

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

March 10, 2014
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN

- I. 10:00 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of February 2014**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Grants Report-Jen Pinkston
- IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Franklin County SWCD
- V. State Soil Conservation Board Reports**
 - a. Pilot Project Proposal Discussion-Scott Ham
 - b. Future of Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee-Scott Ham
 - c. SSCB Chairman's Report-Scott Ham
- VI. ISDA Updates**
 - a. Technical Report-George Reger
 - b. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
 - c. Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst
 - d. District Support-Laura Fribley
 - e. 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:**

June 3, 2014 9:30 AM Location: TBD-Johnson County area	July 31, 2014 9:15 AM The Nature Conservancy 620 E Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN October 28, 2014 9:15 AM Location: TBD
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- X. Adjourn**

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

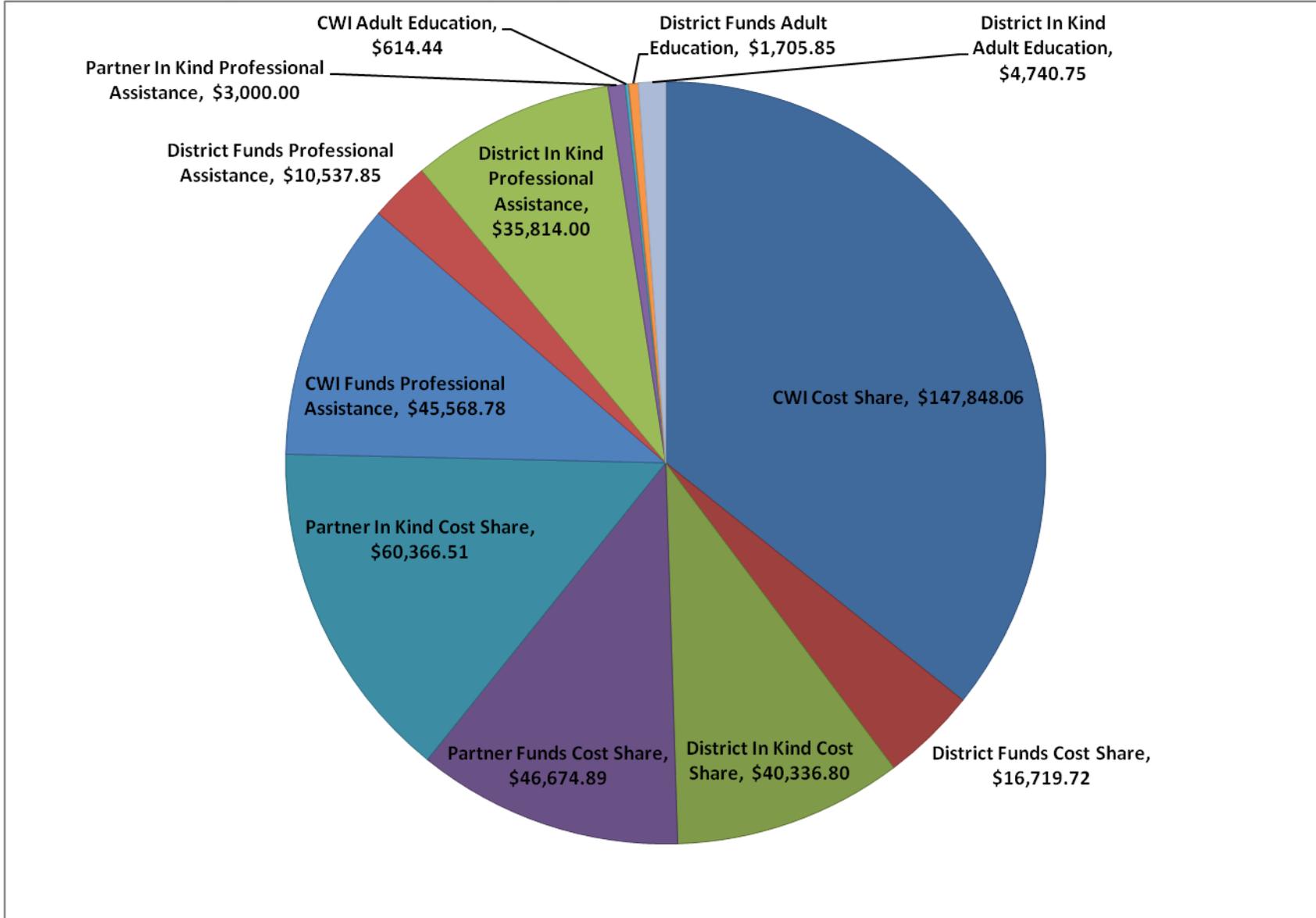
This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.

2013 Clean Water Indiana Grants

Year 1 Report

\$413,927.65 funds and in kind spent on projects

\$194,031.28 CWI Funds (balance of CWI Funds: \$417,968.72)

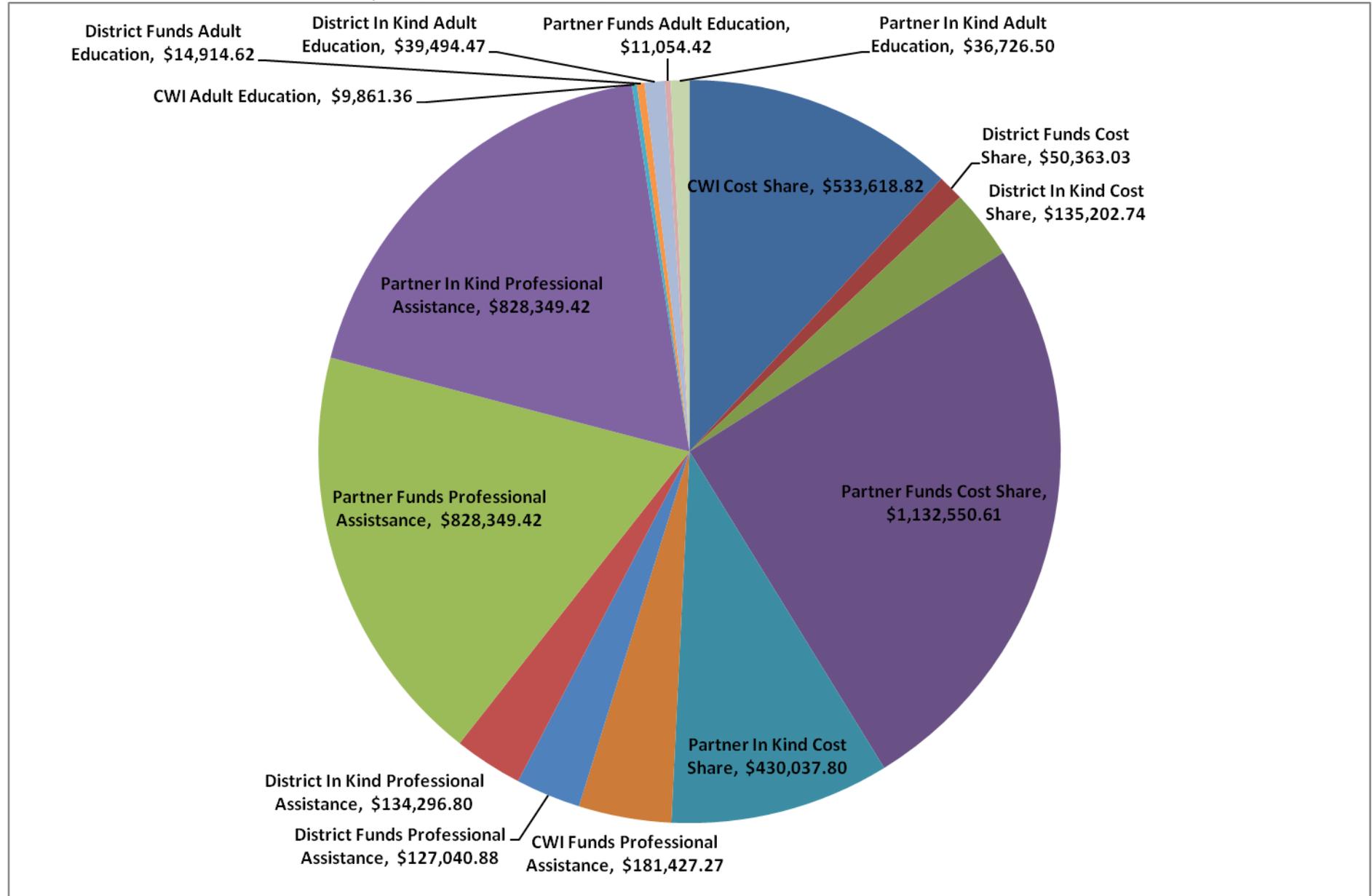


2012 Clean Water Indiana Grants

Year 2 Report

\$3,721,086.04 Funds and In Kind

\$724,907.45 Clean Water Indiana dollars spent (\$353,092.55 balance)



Clean Water Indiana

Grants Report

March 2014



2011 Clean Water Indiana Watershed Grants

For 2011, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) also awarded \$84,000 for competitive watershed-based grants.

Projects are to fund one or more of the categories listed below:

Cost Share/Incentives/Demonstrations

Increase Direct Professional Assistance to Land Users

Eighteen applications were received for the 2011 CWI grant totaling over \$500,000. The SSCB approved five grant applications and awarded a total of \$84,000.

Project Title: Reducing Nutrient Impacts in the Western Lake Erie Basin Through the On-Farm Network

Participating Districts: Allen, Adams, Dekalb, Noble, Steuben, Wells

Funds Awarded: \$20,000-Technical Assistance

Status: Projected completed 12/31/12. Final report submitted and reviewed.

Project Title: Tri-County Conservation Initiative

Participating Districts: Knox, Daviess, Pike

Funds Awarded: \$15,000-Technical Assistance

Status: Year 1 and Year 2 reports submitted and reviewed.

Project Title: On-Farm Soil Quality Assistance to Farmers

Participating Districts: Kosciusko, Fulton, Marshall

Funds Awarded: \$20,000-Technical Assistance

Status: Year 1 and Year 2 reports submitted and reviewed.

Project Title: Reducing NPS pollution by assisting agricultural producers in performing research on their farm

Participating Districts: Tipton, Howard

Funds Awarded: \$20,000-Cost Share

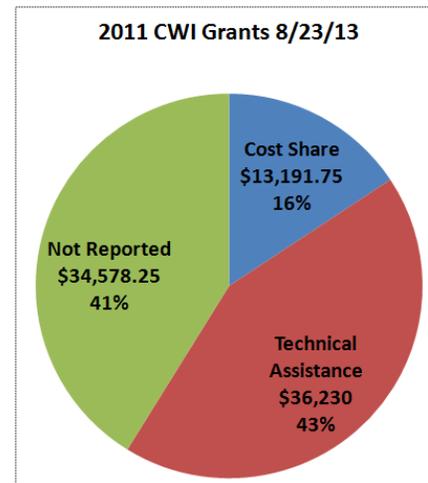
Status: Year 1 Year 2 reports submitted and reviewed.

Project Title: Salamonie River Watershed Incentive Program

Participating Districts: Wells, Huntington, Jay, Blackford

Funds Awarded: \$9,000-Cost Share

Status: Year 1 and Year 2 reports submitted and reviewed.



2012 Clean Water Indiana Watershed Grants

During state fiscal year 2012, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded 21 Clean Water Indiana grants totaling \$1,078,000. The focus for this round of grant funding includes:

- Cost Share Incentives/On Farm Demonstrations
- Increase Direct Technical/Professional Assistance to Land users
- Adult Education

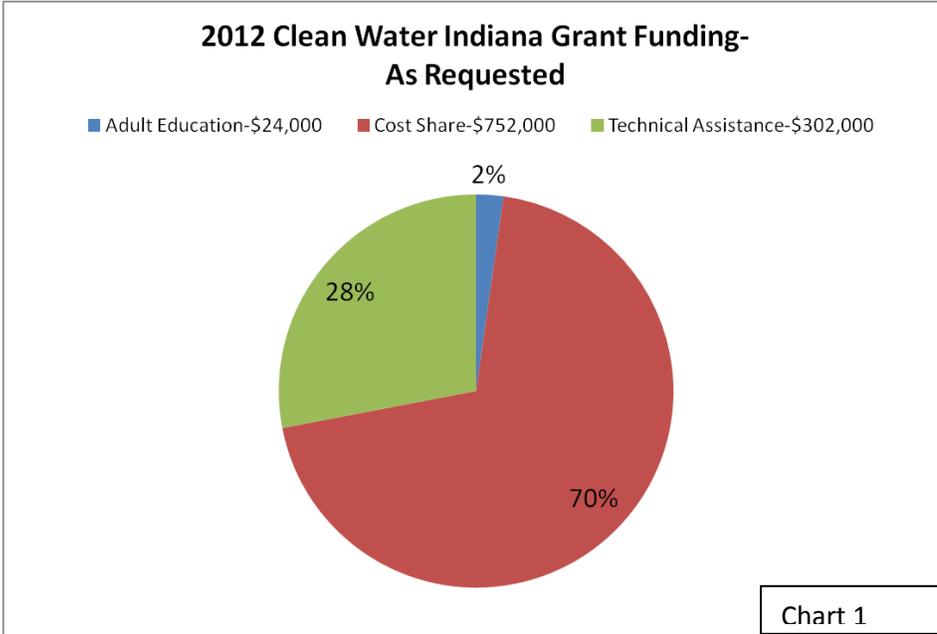


Chart 1 above illustrates the breakdown of funding requests.

Sixteen of the grants began on January 1, 2012; the remaining five began on May 1, 2012. All grantees are required to report on their progress annually.

Lead District	Other Participating Districts	Amount	Details	Status
Clay	Vigo	\$10,000	cover crops, field border and rain simulator	Project Completed
Crawford	Harrison Perry	\$40,000	pasture planting	Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 5/31/14
DeKalb	Steuben	\$60,000	blind inlet with ARS/NRCS and cover crops	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Delaware	Madison, Randolph, Blackford	\$40,000	OFN/CREP	Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 5/31/14
Dubois	Crawford, Gibson, Orange, Pike, Spencer	\$60,000	Cover Crop/Vincennes University rain garden/barrel	Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 5/31/14
Fulton	White	\$40,000	CREP/Cover Crop-hiring contractor.	Project Complete

Hamilton	Marion, Hancock, Madison	\$60,000	urban coordinator staff	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Howard	Carroll, Clinton, Madison, Tippecanoe, Tipton	\$60,000	research project	Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 5/31/14
Jackson	Jefferson, Jennings, Scott	\$60,000	CREP cost share for people not eligible for FSA programs	Project Complete
Jennings	Decatur, Bartholomew	\$60,000	CCSI, bundling incentive	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Johnson	Morgan	\$60,000	conservation BMPs	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Knox	Sullivan, Greene, Davies, Gibson, Pike, Dubois, Warrick	\$60,000	OFN on released coal lands	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Miami	Wabash, Kosciusko	\$60,000	technical assistance	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Newton	Benton, White, Pulaski, Starke, Lake, Porter, Jasper	\$100,000	cover crop and data collection	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Pike	Gibson	\$33,000	bi-county technician	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Randolph	Delaware	\$15,000	CREP cost share for people not eligible for FSA programs	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Steuben	LaGrange,	\$60,000	BMPs for Amish and English underserved	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Vermillion	Fountain, Parke, Montgomery	\$60,000	local CCSI contractor	Project Complete
Warrick	Gibson, Pike, Posey, Vanderburgh	\$20,000	cover crops on ag land and gardens	Project Completed
Washington	Lawrence, Martin, Orange	\$60,000	BMPs in Karst area	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15
Whitley	Allen, Huntington, Wells	\$60,000	cost share and TA to a new audience	Year 2 report complete and reviewed. Final report due 1/31/15

2013 Clean Water Indiana Watershed Grants

For 2013, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) voted to hold a grant program similar to the 2012 CWI grant program, focusing on multi-district, multi-year grants. The focus for this round of grant funding includes:

- Cost Share Incentives/On Farm Demonstrations
- Increase Direct Technical/Professional Assistance to Land users
- Adult Education

The total amount awarded was \$612,000.

Lead District	Other Participating Districts	Amount	Details	Status
Allen	Adams, Wells	\$70,000	Connecting Communities to Conservation	Year 1 report reviewed. Year 2 report due 1/31/15
Boone	Clinton	\$70,000	Watershed Land Treatment	Year 1 report due 5/1/14
Dearborn	Ohio, Switzerland	\$70,000	Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland County Water Quality Improvement Project	Year 2 report due 1/31/15 <i>All grant funds have been allocated</i>
Gibson	Posey	\$25,000	Gibson/Pike Continuous Cooperative Partnership	Year 2 report due 1/31/15 <i>All grant funds have been allocated</i>
Hancock	Hamilton, Madison, Marion	\$70,000	Implementing Backyard Conservation in the Fall Creek Watershed	Year 2 report due 1/31/15
Jefferson	Clark, Jackson, Jennings, Scott	\$70,000	Better Soil. Cleaner Water. More profit	Year 2 report due 1/31/15
Martin	Jasper, Lawrence, Orange, Washington	\$70,000	Drought Relief Incentives for Pastures (DRIP)	Year 2 report due 1/31/15
Orange	Martin	\$70,000	Lost River Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Initiative	Year 2 report due 1/31/15
Owen	Monroe	\$70,000	McCormick's Creek Watershed Nitrification, Sedimentation and Bacterial Reduction Partnership	Year 2 report due 1/31/15
Posey	Vanderburgh, Warrick	\$27,000	Southwest Indiana Cover Crop Program	Year 2 report due 1/31/15

More information on Clean Water Indiana grants, including printable flyers, can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2379.htm>

SSCB March 2014 Meeting

Accountability & Technology Report - Deb Fairhurst

SharePoint Efforts

- Began discussions with NRCS regarding Region 5 Model analyses in hopes NRCS will begin compiling nutrient load reductions for the completed conservation practices generated by their field staff. Explained the process used by the Division to implement Region 5 modeling and hopes to meet with their team in the near future to discuss the process in detail.
- Continues to work with Doug Nussbaum, LARE, to incorporate their conservation efforts into the statewide nutrient load reduction data.
- Will meet with Mary Lou Renshaw on March 10, to determine best method for incorporating IDEM's 319 conservation workload into the statewide nutrient load reduction data.

GIS Efforts

- Provided Clean Water Indiana and Western Lake Erie Basin conservation practice data to Marc Morandi, Cadmus Group. Mark is tasked with gathering data from various state, federal and private organizations in an effort to report the total nutrient load reductions captured by the installation of various conservation practices and the benefits to Lake Erie's water quality.

Additional Efforts

- Deb and Logan coordinated efforts to enter Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program information onto the CTIC Watershed Implementation and Innovation website. They are awaiting CTIC approval for the information submitted and are hoping CREP will be featured on the website by week's end. The website is located at <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/WIIN/>

Agricultural Affairs Update

Meg Leader

On Farm Network

- We've held 13 of the 16 Winter Grower Meetings to present the collected data back to the participants.
- Making arrangements for new 2014 OFN groups and restarting the Eagle Creek Watershed group: Fountain/Warren County Group, Clay County Group
- Exploring with the DSSs other regions that might have interest in an OFN group and the local staff capable to run the group in order to address regions of Indiana without a local group
- Attended the Iowa OFN conference in Ames, IA to learn more about the Iowa OFN program and met with Iowa staff to discuss future support of the IN OFN
- Developing a simple brochure to assist group leaders and producers on the requirements needed to participate in RST successfully.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- Assisting CCSI team with the management of data collection from the different Hubs.

Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Program

- Updating the application form
- Working with a an aerial imagery company (AirScout) to explore what benefit Red Gold and their growers will have from receiving imagery of their fields

SSCB March 2014 Meeting

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ISDA-District Support Specialists (DSS) Team Activity Report (February 12 – February 19, 2014)

State Soil Conservation Board Meeting: March 4, 2014

Major Activities or Events:

- DSSs have been busy preparing for the upcoming March SWCD region meetings to be held in four areas statewide. This includes promotion to the SWCDs and securing site/speaker logistics.
- Nathan assisted Monroe Co with a Storm Water Board presentation. The SWCD hopes to get a portion of these funds for future projects.
- Nathan has been coordinating facilitation training with Dr. Janet Ayres. Janet will work with DSSs to improve facilitation skills as we lead business plan meetings, etc. Several other staff from ISDA & IASWCD will join us.

Ongoing Key Support:

- DSSs have attended SWCD annual meetings (Blackford, Fayette/Union, Jasper, Orange, Ripley, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo). This includes providing support to the election committee as needed, performing the oath, and presenting information.
- DSSs have attended SWCD Board Meetings and assisted with various topics (Adams, Blackford, Boone, Grant, Marion, Orange)
- District Supervisor Visits or Phone Calls to discuss various items: Clark, Fayette, Lawrence, Union
- DSSs are assisting SWCDs with forms relating to their annual meetings and elections
- Assisting SWCDs with Annual Financial Report & Gateway responsibilities is a big task this time of year DSSs
- Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative: DSSs continue to provide support to this program as they work with their Hubs and Hub Leadership Teams, and associated roles.

Committees, Special Projects or Initiatives, and Advisory Roles:

- Jennifer was appointed to serve on the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership Leadership Team. The group met and discussed various items of importance including the Ohio Phosphorous Task Final Report and several proposed bills. She's also been working on the Tri-State Conservation Expo, serving as a committee member. Jennifer continued her work on a Planning and Zoning 101 PowerPoint as well, which is being used in cooperation with Farm Bureau.
- Nathan has been asked to serve as Chair of a new Pathway to Water Quality ag committee, and is working on various tasks to make it successful
- Tara has been working with the Water Quality Trading project on an ongoing basis and completing associated tasks/trainings. Recently, Tara assisted the Wall Street Journal as they developed an article about the initiative. It was released February 19th. To see the article, Google "wall street journal water quality trading" or a direct link is: <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304899704579391142078606468?mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702304899704579391142078606468.html> .

Other Key Items:

- Laura, Jennifer and Geneva attended the February 18th IN Cover Crop and Soil Health Forum in various locations
- Jennifer attended the Middle Eel River Steering Committee's annual meeting, which is having great success with their cost-share program and water quality sampling
- Tara and Laura have been helping with various tasks tying to the SSCB's pilot grant opportunity

Upcoming Events:

- March 6, 11, 13, 18: March SWCD Region Meetings. Topics include updates from IDEM on Rule 5, online technology tools, Partnership updates, and keynote speaker presentations which vary by location.

State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

3/10/2014

CREP and Water Quality Update

- With the new Farm Bill, CREP enrollment can begin once CRP is opened back up. No significant changes are expected to CREP or the state/federal CREP agreement, though details and confirmations are forthcoming in the weeks ahead.
- The DNR Healthy Rivers Initiative contractor has indicated that he's got a list of landowners who may be interested in the HRI area for CREP enrollment now that the Farm Bill has passed. Again, this will be once CRP enrollment is opened back up.
- The Ohio River Basin Water Quality Trading Program recently got national headlines in the Wall Street Journal. The nature of the program's water quality credit trading and cost-share for cover crops was highlighted in the piece, as was the Gulf Hypoxia issue.
- Jordan, Deb and I have been working toward a wider adoption and use of the Region 5 Model by members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership to estimate nutrient load reductions in Indiana from conservation on the ground.
 - Jordan's presentation to ICP on the model's usefulness and current utilization by several state departments and SWCDs.
 - Feedback, Deb's maps and data collection (and the necessary logistics)
 - Logan investigating the model, arranging for further background training for self, Laura Crane (IDEM) and Santina Wortman (EPA).

Programs

- Farm Bill**
 - 2008 Farm Bill Archive
- Landscape Initiatives
- Financial Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Easements
- Landscape Planning
- Alphabetical Listing & Archive

Compliance, Appeals, Mediation, Relief

- Conservation Compliance
- Equitable Relief
- Program Appeals
- Program Mediation

Related Topics

- Partnerships
- National Conservation Practice Standards
- Conservation Effects Assessment Project
- Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act (RCA)



[Get Started with NRCS](#)

Farm Bill



The 2014 Farm Bill was enacted on February 7, 2014. NRCS offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

Some programs will be available immediately, while others will require limited time to be set up within the agency. Details are on each program page and at [your local USDA Service Center](#).

Current Farm Bill contracts remain in effect; new sign-up information will be announced here as it becomes available.



NRCS offers financial and technical assistance to help agricultural producers make and maintain conservation improvements on their land.

[More on Financial Assistance.](#)



NRCS offers easement programs to eligible landowners to conserve working agricultural lands, wetlands, grasslands and forestlands.

[More on Easements.](#)



NRCS works with partners to leverage additional conservation assistance for agricultural producers and landowners in priority conservation areas.

[More on Partnership.](#)

Other Farm Bill Programs

- [Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program](#)
- [Conservation Innovation Grants](#)
- [Technical Service Providers](#)
- [Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program](#)

Other Resources

- [Chief Jason Weller on the 2014 Farm Bill](#)
- [List of all NRCS 2014 Farm Bill Programs](#)
- [Comparison of 2008 and 2014 Farm Bill Programs](#)
- [USDA Farm Bill Website](#)
- [Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program](#)
- [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#)
-  [Sign up for Farm Bill email updates](#)

Programs

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Get Started with NRCS



Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease? NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners. Here's how you can get started with NRCS:

1 Planning

To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office. We'll discuss your vision for your land.

Office Locator: [SERVICE CENTER LOCATOR](#)

NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you. Please keep in mind that financial assistance is paid when work is complete.

Technical Assistance: [TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE](#)

2 Application

We'll walk you through the application process. To get started on applying for financial assistance, we'll work with you:

- To fill out an [AD 1026](#), which ensures a conservation plan is in place before lands with highly erodible soils are farmed. It also ensures no wetland areas are farmed.
- To meet other eligibility certifications.

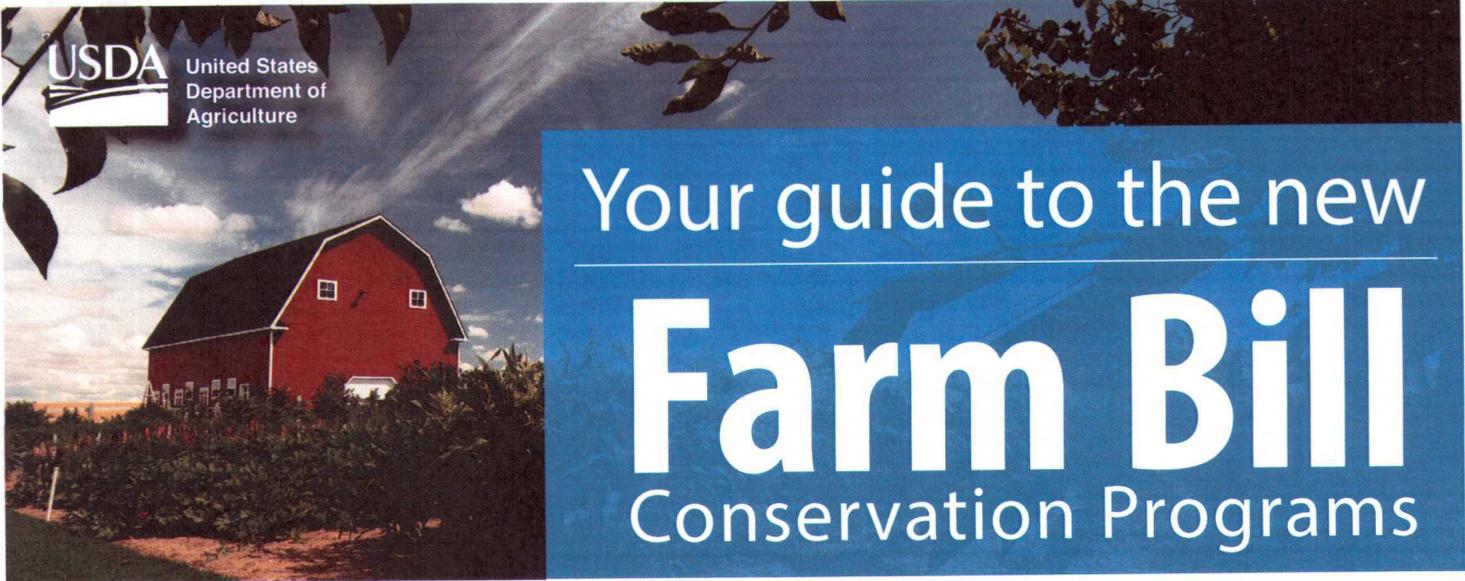
Once complete, we'll work with you on the application, or [CPA 1200](#).

Applications for most programs are accepted on a continuous basis, but they're considered for funding in different ranking periods. Be sure to ask your local NRCS district conservationist about the deadline for the ranking period to ensure you turn in your application in time.

Financial Assistance: [FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE](#)

3 Eligibility

As part of the application process, we'll make sure you are eligible. To do this, you'll need to bring:



USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture

Your guide to the new Farm Bill Conservation Programs

Below is a quick summary of changes made to conservation programs in the new Farm Bill, enacted on February 7, 2014. These programs are administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The new Farm Bill streamlines conservation programs that enable farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to get assistance.

To get started with NRCS, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or visit your local USDA service center.

	Previous Farm Bill	vs.	New and Streamlined Farm Bill
Financial Assistance	Environmental Quality Incentives Program Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	}.....▶	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
	Conservation Stewardship Program		Conservation Stewardship Program
	Agricultural Management Assistance		Agricultural Management Assistance
Easements	Wetlands Reserve Program Grassland Reserve Program Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program	}.....▶	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
	Healthy Forests Reserve Program		Healthy Forests Reserve Program
Partnerships	Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative Agricultural Water Enhancement Program Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Great Lakes Basin Program	}.....▶	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
Other	Technical Service Providers	}.....▶	Technical Service Providers
	Conservation Innovation Grants		Conservation Innovation Grants
	Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program		Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program
	Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program – administered by Farm Service Agency		Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program
	<i>Emergency Watershed Protection Program*</i>		<i>Emergency Watershed Protection Program*</i>
	<i>Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program*</i>		<i>Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program*</i>

*EWP and Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program are not Farm Bill programs but are offered by NRCS; Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program was funded through the 2014 Farm Bill.

Program Before	Program After	Program Highlights
<p>Conservation Reserve Program</p>	<p>Conservation Reserve Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce enrollment cap by 2018 • Acre step-down: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY 2014 – 27.5 million • FY 2015 – 26 million • FY 2016 – 25 million • FY 2017 – 24 million • FY 2018 – 24 million • 750,000 acre farmable wetland cap • 2 million acre grasslands cap • Remove specific reference to priority watersheds to allow for broader application of the authority to priority areas • Establish grasslands for grazing purposes as an eligible land use – essentially folds GRP rental agreement provisions into CRP • Provide flexibility for increased managed harvesting and grazing • Repeal the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program • Retain transition incentive payments (TIP), \$33 M for TIP • Authorize incentive payments for for tree thinning • Allow enrollment in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and facilitates enrollment into the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) • Limited early outs
<p>Conservation Security / Stewardship Program</p>	<p>Conservation Stewardship Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise program eligibility to two priority resource concerns • 10 million acre annual enrollment • Contract renewal - must meet stewardship threshold for two additional priority resource concerns, or exceed stewardship threshold for two existing priority resource concerns • Require addressing one additional priority resource concerns during the contract • Eliminate the forest land cap • Increase locally identified priority resource concerns to at least 5 • Make Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) land eligible for enrollment

TITLE II – CONSERVATION – CONFERENCE REPORT 01/31/2014

Program Before	Program After	Program Highlights
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment amounts based upon cost, income foregone, expected conservation benefits, extent to which priority resource concerns will be addressed, level of stewardship in place and maintained, degree to which conservation activities integrated across agricultural operation, and such other factors determined appropriate by the Secretary.
Wetlands Reserve Program		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish two tracks – wetland reserve easements (WRE) and agricultural lands easements (ALE) • Allow landowner donation for ALE, so long as entity provides at least 50 percent of what the Secretary is contributing
Farmland Protection Program		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver to pay up to 75 percent for certain grassland ALE easements
Grassland Reserve Program	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce length of prior land ownership for wetland reserve easement eligibility from 7 to 2 years • Authority for easement subordination, modification, exchange, and termination • Funding: 2014 - \$ 400 M 2015 - \$ 425 M 2016 - \$ 450 M 2017 - \$ 500 M 2018 - \$ 250 M
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New easement management authority limited to ACEP easements • Land enrolled in FRPP, GRP, and WRP considered enrolled in ACEP • Specify “wetland reserve” easements • Waiver to county cap for wetland reserve easements, excludes wet and saturated soils • Waiver to entity cash resources match for ALE, if landowner voluntarily donates the funding and the land is in active agricultural production
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifies wildlife habitat development as a program purpose • Revise to “at least” 60 percent of funds to go to livestock • Wildlife Habitat – sets a floor of 5 percent of funding and requires State Tech Committee review of practices annually
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend advance of funds for historically underserved to 90 days and include veterans • 50 percent advance for historically underserved producers • Remove 6-year rolling payment limit and set limit for the period 2014 - 2018

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TITLE II – CONSERVATION – CONFERENCE REPORT 01/31/2014

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<p>Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative</p> <p>Agricultural Water Enhancement Program</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program</p> <p>Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control</p>	<p>Regional Conservation Partnership Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract term NTE 10 years • Add performance reporting requirement Conservation Innovation Grants • Payment limit - \$450,000 and waiver removed • Funding: 2014 – \$1.35 B 2015 - \$1.6 B 2016 - \$1.65 B 2017 - \$1.65 B 2018 - \$1.75 B • Establish new single partnership program by combining authorities of 4 existing programs (AWEP, CBWI, CCPI, and GRBP) • Project selections are competitive, merit-based, leverage partner funding, and address regionally important resources • Projects may focus on water quality and quantity, erosion, wildlife habitat, drought and flood control or other regional priorities • Partnership agreements are for up to 5 years with potential 1 year extension • Partner must contribute to the cost of the project, leverage funding and conduct assessment on conclusion of project • Allow the Secretary to waive AGI if needed to fulfill purposes of the program • Allow adjustments to discretionary rules of covered program with Secretary’s approval, if requested by partner • Funding is delivered through CSP, EQIP, HFRP, and ACEP rules • Provide annual mandatory funding of \$100 million per year 2014-2018. Plus 7 percent of covered programs funding or acres (EQIP, ACEP, CSP, HFRP) • No funding may be used to cover partner administrative costs • Authorize the Secretary to designate Critical Conservation Areas for a period of 5 years, may be extended • Include irrigation districts as eligible partners • Include air quality as project focus • Allow up to 8 critical conservation areas

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Program Before	Program After	Program Highlights
Voluntary Public Access and Wildlife Incentive Program	Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can use watershed authorities (except rehab) in critical conservation areas • Include municipal water or wastewater treatment entities as eligible partners • Provide that irrigation history is not required for participation under limited circumstances • Allow not more than 20 alternative funding arrangements with multi-state water resource agencies • Allocate funding as 25 percent at State, 40 percent National, and 35 percent for critical areas
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue current authority at a reduced funding level • Add performance reporting requirement • Funding: \$40 million for 2014-2018

Other Programs and Provisions:

- Grassroots Source Water Protection Program – reauthorizes at \$20 million per year and adds \$5 million mandatory funding through 2018.
- Conservation of Private Grazing Lands – reauthorizes at same level of \$60 million per year 2014-2018
- Watershed Rehabilitation Program – provides \$250 million in mandatory funding in FY 2014, available until expended. Appropriations of \$85,000,000 can be authorized for each of fiscal years through FY 2018.
- Terminal Lakes Assistance – includes \$150 million in mandatory funding for desert terminal lakes, and provides authorization of \$25 million for funding for land purchase in flooded terminal lake areas
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program – not in new farm authorization
- Regional Equity – resets the threshold from \$15,000 to 0.6 percent of covered programs to accommodate variations in funding availability.
- Adjusted Gross Income – Sec 1605. AGI may not exceed \$900,00 and removes ability to waive for projects of environmental significance
- Authorizes conservation program funds as no-year funds
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Authorizes the Secretary’s to modify or terminate a floodplaine easement to address compelling public needs and where there is no practicable alternative.
- Conservation Compliance –includes crop insurance as a covered program and authorizes \$10 million for the mitigation banking pilot.
- Prohibition on breaking native sod –reduces crop insurance coverage and subsidy for a 4 year period in Praise Pothole states for land that has never been cropped.
- Lesser Prairie Chicken Conservation Report – requires a report no later than 90 days after enactment containing the results of a review and analysis of each program of the Secretary that pertains to the conservation of the lesser prairie-chicken.

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