

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
September 23, 2014
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

- I. 9:30AM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of July 2014**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. 2015 Clean Water Indiana Grants
 - b. Clean Water Indiana Budget Update- Jordan Seger
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Reports**
 - a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Scott Ham
- V. ISDA Updates**
 - a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger
 - b. Technical Report- Jordan Seger
 - c. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
 - d. Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst
 - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
 - f. Water Quality and CREP-Logan Garner
- VI. Conservation Partner Reports**
 - a. IASWCD Report
 - b. IDEM Report
 - c. DNR Report
 - d. Purdue Report
 - e. FSA Report
 - f. NRCS Report
- VII. Public Comment**
- VIII. Next Meeting:**

October 28, 2014
9:30 AM
New Castle-Henry County Library
376 S. 15th St
New Castle, IN 47362
Tour of Caprini Creamery/Redbud Farm to follow
- IX. Adjourn**

2015 Meeting Dates

January 13, IASWCD Annual Conference roundtable discussion
February 10, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis
March 10, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis
May 12, Culver, Indiana
July 14, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis
September 15, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis
October 27, TBA

*****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.



2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant Program

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

State Soil Conservation Board

Executive Summary: The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the Clean Water Indiana Fund to support Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in efforts to **reduce sediment and nutrients** from nonpoint sources to help improve water quality. The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is accepting competitive proposals for multi-district, multi-year projects. Project proposals can be for up to three years in length and up to \$75,000. Grant funding can be used to help support one or more of the funding categories listed below:

- Increase Direct Technical/Professional Assistance to Land users
- Cost Share Incentives/On Farm Demonstrations
- Adult Education (see additional info on page 5)

General Grant Guidance:

- Two or more districts must be actively involved in the project/initiative proposed. A lead district must be selected to serve as the grantee to receive and administer the grant. However, grant funds can be shared between the districts through cooperative agreements developed locally.
- The grant proposal must document how the grant funds will address at least two of the State priorities in the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB's) Business Plan adopted in 2010 (updated in 2014) and identified as follows:
 - **Soil Quality Degradation** which includes the loss of top soil due to erosion, the depletion of organic matter, as well as soil compaction and other soil biology impacts that degrade soil quality.
 - **Water Quality Impairments** including sediment, nutrients, and/or pesticides.
- Proposals that support current state and/or national initiatives are strongly encouraged. Examples of state and national priority initiatives include: projects/programs to reduce sediment and nutrient loading into the Gulf of Mexico (MRBI) and the Great Lakes (WLEB and GLRI).
Current examples of initiatives partially assisted with Clean Water Indiana funding include the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI), and On Farm Network®.
- Proposals that outline how the CWI funds will leverage additional funding from other sources as well as engage other partners are strongly encouraged. CWI project proposals that will be in tandem with ongoing projects are encouraged. Example: CWI funds might be used to add technical assistance to help implement sediment and nutrient reduction practices cost-shared through a LARE or 319 project.

- Proposals relating to water usage/conservation (irrigation management) will only be considered if the water quality project and conservation practices offered in it will also reduce sediment and nutrient reduction.
- Projects relating to urban practices that will reduce sediment and nutrients are eligible; however, no funding will be awarded for cost share on rain barrels. Cost-sharing is also not allowed on specific practices that an entity or individual is required to install to comply with a state or local rule or ordinance. For example, CWI funds cannot be used to meet MS4 requirements unless the proposed use of funds goes “above and beyond” the requirements outlined in the MS4 permit’s Storm Water Quality Management Plan.
- When practical, Districts are encouraged to cost share only on plants native to Indiana.

Applicants should consider the ratio of BMP cost to load reduction and make judicious use of their limited grant funding.

Application Process: Application forms are available from your District Support Specialist. Applications are in a fillable PDF format which can be saved to your computer and electronically submitted to your District Support Specialist as an email attachment. Districts should only submit the application and self assessment forms. No other documents will be considered when scoring applications.

Application Deadline: The application must be submitted by October 1, 2014. By electronically submitting the application, the lead SWCD certifies each partnering district has agreed to the terms outlined in the application.

Eligible Applicants: The multi-district applications may be submitted by any SWCD in the State of Indiana. However, only one application is permitted per project and must be submitted by the designated lead SWCD. Participating districts are not required to share borders, but must be in the same geographic area. **All participating SWCDs must be current on reporting and the lead district must meet the SWCD Required Deadlines as identified in the District Deadline Verification Tool (attached) effective May 8, 2013. Self assessments for all participating districts must be included with the application submission. Deadlines considered will fall between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014.** Please note:

Clean Water Indiana funding to expand or extend current CWI projects/initiatives is available to current grantees, provided the project is at least 66% complete. Project status must be documented on the grant report in SharePoint at the time of 2015 application submission. Extension applications may include minor changes, however must stay within the scope of the original approved grant. All changes requested must be explained on the last page of the application. Districts currently serving as lead district on an active CWI project may apply as the lead district in a new project, however new lead districts are encouraged.

Project Description: The proposal must identify the current non-point source water quality concerns in the selected districts. If there is an existing Watershed Management Plan or one currently under development and will be the focus of the grant, please include the name of the plan and identify who developed it or is developing it.

Partnerships: SWCDs **must** partner with at least one other district and are encouraged to partner with other organizations. Each application must state clearly what each partner (particularly partner district(s)) will be contributing to the proposed project in the grant application (i.e. outreach, professional assistance, estimated funds, etc.).

Funds Available: Each applicant will be given the opportunity to apply for funding under one or all of the grant funding categories. Please see the **Grant Funding Categories with Descriptions** on the next page for additional information. Please note this grant opportunity will be competitive. The SSCB is looking for proposals up to \$75,000 over three years, however additional funding considerations will be made for exceptionally strong proposals. The SSCB will utilize a score sheet criteria to aid in ranking the proposals.

Match Requirement: A 50 percent cash and/or in-kind match is required. Match contributions can be federal, state and/or local sources including such things as landowner costs, staff time, supervisor time, equipment use, purchase, rental, etc. The match is applicable only if directly related to the purpose of the proposed project.

Project Dates: All 2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant projects shall take no longer than three full years to complete. Projects will start on January 1, 2015 and must be finished by December 31, 2017.

Funding Restrictions: Proposals must fall within the funding context allowed under the Clean Water Indiana Law (IC 14-32-8). The law prohibits funds to be used for food, food related paper products, office equipment or district self-promotional materials (examples include mugs, t-shirts, pens, etc).

Leveraging Funds: SWCD's are encouraged to partner with traditional and non-traditional organizations/agencies at the local, state and federal level to leverage additional dollars for their project/initiative. However, the SSCB will show preference to projects which do not add to the percent cost share/incentive rate offered through another program.

Process of Payments: Once the proposal is approved by the SSCB, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) will issue a contract to the designated lead SWCD. SWCDs should return their signed contract to ISDA within 14 days of receipt in order to receive their funds. Funds must be utilized in a timely manner. Districts will receive 50 percent of their grant funding up front and the remaining 50 percent at the end of the project, upon receipt of the final report.

Reporting Requirements: Annual reports through SharePoint will be required for the duration of the grant project and a final report will be due at the end of the grant period. This report must summarize the outcomes and achievements of the project. Tracking of conservation practice implementation must be reported through SharePoint's conservation practices tracking system on a (minimum) quarterly basis.

Grant Funding Categories with Descriptions:

- **Cost-Share/Incentives/Demonstrations:** Practices and measures must be focused on the reduction of sediment and nutrients for the proposed districts. Districts are encouraged to provide matching dollars

and to leverage additional dollars from other sources. Conservation practices and structural measures shall follow NRCS Field Office Technical Guide where applicable. New technologies not currently in the technical guide may be implemented if reviewed and concurred in by a technical representative of the Conservation Implementation Teams (CIT) or their designee. Districts also have the ability to assist in the purchase/lease or off-set of rental costs for equipment to encourage new technology adoption. Districts may also want to offer financial assistance for demonstration projects or farm comparison plots to demonstrate and evaluate options for reducing erosion and /or nutrient inputs or adoption of new equipment technologies. The SSCB will show preference to projects that are not fundable by other programs, or which do not add to the percent cost share/incentive rate offered through another program. For cost-share practices, CWI funds may be used to pay up to a maximum of 75% of the total BMP cost. At least 25% of the cost must be provided by the landowner or other non-federal source as match. However, cover crop cost share is limited to a maximum of \$20/acre. For demonstration practices, CWI funds may be used to pay up to 100% of the total cost of the BMP. **Note: if applying for cost share, please describe the process you will implement to select grant recipients. Priority will be given to SWCDs who demonstrate a strategic process for managing cost share dollars.**

- **Direct Agronomic, Technical and Conservation Program Participation Assistance:** Funding under this category is for the purpose of increasing the amount of direct agronomic, technical and conservation program planning/participation assistance to land users in the target areas that are willing to adopt best management practices and technologies for sediment and nutrient reduction. The BMP should address the goal(s) of the watershed management plan and be appropriate for the nonpoint source pollution in the critical area where the project site lies. For example, even within a critical area, it would not be wise to place a BMP where runoff already infiltrates and has little chance of reaching a Water of the State. Furthermore, CWI grant funds shall not fund BMPs that are “bandages”, or spot fixes of much larger issues. For example, stabilizing streambanks without first addressing the source of the extra flow and sediment causing the bank instability is not a high value project or a funding priority. Examples of how funding in this category might be used include:
 - **Contracted Services** – Funding under this category may be used for contracts or fee based agreements with individuals, firms, organizations or project partners who can provide additional on-site agronomic and/or other technical assistance to land users to help them plan and implement best management practices and technologies that will reduce erosion and sedimentation and/or improve nutrient management. This may include helping land users understand what conservation program assistance is available to address these resource concerns and helping them apply for conservation program assistance.
 - **Matching Funds for Additional Professional Assistance** –Funding in this category may also be used as match to help partnering districts acquire additional personnel, to provide the types of professional assistance described above on a multi district basis. Examples include but are not limited to: Watershed Technician, Watershed Agronomist, Conservation Program Specialist (agriculture or urban), and Conservation Cropping Systems Specialists.

Adult Education—Districts may apply for up to \$1,000 per year to support Adult Education activities, events/workshops, etc that help with implementation of the multi-district project/initiative proposed. However, grants will not be awarded for Adult Education only. Districts that are willing to measure effectiveness of adult education events may receive additional consideration when applications are evaluated.

Questions? Please contact your District Support Specialist. See [DSS Map](#) and contact information under documents on SWCD SharePoint.



INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

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To: District Supervisors and Staff
From: Scott Ham, Chair-State Soil Conservation Board
Re: 2015 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program
Date: August 15, 2014

On behalf of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB), I'm pleased to inform you we are launching our 2015 CWI Grant Program today. The State Soil Conservation Board has voted to utilize Clean Water Indiana Grant Program funds to support competitive proposals for multi-district, multi-year projects which address the state priorities in the State Soil Conservation Board's Business Plan adopted in 2010 (and updated in 2012, 2013, and 2014) identified as follows:

Soil Quality Degradation which includes the loss of top soil due to erosion, the depletion of organic matter, as well as soil compaction and other soil biology impacts that degrade soil quality.

Water Quality Impairments including sediment, nutrients, and/or pesticides.

Eligible Applicants: SWCDs must partner with at least one other district and are encouraged to partner with other organizations. However, only one application is permitted per project and must be submitted by the designated lead SWCD. Participating districts are not required to share borders, but must be in the same geographic area. **All participating SWCDs must be current on reporting and the lead district must meet the SWCD Required Deadlines as identified in the District Deadline Verification Tool (enclosed) effective May 8, 2013. Deadlines considered will fall between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014.** CWI funding to expand or extend current CWI projects/initiatives is available to current grantees, provided the project is at least 66% complete. Districts currently serving as lead district on an active CWI project may apply as the lead district in a new project, however new lead districts are encouraged.

Application Process: Application forms are available through your District Support Specialist. These forms shall be completed and submitted back to the District Support Specialist as an email attachment. Please work closely with your District Support Specialists throughout the application process.

Application Deadline: The application must be submitted to your District Support Specialist, as an e-mail attachment, by 4PM on October 1, 2014. The application **must** be approved by the chairman of each participating district.



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Enclosed is a copy of the **2015 CWI Grant Guidelines** which further details the scope of the grant opportunity as well as the **2015 CWI Grant Application Form**. These documents are also available from your District Support Specialist. **Please carefully review the 2015 CWI Grant Guidelines with your board(s) before completing the grant application.**

We look forward to receiving your grant application.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Ham".

Scott Ham

Chairman

State Soil Conservation Board



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To: All SWCD Staff and Supervisors
Date: August 15, 2014
Re: Supervisor and Staff Training Sponsorships and Scholarships
Encl: 2014-2015 Training Scholarship Application

The State Soil Conservation Board is pleased to again offer SWCD supervisor and staff training funds for 2014 and 2015. In their July meeting, the SSCB voted to set aside \$30,000 for training from the Clean Water Indiana budget. This year the funds will be available in the form of sponsored district capacity building trainings and scholarships. This new process should streamline the way training dollars are distributed, and should also reach a higher number of district supervisors and staff than previous reimbursement methods.

A portion of these funds will directly sponsor established trainings. This will reduce registration fees and increase availability to high quality speakers. Support will be directed to the August 2014 Chair/Vice-Chair Workshop, October 2014 Indiana District Employees Association Fall Conference, November 2014 Leadership Institute, and March 2015 SWCD Region Meetings.

The other portion of these funds will be reserved for training registration fee scholarships. Each district is eligible to apply for supervisor and/or staff training scholarships through April 1, 2015. Actual amounts of training scholarships will depend on the number and amount of requests submitted, and will be capped at approximately \$1,000 per district. Funds will be prioritized to supervisors and those districts demonstrating financial need. Eligible trainings include the December 2014 Leadership Institute, January 2015 IASWCD Annual Conference, February 2015 Leadership Institute, and other district capacity building training events. Scholarship requests are due the **first of each month** and will be reviewed thereafter, and applicants will be notified immediately after the review is complete. If awarded, registration fees will be paid directly to the sponsoring agency.

Attached is the form to be used to request scholarships. Submit the form electronically as needed by **the first of each month** through April 1, 2015 to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov.

Please contact your district support specialists with any questions on the new procedures.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Ham".

Scott Ham
Chairman
State Soil Conservation Board



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To: All SWCD Staff and Supervisors

Date: September 19, 2014

Re: Supervisor and Staff Training Sponsorships and Scholarships Follow Up

On August 15th, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) sent a memo to SWCDs outlining the details of the supervisor and staff training dollars, which are available in the form of sponsored district capacity building trainings and scholarships. The SSCB would like to provide additional clarification and reminders about these funds and the process.

Sponsorships: A portion of these funds will directly sponsor established trainings, and will go directly to the sponsoring agency. This will reduce registration fees and increase availability to high quality speakers. Support was directed to the August Chair/Vice-Chair Workshop. Future sponsored trainings include the October IDEA Fall Conference, November Leadership Institute, and March 2015 SWCD Region Meetings. SWCD registrants must abide by any cancellation policies set up to be eligible for future 2014/2015 SSCB scholarship funds.

Scholarships: The other portion of these funds will be reserved for training registration fee scholarships. Eligible trainings include the December Leadership Institute, January 2015 IASWCD Annual Conference, February 2015 Leadership Institute, and other district capacity building training events. If awarded, registration fees will be paid directly to the sponsoring agency (not to the individual SWCD).

- Each district is eligible to apply for supervisor and/or staff training scholarships through April 1, 2015. Actual amounts of training scholarships will depend on the number and amount of requests submitted, and will be capped at approximately \$1,000 per district.
- Applications are due electronically by the 1st of each month to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov and applicants will be notified immediately after the monthly review is complete. Districts **are** allowed to apply more than once. For example, if a district applied for a staff person's scholarship to attend the fall IDEA conference, they are also welcome to later submit an application for scholarship dollars for supervisors and staff to attend the 2015 IASWCD Annual Conference.
- Multiple individuals can be listed on the same form for the same event on an application
- Within the application, please list the cost of the requested scholarship as well as the name(s) and position of the person(s) you are want to be considered (*e.g. the Hoosier Co SWCD wants to send two supervisors, John Smith and Anne Burton, to the 2015 Annual Conference at a cost of \$295 each totaling \$590*)
- In order to maximize the amount of training dollars available, scholarships will be available for workshop "early bird" registration fee only



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- Districts are encouraged to submit their applications early. Applications for popular events will be reviewed/awarded at one time (applications received after these dates will be considered on a case by case basis).
 - December Leadership Institute: scholarship application deadline is October 1st
 - IASWCD Annual Conference: scholarship application deadline is November 1st
- Recipients must abide by any cancellation policies set to be eligible for future sponsorships or scholarship funds. If a scholarship recipient is unable to attend the training, they should notify their ISDA District Support Specialist (DSS) and work to find someone to attend in their place. "No shows" will be ineligible for future 2014/2015 SSCB scholarship dollars.
- Other district capacity building training events not specifically mentioned: districts are welcome to apply for scholarships. Please select "Other" on the application and provide details as appropriate.
- Districts are asked to describe their need for financial assistance, and an explanation of their investments. This will help the SSCB gauge which districts need the most financial assistance. *Example: District A has a total of \$50k in their checking account. District B has the same amount. District A explains on their scholarship application that the monies are earmarked as a general rainy day fund. District B explains that 70% of their funds are actually allocated to an ongoing CWI grant and cash match towards their 319 grant.* In this example, District B would be prioritized for the SSCB scholarship over District A. At first glance the Districts financial situations appear to be similar, until they are explained. *Note: although districts with the greatest financial need will be prioritized, all SWCDs are encouraged to apply if interested in the scholarship program.*
- Please note there is also an opportunity with IASWCD to receive Supervisor Scholarships to the January IASWCD Annual Conference. For information on this program, please visit <http://iaswcd.org/events-2/2015conference/>. Districts are welcome to apply for both this opportunity as well as the SSCB's scholarship- they don't have to "choose". The agencies will work together to make sure no one is funded twice.

Please contact your DSS with any questions. We look forward to receiving your scholarship applications and seeing you at our sponsored trainings.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott A. Ham".

Scott Ham
Chairman
State Soil Conservation Board

Congratulations to the Clay and Vanderburgh County SWCDs for their recent District Showcase Award recognition

RCPD Proposal in the Western Lake Erie Basin

NE IN DSS – Jennifer Thum continues to serve as the IN point of contact for this three state effort. Recently ISDA Director Ted McKinney sent a letter of support to USDA for this project which included in kind contributions from ISDA staff.

319 Letters of Support

In the past month the ISDA-DSC wrote five letters of support at the request of SWCDs to apply for IDEM 319 grants. The DSC applauds these Districts for seeking outside funding to compliment local efforts.

Western Lake Erie Basin (IN) Stakeholders meeting

On 9/16 many ICP leaders including the SSCB, ISDA-DSC, IASWCD, and NRCS met with SWCDs and other partners in Ft. Wayne to discuss current and future conservation efforts – driven by the recent drinking water ban in Toledo, OH caused by a harmful algae bloom.

ISDA-DSC Grants Coordinator Vacancy

ISDA is working with the LG's staff to fill this vacancy and tweak the job description to best suite current needs. Interviews with potential candidates have been scheduled. This position is not yet posted to the online State Job bank as a review of internal candidates is currently underway

National Association of Water Companies – Indiana Chapter Board Meeting

ISDA was invited to attend a board meeting of private water utilities on 9/11 to provide an update on current voluntary Ag focused conservation efforts and open up dialogue for future partnerships with these entities.

Conservation Field Days with members of the General Assembly

ISDA is working with Legislative Assistants to schedule field days/conservation tours with various members of the General Assembly. Most tours will take place in October and will highlight Soil Health practices including cover crops on farms in select regions of the State.

Fall Cover Crop/Tillage Transect

ISDA is working with CCSI and ICP partners to plan a cover crop/tillage transect survey statewide later this fall. The ISDA and SWCD time spent on this survey will be utilized as in kind match towards the new CCSI funding opportunity from NRCS.

Big Cicero Watershed Project

Nutrient Reduction Strategy partners recently met to discuss a new project in this watershed, a contributor to Morse Reservoir. This new project could have a similar look and feel to the current School Branch watershed project in Eagle Creek

EPA funding opportunity in the Western Lake Erie Basin

ISDA has been working with IDEM and NRCS partners to seek a new funding opportunity from EPA to address conservation needs in the IN WLEB. Arrangements are underway to finalize securing this funding.

SSCB 2014 September Meeting**Technical Assistance Report – Mike Johnson/Deb Fairhurst****Field Staff Activities*****January 1, 2014 – August 29, 2014***

Resource Specialist Activities	Total
SWCD Board Meetings	222
ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars, etc.	294
Field Days	106
Training	260
Conservation Planning	287
Survey, Design and Inspections	892
Construction	251
Public Interaction	20,432
CREP – Met with Landowners	87
SWCD Annual Meetings	33
FAC Meetings	2
CCSI Activities	11
IDEM 319 Meetings	2
OFN Activities	33
Watershed Steering Committee Activitiy	27
Tillage Transect Activities	15

DSC Conservation Workload***January 1, 2014 – September 11, 2014***

Action	Currently Reported
Technical Assistance	1,389
Practices Underway	283
Completed Practices	246
Practice Acres	8,790
Practice Feet	133,129
Field Acres	7,252
Nitrogen Reduction	30,518 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	14,125 lbs.
Sediment Reduction	12,096 tons
Total Watersheds (HUC8) Impacted	28

Ag and Environmental Affairs

State Soil Conservation Board Meeting – Sept 23, 2014

Meg Leader

On Farm Network

- ISDA is hosted a training for OFN Group Leaders and sampling crews on August 18 to help standardize field sampling methods. 34 people attended from multiple levels of the ICP and from all 24 OFN groups.
- For 2014, ISDA is handling more of the OFN related work and not paying Iowa Soybean Association to do the work. So, far this year, additional work we've handled includes:
 - Selection of the Corn Stalk Nitrate Testing (CSNT) sampling locations in every field
 - Labeling of the CSNT sampling bags
 - Printing the Lab Cards that are submitted with each field's CSNT samples
 - Preparation and printing of the field maps showing the CSNT sampling locations
 - Preparation and printing of the regional maps showing all the fields enrolled in a particular group
- On September 10, I presented a summary of 2013 results at Jennifer Thum's regional SWCD meeting. I also discussed future expansion of the project in the area.
- CSNT sample collection started the first week of September. As of September 19, about 28% of the fields have been sampled. Sampling will continue through October.
- The USDA CIG grant ended on September 20, 2014. The program is now supported by check off funds from Indiana Soybean Alliance and Indiana Corn Marketing Council (Corn and Soy).
- The 2014/2015 Winter Grower Meetings are scheduled and will run from December 18 through March 5.
- 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: Jay, Morgan, Spencer and Washington counties.
- Corn and Soy are funding a grad student to survey 2013 OFN participants to see the impact of farmer networks on encouraging participants to make, and stay with, farm management changes. They offered an incentive to the SWCDs where groups met response rates above the anticipated 40% typical for surveys. Eight OFN groups had response rates of 50% or greater and will be receiving \$100 from Corn and Soy. Five additional groups had response rates of 75% or

greater. They will be receiving \$250 from Corn and Soy. Pulaski County actually had the distinction of having 100% of their 2013 growers return the survey.

Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Program

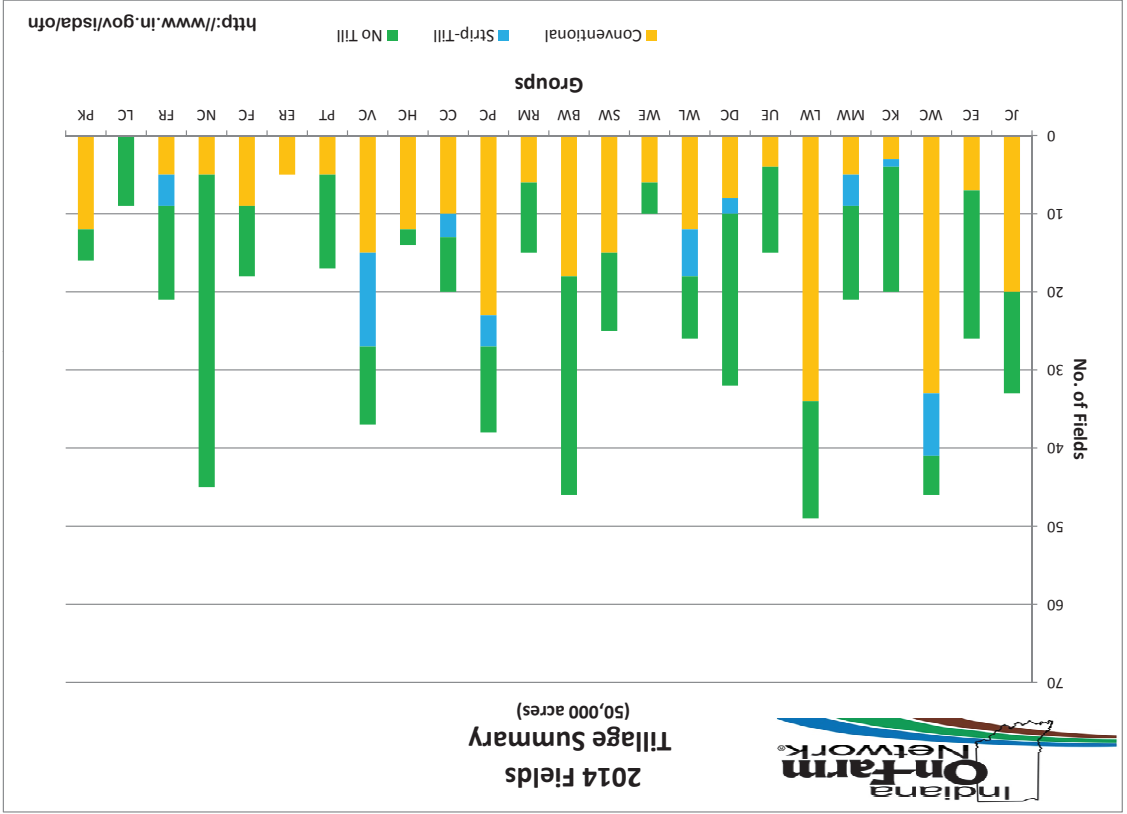
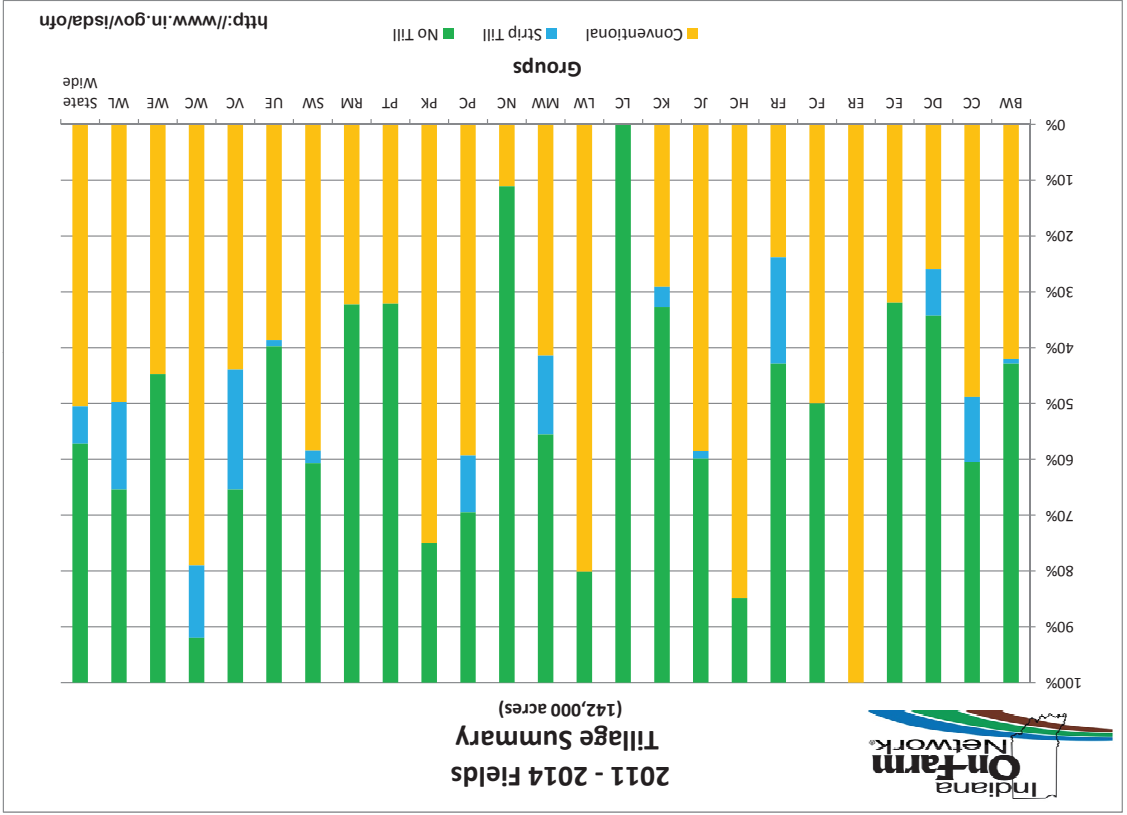
- The 2014 winner and runner-up were announced at Red Gold's Growers' Field Day on August 5. The winner was Mike Schutle and Schutle's Produce of Pandora, OH, and the runner-up was Nathan Gage and McKillip Farms of Wabash, IN.
- We are discussing making some changes to the application form that is used to determine the winner from the pool of five finalists. We want to give more weight to farms that use conservation cropping systems on more of their crop acres and use them more consistently during the typical 4 or 5 year rotation that tomato farms use.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- On August 6, I presented information on setting On Farm Research trials at the Soil Health Expo at the Vanderburgh County Fairgrounds.

Indiana On-Farm Network
2014/2015 Winter Grower Meeting Schedule

Date	Group	
12/18/2014	INEC	Eagle Creek Watershed
1/20/2015	INWC	Wildcat Creek Watershed
1/20/2015	INDC	Delaware/Madison Co
1/21/2015	INUE	Upper East Fork of White River Watershed
1/22/2015	INHC	Hamilton Co.
1/22/2015	INSW	South Fork of Wildcat Creek Watershed
1/28/2015	INBW	Big Walnut Watershed
1/28/2015	INVC	Vermillion/Parke Co
1/29/2015	INFC	Fountain/Warren Co.
2/10/2015	INCC	Carroll/Cass Co.
2/10/2015	INFR	Fulton Co.
2/11/2015	INPK	Porter Co.
2/12/2015	INPC	Pulaski Co.
2/24/2015	INMW/INER	Middle Wabash River Watershed/Clay Co.
2/24/2015	INLC	Lawrence Co.
2/25/2015	INPT	Dubois Co.
2/26/2015	INLW	Lower Wabash River Watershed
2/26/2015	INRM	Reclaimed Coal Mines
3/3/2015	INNC	Noble Co.
3/3/2015	INWE	Whitley Co.
3/4/2015	INWL	Western Lake Erie Basin
3/4/2015	INKC	Kosciusko Co.
3/5/2015	INJC	Jasper Co.



SSCB September 2014 Meeting

Accountability & Technology Report - Deb Fairhurst

ICP Conservation Workload

- Last month, Susan Hovermale brought to my attention an issue with the NRCS conservation workload data. It appears the NRCS data does not reflect the correct total of completed CRP practices in each county. Shannon Zezula reported that this could be the result of District Conservationists not entering practices after their quotas are met, as well as the vacancy of a few DCs. In an effort to resolve the discrepancies, Susan is coordinating with her colleagues in Kansas City to obtain CY2013 CRP data. Once received, I will analyze the data to determine if it contains the attributes needed to map the practice locations, as well as conduct Region 5 Model analyses. Attributes needed include the following:
 - Ability to filter out completed practices
 - Ability to filter out CRP re-enrollments
 - Completion date
 - County
 - Tract Number
 - HUC8 watershed or GPS coordinates
 - Practice Installed
 - Field Acres
 - Practice Acres
 - Practice Feet

Clean Water Indiana

- Analyzed SharePoint Conservation Workload data to determine how many SWCD personnel are entering their workload. Followed up with DSC field staff requesting they work with SWCD technicians to get their workload entered.
- Set up a SharePoint CWI Scholarship Application folder which is only accessible to Scott Ham, Jordan Seger and the District Support Specialists.

GIS and SharePoint Efforts:

- Assisted Meg with the creation of field sample point maps which will help field staff find the location of the individual fields, as well as the location of sample points within those fields.
- Assisted Jordan Seger with Division KPI Performance Measures Report. Pulled historic conservation workload data for the report.

ISDA-District Support Specialists Team Activity Report (July 17- September 10, 2014)

Major Activities or Events:

- DSSs assisted the SSCB and related committees with concepts and responsibilities related to the 2015 CWI Grants and Scholarship/Sponsorship training dollars
- “Board Development” Leadership Institute: Nathan, Laura, and Tara coordinated and instructed at the August workshop. 34 SWCD Supervisors and Staff attended the workshop from 22 different SWCDs
- Clean Water Indiana Grant Information and Networking Sessions: DSSs held sessions for SWCD Supervisors, Staff and Partners in Clinton, Crawford, Decatur, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Posey, Vigo, Wayne, Counties. Bartholomew, Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Clay, Crawford, Daviess, Decatur, Delaware, Dubois, Franklin, Gibson, Harrison, Hendricks, Howard, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lake, Lawrence, Martin, Morgan, Newton, Orange, Pike, Porter, Posey, Putnam, Ripley, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vanderburgh, Vigo, Warrick, Washington, Wayne, White counties were present.
- DSSs and IASWCD hosted a Chair/ViceChair workshop in August. 33 Supervisors were in attendance.
- Jennifer served as Facilitator for the annual DeKalb field day that was held at the Anderson's facility in Waterloo, IN
- DSSs staffed stations at the Indiana State Fair Pathway to Water Quality exhibit or served as Day Coordinators. Nathan has a lot of responsibility at the Pathway this time of year.
- Jennifer has been assisting Indiana, Michigan and Ohio with the development of a Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant application
- DSSs met with IASWCD Region Directors and Board Members and discussed both future training meetings and effective SWCD business plans
- Geneva hosted a SWCD and ISDA meeting in LaPorte Co, which featured speaker Lyndon Kelley on Irrigation

Ongoing Key Support:

- Business Plans: Geneva assisted Tippecanoe Co with updating their strategic plan, and Nathan assisted Hendricks Co with their annual plan of work
- SWOT Analysis: Jennifer facilitated a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats meeting in Miami Co. Tara facilitated a meeting in Wayne Co.
- Board meetings: DSSs have attended 21 Board meetings in the following counties and assisted with various topics: Bartholomew, Clay, Clinton, Floyd, Hancock, Hendricks, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Perry, Posey, Putnam, Starke, Spender, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White
- SWCD Staff Visits: Geneva, Jennifer, Laura and Nathan visited staff and provided assistance and training with various projects or tasks in Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Jackson, Jay, Jasper, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Owen, and Washington Counties
- SWCD Supervisor Visit: Tara visited with Supervisors in Fayette Co
- Jennifer provided the Miami Supervisors and Staff with training- they have a new staff and supervisor
- Tara and Geneva conducted a CWI grants audit
- Tara and Jennifer have been working with Janet Ayres on the upcoming November Leadership Institute
- Tara has been assisting Bartholomew Co SWCD with their County Council meeting- reviewing the presentation, etc.

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

- Geneva: SSCB duties; CCSI Hub Team, including representing the DSS Team at the CCSI/Soil Health statewide committee meeting

- Laura: ICP Training and Certification Program, including committee work tying to the Individual Development Inventories, CESSWI/CPESC trainings, September raingarden workshops and the November Conservation Selling Skills workshop; CCSI Hub Team
- Nathan: CCSI Hub Team; Pathway to Water Quality
- Tara: Water Quality Trading; CCSI Hub Team
- Jennifer: Western Lake Erie Basin

Other Key Items:

- Field Days: Geneva, Tara and Jennifer attended Field Days/Workshops in Delaware, Fulton, Montgomery, Wabash counties
- Jennifer, Tara, Geneva and Nathan have assisted with the On-Farm Network® program
- DSSs attended the NACD Soil Health Forum, and networked with various SWCDs and other conservation leaders from Indiana and other states. Nathan staffed the Pathway to Water Quality exhibit during this special tour, and answered questions about the crop fields and two stage ditch.
- Laura and Scott Ham met with Pike, Dubois, Daviess, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick Co SWCDs and NRCS to discuss technical assistance in the southwest and a related resolution

Upcoming Events:

- November 19: Leadership Institute, “Conflict”, Indianapolis area
- 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

- August EnviroCert Courses:
 - Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC): 14 ICP registrants
 - Certified Erosion Sediment Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI): 11 ICP registrants
- Raingarden Workshops: six workshops were held in September (one beginner and five intermediate)
- November Conservation Selling Skills Workshops Scheduled with Chuck Hitzeman: IDEM, ISDA, SWCDs, NRCS, Extension, and FSA are all sending employees

Summary of SWCD Training Needs 2014 from Individual Development Inventories (Top 15)		
Rank	Subject	# of Times Requested
1	Weed ID	33
2	Website management	31
3	Rain Gardens	29
4	Grant writing and reporting	28
5	Soil Testing & Interpreting Results	27
6	NRCS Customer Service Toolkit	26
7	GIS - ArcView	25
7	Wetland Plant ID	25
8	Tree & Shrub ID	24
9	Backyard Conservation / Wildlife	23
9	How to set up a cost-share program	23
9	How to talk to producers - "selling conservation"	23
10	Pasture & Range Forage ID	21
10	Marketing/Media	21
11	Conservation Planning	19
12	Soil Survey - Using for Planning	18
12	Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation	18
12	Pasture Management	18
12	Conservation Programs	18
13	Soil Properties & Interpretations	17
13	Septic System O&M	17
13	Desktop Publishing	17
13	Quickbooks	17
14	Herbaceous Weed Control	16
14	Pest Management	16
14	Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control	16
14	Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality	16
14	Construction Erosion & Sediment Control	16
14	Green Building	16
14	Project WET, WILD, Learning Tree	16
14	Grant writing	16
14	Load reductions/modeling	16
15	Composting Facility	15
15	GPS	15
15	USLE or RUSLE Evaluation	15
15	Forest Health Assessment	15
15	Stormwater Management	15
15	Who does that?/ where to go for help	15

Name of Agency & Number of Employee Respondents (245 total respondents)

Agency:	FSA	IDEM	IDNR	ISDA	NRCS	SWCD
# of Respondents:	30	9	9	27	90	80

Number of Times A Training Subject or Objective was Identified as Needed by Employees (Top 15 Subjects out of 154)

RANK	SUBJECT	# OF TIMES REQUESTED	% CHANGE SINCE 2011
1	Weed ID	69	12%
2	Wetland Plant ID	67	9%
3	Tree & Shrub ID	55	3%
4	Conservation Planning	49	-4%
5	Wetland Restoration	47	0%
5	Rain Gardens	47	5%
6	Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation	46	2%
7	Wetland Creation	45	2%
8	Soil Testing & Interpreting Results	44	1%
8	Pasture & Range Forage ID	44	3%
8	Forest Health Assessment	44	9%
9	USLE or RUSLE Evaluation	42	-4%
9	How to talk to producers - "selling conservation"	42	1%
10	NRCS Customer Service Toolkit	41	0%
10	Website management	41	6%
11	GIS - ArcView	40	-4%
11	Forestland Management	40	4%
12	Grant writing and reporting	39	3%
13	Waste Storage Facility	38	1%
13	Backyard Conservation / Wildlife	38	3%
14	Denitrifying Bioreactor	37	7%
14	Timber Production Assessment	37	9%
14	Septic System O&M	37	6%
15	Herbaceous Weed Control	36	4%
15	Drainage Water Management	36	-2%
15	Nutrient Management	36	-7%
15	Pasture Management	36	-1%
15	Aquatic Habitat Restoration	36	4%

Indiana Special Projects/Initiatives - FY2014

Initiative Projects

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiatives (CCPI)

Greene, Knox and Sullivan, SWCDs - Irrigation

Mississippi River Basin Initiatives (MRBI)

Middle Eel, Manchester College

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Auglaize, St. Marys, St. Joseph-Maumee and Upper Maumee Watersheds

National Water Quality Initiative Watersheds (NWQI)

1 - Eagle Creek; 2 - Ell Creek
3 - Silver Creek Watersheds

Proposed GLRI Phosphorus Initiative

Black Cr, Blue Cr, Bohnke Ditch-Hoffman Cr, Borum Run, Bottern Ditch-Maumee Rv, Buhlman Ditch-St Marys Rv, Bullerman Ditch-Maumee Rv, Blue Cr-St Marys Rv, Fairfield Ditch, Gales Ditch, Headwaters Blue Cr, Headwaters Hoffman Cr, Holthouse Ditch, Houlk Ditch, Marsh Ditch-Maumee Rv, Martz Cr, Nicklesen Cr, Simmerman Ditch-St Mary Rv, Sixmile Cr-Maumee Rv, Snyder Ditch-St Marys Rv, Trier Ditch and Weber Ditch-St Marys Rv Watersheds

Partner Projects

Healthy River Initiative Areas (HRI)

Portion of Muscatatuck River, Sugar Creek and Wabash River

Ohio River Basin Trading Project

Environmental Defense Fund Watershed Project (EDF)

Matson Ditch, Upper Cedar Creek Watershed

Environmental Defense Fund CIG (EDF)

Beargrass Watershed

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Highland-Pigeon, Lower East Fork White, Lower Wabash, Lower White, Middle Wabash-Busseron, Middle Wabash-Deer, Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, Tippecanoe, Upper East Fork White, Upper Wabash and Upper White Watersheds

Monitoring Projects

ICP & CCSI Paired Watershed Study

Beargrass and PawPaw Watersheds

Agricultural Research Service Study Area

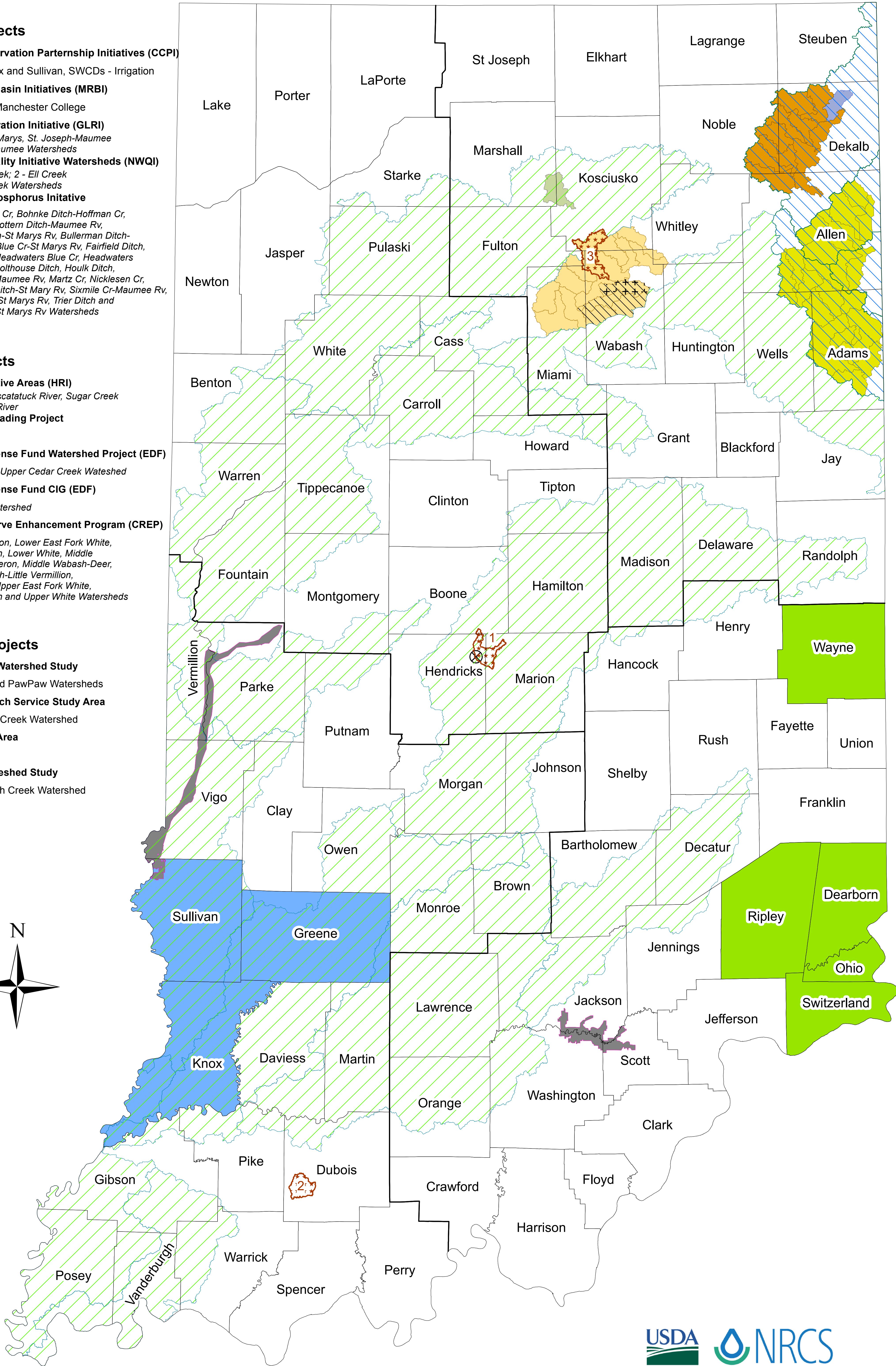
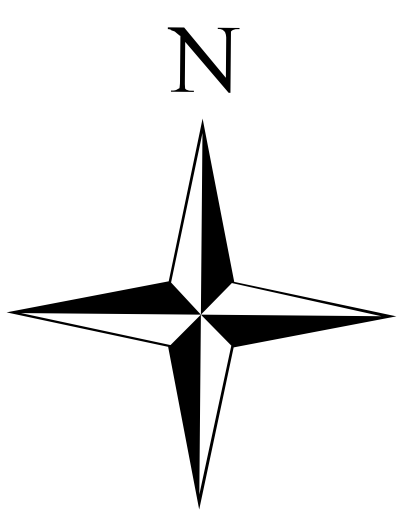
Upper Cedar Creek Watershed

Notre Dame Study Area

Shatto Ditch

School Branch Watershed Study

School Branch Creek Watershed



0 12.5 25 50 Miles

May 2014



INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

1 North Capitol, Suite 600 • Indianapolis, IN 46204 • 317.232.8770 Phone • 317.232.1362 Fax

Chair
Scott Ham

Vice Chair
Nola Gentry

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Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman

To: All SWCD Staff and Supervisors

Date: September 19, 2014

Re: Supervisor and Staff Training Sponsorships and Scholarships Follow Up

On August 15th, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) sent a memo to SWCDs outlining the details of the supervisor and staff training dollars, which are available in the form of sponsored district capacity building trainings and scholarships. The SSCB would like to provide additional clarification and reminders about these funds and the process.

Sponsorships: A portion of these funds will directly sponsor established trainings, and will go directly to the sponsoring agency. This will reduce registration fees and increase availability to high quality speakers. Support was directed to the August Chair/Vice-Chair Workshop. Future sponsored trainings include the October IDEA Fall Conference, November Leadership Institute, and March 2015 SWCD Region Meetings. SWCD registrants must abide by any cancellation policies set up to be eligible for future 2014/2015 SSCB scholarship funds.

Scholarships: The other portion of these funds will be reserved for training registration fee scholarships. Eligible trainings include the December Leadership Institute, January 2015 IASWCD Annual Conference, February 2015 Leadership Institute, and other district capacity building training events. If awarded, registration fees will be paid directly to the sponsoring agency (not to the individual SWCD).

- Each district is eligible to apply for supervisor and/or staff training scholarships through April 1, 2015. Actual amounts of training scholarships will depend on the number and amount of requests submitted, and will be capped at approximately \$1,000 per district.
- Applications are due electronically by the 1st of each month to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov and applicants will be notified immediately after the monthly review is complete. Districts **are** allowed to apply more than once. For example, if a district applied for a staff person's scholarship to attend the fall IDEA conference, they are also welcome to later submit an application for scholarship dollars for supervisors and staff to attend the 2015 IASWCD Annual Conference.
- Multiple individuals can be listed on the same form for the same event on an application
- Within the application, please list the cost of the requested scholarship as well as the name(s) and position of the person(s) you are want to be considered (*e.g. the Hoosier Co SWCD wants to send two supervisors, John Smith and Anne Burton, to the 2015 Annual Conference at a cost of \$295 each totaling \$590*)
- In order to maximize the amount of training dollars available, scholarships will be available for workshop "early bird" registration fee only



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- Districts are encouraged to submit their applications early. Applications for popular events will be reviewed/awarded at one time (applications received after these dates will be considered on a case by case basis).
 - December Leadership Institute: scholarship application deadline is October 1st
 - IASWCD Annual Conference: scholarship application deadline is November 1st
- Recipients must abide by any cancellation policies set to be eligible for future sponsorships or scholarship funds. If a scholarship recipient is unable to attend the training, they should notify their ISDA District Support Specialist (DSS) and work to find someone to attend in their place. "No shows" will be ineligible for future 2014/2015 SSCB scholarship dollars.
- Other district capacity building training events not specifically mentioned: districts are welcome to apply for scholarships. Please select "Other" on the application and provide details as appropriate.
- Districts are asked to describe their need for financial assistance, and an explanation of their investments. This will help the SSCB gauge which districts need the most financial assistance. *Example: District A has a total of \$50k in their checking account. District B has the same amount. District A explains on their scholarship application that the monies are earmarked as a general rainy day fund. District B explains that 70% of their funds are actually allocated to an ongoing CWI grant and cash match towards their 319 grant.* In this example, District B would be prioritized for the SSCB scholarship over District A. At first glance the Districts financial situations appear to be similar, until they are explained. *Note: although districts with the greatest financial need will be prioritized, all SWCDs are encouraged to apply if interested in the scholarship program.*
- Please note there is also an opportunity with IASWCD to receive Supervisor Scholarships to the January IASWCD Annual Conference. For information on this program, please visit <http://iaswcd.org/events-2/2015conference/>. Districts are welcome to apply for both this opportunity as well as the SSCB's scholarship- they don't have to "choose". The agencies will work together to make sure no one is funded twice.

Please contact your DSS with any questions. We look forward to receiving your scholarship applications and seeing you at our sponsored trainings.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott A. Ham".

Scott Ham
Chairman
State Soil Conservation Board

State Conservationist's Report
September 2014

Farm Bill Updates

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - Nationally we received almost 600 pre-proposals for funding that totaled six times the \$394 million in available funding. About 230 applicants were invited to the next phase of RCPP by developing full proposals by Oct. 2. (197 for projects related to eight CCAs, 63 for multi-state and national-level projects, and 278 for state-level projects). Indiana received nine pre-proposals. Two of the nine state applicants and an additional 5 applications (CCA and national) that include Indiana as part of their project will be invited to submit a full proposal which is due Oct. 2. Information on the program, including a list of projects asked to submit full proposals and a summary of strengths and weaknesses of pre-proposals, can be found at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/programs/farmbill/rcpp/>

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - Reminder: existing contracts can renew and adjust their conservation plans through September 12, 2014. More information is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/news/in/newsroom/releases/>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - In Indiana, we currently have \$14.5 million dollars for 598 approved applications. Indiana has an additional 286 applications pre-approved for \$4.3 million dollars. As soon as selections have been made, funded participants will be notified.

Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Indiana has received its FY-2014 allocation, \$2.6 million. We currently have 24 applications (over \$4 million in funds possible). With the allocation, we can possibly fund seven or eight applications.

A meeting will be held on September 24 at the Indiana NRCS State Office from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. This meeting will focus on opportunities available for conservation and agricultural organizations through the new 2014 Farm Bill, specifically Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs (ACEP). Land trusts and other groups are the target audience. A webinar option will be offered. Contact the field office for more information.

Our two biggest priorities for outreach are with ACEPs' Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) program and with CSP. We could use SWCDs in promoting these programs.

Conservation Compliance

The 2014 Farm Bill re-linked the highly erodible land conservation and wetlands conservation provisions to crop insurance premium subsidies, recognizing the benefits to soil and water conservation. RMA, NRCS, and FSA are working together to provide clear and consistent guidance on the implementation of this Farm Bill provision.

To maintain eligibility for federal crop insurance premium support, producers need to file a conservation compliance certification (Form AD-1026) with FSA. Producers need to have this certification complete by June 1, 2015, to be eligible for premium subsidy during the 2016 reinsurance year, which begins July, 1, 2015.

Safeguards are in place to give beginning farmers/ranchers adequate time after sales closing dates to go to FSA and certify compliance. Producers who do not comply with the provisions can still purchase crop insurance, but they will no longer be eligible to receive the government paid premium subsidies.

- Conservation compliance requires producers to have a conservation plan approved by NRCS if they plant annually tilled crops on highly erodible soil and prohibits producers from planting on converted wetlands or converting wetlands for crop production.

- In addition to identifying crop insurance premium subsidy as a covered benefit, the Farm Bill provides special timelines, priority for technical assistance and mitigation authority to help certain producers meet the new requirements.
- Producers who convert a wetland after enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill (Feb. 7, 2014) risk losing their eligibility for crop insurance premium subsidy. This can also affect eligibility for other USDA programs, consistent with the continuing conservation compliance requirements in effect prior to the 2014 Farm Bill.
- Producers not in compliance can still purchase crop insurance, but they will not be eligible to receive the government paid premium subsidy.
- Some mitigation options are available for producers who wish to convert wetlands for agricultural commodity production purposes.
- Producers subject to conservation compliance for the first time because of crop insurance recoupling will receive priority for technical assistance when needed.
- Producers only complete the AD-1026 once, unless there are operational changes or activities that may affect compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.
- In fall 2014, USDA will publish a conservation compliance interim final rule that will provide details on the new conservation compliance requirements and exemptions as it relates to eligibility for crop insurance premium subsidy.

Lake Erie Issues

You have all heard about the scare with the drinking water in Toledo earlier in August. We are currently putting together a communications plan with Ohio and Michigan to continue to communicate with farmers, media, partners, and employees.

As background, NRCS provides financial assistance payments to eligible producers through targeted funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) with EQIP dollars and also through the statewide general EQIP. Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, NRCS has provided almost \$46 million in assistance to agricultural producers to implement new conservation systems on over 1.8 million acres in Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Watershed in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

Of this significant investment in conservation in the watershed, over 550,000 acres of these newly added conservation systems are specifically designed to reduce nutrients and sediment leaving farmers' fields. NRCS estimates that through these newly installed conservation activities, farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed have reduced annual nutrient and sediment losses from their fields by approximately 6 million pounds of nitrogen, 1 million pounds of phosphorous, and 400,000 tons of sediment. There are many monitoring efforts going on across the Basin that we hope will lead to a better understanding of the issue.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Targeted EQIP in the WLEB was established in 2010, provides a way for NRCS to focus on conservation that improves natural resources in the Great Lakes watershed. Indiana NRCS has strategically targeted conservation assistance to portions of the Lake Erie watershed, so agricultural producers have a better chance of receiving financial and technical help from NRCS to plan and adopt best management practices (BMPs). The landowners and farmers participating in the initiative will receive conservation payments to work on the land in a sustainable way which provides cleaner water. In addition to the financial assistance, the land will remain productive into the future. Communities benefit by having clean waterways, safer drinking water.

Indiana Phosphorus Initiative –We will be working in the St. Marys and Upper Maumee watersheds located in Allen, Adams and Wells counties to increase conservation assistance to reduce phosphorus run-off. Additional funding for conservation practices will be available in these areas beginning in 2015. USGS will be conducting water quality monitoring at the watershed and edge-of-field scales to track changes in water quality as a result of increased conservation efforts. Purdue University will also be conducting a social indicators project to help identify barriers to conservation adoption in the area, so NRCS and partners can focus the programs to meet the needs of this targeted area.

A partner meeting will be held on September 15 in Northeast Indiana to discuss current and planned WLEB outreach, technical assistance and funding, plus any gaps or other coordination opportunities. SWCDs, ISDA, IDEM, IDNR, TNC, and ARS have been invited to attend.

Earth Team Volunteer Program

Just a reminder – the end of the fiscal year is coming up very fast and all volunteer time for FY 2014 must be submitted to your Area Coordinator by October 1, 2014 (unless otherwise specified by your Area Coordinator). Remember you can include volunteers from field days, fairs, local working groups, etc. Don't forget associate supervisors, family members and friends. If you have questions about the hours you can submit, please contact your Area or State Coordinator (Kris Vance: kris.vance@in.usda.gov)