

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

February 17, 2015

The Nature Conservancy

620 E Ohio St

Indianapolis, IN

- I. 1:30PM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of October 2014**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants – Leah Harmon
  - b. Clean Water Indiana Budget Update- Jordan Seger
  - c. IASWCD Resolution
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
  - a. SSCB Chairman’s Report-Scott Ham
    - a. Round table discussion
    - b. Annual conferences
    - c. CCSI
  - b. SSCB Business Plan
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - a. Approval of Appointed Supervisors
- VI. ISDA Updates**
  - a. Director’s Report- Jordan Seger
  - b. Technical Report- George Reger
  - c. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
  - d. Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst
  - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
  - f. Water Quality and CREP-Logan Garner
- VII. Conservation Partner Reports**
  - a. IASWCD Report
  - b. IDEM Report
  - c. DNR Report
  - d. Purdue Report
  - e. FSA Report
  - f. NRCS Report
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Next Meeting:**
  - 2015 Meeting Dates**
  - March 11, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis
  - May 12, Lake Maxinkuckee Depot, Culver, Indiana
  - July 14, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis
  - September 15, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis
  - October 27, Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Pike County
- X. 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.

DRAFT

## State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan

2010-2015

Rev 1/8/12

Rev 3/6/13

Rev 1/6/14

**The mission of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB)** is to provide information, advice and consultation to soil and water conservation district supervisors to assist them in carrying out their powers and programs.

*Key Actions/Progress:* The SSCB will also provide policy and funding direction to the Indiana Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC) on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana Program (CWI), to help address statewide natural resource concerns **as identified in local soil and water conservation district business plans.**

**The SSCB has identified the following as statewide priority natural resource concerns** to be addressed over the next five years:

- o **Soil Quality Degradation/Soil Health** 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.
- o **Water Quality Impairments** including sediment, nutrients, pesticides, *E-coli* and other non-point sources of water pollution found in our streams, rivers and lakes.
- o **Other soil and water related natural resources concerns** including forest lands, wildlife habitat areas, pasture and forage lands and air quality.

### **Priority Watersheds:**

There are geographical areas within all watersheds of Indiana that have critical natural resource concerns related to soil and water conservation. The SSCB will work with the ISDA-DSC, districts and all partners to address these concerns. However, the SSCB will give special attention and assistance to initiatives in the following priority watersheds:

- o **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.**

The SSCB will continue to support the existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in these watersheds.

- o **Wabash River Watershed**

In a special effort to help address the national concern about nutrient loading which are causing the hypoxia problems in the Gulf of Mexico, the SSCB will continue to assist in the implementation of CREP in the Wabash River Watershed. The SSCB will also continue to assist USDA with the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) which includes a portion of the Wabash River Basin in Indiana.

- o **Western Lake Erie Basin**

We will continue to assist the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership and our conservation partners in Indiana with efforts to reduce sediment and nutrients entering the Maumee River and ultimately the western basin of Lake Erie. Sediment in the mouth of the Maumee River must be removed at a high cost every year to keep the Port of Toledo open to shipping (including grains). Nutrient reductions especially reduction of dissolved

reactive phosphorus loading into the lake is needed in order to reduce blue-green algal blooms in Lake Erie. Several districts and partners will be utilizing special funding available under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to implement projects that will reduce sediment and nutrient runoff from entering the bay from Indiana.

o **Other Watersheds**

Iroquois Watershed

Ohio River Basin

We will continue to monitor other watersheds across the State of Indiana for future inclusion into SSCB priority watersheds.

In a strategic effort to address the top three resource concerns identified above, the SSCB has developed the following goals and strategies. These goals and strategies are consistent with the board's general authority and duties outlined in the District Law as well as its specific authority to provide direction to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana Program:

o **By 2011 work with IN Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and other water quality monitoring agencies and organizations, as well as the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to share baseline data of current pollution load conditions.**

Share data with Districts to help them identify priority areas. **On-going**

Help to gauge the environmental impact of soil and water conservation efforts. **On-going**

IDEM is a regularly contributing agency within the Indiana Conservation Partnership therefore the SSCB and ISDA interact with them regularly.

The Division of Soil Conservation along with IDEM has been developing the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy. As part of this effort, we are gaining a better understanding of trends and watershed treatment priorities through study of models and communication with USGS.

The Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a living document, which will continue to be updated by partners.

o **By 2012 have a tracking tool/model in place for measuring load reductions as practices and technologies are applied on the land. Complete**

Work with the ISDA-DSC to establish mechanism for tracking load reductions.

Strongly encourage the ISDA-DSC to have all their technical staff using the reduction tracking tool. All ISDA Staff and SWCD technicians are reporting practices implemented via SharePoint along with estimated load reductions.

Require districts to use the same tracking tool for reporting practices applied with CWI grant funding assistance.

All districts that have received 2012 or 2013 CWI Multi-District Watershed Project Grants are now required to report the practices implemented via SharePoint and with the help of ISDA Technical Staff also estimate and report load reductions.

Encourage districts and other partners to use the reduction measuring tool for practices and technologies applied with assistance from other programs.

We now have a model in place to estimate load reductions within the CREP watersheds and this expands our ability to communicate bmp effectiveness.

*For example: CREP has contributed (on average) to the estimated reduction of sediments by 8 Million pounds/year, and nitrogen – 13,000 pounds/year, and phosphorus – 6,000 pounds/year (estimated assumption... this equates to potentially 2 Million pounds of algae that did not form/or over 65 tri-axle dump truck loads of algae).*

**o By 2012 provide districts with a standardized reporting procedure for reporting income and expenses, accomplishments, federal, state and local dollars leveraged as well as state and district program needs for the coming year.**

ICP accomplishments report used to highlight district success stories along with state and federal funding received in each district.

All districts entering annual financial report through new State Board of Accounts Gateway web based reporting system. **Additionally, districts are submitting the Annual Financial Report to the State Soil Conservation Board.**

**o By 2012 the State Soil Conservation Board and ISDA-DSC staff will work with the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) and other Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) partners in developing a reporting format.**

SSCB will annually provide a consolidated report to the general assembly including program and funding needs.

25% complete thru SharePoint tracking system. Need to move this into generating a report.

A report on CWI Grant accomplishments for 2011 was prepared by ISDA-DSC and sent to legislators by IASWCD.

**ISDA-DSC will send 2013 annual report to general assembly.**

**o By 2013 there will be a measurable increase in the number of district supervisors actively engaged in district program planning and development, community outreach, local, state and federal conservation policy and legislative affairs.**

Continue to support the Leadership Institute four Corners of Leadership Workshops series.

Work with the Leadership Institute Program Committee and the ICP Leadership Development Workgroup to identify additional training needs and assist with implementing additional training based on needs identified and prioritized.

Continue to work with the ICP Leaders to develop and implement the draft 5 Star Program proposed by the ICP Leadership Workgroup.

Develop a scorecard for recognizing districts that increase their local program capacity, accomplishments and accountability, and in turn incrementally increase their state match over and above the \$10,000 currently provided for operations based on their scorecard results.

Three Leadership Workshops held in 2011; twenty graduates in 2011

**Two workshops held in 2012; five graduates in 2012**

**Two workshops held in 2013. One cancelled.**

**Seven graduates in 2013.**

5 Star Program/Scorecard on hold until Task Force completes their information gathering and recommendations and the SSCB determine its specific actions to take on the Task Force Report.

**The board will look into the IDEM capacity program and explore alternatives.**

Deadline Verification Tool implemented in 2013. Districts must meet minimum requirements as defined by Indiana Code and grant guidelines in order to receive competitive grants and training reimbursements.

**o By 2014 there will be a measurable increase in the number of districts employing district staff with skills in program development and revenue enhancement (ie; grant writing and project management), adult education, technical assistance, marketing and public relations**

Provide special training targeted to the training needs of district program managers. Work with the ICP to continue to develop and implement the technical training program initiated by ISDA-DSC with assistance from Ray Ledgerwood in 2009. This training program will be based on the plan laid out in the timeline developed in our ICP planning meeting and subsequently developed "white paper" developed by a sub-committee for this initiative.

Pursue opportunities for joint training with partners as well as opportunities to utilize trainers from other partners and states.

Investigate and evaluate training programs already in place in other states that could be modified for use in Indiana.

Provide CWI incentive grants to districts for the purpose of developing or adding staff capacity for program development, revenue enhancement, etc. if funds are available.

Offer specific CWI incentive grants to limited resource districts willing to share program development and/or technical staff if funds are available.

Skill Inventory and Training Needs Inventory requested of all Technical Staff in 2011 and again in 2013 for new employees.

Program Coordinator contracted by the partnership in 2012 to promote and manage the Professional Training and Certification Program.

Technical Review Board (TeRBo) continues to work on trainings offered to ICP. The SSCB committed \$25,000 in 2013 to support this effort.

**o By 2015 there will be a measurable increase in the number of joint sediment and nutrient reduction projects among districts.**

Offer specific CWI grants for joint district projects targeted at sediment and nutrient reduction if funds are available.

The SSCB has been offering CWI Multi-District Watershed Project Grants since the pilot grants were offered in 2011.

The SSCB approved 5 multi-district watershed project grants in 2011, 17 in 2012 and 9 in 2013 for a total of 31 to date.

**o Work with ISDA-DSC, IASWCD, and local districts to increase in the number of cooperative conservation projects with non-governmental organization and private industry.**

Several districts have active projects underway in cooperation with non-government organizations. In addition many districts receive great support from private industry sources to help cover costs of workshops, field days and other educational events.

The SSCB has places some priority on grant applications that outline planned participation in their watershed projects by many partners, especially non-traditional partners when selecting CWI grant recipients.

Continue to support the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI).

The SSCB has provided \$554,000 of CWI funds through a contract with IASWCD support the CCSI since it began in 2011.

SSCB will review and consider future of funding of CCSI.

**o Explore opportunities to work with Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and private sector to help promote agronomic conservation practices and technologies.**

Provide opportunities for division employees to increase their proficiency and assistance in promoting agronomic conservation practices and technologies.

Division staff are attending trainings and gaining proficiency.

Several active CWI funded watershed projects involve active participation by Certified Crop Advisors.

**o By 2015, SWCD's with limited resources are actively pursuing the benefits of and opportunities to consolidate.**

Provide education to districts regarding benefits and opportunities of merging.

Provide special CWI incentive grants to limited resource districts that are willing to merge to increase program capacity and effectiveness. Consider offering an incentive of two times the current state match for each of the merged districts for first year and then 1 ½ times the combined matching grant each year thereafter if funds are available. SWCD Coordination Task Force has been formed to address this goal.

**One of the three recommended options that came out of the Conservation Beyond 2016 Task Force Report for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation districts in delivering conservation programs locally was consolidation of ICP partners including districts based on a watershed or multi-district structure. No action has been taken by the SSCB to date relative to the strategy above to offer an incentive to limited resources districts that are willing to merge.**

In 2013, a subcommittee was put together to develop a set of recommendations to the SSCB to move forward with new conservation delivery models. The SSCB approved two pilot project options.

1. Concentrated District Support Specialist
2. Executive Director

Districts may apply for one of these options to test a new delivery model in February 2014.

**o By 2015 annually increase federal leveraged funds by an average of 5% per year for conservation implementation in the state**

Continue to commit state matching dollars for CREP from CWI funds. (On-going)

Continue to work with the partners to leverage federal funding from all federal sources. (On-going)

Work with our partners to develop a strategic plan to expand CREP to other areas of the state.

Work with the ICP and other traditional and non-traditional partners to enroll 26,250 acres into CREP.

A total of 8,150 acres has been enrolled in CREP as of October, 2013 with a little over \$1.7 CWI matching funds invested in 874 contracts with landowners/operators.

ISDA and FSA are working together to develop a targeted, watershed approach for advertizing and marketing of the program.

o **Key actions for 2014 to make progress in implementing each the goals**

- Continue to solidify partnership.
- Make a concerted effort to help IDEM and DNR become fully vested partners in the ICP.
- Meet with top leadership of ISDA and other state government officials as appropriate to discuss district needs and Clean Water Indiana funding.
- **Support the division in maintaining staff to provide district assistance.**
- Initiate discussions with IDEM and ISDH about septic issues.
- Continue to improve communication with districts by occasionally holding board meeting out in the regions areas of the state and by the use of the ISDA-DSC websites, partner newsletters, webinars, etc.
- **ISDA and SSCB will utilize SharePoint to foster open communications.**
- Pursue opportunities to meet with other state and local government organizations and agencies and others dealing with soil and water issues.
- Continue to encourage Supervisor led group/committee to explore consolidation
- Need legislative changes. Agree to do investigation.
- **Identify funding priorities.**

o **Desired Outcomes for the State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan**

- Clean drinking water
- Clean rivers, lakes and streams
- More productive soils
- Enhanced quality of life
- Increased cooperation with partnership
- Improved soil and water quality
- Districts have increased capacity to deliver conservation programs locally
- Stronger state economy
- Expanded partnerships and conservation partners\  
- **Soil Health**

## **ISDA-District Support Specialists Team Activity Report (October 15, 2014 – February 6, 2015)**

### **Major Activities or Events:**

- Leadership Institute: Conflict- 28 participants attended November's workshop (6 SWCD supervisors/17 staff)
- DSSs completed their 2015 Annual Plan of Work
- Planning is underway with IASWCD for four SWCD March region meetings
- Assistance with updating Business Plans and or Annual Plans of Work: DeKalb, Dubois, Fayette, Lake, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Wabash, and Wells counties
- DSSs assisted with IASWCD Fall Region Meetings held in Dubois, Owen, Ripley, Scott, Tippecanoe counties
- All DSSs attended IASWCD Annual Conference and served as session moderators. Tara, Geneva, and Leah led a training session for new supervisor and staff. Laura presented on the ICP Training and Certification Program. The Conference was also a great time to network with SWCD Supervisors and Staff.
- DSSs have been assisting counties statewide with Tillage Transect questions, data sheets, compilations, etc. They've also assisted in the field in Cass, Crawford, and Tipton Counties.
- SWCD Region meetings: Jennifer hosted one in the SNE, Geneva in the NW, and Tara in the CSE
- Laura instructed at an Advanced SharePoint training hosted by SSE IDEA

### **Ongoing Key Support:**

- SSCB Scholarship and Sponsorship (training cost share) program and CWI Grants: DSSs continue to support SWCDs and the SSCB on various tasks and needs related to these programs. Leah has also created a FAQ sheet for 2015 CWI grant recipients, as well as individual flyers for each grant summarizing the project.
- DSSs are assisting SWCDs with Annual Financial Reports and Gateway responsibilities
- DSSs have attended SWCD Annual Meetings in the following counties and presented and/or assisted upon request: Bartholomew, Clark, Fayette, Floyd, Harrison, Johnson, Montgomery, Morgan, Putnam, Randolph, Scott, Warrick, & Wayne counties
- DSSs have attended 58 SWCD Board meetings and assisted with various topics in the following counties: Allen, Boone, Cass, Clark, Clinton, Crawford, Dearborn, DeKalb, Dubois, Elkhart, Fayette, Floyd, Fountain, Franklin, Fulton, Grant, Greene, Hancock, Hamilton, Harrison, Hendricks, Howard, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, LaGrange, Orange, Marion, Martin, Miami, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Owen, Porter, Posey, Scott, Shelby, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Union, Warren, Washington, and Wells
- SWCD Staff visits: DSSs visited staff and provided training, assistance with various projects or tasks, and provided guidance in the following counties: Blackford, Brown, Clark, Clay, Daviess, DeKalb, Elkhart, Floyd, Fountain, Franklin, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Hamilton, Harrison, Hendricks, Huntington, Jackson, Jay, Jennings, Johnson, Kosciusko, Lawrence, Marion, Miami, Monroe, Newton, Ohio, Owen, Parke, Pike, Posey, Pulaski, Putnam, Ripley, Steuben, Sullivan, Switzerland, Vanderburgh, Wabash, Warrick, Washington
- New staff training was provided in the following counties: Orange, Pulaski, St Joseph
- SWCD Supervisor visits: Geneva visited with supervisors in Tippecanoe Co
- DSSs attended events, field days, workshops, or Partnership meetings where they were also able to interact with the following Districts: Bartholomew, Boone, Crawford, Decatur, Fayette, Hamilton, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, LaGrange, Lake, Morgan, Parke, Putnam, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Washington, Wayne, Wells
- Watershed Committees: DSSs participated in meetings in the following counties: Benton, Delaware, Hancock

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

- Jennifer: Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo, River Summit, Conflict Leadership Institute, planning and zoning, Western Lake Erie Basin, 4R Nutrient Stewardship, Fort Wayne Farm Show , RCPP

- Laura: Vincennes University Land Stewardship Initiative, Regional Soil Health Workshop (Washington Co), ICP Training and Certification Program, CCSI, Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy
- Tara: Water Quality Trading, CCSI, Conflict Leadership Institute
- Geneva: CCSI, SSCB duties, Tillage Transect
- Nathan: Pathway to Water Quality

#### **Other Key Items:**

- Four more CWI audits were completed by DSSs
- Leadership Institute: the February on Communications was cancelled due to lack of registrations. Instead, it has been rescheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> as a one day workshop

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- March SWCD evening region meetings: March 3 (North Vernon), March 17 (Delphi), March 19 (Washington), & March 25 (Columbia City). Presentations include IN's Nutrient Reduction Strategy, and Pathway to Water Quality. There will be three breakout sessions, including training for New Supervisors and Staff.

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

#### **CWI Audit Report 2014**

In 2014 the DSS team completed 10 CWI grant audits. Grants audited were chosen from active 2012, 2013, and 2014 grants, as well as one 2011 grant which had recently closed. Overall these grant audits were successful, and grantees were up to date in reporting. In talk with the Lieutenant Governor's Office Grant Services Division, they are very happy that we are conducting audits and suggest that we should continue with our process. They suggested some tweaks to our audit for which we have incorporated. The DSS team plans to do 10 audits in 2015, focusing on 2012-2014 grant years. Some lessons learned from 2014 CWI audits:

- Grantees should set internal policies for distributing funds and make sure each district allocates its funds in a timeline that is best for all participating districts. These internal policies should include a date of when funds go back to the general pool so that districts with higher demands can use them.
- Grants that we choose to audit should be at least 50% complete as it is difficult to show progress in a cover crop grant before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- Because we can audit up to 3 years after the end of the grant, it may be helpful to audit grants that are recently closed, where districts have just received a new grant. (Audit 2012 grants for recipients of 2015 grants)
- Turnover in staff makes reporting a challenge. Districts should try to update SharePoint more frequently than once per year.
- In Kind Matching from districts should typically go in professional assistance, not cost-share. These in kind matches should be tracked on an excel sheet and sent to DSS.

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

Three Conservation Selling Skills Workshops were held. 107 copies each of Sally Weeks' *"Shrubs and Woody Vines of Indiana and the Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use"* and *"Native Trees of the Midwest"* were purchased. Grant is now complete. Thank you SSCB for the funding!



# State Soil Conservation Board

February 17, 2015

Accountability and Technology



## Program Updates

### **2014 Conservation Accomplishments**

NRCS provided their 2014 practices to DSC in January. Region 5 Model compatible practices were filtered by county from the master dataset and uploaded to SharePoint. DSC field staff are currently working on the Region 5 Model analyses with a target completion date of mid-March. There are a total of 10,487 practices to analyze compared to 13,713 in 2013.

IDEM reported they are experiencing issues with the federal GRTS database. As soon as the issues are resolved they too will be providing their 2014 Section 319 practices. LARE did not require WLT practice installation reports until the 2015 grant round, thus they provided a partial list of 2014 practices.

Currently, all of the partner’s practice data is being aggregated by county into a spreadsheet. Once completed, the 2014 Conservation Accomplishments map will be created featuring the total amount of practices installed in each county.

The nutrient load reduction maps will be created the latter part of March or first of April, along with the 2014 ICP Conservation Accomplishments Report and 2014 ICP Nutrient Load Reductions poster.

### **2014 Division KPI and Performance Measures**

KPI			2013	2014
	Yellow Target	Green Target		
Top soil stabilization, prevention of sediment from entering waters of the State	252,000,000	280,000,000	283,560,000	198,808,000
<b>Program Measures</b>				
Nitrogen reduced from entering waters of the State	262,350	291,500	302,008	219,803
Phosphorus reduced from entering waters of the State	132,264	146,960	152,633	108,995
Number of soil and water conservation practices installed	450	500	731	571
Number of newly enrolled acres in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	2,428	2,698	541	727
Number of acres in On Farm Network	39,600	44,000	42,630	50,540

### **2014 DSC and CWI Impact**

Maps were generated from data entered into SharePoint’s DSC Event Tracking, District Capacity and Conservation Project Tracking databases.

**Clean Water Indiana:** In 2014, a total of 545 CWI practices were installed by SWCD technicians and Division Resource Specialists.

**District Capacity:** In 2014, the District Support Specialists visited a total of 92 counties. Their District capacity events totaled 716 and impacted 19,268 people including SWCD supervisors and staff, Indiana Conservation Partners, and the general public.

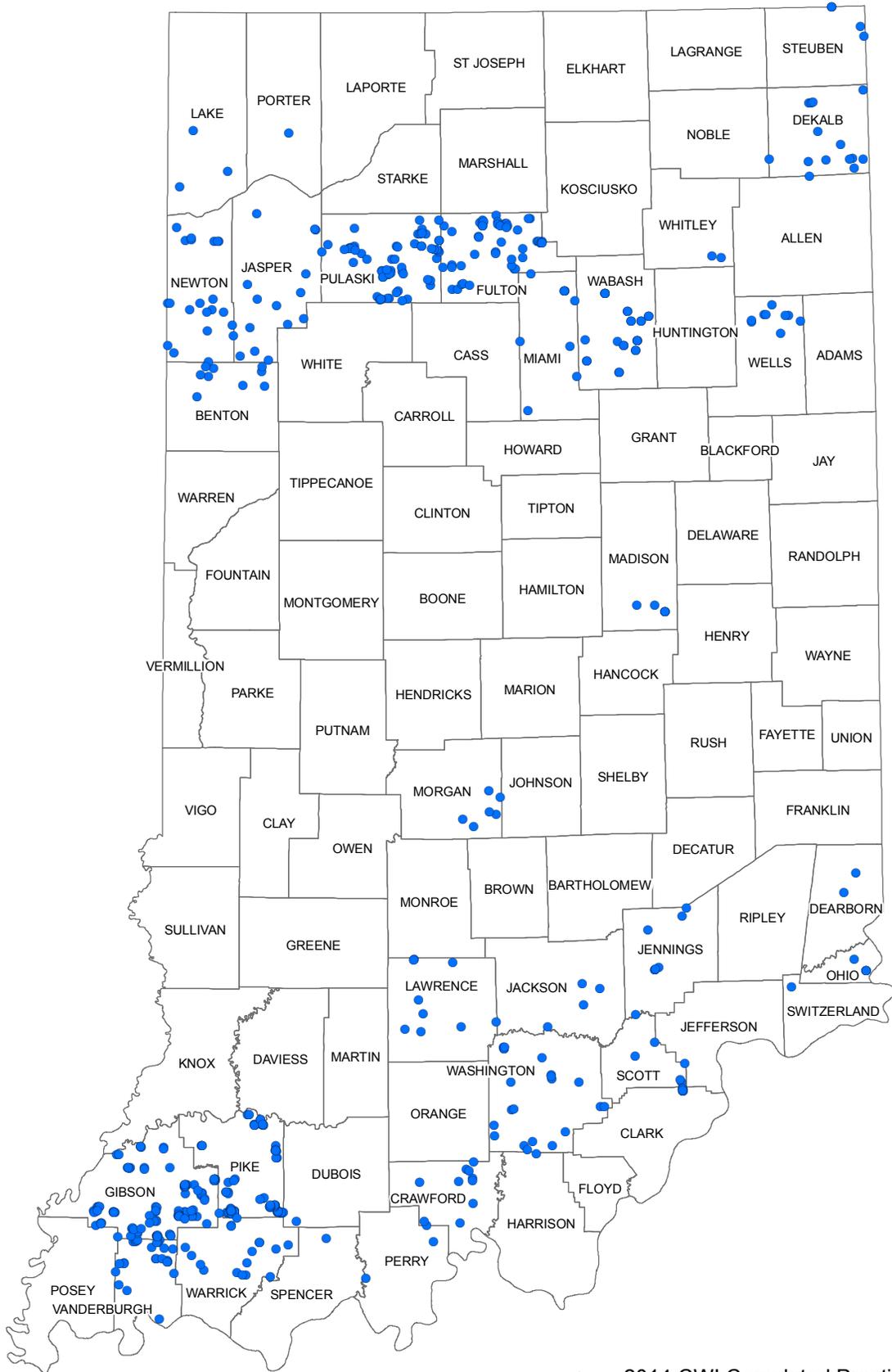
**Field Staff Events:** In 2014, The Division of Soil Conservation field staff visited a total of 85 counties. They attended 829 events impacting a total of 51,662 people including SWCD supervisors and staff, Indiana Conservation Partners, and the general public.

## **Upcoming Initiatives**

### ***ICP Accomplishments Web Application***

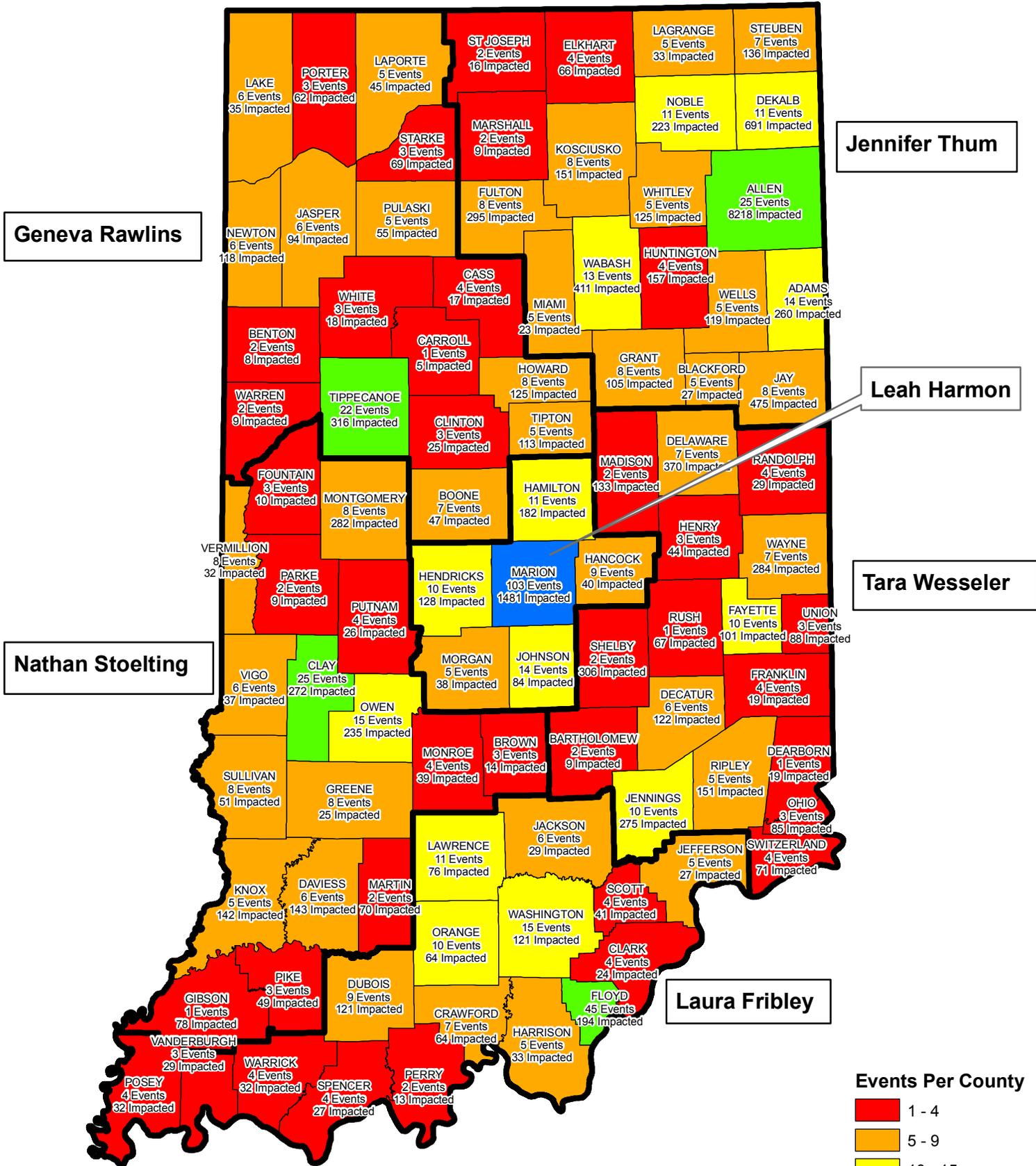
IN.gov recently upgraded the WebCMS software which is used by Districts to upload their success stories and photos to the ICP Accomplishments web application. As a result of the upgrade, no one can log into WebCMS with their current username and password. Numerous conversations have occurred with IN.gov developers who hope to have the issue corrected by the first of March. In the meantime, a new WebCMS11 tutorial was created and the DSSs will be trained on February 19. In March and April, partners will be contacted requesting a breakdown of program dollars invested in each county. Also, IN.gov will update the web application to include the 2014 county web pages. It is hoped that the SWCDs will be able to begin entering their 2014 success stories in April.

# 2014 Clean Water Indiana Completed Practices



● 2014 CWI Completed Practices (545)

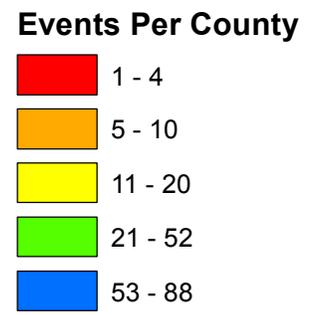
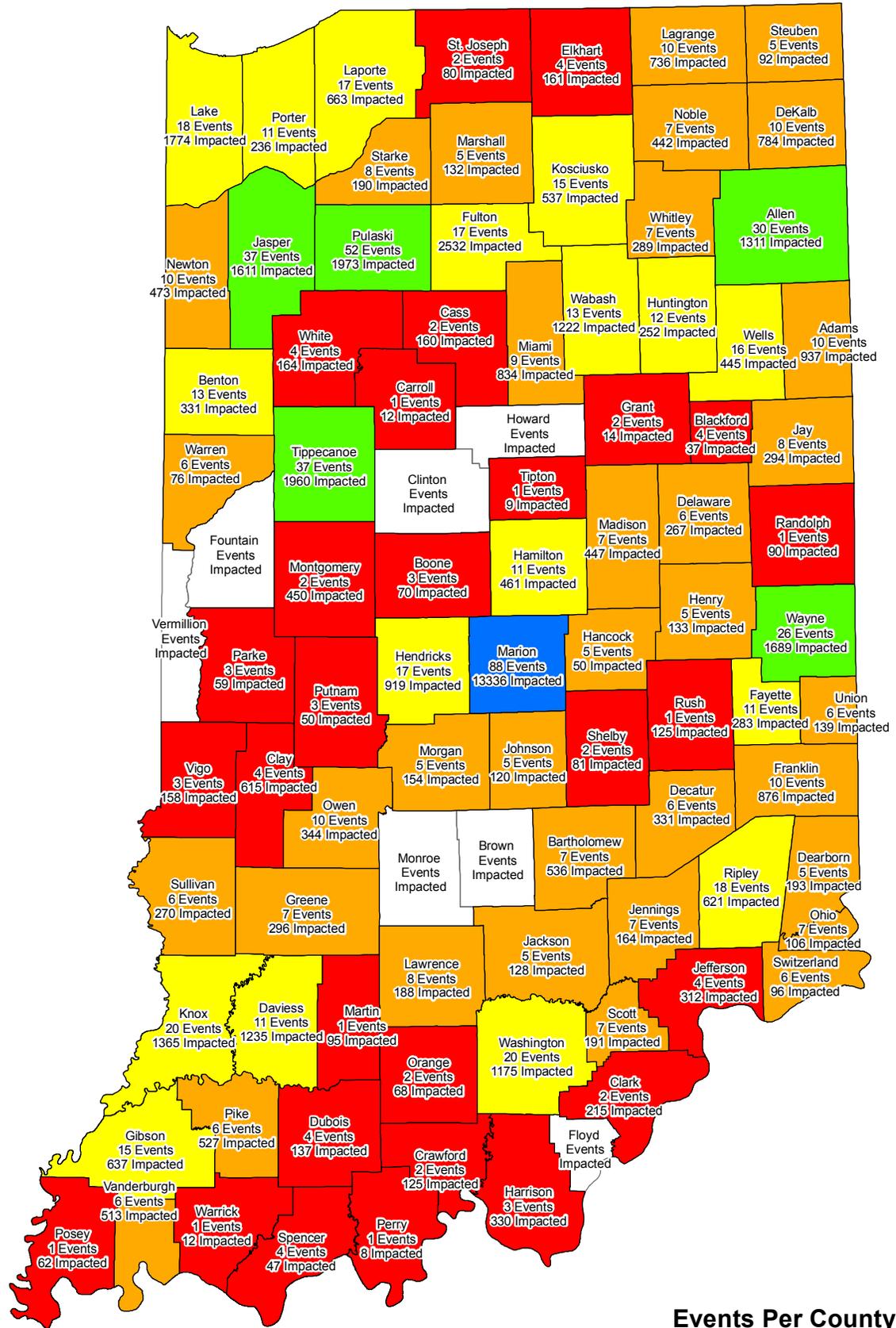
# 2014 District Capacity



The District Support Specialists visited a total of 92 counties from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Their District Capacity events totaled 716 and impacted 19,268 people including SWCD supervisors and staff, Indiana Conservation Partners, and the general public.

# ISDA Division of Soil Conservation

## Field Staff Events - January 1 thru December 31, 2014



The Division of Soil Conservation field staff visited a total of 85 counties from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. They attended 829 events impacting a total of 51,662 people including SWCD supervisors and staff, Indiana Conservation Partners, and the general public.



# State Soil Conservation Board

February 17, 2015  
DSC Technical Assistance Report

## Field Staff Activities

*January 1, 2015 – February 2, 2015*

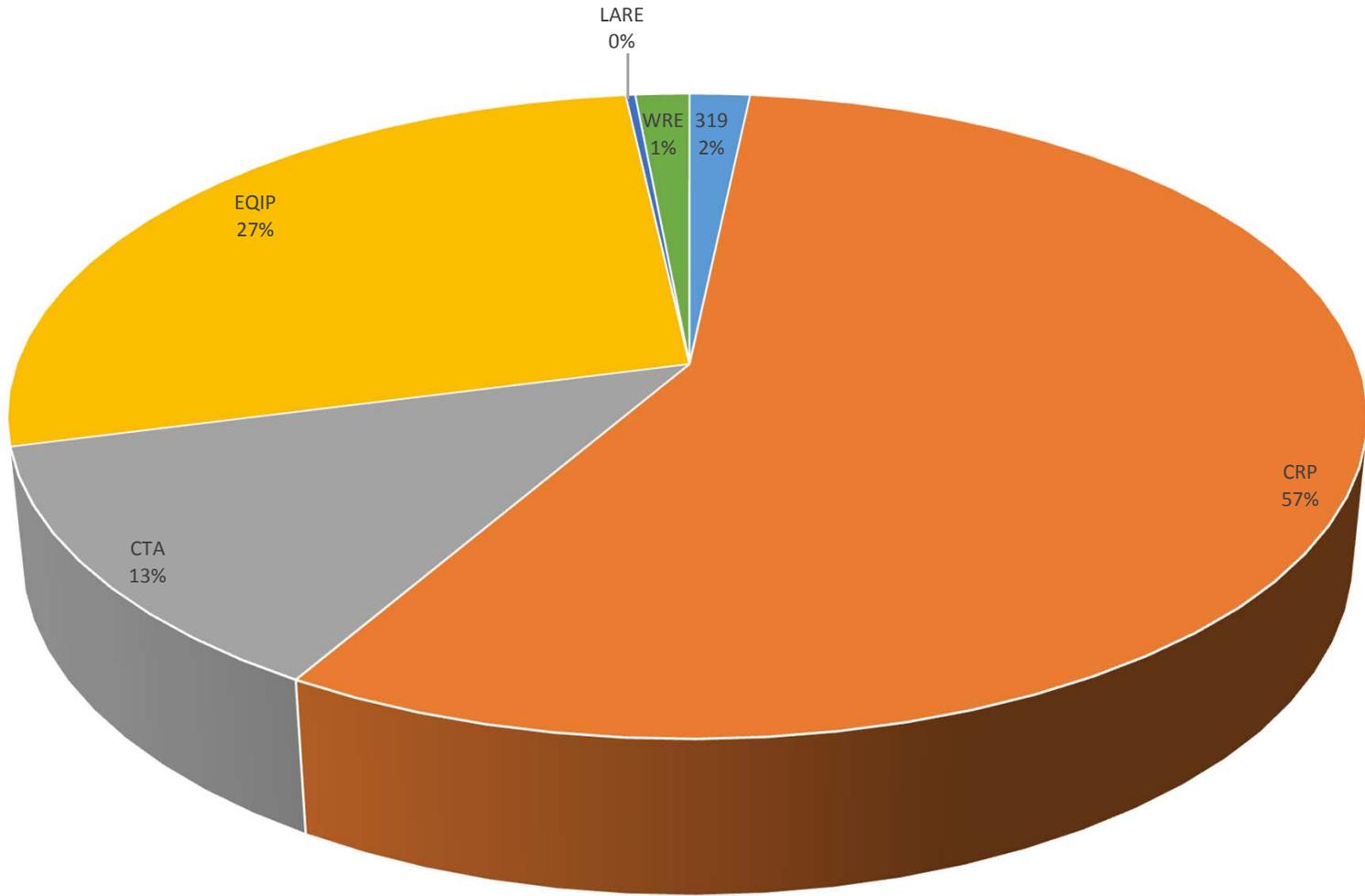
<b>Resource Specialist Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
SWCD Board Meetings	35
ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars, etc.	65
Field Days	0
Training	23
Conservation Planning	73
Survey, Design and Inspections	123
Construction	0
Public Interaction	3,672
CREP – Met with Landowners	13

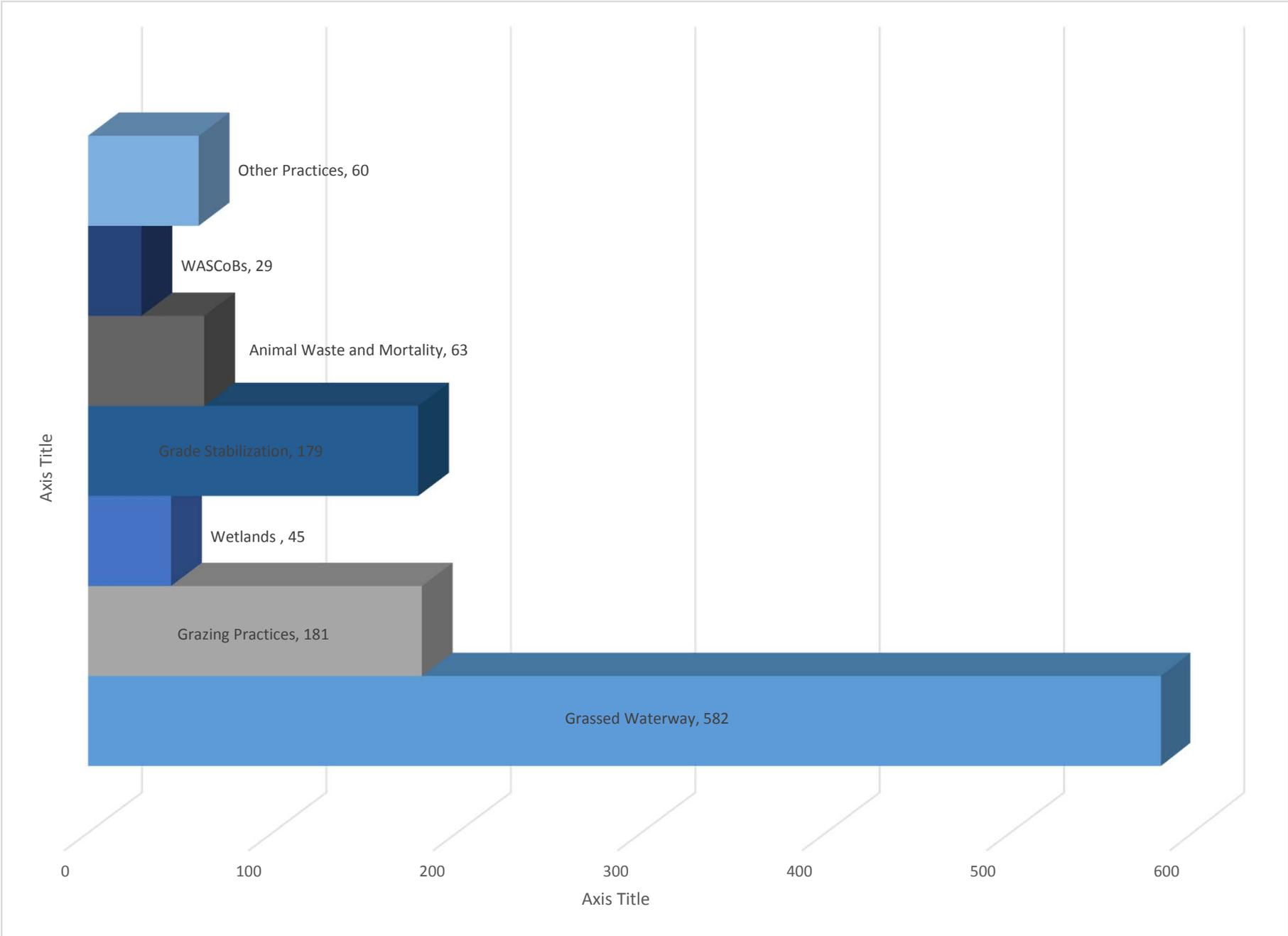
## DSC Conservation Workload

*January 1, 2015 – February 10, 2015*

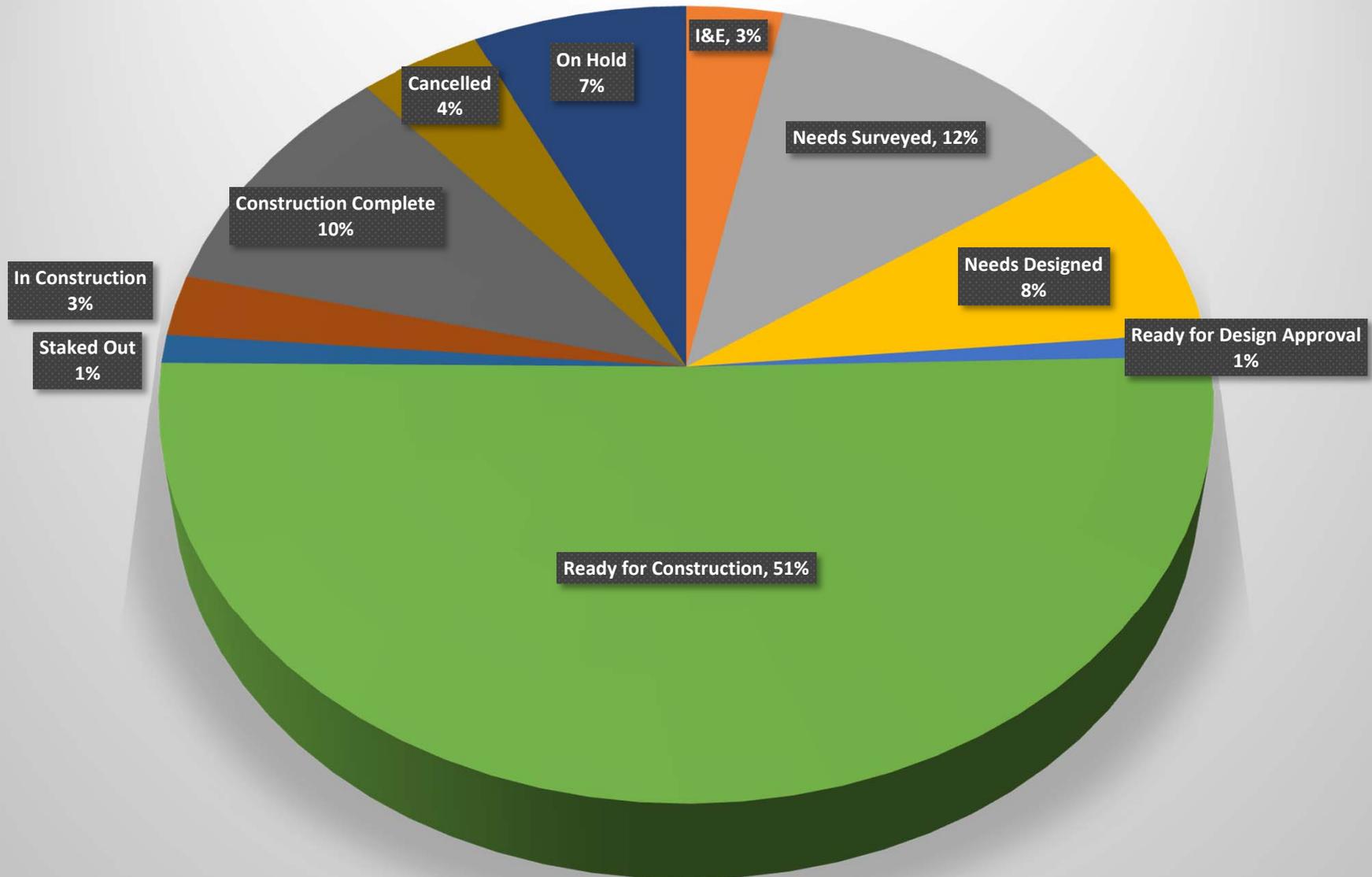
<b>Action</b>	<b>Currently Reported</b>
Technical Assistance	82
Practices Underway	63
Completed Practices	13
Practice Acres	727
Practice Feet	1,550
Field Acres	969
Nitrogen Reduction	2,240 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	1,122 lbs.
Sediment Reduction	839 tons
Total Watersheds (HUC8) Impacted	15

# Program Assistance in the Northwest





# NORTHWEST PROJECT STATUS



## **State Soil Conservation Board Meeting**

**2/17/2015**

### **Water Quality Initiatives Update**

#### **State Nutrient Reduction Strategy**

- Watershed Prioritization for ICP consideration
  - 303-D listing
  - Region 5 Model impacts
  - NRCS Soil Risk Assessments
  - Other...

#### **EPA Region 5 Nutrient Reduction Model**

- Updates from EPA to model
  - Urban practices, Marion Co. SWCD
- Speaking engagements to share ICP conservation impact
  - SWCD regional meetings
  - Red Gold grower meetings
  - INLakes Management Conference

#### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**

- Due to the success of the program the last two years, we are considering moving the funding scheme from a watershed-based designation to a single large pot. This will avoid build-up of balances in less active watersheds so that more active watersheds can utilize funding, and will simplify the overall process of paying out invoices when a watershed has more interest in the program than their balance allows. Upshot:
  - No need to gather annual funding extension requests from all watersheds; funds are available to all until they are gone
  - No approval processes for moving funds (re-designating needs approval before any invoice approvals can take place)
  - Simpler for legal counsel to update and process contracts

#### **Hypoxia Task Force**

- HTF Report to Congress update...



# State Soil Conservation Board

February 17, 2015

Agricultural and Environmental Affairs Program Manager



## Program Updates

### ➤ On Farm Network

- The final report to USDA, closing the OFN CIG grant, was submitted in December 2014. The stated goal of the original grant proposal was to engage about 50 growers in three HUC 8 watersheds. In 2014, our last year under the grant, OFN had over 250 participants in more than 20 HUC 8 watersheds.
- The OFN 2014 Winter Grower Meetings started on December 18 and will continue through March 12. Hans Kok and Dan Towery are acting as meeting facilitators.
- In November and December I presented information about OFN at the IASWCD Regional Meetings.
- In November, Jordan and I met with representatives of Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance as well as some of the OFN group leaders to rebrand OFN as we move forward. The rebranding will give the program a stronger Indiana character. The rebranding was lead by McCormick Company and funded by ICMC/ISA. The program's new name, INfield Advantage, and look will be announced at the Indiana Ag Forum on March 16.
- Working with ICMC/ISA, ISDA has been organizing an INFA Advisory Council to help shape the future of the program.
- INFA in 2015 will be funded by ICMC/ISA Checkoff Funds. Based on our 2015 budget and the average size of our existing groups, INFA will be adding local groups in the following counties: Adams, Benton, Blackford, Hendricks, Jackson, Jay, LaPorte, Martin, Morgan, Orange, Owen, Perry, Spencer, Washington, Wells and White. Some groups will cover multiple counties and others are expansions of existing groups.
- I will be speaking about Indiana On Farm Network Program at the Iowa Soybean Association's Annual Research Conference on February 19, 2015.

### ➤ Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Program

- I'm preparing for the 2015 award program by updating the application forms and coordinating with Logan Garner and Julie Harrold for ISDA to present at their spring grower contract meetings about the Region 5 model.

### ➤ Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- Participated in the weekly regional HUB-focused teleconferences

