

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

March 21, 2023

Indiana Soybean Alliance
8425 Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, IN 46240
MS Teams

- I. 9:30am: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of January 2023**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants- Geneva Tyler
 - b. CWI \$2k Capacity Payments- Geneva Tyler
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
 - a. Chairman's report- Ray Chattin
 - b. Director's report- Trevor Laurey's
 - c. Legislative update- Katie Nelson
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Temporary appointments
 - i. Jay Co SWCD- Sandra Hoffarth
 - ii. Vermillion co SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
- VI. ICP Reports**
 - a. ISDA
 - b. IASWCD
 - c. CCSI
 - d. Purdue
 - e. NRCS
 - f. FSA
 - g. IDEA
 - h. Other
- VII. Public Comment**
- VIII. 2023 Meeting Dates**
 - May 16
 - July 18
 - September 19
 - October 24
- IX. 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.



Clean Water Indiana Grants Report

March 2023

2023 Grants

Contracts have been completed and communication has been sent to grantees to make initial claims of 50% of the awarded funds.

2021 and 2022 Grants-REPORTS WERE DUE JANUARY 31ST

2020 Grants-FINAL REPORTS WERE DUE JANUARY 31

-Extensions: Clinton Co. until December 2023

District Support Specialists are summarizing grant outcomes and successes to showcase in story maps.

2019 Grants-1 extension wrapping up

-Grant Co. extension ended December 31st with final report being due January 31st, 2023. Report was submitted. Waiting on verification of final payments and other documentation to landowners to process final claims. Not all funds were spent.

CWI Training Funds

The CWI Training funds application opportunity closed March 15, 2023. The funds were available in the form of reimbursements and are reserved for training registration fee reimbursements only. All \$30,000 in training funds have been allocated. An additional \$12,670 in applications were unable to be funded but were received prior to the deadline on 3/15/23.

These funds assisted District supervisors and staff to attend trainings such as IASWCD Annual Conference, IDEA Fall Conference, Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy, MS4 related trainings and Pesticide applicator trainings.

Annual Financial Report (AFR) (This is not the Gateway report for SBOA)-DUE MARCH 31st

-The AFR template was sent to all districts that may be used as a resource and auditing of financials.

-Submit AFR information to ISDA via GMS *New to 2023*

-As of March 14, 53 AFRs have been approved on GMS. An additional 30 are either in draft form or submitted.

Upcoming

Grants committee will meet (TBD) with DSSs to:

- Review 2024 Guidance/Application
- Review 2023 Timeline
- Review Communication Policy
- Future scoring process

SUCCESES

Huntington 2020

The main goal for the Huntington Co SWCD grant project was to build awareness of the benefits cover crops provide and increase the number of acres seeded each year. Throughout the term of the grant, Huntington County SWCD staff met with landowners to discuss the importance of adding cover crops in their crop rotation and assisted them in completing applications for the cost share program. During the second year they hosted a field day, which included a demonstration cover crop plot. Guests heard from guest speakers about Nutrient Cycling and about the different varieties of cover crops and their benefits they provide in helping to improve our soils health.

Total acres seeded with cost-share funds was over 1830 acres, with additional acres of over 550 acres seeded without cost share funds or received cost share through our local program. Total load reductions achieved from seeding cover crops during the term of the grant were: Phosphorus - 2,572 lb./year, nitrogen - 5,138 lb./year and sediment 1,712 ton/year.

Fulton 2020

The main goal of this CW project was to reclassify the current SWCD staff from part time to full time. “Thanks to the CWI grant, the SWCD staff is now a full-time paid county position which is a huge accomplishment after trying for several years.” The district also utilized CWI funds to further the education of the staff and supervisors by attending local, regional, and state workshops and conferences.

CWI Payment for District Operations

SWCD Name (have a dropdown) this will be pulled from user data

Proposed Categories (to match AFR)	Amount
Annual Meeting Expenses (e.g., speaker, venue, catering)	
Capital Outlays (Equipment) (e.g., rental equipment, ATV)	
Clean Water Indiana Projects or other State grant funded projects: Conservation Practices, ie, cover crops, no-fill, etc. (note: all practices must be entered into Conservation Project Tracking. Please contact your ISDA Resource Specialist for assistance.)	
Clean Water Indiana Projects or other State grant funded projects: Other cost-share not tracked in CPT (e.g., well sampling, testing supplies, other cost share)	
Conservation Education Programs (e.g., marketing, field days, workshops, newsletters, websites, promotional material)	
Dues & Subscriptions (e.g., IASWCD, NACD, IDEA, SWCS, magazines, memberships)	
Employee Salaries Paid by District	
Office Supplies (e.g., computer, furniture, printer, paper)	
Rent	
Repair & Vehicle Expenses (e.g., gas, repairs/maintenance, insurance)	
Supervisor Per Diem (meetings, trainings, event attendance)	
Telephone or Other Utilities	
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals (e.g., registration fee, travel per diem, lodging, mileage)	
Workshops/Field Days	
Money retained in fund for future use (include a text box to describe)	
Matching funds for grants (non CWI grants only)	
Other (please describe- add a small text box with character limit) <i>What is the character limit?</i>	

TOTAL (should not exceed but must equal \$2,000) Should be equal to the amount recorded in the AFR for CWI funds received for District Operations

Optional: please describe any successes you'd like to highlight here (insert text box)

Optional: upload a file (picture, etc.) that could be used for promotional purposes


Email Confirmation this will be pulled from user data

Date of Submission this will be auto generated from the system

ISDA Budget – HB 1001

	FY22-FY23	Gov's Recommendation FY24-FY25	House	Senate	Conference	Final Budget
CWI - Appropriation	\$970,000	\$2,619,368	\$4,000,000			
CWI – Cigarette Tax	\$2,519,014	\$2,519,014	2,519,014			
Soils – Cigarette Tax	1,205,700	\$1,629,324	\$1,629,324			

Budget Process

1. Agency Budget Request Submission
2. Budget Agency Review
3. Budget Committee recommendation to the Governor
4. December Revenue Forecast
5. Governor's Budget Recommendation
6. House Action
 - a. Ways and Means Committee
7. Senate Action 
 - a. Appropriations Committee
8. April Revenue Forecast
9. Budget Conference Committee
10. Final Votes
11. Governor's Signature

Increase of \$1,380,632 from introduced version to House version.

Have questions?

Katie Nelson
 Director of Legislative Affairs
kanelson@isda.in.gov

HB 1557: Inventory of Lost Farmland

- Rep. Kendall Culp, Sen. Jean Leising
 - Rep. Mike Aylesworth, Rep. Maureen Bauer, Rep. Doug Miller, Sen. Susan Glick
- Directs ISDA to conduct an inventory of lost farmland in Indiana from 2010-2022
- Inventory will categorize what the acres were lost to. Residential, Industrial, etc.
- ISDA will provide report and recommendation to the legislature by July 2024
- Bill was third read and passed on 3/20/23, heads to the Governor

HB 1638: Watershed Development Commissions

- Rep. Mike Aylesworth, Sen. Susan Glick
 - Rep. Cindy Ledbetter, Rep. Carey Hamilton, Rep. David Abbott, Sen. Jean Breaux
- Creates framework for other watersheds to create development commissions such as KRBVRRBDC (Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission)
- Requires the Natural Resources Commission to answer certain questions when voting to recognize a proposed commission.
- Allows a commission to be funded through an annual special assessment against each taxable parcel in the designated watershed.

2023 Farm Bill

- 2018 Farm Bill expires September 30, 2023
- House and Senate are conducting informational hearings.
- Will be the largest Farm Bill to date.
 - \$1.3 trillion
 - 82% is the nutrition title.



State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA – DSC Director’s Report

March 21, 2023

Budget & Staffing

CWI FY23 (Current Fiscal Year)

Reference: <https://www.in.gov/isda/files/2023-CWI-Budget-Overview.pdf>

CWI & Division FY24-FY25 As-Submitted Budget (by FY):

Reference: <https://www.in.gov/sba/budget-information/budget-data/2023-2025-budget/>

State Personnel Department Compensation Study

- State Employees received compensation adjustments as part of Governor Holcomb’s NextLevel State Work Initiative. You may find the report here: <https://www.in.gov/spd/files/comp-study-report.pdf>

54310: Clean Water Indiana (FY compared across biennium appropriations):

Clean Water Indiana	FY 22 & 23	Gov’s Recommendation FY 24 & 25	House Action (FY 24 & 25)
General Fund	\$970,000	\$2,619,368	\$4,000,000
Cigarette Tax	\$2,519,014	\$2,519,014	\$2,519,014
Total	\$3,489,014	\$5,138,382	\$6,519,014
Difference	(\$444,532)	\$1,649,368	\$3,030,000

*Subject to change during legislative session

- For both funds, “42134 - Soil Conservation Division” and “54310 – Clean Water Indiana”:
 - Adjustments of ~\$200,000 for NextLevel State Work compensation adjustments
 - A return of the 15% cut received last budget session
 - about \$212,000 for Division
 - about \$444,500 for Clean Water Indiana
- Clean Water Indiana receives an additional \$1,000,000

Discussion – we are not voting today, but we will next meeting

- Current cigarette tax rate for dedicated funds is 4.22% (IC 6-7-1-29.3)
- Fiscal year 2024 begins July 1, 2023
- 5/16/2023 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting we will vote on FY24 use of CWI funds.
- **Walking through some potential scenarios for FY24 & 25**
 -

- For reference: Current scenario FY 22 & 23:
 - \$1,000,000 CWI Competitive
 - \$660,000 CREP
 - \$920,000 District Match (AFR)
 - \$30,000 training reimbursements
- Example scenario under Gov's Recommendation
 - \$1,000,000 CWI Competitive
 - \$660,000 CREP
 - \$1,840,000 District Match (AFR)
 - Crucial we show impacts of this investment.
 - \$40,000 training reimbursements
- Example scenario House Action (Weights and Means Committee)
 - \$1,000,000 CWI Competitive
 - \$1,000,000 CREP
 - \$1,840,000 District Match (AFR)
 - \$40,000 training reimbursements

Important notes:

- Under new compensation adjustments CWI will see ~\$1,500,000 in personnel costs. This includes CREP Resource Specialists, District Support Specialists, etc.
- Match rates:
 - CWI Competitive 1:1 state local match
 - CWI AFR 1:1 state local match
 - CREP 1:7 state federal match

42134: Division of Soil Conservation:

DSC Dedicated Funds	FY 22 & 23	Gov's Recommendation FY 24 & 25	House Action (FY 24 & 25)
Dedicated Funds	\$1,205,700	\$1,629,234	\$1,629,234
Total	\$1,205,700	\$1,629,234	\$1,629,234
Difference	(\$212,771)	\$423,534	\$423,534

- House action does not change Gov's recommendation on Division funds.
- Fill four existing Resource Specialist Vacancies
- Restores budget to FY20/21 levels and adds roughly \$200,000 to cover compensation adjustments.

Staffing

- [Don Lamb](#) appointed on March 1st as new Director of ISDA.
- Breegan Anderson joined the ISDA team as the Nutrient Stewardship Program Manager on 3/7/2023. Welcome Breegan!
- Tara Wessler-Henry accepted the role of Grant & Training Program Coordinator, and started in this position on 2/20/2023.
- The DSS vacancy left by this movement has been posted. We will begin interviewing potential candidates Monday 3/27/2023.

SSCB Member Terms

Note: Reappointment of Amy Burris, and Ray Chattin. Submitted for the appointment of a new SSCB board member that will fill the vacancy left by Bob Eddleman.

First Name	Last Name	Organization	County	Term Expiration
Gene	Schmidt	SSCB	Laporte	4/31/2026
Amy	Burris	SSCB	Martin	1/1/2023
Kenny	Cain	SSCB	Montgomery	4/31/2026
Ray	Chattin	SSCB	Knox	1/1/2023
Larry	Clemens	SSCB	Steuben	4/31/2026
Brad	Dawson	SSCB	Dearborn	4/31/2026
Vacant	Vacant	SSCB	N/A	1/1/2023

- Larry Clemens has submitted his resignation letter. He will continue to serve until a new appointment is made. We thank Larry for his great service to this board!

Other items:

Cover Crop Premium Discount Program

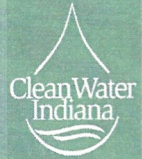
- Cover Crop Premium Discount Program hit our acreage cap of 35,000!
- Will continue to seek funds for future iterations.

Division of Soil Conservation Key Performance Indicator & Program Measures



CLEAN WATER INDIANA

BUDGET OVERVIEW



The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established by the legislature to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups.

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC) administers the Clean Water Indiana fund under direction from the State Soil Conservation Board. The CWI budget is derived from a portion of cigarette tax funds. (IC 6-7-1-29.3) The cigarette tax fund is 4.22 percent of total cigarette tax revenue, and the CWI fund receives one sixth of this amount. In recent years, the CWI budget has also included a general fund appropriation from the legislature.

CWI funds are utilized in three key ways.

Direct Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Distribution:

- Competitive CWI grants provide funds for locally prioritized projects to address local water quality concerns.
- For each dollar an SWCD receives from local government or other outside funding sources, the SSCB will provide a match up to \$10,000. (IC 14-32-8-8)
- In FY23 the SSCB voted to direct \$184,000 to district capacity payments (\$2000 per district)

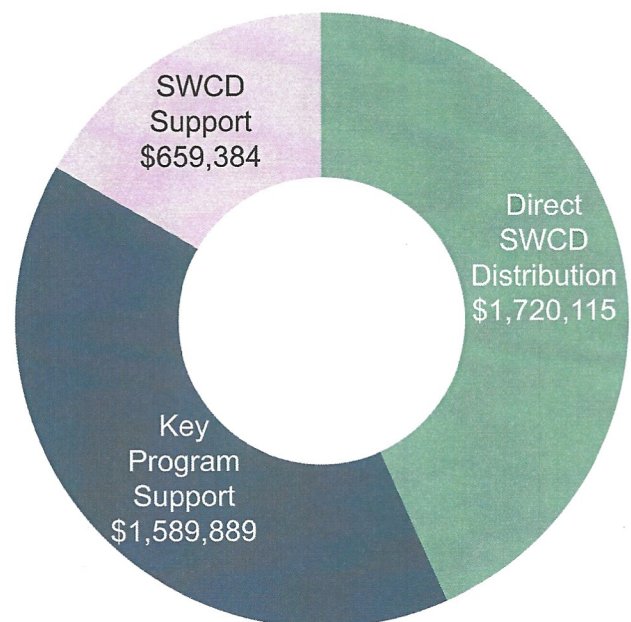
SWCD Support:

- Each SWCD has an assigned District Support Specialist who aids in district capacity building, including providing training, developing business plans, and assisting with grant writing.
- CWI bonds all SWCD supervisors.
- ISDA will hire a grant & training coordinator to support SWCD employee development and to secure additional outside funding.

Key Program Support:

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funds provide incentive payments to plant native grasses, trees, or other vegetation on converted cropland. ISDA employs CREP leaders to provide technical support for this program. Ten SWCDs administer CREP locally.
- The SSCB awarded funds to the Indiana District Employees Association and State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM).

FY 2023 CWI Budget Overview



- Includes \$970,000 general fund appropriation
Total: \$3,969,388
- The Clean Water Indiana dedicated fund received a 15% cut in FY23.
- This fund is non-reverting.
- The Division of Soil Conservation has a separate budget.
- All funds are subject to a 2% reserve.
- *SSCB Voted to direct \$184,000 to district capacity payments (\$2,000 per district)
- *SSCB Voted to hold back \$150,000 from CWI competitive grants for ISDA staffing capacity (2 years)
- In 2022 the Governor's NextLevel State Work initiative resulted pay adjustments for state employees

Clean Water Indiana supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs (IC 14-32-8).



Clean Water Indiana was established by statute. (IC 14-32-8)
For more information about CWI and past and present grant summaries, please see: <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/clean-water-indiana>.

For more information about the State Soil Conservation Board, please see: <https://www.in.gov/isda/boards/state-soil-conservation-board>

Email questions or comments to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov
Last Updated: January 4, 2023

CLEAN WATER INDIANA

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

319,627

Pounds of Nitrogen reduced from entering waters of the state



X 1 1/2

291,549,014

Pounds of Sediment reduced from entering waters of the state



X 1,458

159,900

Pounds of Phosphorus reduced from entering waters of the state



X 3/4

73,000

Trees planted in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

985

Newly Completed Conservation Practices

1,235

Acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

\$789,825

Awarded in Clean Water Indiana grants to SWCDs and other conservation organizations

10 YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2,530,889

Pounds of Nitrogen reduced from entering waters of the state



X 12 1/2

2,443,682,184

Pounds of Sediment reduced from entering waters of the state



X 12,218

1,262,308

Pounds of Phosphorus reduced from entering waters of the state



X 6 1/4

3,133,381

Trees planted in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

14,525

Completed Conservation Practices

17,844

Acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

\$9,834,899

Awarded in Clean Water Indiana grants to SWCDs and other conservation organizations

State Initiatives Information & Updates March 2023

Red Gold: Celebrating 15 years Partnership with ISDA-DSC!

- April 5th Red Gold Grower meeting-DSC staff will be in attendance to present and be of support.
- Working with Red Gold staff to celebrate the partnership to promote conservation on tomato fields in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. There are some great ideas planned to recognize past awardees and future awarded growers.

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

- Technical Committee met February 27th to discuss the sign -up status for the three states, reviewed how sign ups went and what needs improved, and learned more about the SWAT model.
- Working on permanent feature demonstration farm. Potential to tie to a current CWI grant.
- On going in-kind tracking for the project and reporting being completed
- Up and coming:
 - Meeting with Partners for updates
 - women retailer workshop, soil fertility workshop, manure management workshop
 - meet with technical committee to finalize ranking sheet for practices

Kankakee RCPP- Closing up negotiations with USDA (Indiana and Illinois)

- Meeting and collaboration happening to get the project up and going.
- Outreach to underserved communities is part of this funding.
- Setting programs and tracking mechanisms for in-kind and cash match.
- So much planned! (We are excited)
 - Kick off meetings, floating wetlands, new partners for specialty crops, connections with tribal communities, education tours, funds for project intern...more to come.

Potential Financial Agreement

-Indiana Corn Marketing Association/Indiana Soybean Alliance
STAR Program Grant Iroquois Watershed submitted in February

Grant and Training Coordinator Position

- Position began February 20th
- Working very closely with DSC Deputy Director to learn about the RCPP initiatives and participate in future discussions of other opportunities.
- Learning many new conservation acronyms and learning more about other state partners!
- Attended the ICP Partnership Leaders meeting- brainstormed ideas for statewide training.
- Setting date to meet individually with conservation partners to gather feedback to the training portion of the position.
- Working on getting authorizations for USDA grant programs
- Researching a statewide training portal. Great examples out there from other states.
- Working with DSSs on Supervisor Training Program
- Assisting CWI and DSSs with program management of CWI grants, training reimbursements, and AFR claims
- Working on CWI 2024 Grant Guidance
- Continues to fill-in with vacant SE DSS position when needed.

SSCB Meeting - March 21, 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	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 3/19/2023	236.68	52.20	6,892.63	62.93	868.05	8,193.30	2136.41	3,863.90	22,306.10	26,250.00	84.98%
Total CREP Enrollment	243.27	53.20	7,223.52	74.14	897.74	8,426.25	2427.79	4,321.51	23,667.42	26,250.00	90.16%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90		
									Difference =	1,361.32	
									22,508.85	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	\$ 23,348.00	\$ 5,220.00	\$ 732,977.00	\$ 26,050.00	\$ 373,433.00	\$ 3,491,393.00	\$ 1,928,878.00	\$ 3,004,080.00	\$ 9,585,379.00	\$ 817,075.40	\$ 10,402,454.40

Federal Match of \$4-\$13 is between \$ 38,341,516.00
\$ 124,609,927.00

	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 3/19/2023	0.00	0.00	580.13	4.08	43.13	304.48	0.00	226.75	1,158.57

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

SSCB Meeting - March 21, 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	168.71	41.60	83.17	751.44	287.16	0.00	1430.78
Lower White	10.70	0.00	193.62	0.00	129.29	2,349.07	138.53	0.00	2,821.21
Middle Wabash-Busseron	2.00	0.00	14.32	0.00	19.70	1,572.69	840.81	91.60	2,541.12
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	117.91	0.00	0.00	73.10	37.17	59.42	294.20
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	174.94	6.97	87.12	757.35	505.89	177.70	1,714.47
Tippecanoe River	93.84	0.00	843.65	0.00	3.41	21.40	87.30	2,434.90	3,484.50
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	508.55	0.00	48.30	201.92	0.00	0.00	758.77
Upper Wabash	23.15	7.00	1028.14	2.56	64.19	282.43	117.85	89.10	1614.42
Upper White	38.29	0.00	265.80	0.00	291.05	328.10	0.00	71.18	994.42
Reported Completed as of 3/19/2023	232.58	52.20	3,348.13	51.13	727.35	7,135.40	2014.71	2,923.90	16,485.40
Enrolled as of 3/19/2023	239.17	53.20	3,679.02	62.34	757.04	7,368.35	2,306.09	3,381.51	17,846.72

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
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

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
Total Extension Acres		1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	610.90

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	31.35	4.08	2.90	26.6	0.0	0.0	64.90
Tippecanoe	0.0	0.0	413.25	0.00	0.00	14.1	0.0	209.55	636.86
Upper White	0.0	0.0	135.53	0.00	40.23	263.9	0.0	17.2	456.81
CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 3/19/2023	0.0	0.0	580.13	4.08	43.13	304.48	0.0	226.75	1158.57

SSCB Meeting - March 21, 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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,183.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 1,272.00	\$ 53,840.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,927.00	\$ 5,892.70	\$ 64,819.70
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	\$ 16,871.00	\$ 16,640.00	\$ 33,268.00	\$ 300,576.00	\$ 272,802.00	\$ -	\$ 650,027.00	\$ 65,002.70	\$ 715,029.70
Lower White	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ 19,362.00	\$ -	\$ 51,716.00	\$ 939,628.00	\$ 112,832.00	\$ -	\$ 1,124,608.00	\$ 112,460.80	\$ 1,237,068.80
Middle Wabash-Busseron	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,432.00	\$ -	\$ 7,880.00	\$ 626,020.00	\$ 774,569.50	\$ 87,020.00	\$ 1,497,121.50	\$ 149,712.15	\$ 1,646,833.65
Middle Wabash-Deer	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 11,791.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,240.00	\$ 21,781.50	\$ 18,073.00	\$ 81,545.50	\$ 8,154.55	\$ 89,700.05
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 11,264.00	\$ 2,788.00	\$ 34,848.00	\$ 302,940.00	\$ 480,595.50	\$ 163,315.00	\$ 996,200.50	\$ 99,620.05	\$ 1,095,820.55
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	\$ 101,882.00	\$ 1,024.00	\$ 25,676.00	\$ 112,972.00	\$ 111,957.50	\$ 59,799.50	\$ 416,326.00	\$ 41,632.60	\$ 457,958.60
Upper White	\$ 3,509.00	\$ -	\$ 36,598.00	\$ -	\$ 128,380.00	\$ 235,620.00	\$ -	\$ 74,501.00	\$ 478,608.00	\$ 47,860.80	\$ 526,468.80
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,980.00
Reported Paid as of 3/19/2023	\$ 22,938.00	\$ 5,220.00	\$ 378,527.00	\$ 21,084.00	\$ 305,524.00	\$ 2,961,108.00	\$ 1,849,773.00	\$ 2,626,580.00	\$ 8,170,754.00	\$ 817,075.40	\$ 8,987,829.40

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
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

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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,985.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 1,160.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,777.00
Tippecanoe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,205.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,624.00	\$ -	\$ 83,820.00	\$ 129,649.00
Upper White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,368.00	\$ -	\$ 11,960.00	\$ 104,380.00	\$ -	\$ 6,880.00	\$ 134,588.00
CREP to CREP reenrollment reported paid as of 3/19/2023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,558.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 13,120.00	\$ 110,004.00	\$ -	\$ 90,700.00	\$ 268,014.00

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
January 8, 2023 District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 12/20/22
to 2/28/23



DSS Transition

- Thank you Tara for your wisdom and work over the last 18 years as a DSS! Congratulations on your new role within ISDA!
- The ISDA DSS job posting went live on the State job board March 1: <https://workforindiana.in.gov/job-invite/421542/> The office and work location is flexible. The DSS will serve and travel to the following counties: Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Shelby, Rush, Fayette, Union, Bartholomew, Decatur, Franklin, Ripley, Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland.

Statewide or Regional Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff

- New Supervisor Training- attention all new SWCD Board Members! Please schedule a new Supervisor Training with your ISDA DSS. We can meet you in-person, virtually, or share a recorded training link. We can also provide the training to the whole Board.
- Completed since last report:
 - New Supervisor Training was conducted at Annual Conference by Tara and Laura
 - Nathan spoke at the Annual Conference training: Engaging with Legislators
 - on Natural Resources Policy
- “Board Certification Program”: currently, committees are working on various trainings, modules and training ideas that tie to overarching key priority training topics. IASWCD and ISDA discussed the initiative on February 7 and have a meeting scheduled again April 4.

Clean Water Indiana:

- Competitive Grants: DSSs continue to work with grantees on project management and reporting. Grant Updates were due January 31. This includes documenting work completed since the last report, entering cost share practices into the tracking system, and if applicable, submitting claims. We’ve also been in conversations with SWCDs who are already brainstorming 2024 CWI application ideas as well!
- Training Reimbursements: requests are due March 15. SWCDs are in process of submitting requests. DSSs are assisting with questions tying to the submissions and reviewing/approving applications.
- Annual Financial Reports are due in GMS by March 31. DSSs are helping SWCDs with these as well, and reviewing/approving them as they are submitted. We’ve assisted SWCDs with their AFR Gateway submissions as well.
- 2023 \$2k District Capacity Payment: our team has drafted a tracking form for the payments to help tell the story of how the funds were used. This gets distributed with the legislative match dollars.

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

- Clean Water Indiana
- State Soil Conservation Board

- Indiana Conservation Partnership Training and Certification Program (ICP TCP), and ICP TCP Pollinator training committee
- Board Certification Program
- Transect
- Pathway to Water Quality

SWCD Annual Meetings: SWCDs can host Annual Meetings through March 31. Please contact the SWCD if you are interested in attending. A list of dates is available on ISDA's Conservation Link.

DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period	Total
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	21
Assistance with SWCD or Partner Strategic Planning	12
Attendance at SWCD Annual Meetings	14
Visits, Training, and Impacts with SWCD Supervisors/Staff at IASWCD Annual Conference	144
Other Visits with SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, CWI, etc.	207



State Soil Conservation Board

March 21, 2023

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Still working with FSA and the CREP Steering Committee on what it will take to do an expansion of the program.
- 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.
- We are at approximately 155 acres signed up so far this calendar year.
- According to the states tracking system, there are currently 22,306 acres completed, which is 85% of the goal.
- To date, the state has paid out more than \$10.4 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$4-\$13 for every state dollar, which is currently between \$38.3 million and \$124.6 million of federal dollars depending on the practice.

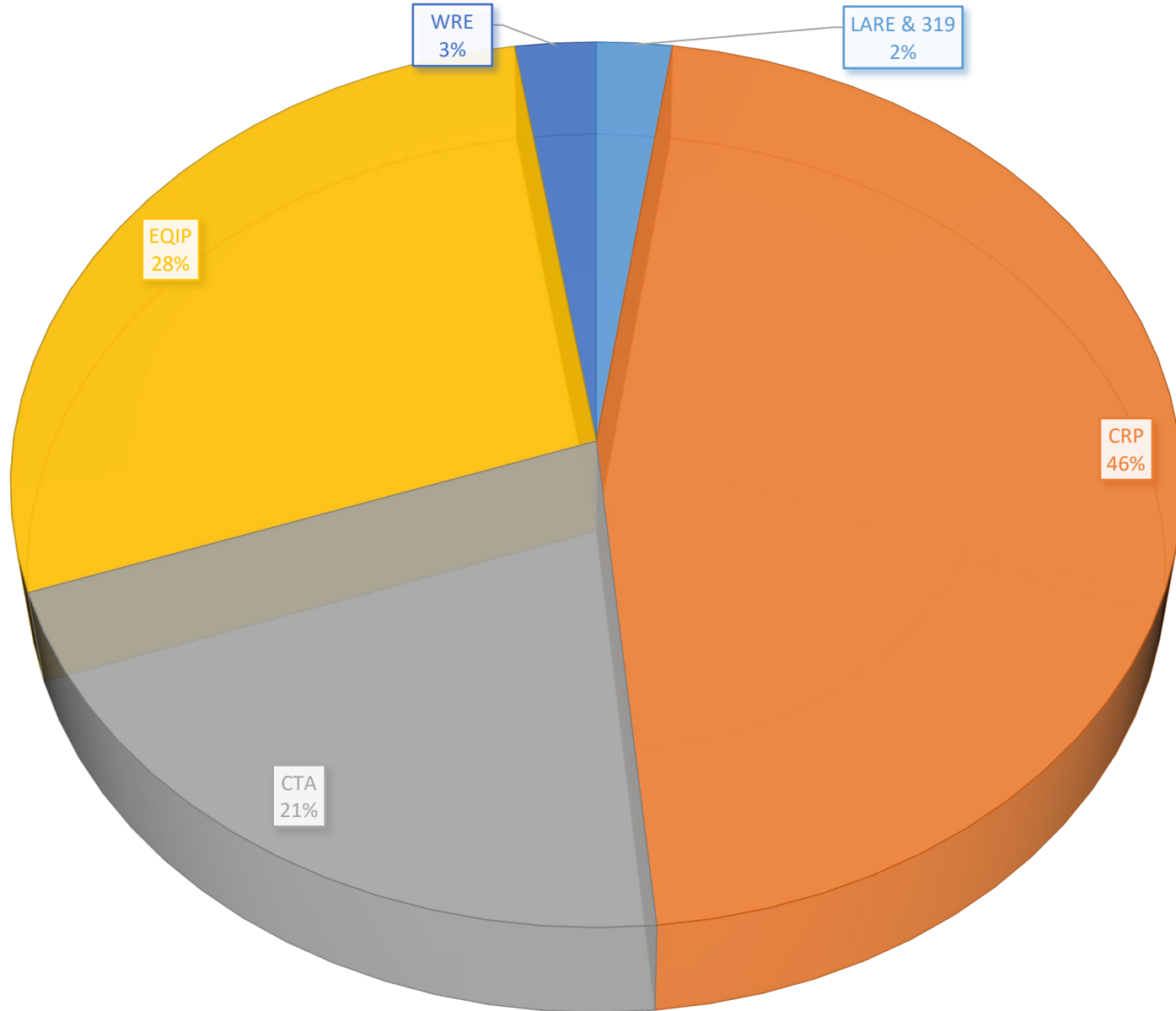
IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)

- Work on the Science Assessment is continuing. A [progress report for Year 2](#) has been completed and is available on the Science Assessment website. <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/>
- ISDA has hired Breegan Andersen as the Nutrient Stewardship Program Manager..."Welcome Breegan". This is through the BIL-Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP), (Infrastructure Bill dollars). Breegan will manage the GHP dollars for Indiana, and she has already begun working on getting the statewide soil sampling program going by updating the QAPP and the soil sampling protocol. She will also support me in efforts related to the SNRS. I am excited to have Breegan on board with us.

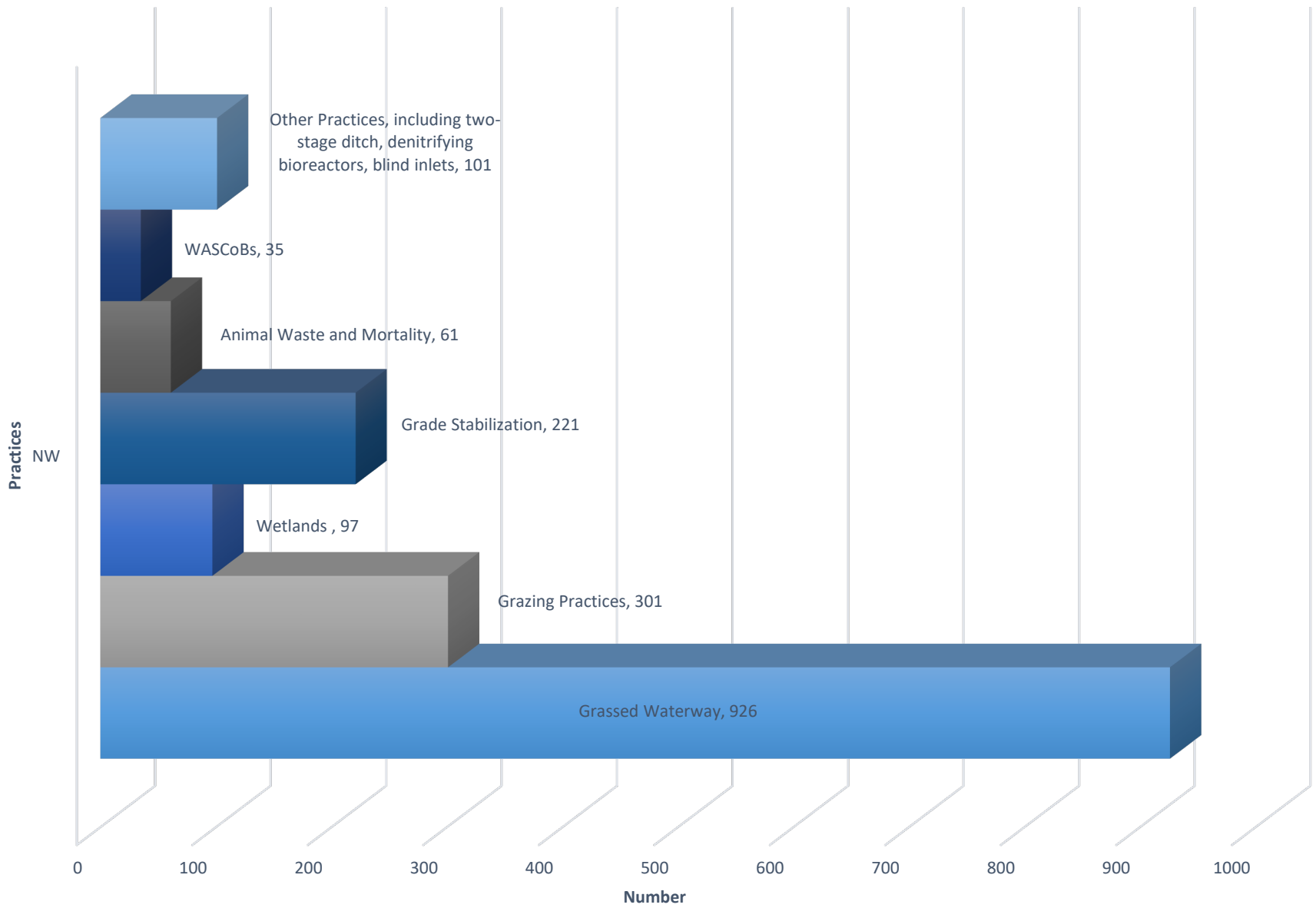
Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)

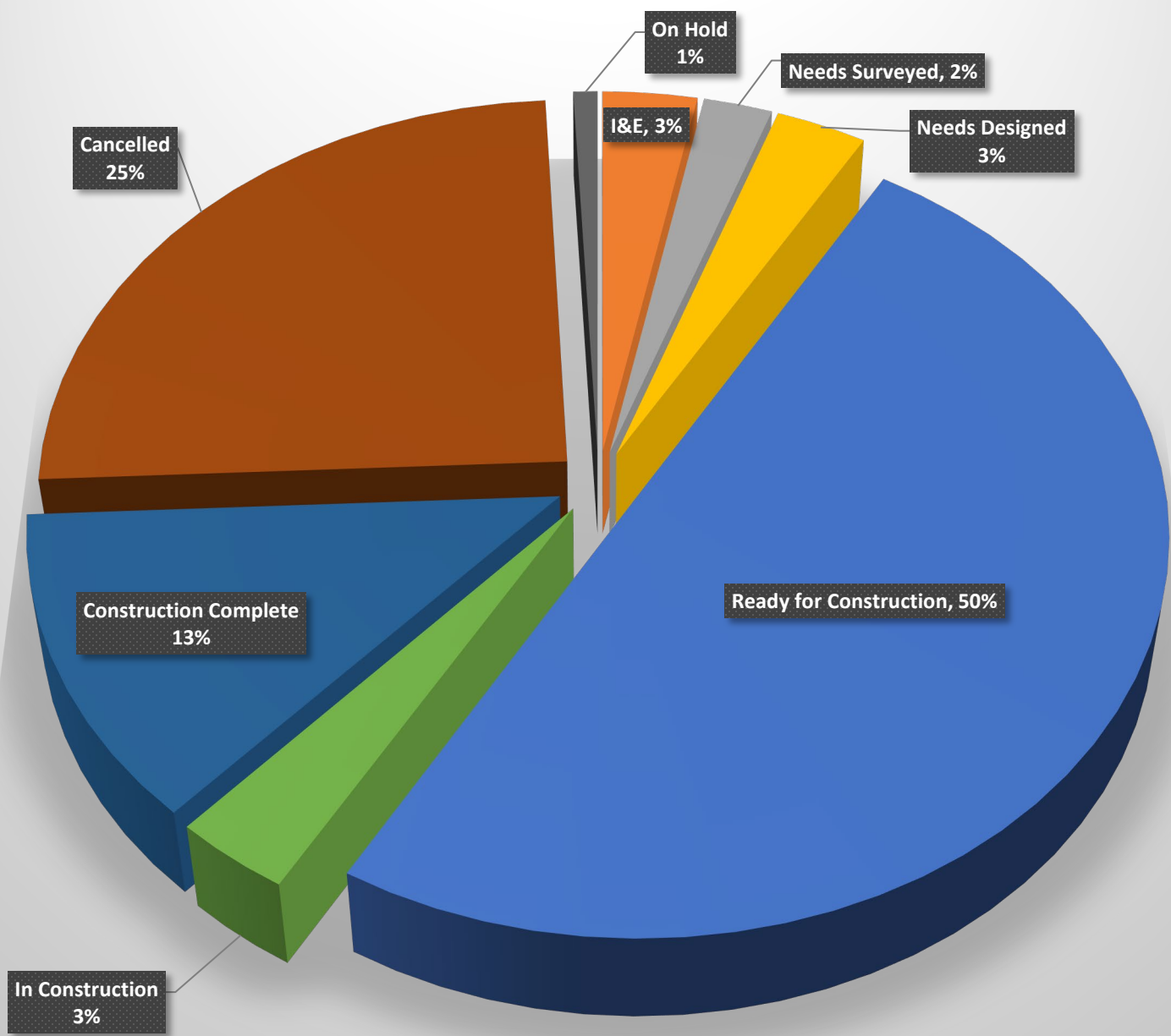
- I continue to co-chair the HTF Research Needs Workgroup to provide pertinent and relevant research literature to the Hypoxia Task Force states.
- NOAA has released the [2023 National Hydrologic Assessment](#) as part of their Spring Outlook. There is a section near the end of the National Hydrologic Assessment that discusses the implications for Gulf of Mexico hypoxia for this summer. Here is a summary paragraph on the Gulf of Mexico..."*The predicted spring flood risk across the MARB will likely lead to average or normal hypoxic conditions in the northern Gulf of Mexico this summer. Large portions of the basin are predicted to have a normal risk of flooding this spring. Absent major flooding, normal springtime discharges of nutrients and freshwater from the Mississippi River are predicted.*"... To read more about this, check out the link above.

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTHWEST



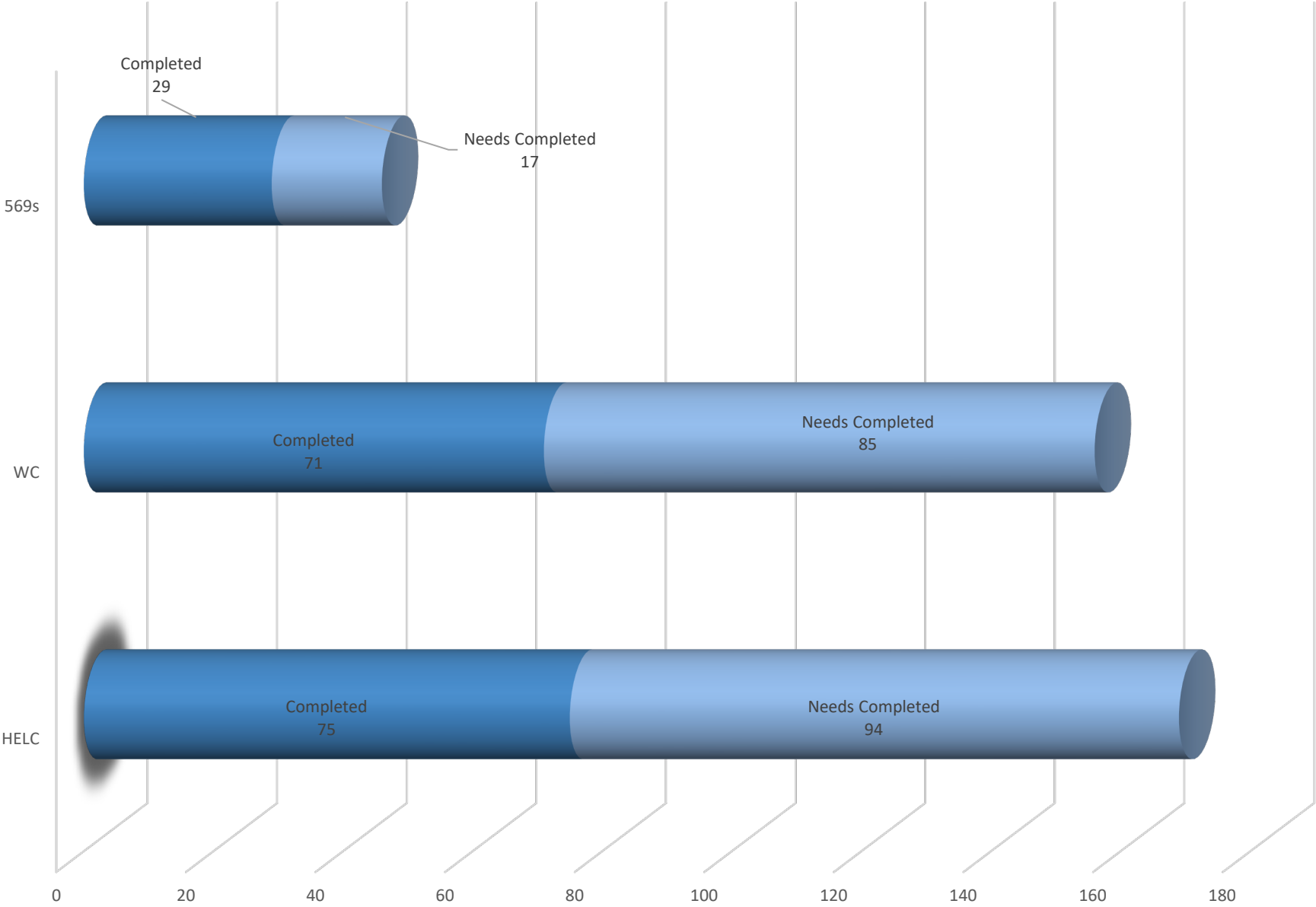
Conservation Practices in Northwest





NORTHWEST PROJECT STATUS

Northwest HEL and Wetland Compliance

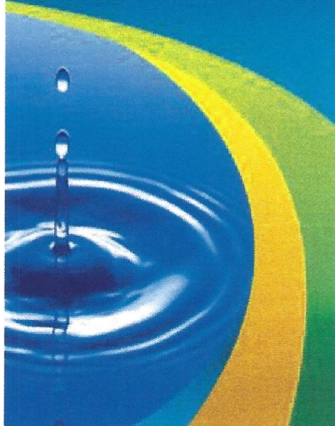


www.iaswcd.org



Indiana Association of
Soil and Water
Conservation Districts

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



IASWCD

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Marc Roberts
Montgomery County

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Mark Kingma
Jasper County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Liz Rice
Elizabeth-Rice@iaswcd.org

SSCB REPORT

From: Jeff Baker, President, IASWCD

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Legislative Issues

- The IASWCD and the SICIM legislative committees are continuing to advocate for increased Clean Water Indiana funding through the initiative entitled, "Next Level Conservation for Indiana's Working Lands."
- Liz Rice, Roger Wenning, Gene Schmidt and Ethan Truax are currently attending the National Association of Conservation Districts' Federal Legislative Fly-In in Washington D.C. IASWCD has scheduled various meetings with legislators throughout the week regarding conservation funding and programs.

Pathway to Water Quality

- At the State Fairgrounds, PWQ is moving forward with improved signage and plans for improved lighting to increase safety and reduce vandalism.

Other

- River Friendly Farmer Award Ceremony will take place at the 4-H Exhibit Hall Auditorium on the Indiana State Fairgrounds on August 9 at 1 p.m. (Eastern)
- The 2024 Annual SWCD Conference Planning Committee will meet next month. Abstracts for conference presentations are currently being accepted through March 31. These can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/cG2Tej41aCLF9qvC7>
- IASWCD, in partnership with ISDA's District Support Specialists, have begun planning for SWCD Region Meetings this fall. At this time, we are planning to host eight meetings throughout the state.
- IASWCD April Lunch 'n Learns for Indiana District Staff and Supervisors will take place each week in April. These are one-hour long sessions for educating districts on topics and resources available to them. Details can be found on the [IASWCD website](http://www.iaswcd.org).

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

Highlights

New Program Manager Positions

Julie Loehr started as the SW CCSI Program Manager on January 8th.

Lois Mann accepted an offer to join the CCSI team as NE Program Manager. She will start April 1.

New Agronomist Position

The Northern Agronomist Position search committee conducted interviews. An offer was extended. Awaiting news from Purdue HR to further discuss the position.

Purdue Extension Impact Report

The 2022 Purdue Extension Impact Report included a two-page spread on partnerships, featuring CCSI. This report was presented to Indiana State Representatives and Senators during Purdue Extension's and Indiana Farm Bureau's statehouse visit. County Extension Directors were also provided with 10 copies each to distribute to all County Council members and Commissioners in the state.

TNC-CCSI Mini Grants

The TNC-CCSI Mini-Grants were kicked off with an informational webinar on February 1. Applications have begun to come in and are being reviewed on a rolling basis. Several grants have been approved. Partners are highly encouraged to apply quickly – once funds are depleted, this particular opportunity will be gone.

Trainings

- Intro to Soil Health – completed on 2/28 with 50 attendees. Attendance, review of recording or college level soils science class will be required for 3-Day Soil Health
- Fundamentals of Soil Health
 - April 4, 18, 25 = virtual, April 11 in-person
 - Registration currently open
- Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health) Training
 - Set for June 27-29
 - This training satisfies requirements for “Soil Health and Sustainability Training” for those seeking USDA-NRCS Conservation Planning Certification

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.

- 01/04 Mike Starkey (A)
- 01/10-13 National No-Till Conference (SEPM, NPM)
- 01/13 David Brandt (D)
- 01/26 Blake Vince (D)
- 01/27 David Brandt (D)
- 02/17 Roger Wenning (SEPM)
- 02/16-17 Various – Louisville Farm Show (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)

- 02/16-17 Various – Louisville Farm Show (D)
- 02/23 Ripley County Farmer (SEPM)

1. Farmer Influencers

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

- 02/16-17 Various – Louisville Farm Show (D)
- 02/20 Cargill Success From the Ground Up (D)
- 03/03 ADM (D)

2. Presentations

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

- 01/09 IASWCD Annual Conference Breakout Session (SEPM, NPM, A)
- 01/09 American Meteorological Society Conference Session (A)
- 01/19 Tennessee Soil Health Strategy Team “CCSI and Indiana Partnerships” (D)
- 02/01 TNC-CCSI Mini Grants Webinar (D)
- 2/17 Core and Category 14 Training, Evansville, IN, “Category 14 Training” (18 attendees)
- 2/18 Ag Climate Change Panel, Jeffersonville, IN, “How Climate Change Impacts Indiana Agriculture” (23 attendees, 31 YouTube views)
- 2/22 Midwest Women in Ag Conference, Terre Haute, IN, “Climate Smart Agriculture and What It Means For You” (27 attendees)
- 2/23 Knox County Master Gardener Class, Vincennes, IN “Weather and Climate in the Garden” (10 attendees)
- 2/24 Union County SWCD Annual Meeting, Liberty, IN “CCSI and Soil Health” (70 attendees)
- 2/27 Gibson County Farm Winter Workshop, Fort Branch, IN, “Soil Health” (8 attendees)
- 2/28 Intro to Soil Health, Virtual, “Intro to Soil Health” (50 attendees)01/09 American Meteorological Society Conference Session (A)

G2. Local Level Partnership Support

1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership’s Outreach and Education

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

Workshops Completed

- 01/09 IASWCD Annual Conference Breakout Session
- 01/16-18 Ft. Wayne Farm Show (Root Banners at SH booth)
- 01/17 Area 3 (SW) Extension Crop Management Day
- 01/23-24 Indiana Hort Conference (included Root Banners)
- 01/24-25 SD Soil Health Coalition (Root Banners)
- 02/01 CCSI-TNC Mini-Grant Webinar
- 02/03-04 Northern Indiana Grazing Conference-booth space + CC Banners for NE SH Team
- 02/07 Regional Soil Health Workshop, Salem Approx 110 in attendance

- 02/07, 21, 28 German American Bank Ag Lender Series
- 02/09 Harrison County SWCD Annual Meeting, 215 attendees
- 02/15 White/Carroll Bi-County Soil Health Meeting, 20 attendees
- 02/15 Kosciusko County Farmer Breakfast, 60 attendees
- 02/21 Cass County Annual Meeting, 60 attendees
- 02/21 Warrick County Cover Crop Breakfast, approx. 37 attendees
- 02/22 Midwest Women in Ag Conference, 27 attendees
- 02/23 Franklin County PARP Meeting, Approx 120 attendees
- 02/24 Union SWCD Annual Meeting, 70 attendees
- 02/28 Elkhart County Pay Dirt
- 03/01 Parke-Vermillion County Farmer Roundtable, Clinton
- 03/01 Marshall / St Joe Workshop
- 03/02 Ripley County Extension PARP
- 03/06 Orange County/Lost River Watershed Meet-n-Greet with Jim Hoorman
- 03/07 Orange County/Lost River Watershed Field Day, Paoli
- 03/07 Posey SWCD Breakfast
- 03/09 Hancock County SWCD Annual Meeting
- 03/09, 10 ILMS Conference
- 03/10 Fountain County Carbon Credit Talk

Workshops in Progress:

- 03/11 Sullivan County Ag Day
- 03/14 Envirothon – Boonville
- 03/14 Perry-Spencer Crop Day
- 03/16 Washington SWCD Cover Crop Dig
- 03/22 Howard/Tiptop Workshop
- 03/23 Wayne County SWCD Conservation Day
- 03/23 Floyd County Master Naturalist Program
- 03/24 Dubois County SWCD “Getting to the Roots of Cover Crops”
- 03/29 Southern Indiana Grazing Conference, Odon
- Late spring 2023 Brown County/Lake Monroe Watershed Field Day/Workshop
- 05/19 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Summer Meeting (tentative)
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD/Purdue Extension – Event with field buffer/filter strip
- Summer 2023 Roger Wenning Workshop
- Late summer/early fall Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- Lawrence County Soil Health event (before 2025)
- DeKalb County SWCD Workshop – Date TBD
- March – Miami County Winter PARP meeting
- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)

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

- 02/28 CCSI-SARE Intro to Soil Health, 50 attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- 04/04, 18, 25 (virtual) 04/11 (in-person) CCSI-SARE Foundational Soil Health Series
- 06/27-29 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health)
- 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:

- 02/01 NECI Monthly Professional Development Webinar (virtual)
- 02/09 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Winter Meeting, 75 attendees
- 02/23 Indiana-Illinois Climate Series (virtual)
- 02/27 NC3 Climate Webinar (virtual)

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)

- 01/06 SE Soil Health Team (SEPM)
- 01/08-10 IASWCD Annual Conference (NPM, SEPM, SWPM)
- 01/24 Owen County SWCD (SWPM)
- 01/24 Purdue Agronomy Extension (A)
- 01/25 NW NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)
- 01/27 Tipton SWCD (NPM)
- 01/27 Howard SWCD (NPM)
- 01/31 Pike SWCD Annual Meeting (SWPM)
- 02/01 – Field Crops Focus Group Winter Meeting, Virtual (A)
- 02/01 – ANR Monthly Update, Virtual (A)
- 02/06 – CCSI Regional Teleconferences (all)
- 02/08 – RC&D Education Committee (NWPM)
- 02/09 – Gibson SWCD Annual Meeting (SEPM)
- 02/13 – Purdue on the Farm Operations Leadership Team, Virtual (A)
- 02/14 – Dubois SWCD Annual Meeting (SEPM)
- 02/15 – Kosciusko SWCD (NEPM)
- 02/15 – St Joe SWCD (NEPM)
- 02/15 – PUCESA General Business Meeting, Virtual (A)

- 02/17 – Farmers Helping Hellbenders RCPP Project Coordinator + Purdue Wildlife Biologist (SEPM)
- 02/21 – Purdue University College of Agriculture Dean Search listening session (D)
- 02/23 – SW Soil Health Team Meeting (SWPM)
- 02/23 – Franklin County Meeting (SEPM)
- 02/27 – CCSI Regional Teleconference South, Virtual (all)

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.

- January 1 - Events Newsletter; 2251 delivered; 30% open rate; 5% click rate
- January 15 – Events Newsletter; 2240 delivered; 34% open rate; 5% click rate
- February 1 - Events Newsletter; 1980 delivered; 36% open rate; 4% click rate
- February 15 – Events Newsletter; 2240 delivered; 35% 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
 - Hans Schmitz, CCSI / Purdue Extension, and Michael Morrow, Indiana Farmers Union
 - (Recorded) Elli Blaine, IASWCD Urban Soil Health Program and Liz Brownlee, Young Farmers Coalition
- Social Media
 - Twitter (limited postings as the platform reorganizes)
 - Facebook: Jan 5540 reach / Feb content report unavailable
- Website: January 547 users, 5.6K visits / February 542 users, 5.5K visits
- CCSI and Partnerships – 2022 Purdue Extension Impact Report
- Indiana State Climate Office Spring Outlook, <https://extension.purdue.edu/news/2023/03/warm,-wet-spring-predicted-for-indiana.html>

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz and Matt Pearson, OISC
- HO-203, Effect of Cold Weather on Horticultural Plants in Indiana
- 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)
- Notre Dame – Indiana University – Purdue University collaboration
- Grant proposals for Midwest Climate Hub Partnership and Midwest Climate Hub CAP submitted. (A)

OTHER

- SE Program Manager started Emerging Professionals Leadership Program
- 02/19 SW Program Manager – Soil health trailer training

Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

March 2023 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Participants and field staff are reminded that applications are accepted at all times for all Farm Bill programs. Early application is encouraged as conservation planning is a year-round process that does not always align with internal program deadlines.

Inflation Reduction Act

Indiana received a limited amount of 2023 Inflation Reduction ACT or IRA funds. IRA funds are authorized only for contracts with one or more conservation practices or activities, identified by NRCS, that directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or that reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production. Indiana will be using the ACT NOW process to obligate these dollars timely so the field staff can continue conservation planning and working on other program priorities.

In Indiana, \$6.6 million are being made available to IRA-EQIP and IRA-CSP. Applications for the current funding cycles for IRA-EQIP and IRA-CSP are being accepted through April 28. Applications for the current ACEP funding cycle are due to your local NRCS office by March 17, 2023.

National Water Quality Incentives Program (NWQI) - Lake Wawasee watershed

Funding is available to producers in Noble and Kosciusko counties through the National Water Quality Incentives Program (NWQI) to help address water quality concerns in the Lake Wawasee watershed. Applications for the current funding cycle are due by April 28.

NWQI provides a way to accelerate voluntary, on-farm conservation investments where they can deliver the greatest benefits for clean water. This targeted funding will help eligible farmers adopt conservation practices that will reduce the amount of nutrients flowing from agricultural land into waterways, curb erosion and improve the resiliency of working lands in the face of droughts and floods. Funding for NWQI comes from the Farm Bill's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Farmers Helping Hellbender-RCPP

Funding is now available to producers in the Blue River-Sinking Watershed to implement conservation practices on their land to assist with the recovery of Eastern Hellbenders and improvement of aquatic resources. This funding is provided through the Farmers Helping Hellbenders RCPP project and will assist farmers in implementing practices designed to keep nutrients and soil resources on fields and improve their watershed. Applications for the current funding round are being accepted through March 31.

The Farmers Helping Hellbenders RCPP project is led by Purdue University with assistance from 13 collaborating public and private organizations on the state and local level including NRCS. The total financial assistance to landowners over the three-year project is more than \$1.9 million and is available for agricultural lands in portions of Washington, Harrison, Crawford, and Floyd counties, the only remaining area in Indiana where the Eastern Hellbender can be found and is currently being actively managed.

CONNECTING INDIANA BIPOC FARMERS AND PRODUCERS TO SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES TO AG SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Indiana NRCS has recently been awarded an agreement titled “Connecting Indiana BIPOC Farmers and Producers to Sustainable Approaches to Ag Services and Programs.” The purpose of this project is to advance NRCS’ equity goals by providing critical outreach and technical assistance to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) farmers and producers throughout the State of Indiana. This project will build networks and increase community support for historically underserved growers in urban and rural settings.

The agreement supports a range of outreach and assistance activities including farm management, climate smart agriculture management, soil health, marketing, application and bidding procedures and will:

- Build, strengthen and support relationships with historically underserved BIPOC farmers and producers in owning and operating successful farms and ranches through Black Loam education series. FY23 Black Loam dates are:
 - Saturday, March 18 in Evansville. Tentative location is Indiana Ag and Tech School at University of Southern Indiana
 - Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25 in Bloomington.
 - Saturday, April 8 in Gary.
 - Friday, May 5 in Fort Wayne
 - Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20 in Indianapolis.
- Improve participation among urban, underrepresented farmers of access in USDA/NRCS programs (identify barriers and opportunities to accessing information and resources) and services.
- Build relationships and collaborate between current and prospective underrepresented BIPOC farmers and USDA’s local, state, regional and national offices, agricultural offices and stakeholders to identify unique needs, challenges and gaps regarding access to services.
- Develop and introduce agricultural education targeting historically underserved BIPOC famers/producers and youth as well as increase BIPOC youth’s agricultural career awareness.
- Launch a new regenerative agriculture demonstration farm in Lyles Station, Indiana to teach and model practical ways that BIPOC farmers and producers across the state can improve overall soil health.

URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION GRANTS

USDA is making available up to \$7.5 million for grants through its Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). The competitive grants will support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 27, 2023. A pre-recorded webinar on [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants | USDA](#) provides an overview of the grants’ purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting an application.

Planning Projects

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

Implementation Projects

Implementation Projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve farmers and communities. Projects may improve local food access, include collaboration with partner organizations, and support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, and educational endeavors.

USDA SEEKING APPLICATIONS TO EXPAND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE TO UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS

NRCS is seeking applications for projects that will improve outreach to underserved producers and communities about conservation programs and services and opportunities for students to pursue careers in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences. NRCS is offering up to \$70 million nationally in cooperative agreements with entities for two-year projects that encourage participation in NRCS programs, especially in underserved communities and among urban and small-scale producers. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 27, 2023. See the [grants.gov announcement](#) for details and application instructions.

The Equity in Conservation Outreach Cooperative Agreements will include projects that:

Promote the benefits of NRCS programs through education or demonstration of conservation practices:

- Develop community conservation partnerships that engage underserved producers to plan and protect farmland ecosystems, watersheds, and wildlife habitat in underserved communities
- Inform small-scale or urban agriculture producers about opportunities to participate in conservation programs
- Support education on, planning for and adoption of climate smart conservation practices

Projects should reach underserved groups through a combination of program outreach and technical assistance in one or more of the following five NRCS priority areas:

- Addressing local natural resource issues
- Promoting conservation career opportunities
- Expanding adoption of climate-smart conservation
- Encouraging conservation in small-scale and urban agriculture
- Developing conservation leadership skills and opportunities

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR COMPOST AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) announced the availability of up to \$9.5 million for Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) pilot projects for fiscal year 2023. The cooperative agreements support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.

Applications will be accepted on Grants.gov until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 15, 2023. Projects should span two years with a start date of Dec. 1, 2023, and completion date of Dec. 1, 2025. Eligible entities in Indiana are encouraged to apply.

For more information about the funding opportunity, please see the national news release here: [USDA Announces Cooperative Agreements for Compost and Food Waste Reduction | Natural Resources Conservation Service](#). A pre-recorded webinar will provide an overview of the cooperative agreements' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting applications. The webinar will be posted at [farmers.gov/urban](#).

STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

NRCS published a Federal Register Notice requesting public and stakeholder input on how to target program benefits, quantify impact and improve program delivery and outreach for two water quality initiatives: the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) and the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Information garnered through this Request for Information (RFI) will help inform NRCS efforts to identify and prioritize improvements to these initiatives starting in fiscal year 2024. The Notice will be available for public input until April 7, 2023 and is available online through the Federal Register.

INDIANA NRCS STAFFING UPDATES

Indiana NRCS continues to have several personnel updates:

- David Doctorian - Regional Soil Health Specialist within the National Soil Health Division – Acting Indiana NRCS State Conservationist
- Chris Lee – Former Princeton Conservation Delivery Team Leader – New SE Area Conservationist
- Keith Williams – Former Princeton Planning Team Leader – New NE Area Conservationist
- Jerod Chew - Former District Conservationist – New ASTC for Partnerships
- Roger Kult – Asked to stay in current national detail for an additional 120 days
- Amie Lester – Lebanon Conservation Delivery Team Leader – Acting ASTC for Management and Strategy
- Danielle Waldschmidt – NW Area Conservationist – Serving Detail with National Strategic Planning Team
- Doug Walker – Greencastle Planning Team Leader – Acting NW Area Conservationist
- Dan Hovland returns to SW Area Conservationist
- Kris Vance returns to State Public Affairs Specialist