

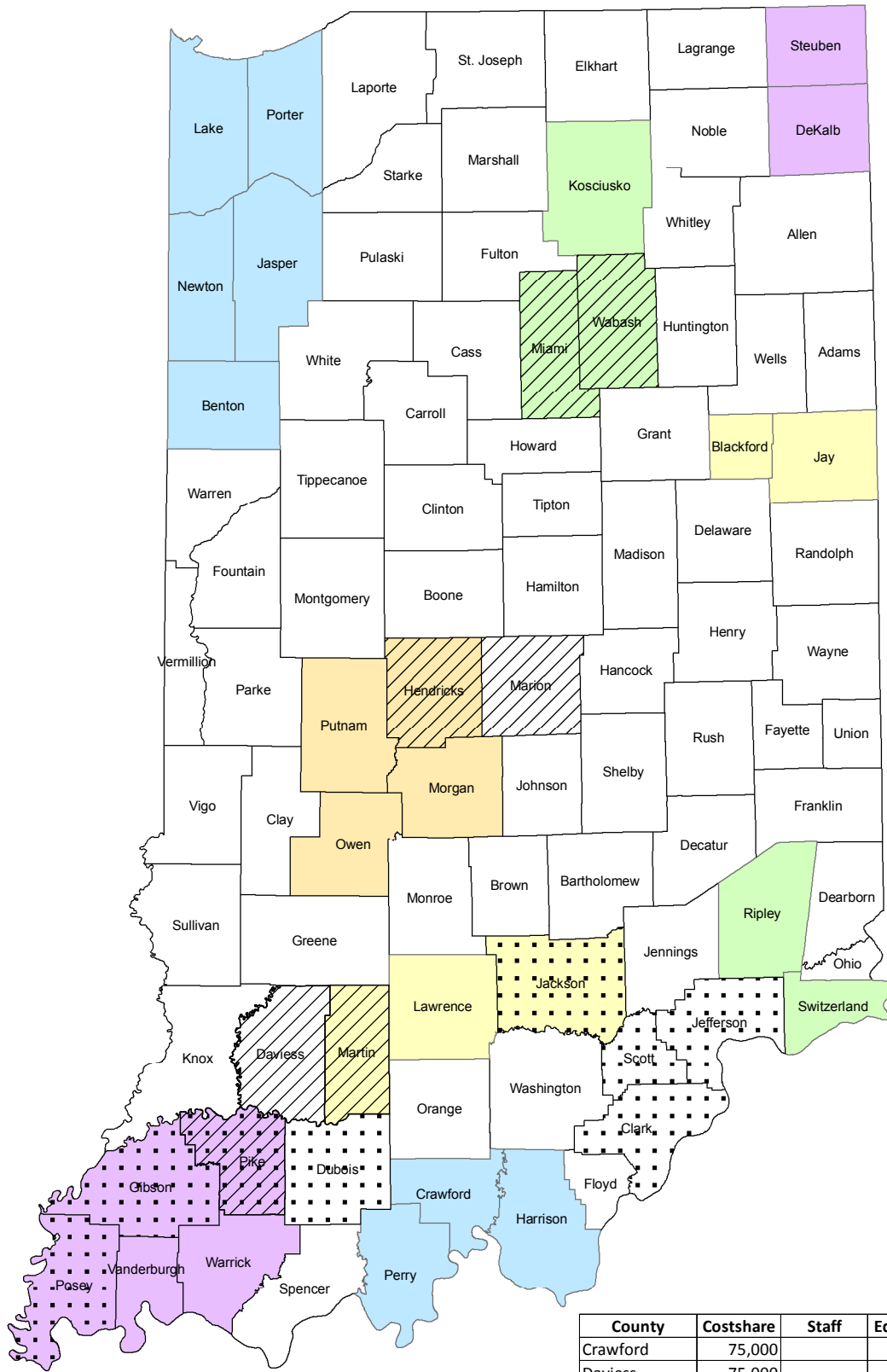
2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant Application and Selection Summary

- The SSCB received 29 applications representing 57 SWCDs.
- Requests totaled \$2,006,800.00
- Applications were individually ranked and discussed for content and impact. 14 applications were selected for funding. Selected applications will assist with our efforts to reduce sediment and nutrients from nonpoint sources.
- The Grants Committee recommends the following applications, representing 35 SWCDs, for funding. These funded applications address a variety of concerns in both rural and urban areas.

Grant (Lead County Listed First)	Amount Requested
Daviess_Martin_Pike	\$75,000.00
Pike_Gibson_Posey_Vanderburgh_Warrick	\$75,000.00
Miami_Wabash_Kosciusko	\$75,000.00
Dekalb_Steuben	\$75,000.00
Jefferson_Clark_Jackson_Scott	\$75,000.00
Hendricks_Putnam_Morgan_Owen	\$75,000.00
Newton_Jasper_Porter_Benton_Lake	\$75,000.00
Marion_Hendricks	\$60,000.00
Jay_Blackford	\$75,000.00
Dubois_Gibson_Pike_Posey	\$75,000.00
Ripley_Switzerland	\$75,000.00
Wabash_Miami	\$75,000.00
Crawford_Harrison_Perry	\$75,000.00
Lawrence_Jackson_Martin	\$60,900.00
TOTAL	\$1,020,900.00

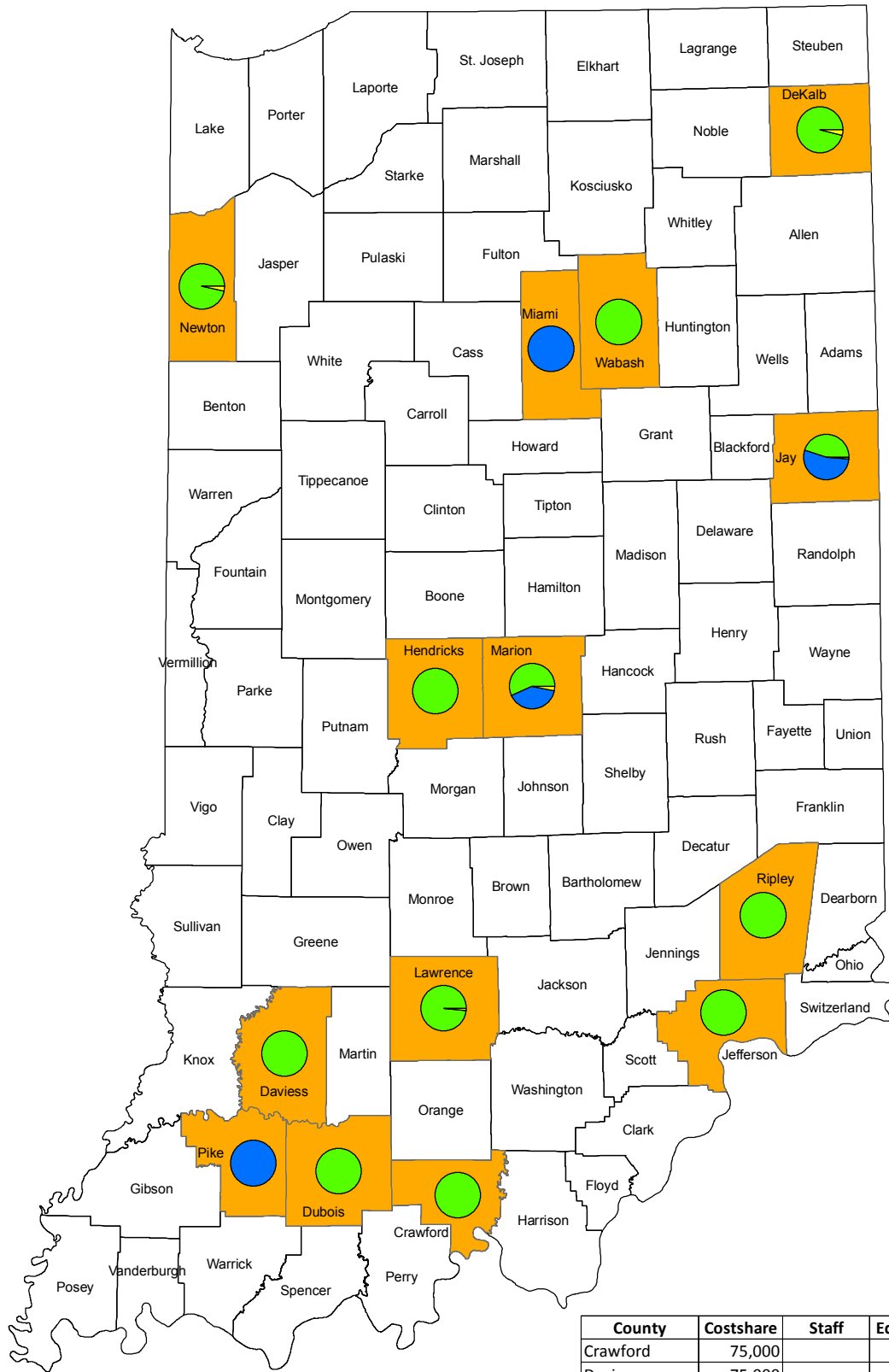
- \$985,900 is still needed to fund the remaining applications, and get more conservation on the ground.
- All applications, both funded and unfunded, had at least 50% in-kind/cash match for each dollar they requested from the SSCB. They also had a long list of interested Partners, both from the public and private realm.
- Funded applications will be posted on the ISDA SharePoint. Districts who were not awarded funds are encouraged to visit with their District Support Specialist to get feedback on their application.

2015 CWI Multi-District Grant Recommendations

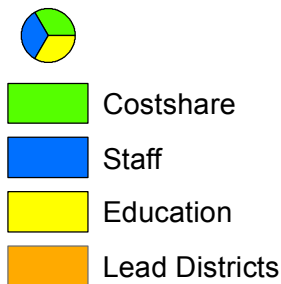


County	Costshare	Staff	Education	Total
Crawford	75,000			75,000
Daviess	75,000			75,000
Dekalb	72,000		3,000	75,000
Dubois	75,000			75,000
Hendricks	75,000			75,000
Jay	34,000	40,000	1,000	75,000
Jefferson	75,000			75,000
Lawrence	60,000		900	60,900
Marion	34,000	24,000	2,000	60,000
Miami		75,000		75,000
Newton	72,500		2,500	75,000
Pike		75,000		75,000
Ripley	75,000			75,000
Wabash	75,000			75,000
Total	797,500	214,000	9,400	1,020,900

2015 CWI Multi-District Grant Recommendations



Funding Breakdown



County	Costshare	Staff	Education	Total
Crawford	75,000			75,000
Daviess	75,000			75,000
DeKalb	72,000		3,000	75,000
Dubois	75,000			75,000
Hendricks	75,000			75,000
Jay	34,000	40,000	1,000	75,000
Jefferson	75,000			75,000
Lawrence	60,000		900	60,900
Marion	34,000	24,000	2,000	60,000
Miami		75,000		75,000
Newton	72,500		2,500	75,000
Pike		75,000		75,000
Ripley	75,000			75,000
Wabash	75,000			75,000
Total	797,500	214,000	9,400	1,020,900



State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA Update



10/28/14

Jordan Seger, Director ISDA Division of Soil Conservation

Program Updates

- ISDA is pleased to announce the hiring of Ms. Leah Harmon who will be an Indianapolis based sixth District Support Specialist, covering Marion, Hendricks, Morgan, Johnson, Hamilton, and Hancock counties while also managing the SSCB and ISDA Clean Water Indiana Grant Program. Effective on 10/27/14
 - Harmon received a Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University and a B.S. in Landscape Architecture from Purdue University. Prior to joining ISDA she has worked as an Extension Program Assistant at Purdue Cooperative Extension in Spencer, IN and most recently an Outcomes Reporting Assistant at Indiana University. Her research experience includes participation in the Indiana RAIN Initiative and lead designer for the Campus Rainworks Challenge in Bloomington, IN.
- On Oct. 28 and 29th ISDA staff and Jennifer Boyle-Warner will be meeting with various state legislature to discuss Indiana conservation initiatives - hosted at the farms of two SWCD supervisors in Hendricks and Tippecanoe counties.
- In collaboration with IN Corn Marketing Council and the IN Soybean Alliance opportunities have been identified with Purdue University for increased partnership with the Indiana On Farm Network
 - Greg Bossaer, Assistant Ag & Natural Resources Program Leader for the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service has been named as the Purdue IN OFN point of contact
- ISDA staff together with IDEM leadership prepared a joint comment submitted to the US EPA calling for clarification and a complete withdrawal of the proposed "Waters of the US" rule and related interpretive rule.
- ISDA continues to work with the newly formed Grant Services Division within the Lieutenant Governor's Business Office. The Grant Services Division will support the SSCB and ISDA with Clean Water Indiana Grants.
- ISDA joined other Ag and Conservation stakeholders in initial discussions to begin a watershed project within the Big Cicero watershed which feeds Morse Reservoir – connected to the Indianapolis drinking water system
- ISDA finalized a \$360,000 three year, zero match required agreement with EPA Region 5 to fund two limited duration positions located within the IN Western Lake Erie Basin. The agreement begins on Nov. 10th and will result in two ISDA employees (Resource Specialists) located within the Ft. Wayne and Decatur USDA service centers for a three year term.
 - On Oct 20th Julie Harrold and Jordan attended a media event in Toledo, OH along with EPA and counterparts from MI and OH to announce this agreement and others within the three states
 - ISDA is working with ICP stakeholders within the WLEB to ensure a smooth orientation of these two employees and to identify areas of immediate collaboration. WLEB stakeholders will be meeting on Nov. 24 in Ft. Wayne to discuss this project further.
 - This is the first ISDA/EPA partnership of this kind with the benefits of improved direct communication going forward and laying the groundwork for possible additional opportunities in the future.

ISDA-District Support Specialists Team Activity Report (September 11- October 14, 2014)

Major Activities or Events:

- DSSs and RSs assisted groups statewide as they prepared applications for the 2015 CWI Grants round. DSSs assisted the SSCB and related committees with concepts and responsibilities related to the 2015 CWI Grants and Scholarship/Sponsorship training dollars
- Jennifer, Laura, and Nathan assisted in the development of, wrote components of, or gathered information for Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant applications
- Tara represented the DSS Team at the fall IDEA Conference
- Jennifer hosted a CWI Grants and Information Meeting in Jay Co
- Laura hosted a SWCD Staff Region Meeting in Crawford Co and 16 counties were in attendance
- Geneva hosted a 319/LARE Grant Workshop in Fulton Co

Ongoing Key Support:

- Business Plans updating: Geneva assisted Lake Co and Nathan assisted Monroe Co
- Board Meetings: DSSs have attended 11 SWCD Board meetings in the following counties and assisted with various topics- Blackford, Boone, Fayette, Jay, Kosciusko, Lake, Marion, Montgomery, Owen, St. Joseph, Union
- SWCD Staff visits: DSSs visited staff and provided training, assistance with various projects or tasks, and provided guidance (Adams, Allen, Montgomery, Owen, Ripley)
- New SWCD Staff Training: Geneva provided training in Boone Co, and Laura in Warrick Co
- DSSs assisted SWCDs at local events in the following counties: Fayette/Union/Franklin, Jay, Tippecanoe, Wells
- Nathan represented the DSS Team at the Clay Co District Showcase

Committees and Advisory Roles: DSSs have been involved serving on committees and accomplishing related tasks.

- Laura: Regional Soil Health Workshop committee; ICP Training and Certification Program including the Conservation Selling Skills committee; CCSI
- Jennifer: Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo committee; Western Lake Erie Basin; IASWCD awards committee; Fort Wayne Farm Show ; On-Farm Network[®] program; ISDA Land Use Team
- Geneva: SSCB duties; Tillage Transect/Fall 2014 Cover Crop Transect); On-Farm Network[®] program
- Tara: Water Quality Trading, including field verifications; CCSI
- Nathan: Pathway to Water Quality

Other Key Items:

- Geneva and Nathan completed two CWI grants audits
- DSSs have been assisting SWCDs with questions, etc. tying to the upcoming election and annual meeting season

Upcoming Events:

- November 19: Leadership Institute, "Conflict", Indianapolis
- December 12 & 13: Leadership Institute, "Leadership in Change", Lafayette

**Note: due to the large amount of data summarized, errors or omissions may exist.*

ICP Training and Certification Program Team and the \$25k SSCB Grant

- Raingarden Workshops: six workshops were held in September (one beginner and five intermediate)
- November Conservation Selling Skills Workshops Scheduled



State Soil Conservation Board

October 28, 2014
Water Quality Initiatives



Program Updates

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has the following new signups for CY 2014:

- Wetland Restorations: 284.7 acres pending
- Bottomland Timber Establishments: 60.5 acres complete, 8.4 acres pending
- Riparian Buffers: 13.2 acres pending
- Permanent Native Grasses: 8.2 acres pending
- Total: 366.6 pending acres for 2014 signup***

*The total acreage of pending CREP practices is at 636.5 acres, which includes enrollments in 2012 and 2013 that have yet to complete construction.

Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force

- Region 5 Presentation
- EPA feedback
- New Coastal Goal

State Nutrient Reduction Strategy

- New watershed prioritization scheme

Region 5 Nutrient Reduction Model

- Training webinar
- EPA practice additions
- Water Quantity component

Upcoming Initiatives

Region 5 Model presentation – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has requested that I give a webinar presentation to their staff summarizing our use of the Region 5 Model for conservation and load reduction tracking, as well as its expanded adoption in Indiana by other agencies and partners. I will work with the Wisconsin DATCP to share the presentation from the Hypoxia Task Force meeting last week with additional information and resources.

Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy – Watershed prioritization changes



State Soil Conservation Board

October 28, 2014

Accountability and Technology



Program Updates

- **FSA CRP Data:**
 - Last month, I followed up with Susan Hovermale regarding CRP workload data. Much to Susan's dismay, she did not receive the CRP data by mid-September. Due to time restraints, the Division had to proceed using the 2013 NRCS conservation workload data. When Susan receives the CRP data we will determine if it contains the attributes needed to incorporate the CRP data into future Region 5 Model analyses and Conservation Workload reports.
- **2013 NRCS Conservation Workload - Region 5 Model Analyses:**
 - The 2013 NRCS data was used for the Region 5 Model analyses. Currently, Division field staff are conducting the Region 5 Model nutrient load reductions analyses and entering the results into SharePoint. Over 14,000 practices are being analyzed. I hope to have the maps completed by the end of November.
- **2014 Fall Cover Crop Tillage Transect Survey:**
 - Shannon Zezula, Barry Fisher, Geneva Tyler and Deb Fairhurst met on October 9, to begin coordinating the 2014 Fall Cover Crop Tillage Transect Survey. Shannon is revising the master spreadsheet to include columns for collecting cover crop data including types of cover crops and quality of stand. Barry, Geneva and Deb are compiling a letter, instruction sheet, and description of roles and expectations. This documentation will to be sent to the SWCDs by the end of October. We determined the best timeframe to complete the cover crop tillage transect survey will be Mid-November to the end of December.
- **Clean Water Indiana:**
 - Assisted DSSs with the 2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant selections by creating a blind link on the ISDA website which contained links to all of the proposals. I also created maps featuring multi-district grant regions, CWI Grant recommendations, lead districts, and funding breakdowns.

Upcoming Initiatives

- Modify the 2013 nutrient load reduction maps to include NRCS conservation workload.
- Create 2014 ICP Conservation Workload maps and reports in January 2015 which will include NRCS, DSC, IDEM and DNR conservation practices.
- Coordinate with field staff to conduct Region 5 Model analyses on 2014 NRCS conservation practices.

SSCB 2014 September Meeting

Technical Assistance Report – Julie Harrold/Deb Fairhurst

DSC Conservation Workload

January 1, 2014 – October 23, 2014

Action	Currently Reported
Technical Assistance	1,843
Practices Underway	314
Completed Practices	283
Practice Acres	8,961
Practice Feet	160,927
Field Acres	8,270
Nitrogen Reduction	32,153 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	15,370 lbs.
Sediment Reduction	13,427 tons
Total Watersheds (HUC8) Impacted	29



State Soil Conservation Board

October 28, 2014

Agricultural and Environmental Affairs Program Manager



Program Updates

➤ On Farm Network

- CSNT sample collection continues with 19 of the 24 groups finished and overall nearly 95% of the total fields are sampled.
- Starting to collect RST yield files from harvested fields.
- Met with representatives from Purdue University and Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance to discuss integration of Purdue University into the OFN project and the formation of an OFN Advisory Board.
- 11 OFN groups' data has been submitted to Iowa for them to start producing the final grower reports.
- The second OFN column was in the Fall 2014 issue of Corn and Soybean Review
- On October 16, I presented a summary of 2013 results at Jennifer Thum's South-Northeast regional SWCD meeting. I also discussed future expansion of the project in the area.
- With the help of the DSSs and some of the RSs, I've been fielding enquiries from SWCDs interested in forming groups in 2015. Possible new groups include: Owen, Hendricks, White, Huntington/Wells, Jay, Morgan, Spencer and Washington counties.

➤ Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Program

- No update at this time

➤ Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- Participated in the weekly regional HUB-focused teleconferences
- Supported the field sampling crews and coordinated the distribution of lab reports.

State Conservationist's Report

October 2014

Farm Bill Updates

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Indiana obligated \$14.05 million for 573 contracts on 84,000 acres and ended the fiscal year with a backlog of 410 applications for \$6 million.

Indiana obligated \$1.4 million for 59 contracts for 4,500 acres in total for initiatives. This includes the following:

- State Specialty Crop Funding (Includes Seasonal High Tunnels) \$212,000 for 20 contracts on 173 acres
- Organic Initiative: obligated \$80,000 for 9 contracts on 285 acres
- On-Farm Energy Initiative: obligated \$157,000 for 9 contracts on 135 acres
- National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI): obligated \$397,000 for 10 contracts on 1,100 acres
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (EQIP): obligated \$456,000 for 26 contracts on 2,100 acres
- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) – Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI): obligated \$307,000 for 5 contracts on 790 acres
- CCPI: \$43,260 for 3 contracts on 774 acres

We also funded 14 contracts for Veteran Farmers for \$91,034 on 570 acres and 123 contracts for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers/Limited Resource Farmers/Socially Disadvantaged participants for \$2.6 million on 12,600 acres.

The deadline for EQIP applications has been announced (December 19th). This includes all EQIP landscape initiatives (GLRI, NWQI, and MRBI) and programmatic initiatives (Organics and Energy).

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – The Stewardship CSP 14-1 sign-up obligated over \$1.2 million for 86 contracts on 58,530 cropland acres and 58 forestland acres. The agricultural acreage exceeded Indiana's original agricultural acres allocation with additional acres provided from other states. We returned the majority of our forestland acres as there was only one application that was actually contracted.

Currently, there are 193 renewal applications in ProTracts pending evaluation during FY15. Participants whose 10-1 and 10-2 contracts were expiring were eligible for renewal if requested by September 12, 2014. These applications will use next year's acres allocation making for a more competitive sign up in 15-1. Renewed applications do not have to compete for acres as this was the benefit for accepting a renewal.

Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Indiana has received 24 ACEP-WRE applications totaling 1,455 acres. We have funded 11 ACEP WRE applications (865 acres) and their restorations for \$3.1 million dollars.

Indiana received \$2.4 million to manage prior year WRP, including new restoration, modifications to existing restoration contracts. Remaining funds, approximately \$1.9 million will be carried over into the next fiscal year to continue the management of prior year WRP. No ACEP-WRE may be used for prior WRP restoration until no prior year funds remain.

Ag Land Easement Program Meeting - On September 24, Indiana hosted a live meeting and webinar with interested partners and entities to discuss the changes to the easement programs, and to generate interest in ACEP-ALE. ALE requires a partnering entity to hold the agricultural land easement.

Representatives from the State Government and private non-governmental organizations came to the state office or called in. The presentation was well received. There was good discussion on the benefits and

challenges to enrolling agricultural land easements. The webinar will be made available on the NRCS website in the near future.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Full proposals are due by October 2nd. As a reminder, two of the nine state applicants and an additional 5 applications (CCA and national) that include Indiana as part of their project were invited to submit a full proposal. However, one national proposal and one Indiana proposal has decided not to move forward with a full proposal. Final proposals will be reviewed in the last two weeks of October and recipients notified by November 14th.

Conservation Innovation Grant Recipients Announced - NRCS funded 47 grants totaling \$15.7 that will help develop and demonstrate cutting-edge ideas to accelerate innovation in private lands conservation. Over two million dollars will be utilized for projects that impact Indiana. As a reminder, CIG funds are projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to improve soil health, air and water quality, conserve energy, and enhance wildlife habitat in balance with productive agricultural systems. Grants are funded through EQIP and those who are funded must work with producer as they complete their projects. CIGs are competitive and require a fifty percent match of nonfederal funds.

Three projects were funded that will directly impact Indiana and **all three have a soil health focus**. Projects include:

- National Corn Growers Association – This project includes seven states and will focus on economic and environmental benefits of helping crop producers focus on soil health.
- National Association of Conservation Districts – This project will work nationwide to evaluate where strip/no-till, cover crops and crop rotation practices can best work together, and conduct economic and cost-benefit evaluations.
- Purdue University – This project is solely within Indiana and will document soil health assessment methods and jump start carbon and nutrient cycles for the sustainable restoration of soil health.

Western Lake Erie Basin

As a result of the Toledo drinking water issue in August we are continuing to promote the good things farmers are doing in the six northeast counties that are part of the watershed. On September 16, NRCS met with state and local partners in Fort Wayne. A partnership plan is under development for WLEB outreach, technical assistance, and funding and ways to coordinate and collaborate in the future.

New NRCS Soil Health Division Director

The Chief has announced our new Soil Health Division Director today. Her name is Dr. Bianca Moebius-Clune from Cornell University. Bianca comes from an Extension background in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences where she has extensive research and extension responsibilities in soil health assessment and management and also weather-based precision nitrogen management. She also taught a class in Sustainable Soil Management. She has authored numerous publications and provided workshops and training nationally and internationally. She co-authored Cornell's *Soil Health Assessment Training Manual* that is now widely used by growers and ag service providers in the Northeast. She also co-authored the books *Soil! Get the Inside Scoop* and *Know Soil, Know Life*. Both books were written to help the public understand and appreciate soils. Bianca has conducted research on ag management impacts on soil health and nitrogen dynamics in the Northeast and Midwest, as well as in Kenya and has developed a new framework for soil health management planning. She holds a PhD and Masters in soil science from Cornell.

Hoosier Chapter Event Focuses on Soil Health, Pollinators, Beneficial Insects, and Regenerative Agriculture

The Hoosier Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society continues to partner with NRCS and others to promote soil health in Indiana. Their fall meeting will be held November 12th at Ball State University from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with an optional tour to view sustainability projects on campus immediately after.

The meeting will focus on three main topics: Soil—Aggregate Stability and Microbes, Pollinators and Beneficial Insects, Using Plants and a Soil System for Regenerative Agriculture. Discussions will include habitat needs for crop-pollinating bees and other beneficial insects; how activities above the ground affect life below the soil's

surface; how microorganisms work; growing healthier crops and improving farm economics by regenerating soil health; and testing for soil health.

Speakers include Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist, NRCS; Jessi Ghezzi, Soil Science Professor, Ball State University; John Graveel, Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University; Mace Vaughan, Director, Pollinator Conservation Program, The Xerces Society; and Gary Reding, Farming Consultant, Advancing Eco Ag.

The meeting is open to all partnership employees, supervisors, educators, and farmers. The registration deadline is **November 4, 2014**. Register on-line <http://tinyurl.com/jw3pesy>. Call Angie Garrison at (812-568-6741) or email angiegarrison@hooisearchapterswcs.org. Cost: (includes lunch and breaks) \$40 members; \$25 students/retired conservationists; \$50 nonmembers. BSU maps: <http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/studentcenter/hotel/directionsandmaps>.

Earth Team Volunteer Program

We may still have some stragglers, but we're doing great on our reports of volunteer assistance this past year. If you have questions about using volunteers, please contact the NRCS Area or State Coordinator (Kris Vance: kris.vance@in.usda.gov).

FY-14 Indiana Totals

2,164 Volunteers (5th in Nation)

13,851.75 Hours (7th in Nation)

90% office utilization



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

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



IASWCD

225 S. East Street
Suite 740
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317.692.7325
Fax: 317.423.0756
Web: www.iaswcd.org

PRESIDENT:

Jeff Meinders
Ripley County

VICE PRESIDENT:

Paul Cummings
Owen County

TREASURER:

Mike Starkey
Hendricks County

SECRETARY:

Jamie Scott
Kosciusko County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Jennifer Boyle Warner
Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org

To: State Soil Conservation Board
From: Jeff Meinders, President, IASWCD
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

- New Contribution Agreement (3 years) has been signed with NRCS. CWI is providing match for 2015.
- Contract with Marion County SWCD has been signed. This project will allow them to pilot an urban conservationist to work with urban growers on soil health related resource concerns.
- A NC-SARE pre-proposal grant has been submitted for continuing the soil health measurement work beyond 2015.
- Annual hub meeting has been set for December 3.

Pathway to Water Quality

- The pervious concrete extension work is still being completed. This required extensive help by the ICP to excavate, install drainage, etc.
- Ball State University has accepted an immersion study program for spring 2015 which will allow students to work on educational designs for upgrades to PWQ.
- Funding for upgrades and coordinator contract are being sought.

Resolutions

2 resolutions submitted and both would require legislative action if passed in Jan. 2015

- Resolution one is to change CWI language to allow Districts to match their \$10,000 with other sources outside municipality. This would allow those Districts that have lost their entire county funding the ability to still possibly get state funding if they can find other matches.
- Resolution two adds some language to township governance which would allow them to fund local conservation projects.

Other

- A reminder that the SWCD Annual Conference will be at the Marriott on January 11-13, 2015. A breakout session with the SSCB is being offered from 11 am to Noon on Tuesday, January 13. Registration is available at <http://www.cvent.com/events/iaswcd-2015-conference/event-summary-3b7db40dadcb4500bcef0ccd45b3a280.aspx>
- Supervisor Scholarships will be announced after November 7.
- 2015 IASWCD Officer Nominations will be announced after November 7.
- SWCD Fall region meetings will be scheduled for Nov/Dec
- A CRP status review contribution agreement with NRCS ended Sept. 15. Over \$349,000 was provided to 61 Districts through this agreement.

THE IASWCD MISSION is to represent SWCDs as one voice and assist the leadership of local Districts through coordination and education for the wise use and management of our natural resources.

