management and reporting. Next Grant Updates are due July 31.
  - DSSs are assisting 2024 competitive grant applicants. Applications are due September 8, 2023 by 12PM EST.
  - DSSs joined CWI Advisory Group Listening Session on May 1.
  - CWI Grant Reviews were completed in Brown, Vigo and St. Joseph.
- **2023 \$2k District Capacity Payment:** discussions have continued on the tracking form that can help tell the story of how the funds were used.

**Committee Work:** DSSs participated in work, discussions, etc. tying to the following statewide or regional initiatives-

- All Employees Meeting
- Annual Conference Planning Committee
- Board Certification Program
- Clean Water Indiana
- ICP Recruitment Subcommittee
- Indiana Conservation Partnership Training and Certification Program (ICP TCP), and ICP TCP Pollinator training committee

- IDEA SNW Fall Conference planning meeting
- State Soil Conservation Board
- Summer Summits
- Transect
- Women4TheLand

**Board Certification Program**

ISDA and IASWCD met on May 30 to further discuss the program and provide updates on ongoing project work such as module work or contacting speakers. Phil Anderson will develop a recorded training tying to the Summer Summits that could be utilized for this initiative too.

<b>DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period</b>	<b>Total</b>
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	22
Assistance with SWCD or Partner Strategic Planning	9
Other Visits with SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, CWI, etc.	75

### Highlights

#### Soil Health Training for CCSI and ICP Staff

- 05/18 Training led by Barry Fisher for CCSI staff, Tashina Lahr-Manifold, and Tara Wessler. Focus was on collecting samples for demonstrations, tips for conducting demonstrations.

#### Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health)

- Held June 27-29 in West Lafayette
- Included ½ day at Strasburger Farm
- 36 Attendees: *Solid* mix of SWCD, NRCS, Extension staff, plus watershed leaders, new ISDA staff and a couple from ag retail

#### Ecdysis 1000 Farms

- Assisting Jon Lundgren, Ecdysis / Blue Dasher Farm, and his team to coordinate farm sites and general logistics for sampling about 25 farms July 24-28
- National project <https://www.ecdysis.bio/featured-project>
- Will follow up in 2024 with meeting for farmer-participants to review anonymized sampling results. Planning on at least one more day for workshop.

#### Pilot National Training

- To be held August 8-9 at Clark Farms
- Working with NRCS to invite soil health specialists from across the US
- Jon Lundgren, Ecdysis will zoom into the event. Christian Krupke, Purdue will be on site for hands-on entomological activities.
- Plan is to pilot in Indiana, then repeat this type of training at farms in every ecoregion of the US.
- Future events will include invitations to Extension, SWCD, and others who work one-on-one with farmers.

### G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

#### 1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

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

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

- 05/09 Craig Smith ride-along (Kingma Farms) (NWPM)
- 05/10 Jamie Scott (NA)
- 05/11 Matt Harsh Ride-along (NEPM)
- 05/16 Byron Seeds Plot Walkthrough (D, SA)
- 05/18 James and David McGaughey (NA)
- 05/24 Greg and Jacob Rowland farm visit (SEPM)
- 05/30 Mark Kingma (NA)
- 06/01 Jamie Scott / POTF (NA)



- 06/07 Dave Fisher (SA)
- 06/07 James and David McGaughey / POTF (NA)
- 06/07 Dan DeSutter (NA)
- 06/08 Pat Bittner – firefly video (SA)
- 06/16 Dan DeSutter – phone (D)
- 06/06 Pat Bittner – phone (D)
- 06/16 Kelly Cheesewright – phone (D)
- 06/16 Mark Kingma / POTF (NA)
- 06/20 Cameron Mills – phone (D)
- 06/20 Jamie Scott – phone (D)
- 06/20 Rick Clark – phone (D)
- 06/20 Loran Steinlage – phone (D)
- 06/21 Jim Moseley (D)
- 06/23 Ray McCormick (D)

### **Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers**

*Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.*

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

- 05/17 Joe McCutchan farm visit – first year no-till (NA)
- 05/23 Joe Rude ride-along (NEPM)
- 05/24 Casey Jones (SEPM)
- 05/24 Posey County first time no-till (SWPM)

### **1. Farmer Influencers**

Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)

- 05/18 Training at Barry Fisher’s (NA, SA, NWPM, NEPM, SWPM)
- 05/29 Kevin Schmitt, Triple S Ag (SA)
- 06/21 Dan Towery (D)
- 06/26 Finian Makepeace, Kiss the Ground (D)

### **2. Presentations**

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)

- 05/09 – Southwest Indiana Master Gardener Association General Meeting, Evansville, IN “CoCoRaHS and Climate” (115 attendees) (SA)
- 05/11 – Clay County Nature Day, Brazil, IN, “Climate Change in Indiana” (324 attendees) (SA)
- 05/25 – Midwestern Regional Climate Center State Climatologist Workshop, West Lafayette, IN “Extension Climate Services” (13 attendees) (SA)
- 06/07 Impacts of Vegetation on Soil Drainage (NA), 35 attendees
- 06/07 National Extension Climate Professional Development Webinar, 35 participants (SA)
- 06/08 – Center for Energy Education Field Day, Franklin, IN, “Water Infiltration in Soils” (35 attendees) (SA)
- 06/15 – Cargill Cover Crop Field Day, West Lafayette, IN “Rainfall Effects on Soil Properties” (98 attendees) (SA, NA)

- 06/21 Soil Health Diagnostics, Pinney PAC, 24 attendees (NA)
- 06/26 North Central Climate Collaborative Webinar, 135 participants (SA)

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

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

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

#### Workshops Completed

- 05/03 National Extension Climate Initiative Professional Development Webinar (13 participants)
- 05/19 Hoosier Chapter SWCS, Nashville (20 attendees)
- 05/25 Illinois/Indiana Climate Webinar (10 participants)
- 05/31 Cargill Farmer Meeting, Valparaiso (37 attendees)
- 06/04 The Watershed Foundation donor event, 67 attendees
- 06/07 Utility Scale Solar Workshop for Community Leaders, Jasper Co, 35 attendees
- 06/12-17 Jennings County Fair – Root Banners
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD/Purdue Extension – Event with field buffer/filter strip
- 06/21 Diagnostic Training at Pinney PAC, 24 attendees

#### Workshops in Progress:

- 07/13 Stueben County Legislative Tour
- 07/14-20 Adams County Fair – Root Banners
- 07/14-20 Randolph County Fair – Root Banners
- CANCELLED 07/18 Tippecanoe County
- 08/08 Improving Water Quality Through Farming, Kosciusko County
- 08/08-09 Pilot National Training
- 08/09 Roger Wenning Round Table
- 08/10 Roger Wenning Field Day
- 08/25 Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- 08/29 Pay Dirt cover crop workshop, Goshen
- 08/30 and 31 Manure Spill Demonstrations, WLEB and Kankakee
- 08/30 Bartholomew County PARP
- 08/31 Warren County
- 08/02 DeKalb County Agronomy Day
- 09/06 Roemke Farms Field Day, Harlan
- 09/06 Porter County
- November – Sand County Foundation Event
- 01/08-09 IASWCD Annual Conference
- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)
- The Watershed Foundation Summer Celebration
- 08/2024 Events with Ray Archuleta

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

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

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

### Completed Trainings

- 06/27-29 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health) (36 attendees)

### Trainings in Progress:

- 08/08-09 Pilot National Soil Health Training
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development
- Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic Development

### **Professional Development Opportunities**

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

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

### Completed Trainings:

- 05/18 CCSI Training Team – Fisher Farm, Putnam Co

### Trainings in Progress

- 09/5, 7, 19, 21 Grow More – Engaging New Audiences

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

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

- 05/02 Adams SWCD (NEPM)
- 05/04 IDEA NE Region Meeting (NEPM)
- 05/09 Extension Field Crops Team Conference Call (SA, NA)
- 05/09 White County SWCD Board Meeting (NWPM)
- 05/09 Meet & Greet Katelyn Smith, White Co SWCD (NWPM)
- 05/09 Wells SWCD (NEPM)
- 05/10 Warren County SWCD Board Meeting (NWPM)
- 05/10 Meet & Greet Julie Clark, Warren Co SWCD (NWPM)
- 05/10 Marshall SWCD (NEPM)
- 05/12 IDEA SW Region Meeting (SWPM)
- 05/15 State Soil Health Team Meeting (D, NWPM, NEPM, SWPM, SEPM)
- 05/16 SSCB (D)
- 05/19 and 30 Warrick SWCD mini-grant assistance (SWPM)
- 05/22 Purdue Agronomy Extension Meeting (NA)
- 05/23 NW NRCS area meeting (NWPM)
- 05/23 Extension Field Crops Conference Call (SA, NA)
- 05/24 NE Soil Health Team Meeting (NEPM)
- 05/25 Southwest Soil Health Team Meeting (SWPM)
- 05/26 Posey SWCD mini-grant assistance (SWPM)
- 05/31 Blackford SWCD (NEPM)
- Mondays – US Drought Monitor Coordinating Calls (SA)
- 06/01 Starke SWCD Board Meeting (NWPM)
- 06/01 Starke NRCS staff meet and greet (NWPM)
- 06/02 Purdue Mesonet and State Climate Office call (SA)
- 06/05 Southern CCSI Teleconference (all)

- 06/05 Northern CCSI Teleconference (all)
- 06/06 Randolph SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/06 Grant SWCD staff meet-n-greet (NEPM)
- 06/06 Kosciusko SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/09 ANR Leadership Team Meeting (SA)
- 06/12 Purdue On The Farm operations meeting (SA, NA)
- 06/13 Delaware SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/13 Jasper NRCS staff meet-n-greet (NWPM)
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD Board Meeting (SWPM)
- 06/19 DeKalb SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/20 Huntington SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 06/20 S-NE IDEA Region Meeting (NEPM)

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

#### **1. Marketing**

*Quarterly Targets: 3-4 "formal" CCSI Updates (CCSI Team Goal)*

*Annual Target: 1-2 New External Partners*

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

- May 1 - Events Newsletter; 2317 delivered; 55% open rate; 6% click rate
- May 15 – Events Newsletter; 1527 delivered; 46% open rate; 6% click rate
- June 1 - Events Newsletter; 2341 delivered; 42% open rate; 12% click rate
- June 15 – Events Newsletter; 2324 delivered; 31% open rate; 6% click rate

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

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

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

*Completed Materials:*

- Podcasts
  - May: Bryan Overstreet, Hans Schmitz CCSI / Purdue on the Farm and Dan Quinn Purdue University – Purdue on the Farm and Soil Health
  - June: Mark Kingma, NW Indiana Farmer, and Betsy Bower, Ceres Solutions – Impacts of Soil Health Systems on Irrigation Efficiency
  - (Recorded) Ray McCormick, SW Indiana Farmer, and Phil Neeham, Needham Ag – The importance of combine adjustments and seeding cover crops with a combine
  - (Scheduling) Pat Bittner + father, Aaron Krueger + grandfather. How the older generation supported transition to soil health systems
- Social Media
  - Twitter (only automated postings as platform reorganizes)
  - Facebook:
    - May - 1221 reach, 713 followers
    - June - 972 reach, 713 followers
  - Instagram:
    - May - 290 followers
    - June - 109 reach, 290 followers
  - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter

- Website:
  - May - 467 users, 701 visits
  - June - 421 users, 594 sessions

Completed Materials:

- HO-203, Effect of Cold Weather on Horticultural Plants in Indiana, submitted to AgComm for formatting (SA)

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz and Matt Pearson, OISC
- Full scale Root Project banners ordered – 7 sets total: one for each Program Manager, one for each Agronomist, one spare. These will be available for partners to borrow for their events.

#### **G4. Research**

Quarterly Targets: None

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

- Support - Indiana University SARE - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss (Yoder)
- Support – Purdue University SARE - Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (Armstrong)
- Support – Purdue University NIFA – Empowering Indiana’s Organic Farmers – Assessing Regional and Farm Scale Soil Health with a Farmer Network (Rui)
- Support – 1000 Farms Project, Ecdysis Foundation (Lundgren)

#### **OTHER**

Professional Development:

- 05/01 Soil Health Evaluation with Amanda Kautz (NA)
- 05/05 Ask the Operator with Loran Steinlage (SA, NA)
- 05/16-17 EPLP Session in Starlight, Jeffersonville, and Louisville (SEPM)

Other:

- 05/09 CRP Training followed by field checks (SWPM)
- Listening Sessions for Dean candidates, Purdue College of Agriculture (D)
- Amendment to 2022-27 NRCS Contribution Agreement in process

D = Director

NWPM = Northwest Program Manager

NEPM = Northeast Program Manager

SWPM = Southwest Program Manager

SEPM = Southeast Program Manager

NA = Northern Agronomist

SA = Southern Agronomist



## Urban Soil Health Program

CWI Proposal - 2024-2026

### Program Background and Scope

The Urban Soil Health Program (USH) was launched in 2021 to support urban and small-scale producers everywhere across Indiana. The Program is administered under the auspices of the **IASWCD** because it is designed to serve all Districts, all conservation partners, and all communities. This model ensures that there is equitable access to the program from Districts and partners who wish to engage. There is a strong connection with ICP partners and conservation programs. The consistent message of soil health principles and practices is shared with new and diverse stakeholders.

The USH Program has directly reached over **8,700** people via **240** educational workshops and events, and over **100** individual producers via site visits and technical assistance. Our **4 Regional Urban Soil Health Specialists** and Program Director have had direct communication with field staff in almost every county in the state. The **20 Local Urban Soil Health Working Groups** that Districts participate in extend the capacity of the USH Program and are the main avenue for success. They are the primary “boots-on-the-ground” to provide direct assistance to producers. They have supported over **255** individual producers, hosted **54** events, and created **26** new soil health educational materials. USH Program staff support training and financial management for the partners in the Working Groups. Our program provides oversight and administration of **local incentive payments** for their activities.

### Local Soil Health Working Groups




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“ I feel like being able to share soil health with urban and smaller farms has been extremely beneficial to our District, and I have enjoyed being a part of a Working Group that assists with that.”  
 – PHISH Working Group member

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“ It’s great to hear others’ best practices so that we can improve and serve our stakeholders better.”  
 – Soil Squad Working Group member

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### LakeSHP – Lake County Soil Health Partnership



### Kosciusko Urban Healthy Soils



Local Working Groups perform site visits and technical assistance, with support from USH Specialists.

### Frith Farm, Maine



### Rough Draft Farmstead, Kentucky



**\$19,000** contributed from SARE in 2022-2023 to support ICP professional development.

*“The visit to **Frith Farm** in Portland, Maine...was truly an invaluable learning opportunity for me in which a lot of gaps in knowledge were filled on how to successfully implement **soil health and ecological principles on a small farm**. I will undoubtedly use this knowledge going forward in my work with urban and small-scale farmers across the state.” -- NRCS State Office leader*



### BroxonBerry Farm, Markle IN

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“ I am so impressed with this team in Indiana and the service being provided to the field and customers. The most thorough and well delivered urban and small acreage training in the country!

– Rob McAfee, NRCS Urban Agriculture Coordinator

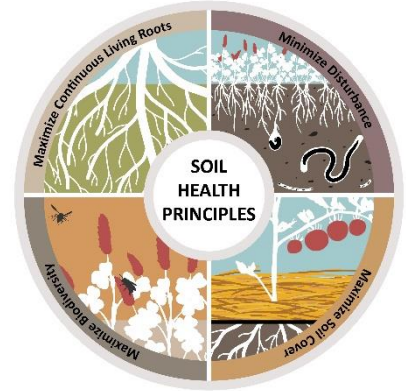
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# URBAN SOIL HEALTH

## Objectives and Goals

The USH Program is available to **all 92 Districts** across Indiana. The success of the USH Program is due to our strong program staff and local Working Groups doing the work to meet producers where they are, and tailor education to the needs of local communities. Additional CWI funds would be used to maintain and expand the program to reach more producers and field staff. Districts and partners that might not otherwise engage with CWI are able to make use of our program and staff support.



By 2026, our goal is to establish **30 Local Working Groups**, assist **700** individual producers, and support **600** educational events. That includes the work of Local Working Groups. Within the USH agreement, **\$240,000** is dedicated to **incentive payments** to local Working Groups, events, and educational materials. We will continue to provide events, educational experiences, and one-on-one learning opportunities and technical assistance valuable for District and ICP staff and growers alike.

We envision that the USH Program builds a statewide legacy with national importance. We will strengthen the relationships built between local conservation partners and individual producers.

## Budget Request

The USH Program was created via a **5-year contribution agreement** with USDA-NRCS, with **75% federal** funding, totaling **1.5 million federal dollars** for the lifetime of the agreement. Additional funds have been contributed as match via CWI, individual District contributions, and the IASWCD.

To support long-term success and continuity of the USH Program, we aim to seek an additional **\$300,000 from CWI for 2024-2026**. This USH Program requires this amount to **meet the 25% match** for the federal agreement. This investment from CWI would allow the USH Program to focus on the work rather than on fundraising in future years. These funds will be matched via the existing federal agreement funds, and the pledged IASWCD and District contributions.

We will continue to seek additional private funds and grants to support the mission and activities of the USH Program for long-term sustainability. At the same time, state-level investment in the program demonstrates a commitment to the USH Program as a complement to similar statewide partner programs such as CCSI and SICIM and will strengthen ties with core ICP partners.





# Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

## July 2023 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

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### FARM BILL PROGRAMS

#### ***Conservation Stewardship Program – Inflation Reduction Act (CSP-IRA)***

Applications for the current funding cycles for CSP-IRA are being accepted through [July 21](#). Interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by July 21 to be considered for the current funding period.

#### ***Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)***

The application period is now open for RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA). RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities, in collaboration with project partners. Through RCPP AFA, the lead partner must work directly with agricultural producers to support the development of new conservation structures and approaches that would not otherwise be available under RCPP Classic. The 2023 RCPP priorities are climate-smart agriculture, urban agriculture and projects and, as a Justice40 covered program, projects that serve underserved farmers and ranchers.

NRCS will accept applications now through [Aug. 18](#), via the [RCPP portal](#). Please note that to request access to the portal, you must have a level 2 verified eAuthentication account with USDA. This can be obtained by following the instructions on the [USDA eAuthentication page](#).

NRCS encourages interested applicants to participate in upcoming webinars that will provide general information about this funding announcement. The webinars took place on May 24 and June 7, from 2-3:30 p.m. ET. Join via this links posted on the [RCPP How to Apply](#) website. Additional webinars may be announced as needed.

#### ***Watershed Initiatives – MRBI and NWQI***

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Indiana announced it is accepting proposals to designate new priority watersheds for the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI) and National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) through [July 28](#).

New MRBI and NWQI watershed projects must first complete a watershed assessment plan to meet NRCS guidelines. This planning phase will provide time for watershed-level assessment, on-farm planning and outreach to support development of the multi-year implementation plan that will assist states with their nutrient loss reduction strategies or source water protection. Funding is available to complete the plan.

Watershed projects with an already approved assessment plan can apply for targeted Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and/or Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding for implementation of conservation practices over the course of several years. The approved assessment plan does not have to be a product of the planning phase but does need to meet the NRCS assessment plan criteria.

Application materials are due no later than [July 28](#). Partners who are interested in being a part of the planning phase or implementation phase should contact Jerod Chew, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships ([jerod.chew@usda.gov](mailto:jerod.chew@usda.gov)), ASAP to discuss project details.

## **NEW INVESTMENTS TO IMPROVE MEASUREMENT, MONITORING, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

USDA is announcing investments of \$300 million from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to improve measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration in climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The announcement is led by the Department and it's joint with USDA's Office of the Chief Economist. It builds on other announcements related to how NRCS is implementing the IRA.

To carry out these tasks, USDA has identified seven key focus areas that reflect the framework outlined by the federal strategy and are based on substantial input from stakeholders:

- Establish and advance a Soil Carbon Monitoring and Research Network with a perennial biomass component;
- Establish and advance a Greenhouse Gas Research Network;
- Expand data management, infrastructure and capacity;
- Improve models and tools for assessing greenhouse gas outcomes at operational, state, regional, and national scales;
- Improve NRCS conservation practice standards and implementation data to reflect greenhouse gas mitigation opportunities;
- Improve temporal and spatial coverage of national conservation activity data; and
- Strengthen the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment Program of USDA.

USDA is continuing to engage stakeholders and technical experts to help inform this effort. Those interested in learning more about the effort are encouraged to register for a webinar that USDA is holding at 1 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on July 21. You can register for this event here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](#)

## **URBAN PRODUCERS, PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND AUGUST MEETING OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION**

USDA is inviting urban producers, innovative producers, and other stakeholders to virtually attend a public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on August 1 from 3-6 pm ET.

The Committee is part of USDA's efforts to support urban and innovative agriculture, creating a network for feedback. Members include agricultural producers and representatives from the areas of higher education or extension programs, non-profits, business and economic development, supply chains and financing. The committee last met in April 2023. Topics for the upcoming meeting will include addressing public comments and discussing the following recommended topics:

- Food waste prevention and food recovery
- Surplus food recovery
- Compostable food packing standards

The Committee will deliberate and vote on proposed recommendations and address public comments during the meeting. USDA will share the agenda between 24 to 48 hours prior to the meeting on <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/federal-advisory-committee-urban-ag>.

The virtual meeting runs from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern on Aug. 1, 2023. To attend virtually, register by August 1, 2023 on the [Committee's webpage](#). To submit comments, send by 11:59 p.m. ET on Aug. 15, 2023 through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Docket NRCS-2023-0014.

## **INDIANA NRCS STAFFING UPDATES**

We are continuing to hire additional staff by filling vacancies and working with adding new positions that will help NRCS accomplish its mission. In addition, Indiana NRCS continues to have several leadership personnel updates:

- David Doctorian will complete his acting State Conservationist detail on July 15.
- Curtis Knueven, ASTC-Programs will serve as the acting STC for the next 120 days.
- Mike Hughes, District Conservationist for Greensburg, will serve as the acting ASTC-Programs for the next 120 days.
- Dan Hovland, SW Area Conservationist, has accepted the state conservationist position in North Dakota and started July 3.
- Chris Lee, SE Area Conservationist, is being reassigned as the SW Area Conservationist and started July 3.
- MaryJo Woodruff, Greensburg Conservation Delivery Team Leader, will serve as the acting SE Area Conservationist until October.
- Trevor Winston will serve as the acting Greensburg Conservation Delivery Team Leader until October.
- Roger Kult, ASTC for Management and Strategy, has accepted a new position at the national level and will start July 31.
- Amie Lester will finish her acting detail as ASTC for Management and Strategy on July 15.
- Susan Meadows, CTA Programs Specialist will serve as the ASTC for Management and Strategy for the next 120 days.