

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
May 17, 2016  
Christie's on the Square  
Salem, IN

- I. 9:30 AM: Call to Order**
  - II. Approve Minutes of March 2016**
  - III. Clean Water Indiana**
    - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon
      - a. CWI Reboot - Leah Harmon
      - b. CWI Communications - Jordan Seger/Leah Harmon
    - b. Clean Water Indiana Budget Update- Jordan Seger
    - c. CWI Legislation Update-David Bausman
  - IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
    - a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Ray Chattin
  - V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
    - a. Boone County- Leah Harmon
    - b. Clinton County- Leah Harmon
    - c. Marshall County- Leah Harmon
    - d. Henry County- Tara Wessler-Henry
    - e. Knox County- Nathan Stoelting
    - f. Monroe County- Nathan Stoelting
    - g. Vigo County- Nathan Stoelting
  - VI. 10 Minute Break**
  - VII. ISDA Updates**
    - a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger
    - b. Technical Report- Mike Johnson
    - c. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
    - d. Accountability and Technology- Jordan Seger
    - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
    - f. Water Quality and CREP- Jordan Seger
  - VIII. Conservation Partner Reports**
    - a. IASWCD Report
    - b. IDEM Report
    - c. DNR Report
    - d. Purdue Report
    - e. FSA Report
    - f. NRCS Report
    - g. IDEA Report
  - IX. Public Comment**
  - X. Next Meeting:**
    - 2016 Meeting Dates**
    - July 22, TNC Indianapolis
    - September 20, TNC Indianapolis
  - XI. Adjourn**
- October 25, Huntington County

**\*\*\*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

Meeting Sign-In

Date May 17

Location Salem

Name/Agency

Jessica Hochm/Wash. Co. SWCD

Whitney Sauerheber/Wash Co. SWCD

Jim Ral/Wash Co SWCD

~~Sharon Baird/Wash Co~~ <sup>Calapo</sup>

Christina Bruce/Lawrence Co. SWCD

Laura Fribley ISDA

Bob Eddleman

Walter Baird

Ray Cheth

Robt Woodly

Cartney Mobellan

Sheryl Vaughn-Boone SWCD

Meg Leader

Loch Hammen

Jane Handisty

Ruth Hackman

VISA HOLSCHER

Mike Johnson ISDA

David Bauman- ISDA

Name/Agency

Kevin Baird ISDA

Walt Sell Puedco Extension

Jennifer Bagle Warner, JASWCD

Amy Work JASWCD

Terry Auel - Johnson SWCD

Amy Work, IA SWCD

Jim Brown Wash Co SWCD

Kit Young Sen Danney

Ashley Langrock Indiana Agri  
news

Tull Ral

Garren Swelling



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Clean Water Indiana Grants



## Program Updates

### **Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants**

- We hosted a breakout session at all 4 March region meetings to introduce the Reboot. Each session had between 15-30 people in attendance.
- CWI Roadshow: I have hosted 4 information sessions throughout the state in the last several weeks to provide more detailed information about the Reboot. 26 districts have attended these 4 sessions. At least 4 more sessions are planned at this time.

### **Annual Financial Report Grants**

- AFRs were submitted to the DSS team by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - All 92 districts qualified for at least part of the match.
  - \$901,500 total amount distributed
- Press release was sent out on April 11.
- All districts received their AFR contract on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- I have been answering questions from districts regarding the process and directing them to our YouTube channel for instructional videos.
- As of May 9<sup>th</sup>, we have received 9 contracts back.

### **Grant Reviews**

- The DSS team conducted two grant reviews since the last meeting.
- Projects reviewed are going well.
- No modifications or findings at this time.
- Results of reviews were sent to all districts involved in the grants as well as their boards of supervisors.

### **Process Videos**

- Videos detailing the CWI contract process have been uploaded to the ISDA YouTube channel.
- They are also available on the ISDA Website.
  - Claim Vouchers: <https://youtu.be/zID5wuauOAM>
  - Cover Letter and Grant Agreements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07LFUHRcS1c>
  - Scoring and Selection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyrfPVDjiVQ>
  - Reviews <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PvI11xh6zQ>
  - Reporting <http://youtu.be/CcukvJ5n828>
  - AFR: <http://youtu.be/zJirix3rCU4>

## Logo

- I have been working the past few months to develop a logo for the Division of Soil Conservation. We finalized the logo last week and are unveiling it today.
- This logo will be used in place of the ISDA logo on any projects that are wholly contained within the Division.
- Official letterhead and document templates are forthcoming.
- A secondary version of the logo for shirts has also been developed.





## CWI 2017: The Reboot FAQs

### Guidance:

- Where is the guidance on the website?
  - Leah posted all guidance and application documents onto the CWI Grants website (<http://in.gov/isda/2374.htm>) on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Where can I find a copy of the SSCB business plan?
  - The SSCB website (<http://in.gov/isda/2361.htm>).
- Where can I find the match standards?
  - These are located on the last page of the guidance document.
- When was the new business plan adopted?
  - January 2016
- What are the goals listed on the SSCB business plan?
  - **Soil Health/Degradation** which includes but isn't limited to, soil biology impacts that degrade soil quality, the loss of top soil due to water and wind erosion, the depletion of organic matter, as well as soil compaction.
  - **Water Quality and Quantity** including sediment, nutrients, pesticides, E-coli and other non-point sources of water pollution found in our streams, rivers and lakes as well as supply and flooding.
  - **Invasive Species**, both flora and fauna
  - **Other soil and water related natural resources** concerns including forest lands, wildlife habitat areas and protection, pasture and forage lands and air quality.
- Is it still a requirement to have more than one district?
  - No- Single district proposals are allowed. Be sure to clearly explain why you are applying as a single district.
- Are the partners limited to partner districts or can it be other partners?
  - All partners, both districts and external partners need to be listed in the partner section.
- Does the three-year restriction apply only to projects funded through CWI?
  - Yes. Only count projects that were funded using CWI toward these records.
- How do the three-year restrictions on cost share work per field? Do multiple projects count as multiple years? Does the three year cap per field only affect years going forward (i.e. 2017-2019)?
  - The three-year restriction is per project regardless of CWI grant. This includes any previous CWI grants, but is only enforced in 2017 grants and moving forward. Grants

awarded before 2017 do not have this restriction in place. For example a producer who received 2 years of cover crop funding on a 2015 CWI grant would only be able to receive 1 year of funding from a 2017 CWI grant for the same field. A producer who received funding previously for one year of cover crops and in a different year funding for a soil test would still have two years remaining for each project. If a district has records of previous CWI grant cost share recipients, these would need to be considered when awarding cost share for 2017 grants. CWI funds are encouraged to be used for producers new to the program.

- Can the cost share for the same producer but with different fields?
  - Yes. The restriction is only on specific fields.
- Can you come up with a spreadsheet to track cost share field participants?
  - ISDA will develop a template that may be adopted by districts but will not be required. Tracking will be a local responsibility.
- Who polices the three year restriction on cost share?
  - It is ultimately self-policed but will be noted by ISDA during grant reviews.
- Why are research projects excluded in CWI?
  - Indiana Code 14-32 states that SWCDs are prohibited from doing research except in conjunction with Purdue. Rather than ensuring that Purdue is involved, it is cleaner to exclude all research from CWI.
- Who do I ask if I am concerned that my project may be considered research?
  - Direct questions about research to Leah, and she will take your question to the grant committee.
- Can a district that wants to use grant funds to contract with a technician pay them more than what is listed on the match standards?
  - Yes. The match standards are only applicable for calculating in kind match. The guidance does not specify contractor's compensation.
- Can CWI funds be used on both private and public lands?
  - Yes.
- Can CWI funds be used for crop scouting?
  - Yes. See Ripley SWCD's 2015 and 2016 grants.
- Will we be able to vary from following NRCS specs?
  - No. The ICP MOU says that all agencies must follow FOTG standards for conservation projects. If a standard does not exist for a specific practice, specs must be approved by the state engineer.
- Can you define what you mean by priority areas?
  - A priority area is the specific region of focus for the district's grant proposal. This could be a specific watershed or area of the county where the district thinks grant funds would best be spent.
- Is there a preference as far as ranking cost share applications vs. first come first serve?
  - Cost share programs are typically considered stronger when they show a strategic process for selecting recipients. This helps to ensure that our limited grant funds are getting to those producers where it can be put to its best use.
- Would using a cost share ranking system potentially knock out some producers who submitted early applications that were intending to get funding?
  - Districts utilizing ranking systems should be up front with producers who submit cost share applications. By submitting a cost share application, that does not guarantee

funding, very similar to a competitive grant process. All applications will be reviewed after a specified date and funding decisions made at that time.

- What is the 2/3 done requirement?
  - For CWI, the guidance states that a project must be 66% complete before the districts can apply for another grant to extend the program. This 66% can be either in time (2 years) or in funding. For example if you have a greater demand than anticipated and spend 66% of your grant amount in the first year of the grant term, you may apply for another grant following the first year and do not need to wait until the end of year 2. This needs to be documented in your SharePoint financial and progress report.
- Is how much cash match you put forward looked at?
  - Match is important in the scoring process, particularly when proposals are similar.
- Are the match rates in the guidance a little low?
  - Yes. We realize that the match rates in the guidance are probably low. To calculate these rates, ISDA looked into SWCD employee compensation and determined an average. Because ISDA could only search for SWCD employees' salaries, this is the only metric used to calculate this standard match rate. Benefits and other compensation that an SWCD employee may receive was not factored into the match rate. Even if the rates are conservative, all SWCDs will be on a level playing field because these match rates must be used when developing proposals.
- Would you rather see CWI or district funds spent on a field day?
  - Ultimately this is up to the grantee. Having field day events can get people in the door and get conservation off the ground.
- Can you build on past projects if they've done well?
  - Yes.
- Is there an in-kind match standard?
  - Please see the guidance for in-kind proposal development.
- How are the in-kind standards calculated?
  - In-kind rates for SWCD staff are calculated using salaries only.
- How are professional services classified?
  - Paying someone from outside your staff and outside the partnership for their help with a program/project. As far as match standards go, it seems that using a level playing field isn't really favored in this particular group. Something to consider moving forward, or if there are any future efforts to look at these standards again.
- Is there an equipment use allowance for projects?
  - The Lieutenant Governor's office is uncomfortable with this because it involves producers creating their own invoice. ISDA is exploring how to best address this situation.
- How do you explain a single district option?
  - Really explain it in terms of the project. Maybe your district has different business plan goals than surrounding districts. Maybe your priority watershed falls solely within your county.

### **Application:**

- Who do I contact if I have issues with the web tool?

- Please contact Leah Harmon ([lharm2@isda.in.gov](mailto:lharm2@isda.in.gov)) or Trevor Laureys ([tlaureys@isda.in.gov](mailto:tlaureys@isda.in.gov)).
- Do I have to complete the online application in one sitting?
  - The application does not have a save button so all information must be added to it in one editing session. But the application does not time out so as long as your browser window remains open, your information will remain in the form. If you have used the word document template, copying and pasting your responses into the web tool should not take much time.
- How much detail should be provided for a partner's point of contact?
  - Name, phone number and email. This should be sufficient to prove that you have worked with the partner.
- What could the attachments be?
  - Attachments can be anything that you feel would benefit the grants committee in knowing more about your grant. This could include but is not limited to: letters of support from partners, example cost share applications, example cost share ranking systems, success stories of previous programs, relevant parts of your SWCD business plan, etc.
- If you feel you need to go over the character limit, can you expand on the questions in the attachments?
  - Yes. Please be sure to reference which question is being answered.
- Do you still have the District Deadline Verification Tool Form and award bonus points for supervisors attending things?
  - The district deadline verification tool has been eliminated from the process. District must still meet the deadlines specified in the guidance. The DSS team will track these deadlines and notify districts if they are ineligible. Deadlines and or trainings not specified in code or in contract but listed in the grant guidance can be used as a tiebreaker.
- Can you copy and paste from Word into the web tool?
  - Yes. You can copy and paste directly from the word document template into the online application.
- Will the applications be put online so that other districts can see them?
  - All applications will not be put online so that all districts can see them. Like in previous cycles, funded applications will be put on SharePoint for reference.
- What programs should be considered for the uniqueness question?
  - Some programs to consider: NRCS, ISDA, local cost share, 319, LARE. This list is not exhaustive.
- What are you looking for in the uniqueness section?
  - Not duplicating efforts. If programs are available in a particular district/region and are not being taken advantage of, it would not be in the SSCB's best interest to fund a similar program with their limited grant funds.
- Do you list partners on both the partner section and budget page?
  - Yes. The partner involvement question provides a qualitative view of how the partners are going to assist with the project. The budget page shows financial and in kind support from partners. Both are valuable when developing and scoring proposals.
- What is briefly describing role in the project?
  - Provide the point of contact and any relevant information that you think should be there.

- Who do we list as the contact... the secretary?
  - The district should list the person at the partnering organization that they have been working on for the proposal.
- So if you were doing a multi-county project, do you list contacts for each county (e.g. Extension)?
  - This is really up to the district(s) and what they believe is relevant for the committee to review their proposal. The partner involvement question does not have a character limit so a limited amount of space is not a factor when determining who to list.
- Is there an issue with submitting anything on Chrome?
  - The web application should work in Chrome. Our tests have not shown any issues with particular browsers.
- Why do questions have character limits?
  - Questions on the application have character limits to ensure fairness amongst all SWCDs. By having a character limit, districts must be concise when describing their project. It also helps the grants committee score proposals because each proposal can be read and scored in a reasonable amount of time.
- Can a district submit multiple applications?
  - An SWCD may only be lead on one proposal per year, but can be a participating district on multiple applications.
- Is the word document formatted the same as the web application?
  - Yes.
- Do spaces count as characters?
  - Yes.
- How can we determine effectiveness? Is this a call to do an end of event survey or something similar?
  - That could be used. Effectiveness could also be included in cost share rankings and load reductions, among other things. This is very situation based (ie weather).
- So the budget is just formatted a little differently. We still have to include the partner involvement?
  - Yes. SWCDs should still include their partners' funds and in kind match on the budget section.

### **Process:**

- Will there be fewer projects awarded?
  - Not necessarily. It all depends on what applications ask for. There may be some applications for larger projects but there may also be proposals for less than \$75,000. With a cap, districts will back into it since grant writing is inherently a game. The SSCB does have the discretion to award partial funding.
- Can you apply for more than one project?
  - An SWCD may only be lead on one application per year; however districts are more than welcome to be a participating district on a different project with another county. The projects must be different. Two applications from the same group of districts covering the same project(s) will not be accepted.
- If you are the lead on a CWI grant one year, can you be the lead district on another grant?
  - If the original grant is at least 66% complete (by funding spent) a district can apply for another CWI grant as lead for the same type of project. If the district has another project to apply for CWI funds, they may even if the current project is less than 66% spent.

- Should we have already been notified if we are ineligible?
  - The grants program manager will notify districts by June 1<sup>st</sup> if they have been determined to be ineligible for the 2017 round of CWI grants.
- Do funds come by February 1<sup>st</sup> since the initial report is due July 31<sup>st</sup>?
  - All grant projects will start on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. ISDA will make an effort to get funds to the districts as quickly as we can. However, funds cannot be dispersed until the grant agreement is fully executed and a claim voucher is received. Each of these documents takes approximately 45 days to process. ISDA will begin the necessary paperwork to disperse funding shortly after the grants are approved by the full SSCB in October.
- Is there any more information on the scoring for competitive grants? In the past it has been pretty generic questions with a ranking 1 to 5? How will these new applications be scored? Will there be a scoring matrix?
  - ISDA and the grants committee is still working on developing the scorecard for 2017 CWI. We anticipate that scoring this year will be more generic because we do not know how the new proposals will work. We would hate to have to score a good proposal low based upon preconceived metrics on the new scorecard. Keep in mind that the grants committee is really looking for how well districts answer the questions on the application and tell the story of their project.
- What about district success stories? When is that deadline?
  - ISDA is working with our website administrators to get the 2015 district success stories up and running. When that site is available, the DSS team will notify districts.
- Can you provide information on the \$10,000 payment?
  - SWCDs are required to submit their AFRs to their DSS by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Once ISDA has this information, Leah will work with grant services to get contracts to districts. These contracts should be sent to districts by mid April.
- Does the Board have a tracking sheet for tracking in-kind?
  - Districts should develop their own spreadsheets for tracking match, both cash and in-kind.
- What communication should you have if you are having issues spending the money?
  - Call Leah ASAP! Keep her in the loop. The more Leah is aware of what is going on the better she can address the situation. Regular updates are a plus (monthly or quarterly reports) Leah should be involved sooner rather than later.
- If 3 counties are working together and the lead county is late in reporting, are all 3 counties ineligible?
  - Ultimately the lead county is responsible for reporting. The lead will be the one declared ineligible. But it should be noted that anyone can update the SharePoint reports.
- Can you explain the process of payment?
  - Contract emailed to district, chairman signed, hard copy mailed back to me, signature process, 45 days later it comes back, after that you can submit claim for 50%, can be scanned and emailed, another 45 days, total process at least 90 days
- Can you claim beyond the initial 50% as you go?
  - Once you spend beyond the initial 50% you can submit claims quarterly as reimbursement. Anything after the initial 50% must be processed as reimbursement and needs to include an updated SharePoint report.
- What is considered the grant year?

- January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>
- Are there penalties if they don't spend the money?
  - If a district is meeting the goals and keeping Leah informed, the Division cannot take exception to not spending all the money. If a district is just sitting on the money without meeting project goals, it will be penalized.
  - Who makes that decision?
    - Leah, the CWI grants committee, and the SSCB.
- Where does the money go if it doesn't get spent in CWI grants? Does it go back to the State general fund?
  - No it will remain in CWI grants.
- Who can approve design of CWI projects?
  - Whoever has engineering authority for that specific project.
- As far as FOTG standards are concerned, is there any variation allowed? Are seed tags required for cover crops?
  - All CWI projects must follow FOTG standards if a standard exists. For cover crops, if a seed tag is required by FOTG, then you must have a seed tag.
- For CWI 2016 and before, are adult education funds and match intended for SWCDs to educate the public or for SWCD staff/supervisor training?
  - The adult education funds are intended for SWCDs to host education events. For SWCD staff/supervisor training please look into the CWI training/reimbursement funds that are offered.
- Can you count NRCS time or other federal funds as match?
  - Yes. Since CWI is state funding, a district can count federal funds as match, both as cash and in-kind where appropriate.
- What does the non-reverting fund mean in terms of competitive grants?
  - With CWI being a non-reverting fund, there is less pressure to make sure that every last penny is spent each and every year. If CWI was a reverting fund, it would be easy to fall into the same old tried and true methods for spending the money. A non-reverting funds allows SWCDs to take more risks when applying for funding. There is nothing wrong with trying something new and it not working out as you expected, so long as the district has made an effort.
- How can you consider a project effective without spending all of the money?
  - An unprecedented project has no road map for success. Some items may not end up costing as much money as you anticipate. Other partners may step up to the plate. If a project can reach or even exceed their goals and not spend all of the money, I would call that project effective.
- Will an application rank higher if it addresses multiple resource concerns?
  - Applications should address at minimum 2 resource concerns as listed in the SSCB business plan. Application that relate more closely to the business plan will in theory rank higher than those that do not.

### **Scoring and Selection:**

- Even if you are "blind scoring", when you review grants, you will know where it comes from by the location in the description?
  - The team will work to scrub all identifying details from every application. This will allow the scoring committee to be more objective when reading applications, rather than subconsciously allowing knowledge about the district affect the score.
- What does the process between scoring to selection look like?

- After each proposal is individually score by each DSS, grants committee member, and outside scorer, the grants program manager will calculate a total score for each proposal. Once these scores are tallied, proposals are given an initial ranking. After the initial ranking, the grants committee meets in person to discuss the proposals. They start at the top of the initial rankings and work their way down. This discussion is where the committee could award any discretionary points or choose to partially fund a proposal. ISDA works with the accounting department from the Lieutenant Governor's office to determine the total amount available for grant awards. Following the committee's in person discussion, the grants program manager will determine, based upon funding availability and the committee's funding recommendations, how many proposals receive funding and present them to the full SSCB for final approval.
- Does the SSCB typically accept the grants committee's recommendations?
  - The full board will discuss and ask questions about the proposals during the October board meeting. The board does have the authority to reject the committee's recommendations.
- Will the attachments be looked at for every application if they are used as a tiebreaker?
  - Yes. Attachments will be made available to the scoring committee from the time applications are submitted.
- Who will review applications?
  - The CWI grants committee, the DSS team, and a few outside scorers
- Who is on the grants committee?
  - Warren Baird, Bob Eddleman, Robert Woodling
- Would it help the process if districts were mindful of the scrubbing of applications when writing the proposal?
  - It is fairly difficult to write an application with no identifying details. ISDA will handle blacking out all the identifying details.
- Is the scorecard available?
  - No.
- How will the blind scoring process work?
  - Applications will come directly to the [Cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:Cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov) email address. Once received the ISDA program manager along with a resource specialist will remove identifying details from proposals. This information can include but is not limited to: county/district names, watersheds, etc. No information relevant to the project or narrative will be changed. Proposals will be identified simply as "Proposal A- 4 districts" or similar. Once the applications are "scrubbed" of these details, they will be made available to the scoring committee for review. The scoring committee consists of the CWI grants committee, the DSS team, a representative from the Lieutenant Governor's Office grant services team, and other outside scorers. The only person that will know definitively which district a proposal belongs to will be that district's DSS, if they were involved in proposal development.
  - Blind scoring helps to reduce biases in the scoring and selection process. It is human nature to put a person's thoughts and/or background knowledge about a project into their decision making process when considering a specific grant proposal. By not knowing which proposal belongs to which district or group of districts, the scoring committee is really focusing on what is written in the proposal rather than perception of district needs.
  - Once all of the proposals are scored by the scoring committee, the grant committee will meet in person to make recommendations for funding. This is where each application will be identified by the actual district(s) involved.

- Does the blind scoring process take away the SSCB/grants committee's discretion?
  - No. Discretion is still available to the CWI grants committee when deciding which projects to recommend and the recommendation to partially fund a proposal. The full SSCB still has the discretion to reject the committee's recommendations.

### **Reporting:**

- Are there any resources available to help new lead districts complete these reports?
  - Claim Vouchers: <https://youtu.be/zID5wuauOAM>
  - Cover Letter and Grant Agreements: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07LFUHRcS1c>
  - Scoring and Selection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyrfPVDjiVQ>
  - Reviews <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PvII1xh6zQ>
  - Reporting <http://youtu.be/CcukvJ5n828>
  - AFR 2016: <http://youtu.be/zJirix3rCU4>
- Should I write over what is on current reports for subsequent reports?
  - Districts should replace the dollar figures for reports for year 2 and year 3. For the summary section, SWCDs can add more to the end of the section. The more information you can provide in the summary the better.
- Why did you change the reporting to every six months rather than annually?
  - With the turnover in staff that districts are experiencing throughout the state, the grants committee and ISDA made the decision to change reporting to every six months.
- Does the 6 month reporting just start with 2017 grants?
  - Yes. Any new policies as stated in the guidance are only for 2017 and moving forward.
- Is it ok my RS enters the info on SharePoint?
  - That's fine but ultimately the district is accountable for reporting.
- When are quarterly reports due?
  - In an effort to capture all of the work completed in a given quarter, reporting is due 30 days after the end of the quarter (January, April, July, October).

**For further information please contact:**

**Leah Harmon**

**Clean Water Indiana Program Manager**

**[Lharmon2@isda.in.gov](mailto:Lharmon2@isda.in.gov)**

**317-607-4127**



# State Soil Conservation Board

## Clean Water Indiana Grants Communication Policy



### Questions from Districts

- The grants program manager will be the central point of contact for CWI grants, both competitive and AFR.
- Questions, both programmatic and process related, regarding CWI grants should be sent to the program manager.
- The grants program manager will maintain an FAQ document for CWI grants and will distribute the document to the DSS team and the SSCB.
  - The FAQ document will also be posted on SharePoint and the CWI website for SWCDs to access.
- Having the grants program manager as the central point of contact provides a consistent message to all SWCDs, which is particularly important during the Reboot.

### Grant Modifications

- All modifications will be submitted using the standard state paperwork.
- Modification requests totaling up to \$1000 or 7% of the grant amount (whichever is less) will be reviewed/approved by the grants program manager.
- Modification requests over \$1000 but less than 7% of the grant amount will be reviewed/approved by the CWI grants committee.
- Modification requests totaling 7% or more of the award amount will be presented at the next SSCB meeting.
  - Districts submitting modification requests of 7% or more of the grant amount are strongly encouraged to attend the SSCB meeting at which the request is considered.
- The grants program manager will notify SWCDs on the status of their modification request.
- No modification requests of 7% or greater of the grant amount will be accepted following the last SSCB meeting in the final year of the grant term.

### Grant Reviews

- The grants program manager will work with the DSS team to schedule CWI grant reviews.
- The grants program manager will be present at every review.
- Results from grant reviews will be sent to all district staff in both lead and participating districts as well as their boards.
- Results will be presented at the next SSCB meeting.

## Bill Overview

- The bill contains three sections relating to the Division of Soil Conservation and Clean Water Indiana Program. The first provision is a technical correction to the cigarette tax funding for the Division of Soil Conservation and the second is a government efficiency provision that eliminates a barrier in the Clean Water Indiana program for Soil and Water Conservation Districts that want to merge. The third section provides that a soil and water conservation district that does not receive funding from a political subdivision may receive funding from another funding source, and that the funding from the other funding source qualifies for the dollar-for-dollar matching funding from the division of soil conservation.
- Lake and River Enhancement is administered by the Department of Natural Resources and is funded by the Lake and River Enhancement Fee outlined in IC 6-6-11-12. The Division of Soil Conservation has not handled this program since it was moved to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture in 2005. Removes reference to the Lake and River Enhancement being administered by the Division of Soil Conservation and funded by cigarette tax funding.

## Division of Soil Conservation (DSC)

- **Division Responsibilities**
  - DSC's mission is to increase agricultural economic benefits by assisting Indiana's farmers in the application of advanced agronomic technologies while improving upon Indiana's soil health and water quality.
  - The DSC works directly with the 92 county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) with oversight by the State Soil Conservation Board (7 Governor appointed members), private landowners, and state and federal partners via the IN Conservation Partnership.
- **Issue that Legislation Addresses**
  - When the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was created in 2005, the DSC was moved from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to ISDA.
  - DSC has been receiving the appropriate amount of funding through the biennium budget appropriations; however, the cigarette funding statute (IC 6-7-1-29.1(d)) was never changed to reflect the move of DSC from DNR to ISDA.
- **Proposed Legislation**
  - The proposed legislation merely makes the technical correction of stating that the funding from IC 6-7-1-29.1(d) goes to the DSC at ISDA.
  - DNR does not lose any funding as the result of this technical correction.

For more information about DSC and CWI, please see: [in.gov/isda/2342.htm](http://in.gov/isda/2342.htm).  
Email questions or comments to [cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov)

## Clean Water Indiana (CWI)

- **Program Overview**
  - The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.
  - The CWI fund is administered by the DSC under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board.
  - The (CWI) Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
  - CWI also contributes critical state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land.
  - Furthermore, the (CWI) Program has supported the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which focuses on management systems approach to crop production which results in improved soil and water quality as well as profitability on Indiana cropland.
- **Issue that Legislation Addresses**
  - IC 14-32-8-8 allows the DSC to provide stating matching dollars (up to \$10,000) to each Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).
  - If SWCDs merge pursuant to IC 14-32-6.5, the merged districts will only receive a state match of \$10,000, which discourages SWCDs from merging for efficiency purposes.
- **Proposed Legislation**
  - The proposed legislation eliminates a barrier for SWCD's that decide to merge by increasing the matching state grant based on the following situations:
    1. If two whole county-wide districts merge, the proposed legislation allows the state match to be multiplied by the number of counties merging.
    2. If not all of a county area merges with another district, the proposed legislation allows the state match to be multiplied by the percentage of county area included in the newly merged district.
      - a. For example, if 50% of County A's District merged with County B's District, District B would receive a state matching grant of \$15,000.

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE ENROLLED ACT No. 238

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AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural resources and to make an appropriation.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

SECTION 1. IC 6-6-11-12.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.151-2012, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 12.5. (a) The lake and river enhancement fund is established and allocated for the following purposes:

- (1) One-half (1/2) of the fund shall be used to pay costs incurred by the department of natural resources in implementing the lake and river enhancement projects. ~~required by IC 14-32-7-12(b)(7)~~;
- (2) One-half (1/2) of the fund shall be used by the department of natural resources to pay for lake or river (as defined in IC 14-32-7-12) projects, including, but not limited to, projects to:
  - (A) remove sediment;
  - (B) control exotic or invasive plants or animals; or
  - (C) remove logjams or obstructions.

For purposes of this subdivision, the fund may not be used for projects relating to a ditch or manmade channel.

(b) The fund shall be administered by the director of the department of natural resources.

(c) Expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(d) The fund consists of the revenue from the lake and river enhancement fee paid by boat owners and deposited under section

SEA 238 — Concur



12(c)(1) of this chapter.

(e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.

(f) With the approval of the governor and the budget agency, the money in the fund allocated under subsection (a)(1) may be used to augment and supplement the funds appropriated for the implementation of lake and river enhancement projects. ~~required by IC 14-32-7-12(b)(7).~~

SECTION 2. IC 6-7-1-29.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.241-2005, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 29.1. (a) One-sixth (1/6) of the money in the cigarette tax fund is annually appropriated **as follows:**

**(1) The amount to which subsection (d) applies is annually appropriated to the division of soil conservation for the purpose set forth in subsection (d).**

**(2) The remainder of one-sixth (1/6) of the money in the cigarette tax fund is annually appropriated to the department of natural resources for the purposes set forth in subsections (b) and (c).**

(b) The department **of natural resources** shall use at least two percent (2%) but not more than twenty-one percent (21%) of the money appropriated to it under this section for:

(1) flood control and water resource projects, including multiple-purpose reservoirs; and

(2) applied research related to technical water resource problems.

The department **of natural resources** may use the money **to which this subsection applies** to plan, design, acquire land for, or construct the projects.

(c) The department **of natural resources** shall use at least thirty-six percent (36%) of the money appropriated to it under this section to construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, or repair general conservation facilities or to acquire land.

(d) The ~~department~~ **division of soil conservation of the Indiana state department of agriculture** shall use at least forty-three percent (43%) of the money appropriated ~~to the department~~ under this section for soil conservation. ~~and lake and river enhancement under IC 14-32-~~

SECTION 3. IC 14-32-7-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.175-2006, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 12. (a) As used in this section, "river" includes streams and the tributaries of rivers.

(b) The division of soil conservation shall do the following:

(1) Perform all administrative duties required by the rules of the



board.

(2) Provide professional assistance to districts in planning, coordinating, and training for the following:

(A) Adult soil and water conservation education.

(B) Natural resources conservation information programs for elementary and secondary schools.

(C) Supervisors and staff.

(3) Provide professional soil conservation technical assistance to districts.

(4) Provide nonagricultural soils interpretive and erosion control expertise on a regional basis.

(5) Assist the districts and other federal, state, and local entities in encouraging and monitoring compliance with those aspects of the programs that are related to erosion and sediment reduction.

(6) Administer a cost share program for installation of erosion control structural measures on severely eroding cropland and for conversion of highly erodible land from crop production to permanent vegetative cover.

(7) Administer a lake and river enhancement program to do the following:

(A) Control sediment and associated nutrient inflow into lakes and rivers.

(B) Accomplish actions that will forestall or reverse the impact of that inflow and enhance the continued use of Indiana's lakes and rivers.

(8) (7) Provide professional assistance to districts in conservation needs assessments, program development, and program evaluation.

SECTION 4. IC 14-32-8-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.1-2007, SECTION 129, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 8. (a) In addition to funds provided to a district under section 7 of this chapter or from any other source, the division of soil conservation shall pay to the district one dollar (\$1) for every one dollar (\$1) the district receives:

(1) from a political subdivision; or

(2) if a district receives no funding from a political subdivision, from any other funding source.

**The board shall consider funds received from a source referred to in subdivision (2) as qualifying for matching payments under this subsection.**

(b) Except as provided in section 8.2 of this chapter, the state is not obligated to match more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) under



this section.

(c) In order to receive funding under this section each year, a district must certify to the division of soil conservation the amount of money the district received from all ~~political subdivisions~~ **sources described in subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2)** during the one (1) year period beginning January 1 of the previous year. The information prepared under this subsection must be part of the annual financial statement prepared and provided to the board under IC 14-32-4-22. The division of soil conservation shall make distributions under this section not later than July 15 of each year.

(d) Before making distributions under this section, the division of soil conservation shall determine the total amount of money that has been certified by all districts as having been provided by ~~political subdivisions~~ **sources described in subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2)**. If the cumulative amount to be distributed to all districts exceeds the amount appropriated to the fund, the division of soil conservation shall reduce the distribution to each district proportionately.

(e) A district must spend money received under this section for the purposes of the district.

SECTION 5. IC 14-32-8-8.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: **Sec. 8.2. (a) This section applies to a district if, as the result of:**

- (1) the merger of two (2) or more districts; or**
- (2) the changing of the boundaries of one (1) or more districts under IC 14-32-6.5;**

**the territory of the district is larger than the entire area of one (1) county.**

**(b) The limit in section 8(b) of this chapter on the funds from political subdivisions that the state may be obligated to match shall be adjusted under this section in the case of a district described in subsection (a).**

**(c) If the territory of a district includes the entire area of two (2) or more counties, the limit on the funds from political subdivisions that the state may be obligated to match is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) multiplied by a whole number equal to the number of counties whose entire area is included in the territory of the district.**

**(d) If the territory of a district includes some of but less than the entire area of a particular county, the limit on the funds from political subdivisions that the state may be obligated to match is the sum of:**



**(1) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) multiplied by a percentage equal to the percentage of the particular county's entire area that is included in the territory of the district; plus**

**(2) either:**

**(A) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), if the territory of the district also includes all the area of one (1) other county; or**

**(B) the figure calculated under subsection (c), if the territory of the district also includes all the area of two (2) or more counties.**

SECTION 6. IC 14-32-8-8.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: **Sec. 8.3. (a) This section applies to a district if, as the result of:**

**(1) the merger of two (2) or more districts; or**

**(2) the changing of the boundaries of one (1) or more districts under IC 14-32-6.5;**

**the territory of the district is smaller than the entire area of one (1) county.**

**(b) The limit in section 8(b) of this chapter on the funds from political subdivisions that the state may be obligated to match shall be adjusted under this section in the case of a district described in subsection (a).**

**(c) If the territory of a district contains less than the entire area of one (1) county, the limit on the funds from political subdivisions that the state may be obligated to match is the product of:**

**(1) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); multiplied by**

**(2) a percentage equal to the percentage of the county's entire area that is included in the territory of the district.**

SECTION 7. IC 15-11-4-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2008, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: **Sec. 3. (a) The division shall do the following:**

**(1) Provide administrative and staff support for the soil conservation board.**

**(2) Administer all programs relating to land and soil conservation in Indiana.**

**(3) Manage Indiana's watersheds.**

**(4) Administer the clean water Indiana program.**

**(5) Perform other functions assigned by the secretary or the director.**

**(b) The duties of the division do not include administering the Lake Michigan Coastal program. The Lake Michigan Coastal program shall administer the state's compliance with and provide assistance under the**



federal Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.).

(c) The duties of the division do not include those listed in IC 14-32-7-12(b)(7).



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President of the Senate

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President Pro Tempore

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEA 238 — Concur**





# State Soil Conservation Board

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

ISDA - DSC Director's Report – Jordan Seger



## Staffing

- Conducted interviews for part time Resource Specialist/CREP Leader based in Noble County – Albion/Upper Wabash CREP watershed. Offer pending
- Welcome to DSC Summer Intern Courtney Mobilian

## SSCB

- Welcome to newly Governor appointed SSCB member Rex Blanton

## Legislative

- SB 238 signed by Governor. David Bausman will provide a further update

## 4R's – (Right rate, form, timing, placement)

- DSC working with Ag partners to grow the 4R program across the state (exists in Western Lake Erie Basin now)
- For more info: <http://www.nutrientstewardship.com/>

## Water Quality Trading

- Signed new 100k agreement with the Electric Power Research Institute to implement forestry practices Spring of 2017 in coordination with DNR and the ICP
- SWCDs to administer locally and receive 10% of funds

## Pollinators

- ISDA along with INDOT and DOC submitted a 170k grant proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to expand Monarch Butterfly/Pollinator habitat along the I-65 corridor and increase seed production capacity at the Madison DOC facility. Will hear if funded/unfunded in August

## SWCD Visits

- Jane Hardisty (NRCS), Jennifer Boyle Warner (IASWCD), and Jordan Seger (ISDA) to commence visits around the state with SWCD Supervisors this summer and fall

## Recent Relevant News Releases

- 2015 survey results show steady increase in cover crops:  
[http://www.in.gov/isda/files/NEWS\\_2015\\_survey\\_results\\_show\\_steady\\_increase\\_in\\_cover\\_crops.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isda/files/NEWS_2015_survey_results_show_steady_increase_in_cover_crops.pdf)
- Clean Water Indiana funds distributed to 92 counties:  
[http://www.in.gov/isda/files/NEWS\\_Clean\\_Water\\_Indiana\\_funds\\_distributed\\_to\\_92\\_counties.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isda/files/NEWS_Clean_Water_Indiana_funds_distributed_to_92_counties.pdf)
- ISDA applauds Governor's appointment to the State Soil Conservation Board:  
[http://www.in.gov/isda/files/NEWS\\_ISDA\\_applauds\\_appointment\\_to\\_the\\_State\\_Soil\\_Conservation\\_Board\(3\).pdf](http://www.in.gov/isda/files/NEWS_ISDA_applauds_appointment_to_the_State_Soil_Conservation_Board(3).pdf)



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

DSC Technical Assistance Report



## Field Staff Activities

*January 1, 2016 – May 9, 2016*

<b>Resource Specialist Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
SWCD Board Meetings	158
ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars, etc.	171
Field Days	46
Training	75
Conservation Planning	353
Survey, Design and Inspections	533
Construction	43
Public Interaction	5,197
CREP – Met with Landowners	43

## DSC Conservation Workload

*January 1, 2016 – May 9, 2016*

<b>Action</b>	<b>Currently Reported</b>
Technical Assistance	566
Practices Underway	1,544
Completed Practices	165
Practice Acres	2,383
Practice Feet	23,071
Field Acres	4,033
Nitrogen Reduction	16,095 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	8,052 lbs.
Sediment Reduction	7,296 tons

## TECHNICAL REPORT FOR SOUTHEAST REGION

Clean Water Indiana Grants— Currently nine active CWI grants involving 13 counties. Eight counties are involved in multiple grants.

EPA 319 Grants— Two grants for Watershed Management Plan development. Six grants for land treatment involving 12 counties and two counties with multiple grants.

Lake and River Enhancement—Three LARE grants. Washington County was awarded a grant earlier this year for log jam removal.

Water Quality Trading—Focus for 2016 will be forestry practices. Program eligibility expanded to more counties along Ohio River and may include the entire Ohio River Basin.

Resource Specialists are assisting NRCS and SWCDs with contribution agreements with field visits for CRP grassed waterway and filter strip re-enrollments. Ninety-one tracts have been checked to date.

Requests for Farmbill funded practice design or installation assistance from Conservation Delivery Teams Jan. 1 to today. From Greensburg-30 requests. From Salem-0 requests.

Resource Specialists, District Support Specialist, NRCS and SWCD staff completed the soil sampling and bio mass collection on the three CCSI hub farms and soil sampling on two adjoining farms for Purdue's study on fertility in conventional tilled cropland vs no tilled cropland.



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Agricultural and Environmental Affairs Program Manager



## Program Updates

### ➤ INfield Advantage

- The 2015 field reports have been posted to the website:  
[www.INfieldAdvantage.org](http://www.INfieldAdvantage.org)
- 2016 registration has started. It should conclude the first week of July. We anticipate enrolling 1,000 Guided Stalk Sampling fields this year.
- 25 of our existing participants have signed up to be part of Indiana Pork's pilot project focused on building hog manure applicators into regional network groups. We are also working with a new group in Wabash County where all of the participants will have applied hog manure on the fields. This project is being funded jointly by Indiana Pork and Indiana Corn and Soy.
- Jordan Seger represented INFA at a multi-state workshop to develop standards for reporting, archiving and sharing agronomic data collected within networks. The workshop was in Des Moines on April 13 and 14.
- End of Summer/Fall staff trainings, and to pick up stalk sampling supplies, are scheduled for August 16 and September 12.
- Participating ICP staff will be able to tour A&L Great Lakes' facility in Ft. Wayne on October 7 (pre-registration is required, space is limited)
- In addition to my regular column in Indiana Corn and Soybean Review, I'm been interviewed by Tom Beckman for a number of articles he's written and by Ashley Langreck of Indiana AgriNews
  - <http://farmprogress.com/story-why-does-indiana-state-department-agriculture-care-use-nitrogen-more-efficiently-9-139598>
  - <http://farmprogress.com/story-3-reasons-why-should-consider-joining-infield-advantage-group-9-139596>
  - <http://farmprogress.com/story-infield-advantage-program-9-139594>
  - <http://farmprogress.com/story-2-ways-involved-farm-testing-year-9-139707>
  - <http://farmprogress.com/story-4-nitrogen-management-tactics-9-140190>
  - <http://www.agrinews-pubs.com/Content/News/Latest-News/Article/Helps-farmers-maximize-field-s-potential-/8/6/15030>

➤ **Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative**

- The CCSI director posting was closed and four individuals were interviewed. The Oversight Committee intends to have the position filled mid-June pending on final signature on paperwork with NRCS.
- The CCSI agronomist posting has received a number of viable candidates and filling the position is moving forward.
- HUB farm sampling is continuing, though the rain has had an impact collecting samples.
- Intermediate Cover Crops Workshops were held April 4 and 5. Both were filled to capacity with approximately 85 total attendees, including NRCS, ISDA, SWCD, IDEM/Watershed, and DNR staff along with a few CCAs
- A 2016 USDA CIG proposal was turned in this month. This year the proposal process does not include pre-proposals.
- Working with Indiana SARE on the 2-year Professional Development Plan of Work. One of the main tracks (again) will be Soil Health. This time w/ a composting and manure use component. This is the program that has funded Intro to Soil Health, Core Cover Crop Training, Advanced Cover Crops and Cropping Systems Trainings and Presentation and Media Skills Training.
- Advanced Conservation Cropping Systems Trainings are in planning stages for mid-August. Focus will be on equipment adjustments and modifications.
- The 3 Day Soil Health Training is scheduled for August 30 to September 1. Registration should open shortly.
- Working on preliminary invite list for the next Presentation and Media Skills Training.
- Advanced Cover Crops is planned for Sept 19 at Jamie Scott Farm. An additional date/location for Advanced Cover Crops is in initial planning stages

➤ **Red Gold Tomato Conservation Stewardship Award**

- The 2016 Stewardship Award program received 44, out of 50, applications from Red Gold growers. This year's application included questions focusing on their use of gypsum and what practices they use to support bees and monarch butterflies.
- For their three March grower meetings, where the 2016 award application process begins, ISDA sponsored a presentation by Han Kok, PhD, (Ohio location) and the NRCS NE Soil Team (Indiana locations) about soil health featuring the slake test. The majority of Red Gold growers were not familiar with the demonstration.

- The five finalists represent all three states, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, where growers produce Red Gold's tomatoes. In early July, Julie Harrold and I will conduct site visits with the finalists.
- The winner and runner-up will be announced at Red Gold's Grower Meeting the first week of August.

➤ **Roadside Pollinator Program**

- ISDA is acting as grant coordinator for a proposal submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund 2016 for \$171,373 over two years. The grant winners will be announced in mid-August.
- The Indiana Monarch Corridor Project is a joint endeavor of ISDA, INDOT and Indiana Department of Corrections. The project will plant a total of 200 acres of milkweed and native wildflowers across the state.
- The funds will be used to modify proposed natural snow fence plantings along 140 miles of I-65 from Indianapolis to Gary to include milkweed and native wildflowers. It will also reduce the project's timeline from five years down to two.
- The funds will also be used to develop a milkweed seed nursery as part of the native plant seed nursery at the Madison Correctional Institute.



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Accountability and Technology



## **Program Updates**

### ***2015 Fall Cover Crop and Tillage Transect Survey***

The results of the 2015 Fall Cover Crop and Tillage Transect Survey are posted on the ISDA website at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>. Take-a-ways include the following:

- 1.1 million acres of cover crops were planted in 2015, which is an increase of nearly 10 percent compared to the previous year and 225 times more coverage over the past decade.
- Statewide, a total of 1,245,000 of harvested cropland acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.
- Statewide, 9% (518,000 acres) of the harvested corn acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.
- Statewide, 11.5% (628,000 acres) of the harvested soybean acres had living cover crops and cereal grains planted in them.
- Statewide, 55% (3,160,000 acres) of the harvested corn acres had residues and soil undisturbed during the winter months.
- Statewide, 59% (3,245,000 acres) of the harvested soybean acres had residues and soil undisturbed during the winter months.

### ***ICP Reports Web Application***

The ICP Reports web application has been updated to include 2015 local, state, and federal funding per county. You can view the web application at <http://www.in.gov/isda/icpreports/>. The DSSs have begun encouraging Districts to prepare their 2015 success stories and will post them to the web application as they are completed.

### ***WLEB Story Map***

An interactive story map has been created for the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). The purpose of the story map is to showcase Indiana's efforts to enhance water quality in the WLEB, as well as educate landowners, both rural and urban, about local, state and federal cost-share programs, educational opportunities, and rural and urban conservation practices. The story map features maps which allow users to click on watersheds, water monitoring locations, and educational sites to view pop-ups which provide detailed information about each location.

You can view the WLEB story map at <http://arcg.is/1PCUdr1>. It is best viewed in Google Chrome.



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

District Support Specialist Report (2/20/16 – 5/6/16)



## **Major Activities or Events:**

- DSSs assisted the SSCB CWI Grants Committee with updating the 2017 CWI Grants Program documents and guidance.
- DSSs assisted SWCDs with various election, annual meeting and financial report forms. DSSs have also been facilitating or contributing to discussions about the Open Door Law and the new Internal Control guidance from State Board of Accounts.
- Four SWCD March Region Meetings were held statewide. Approximately 225 people attended. Key topics were Open Door Law and Parliamentary Procedure, New Supervisor/Staff Training, CWI 2017, INFA or Working With Ag Retailers.
- Two WordPress and Press Release Trainings were held statewide. Approximately 45 people attended.
- Tara and Laura also helped coordinate two Toolkit and ArcMap trainings in the SE.
- Jennifer coordinated a wetland ID and invasive species training for the NNE.
- DSSs hosted joint CWI Grant and Information Sessions, and Internal Control Workshops in the following counties: Delaware, Kosciusko, Marion and Warrick. Attendees from these counties were present: Allen, Boone, Daviess, DeKalb, Delaware, Dubois, Elkhart, Fulton, Gibson, Hamilton, Hendricks, Jay, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Randolph, Spencer, St. Joseph, Steuben, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Wells and Whitely. Nathan also gave an update on Internal Control in Brown County at the IDEA Region Meeting.
- Nathan led a pilot MBTI session with the Pike County SWCD.
- Jennifer helped coordinate a Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) stakeholder and partner meeting

## **Ongoing Key Support:**

- Business plans and/or annual plans of work- Laura facilitated business plans in Dubois and Washington Counties, Jennifer worked with Allen County on a strategic plan.
- DSSs attended workshops, field days, trainings, soil sampling days, local official tours, meetings, etc. where they were able to interact with the following SWCDs: Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clark, Clay, Crawford, Dearborn, Decatur, Delaware, Dubois, Elkhart, Hamilton, Hendricks, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Kosciusko, Lake, Lawrence, Marion, Marshall, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Orange, Posey, Putnam, Scott, Shelby, Ripley, Rush, Tippecanoe, Wabash, Warrick, Washington, Wayne, White
- CWI Grant Reviews were conducted in Gibson and Pike Counties
- SWCD Annual Meetings: DSSs presented at, assisted, and/or attended meetings in the following counties: Allen, Boone, Clinton, Delaware, Hancock, Hendricks, Jackson, Jennings, Marion, Ohio, Putnam, Tippecanoe and Wells.

- SWCD Board Meetings-DSSs have attended and assisted with various topics in the following counties: Allen, Boone, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Daviess, Decatur, Delaware, Fayette, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Huntington, Jackson, Jay, Jefferson, Jennings, LaGrange, Lawrence, Marion, Morgan, Noble, Ohio, Orange, Perry, Pike, Posey, Putnam, Randolph, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Union, Vanderburgh, Vigo, Warrick, Washington
- District Staff and Supervisor visits- DSSs visited staff and/or supervisors and provided training, assistance with various projects or tasks, and provided guidance in the following counties: Adams, Bartholomew, Benton, Delaware, Jefferson, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Noble, Ohio, Owen, Posey, Putnam, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Union
- New Staff or Supervisor Training was conducted in the following counties: Benton, Dubois, Floyd, Jefferson, Union
- Leah's updated the cover crop trends summary
- Jennifer continues to create communication documents for the WLEB RCPP communications team.

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

- Nathan- Pathway to Water Quality, INFA
- Geneva- CCSI, Leadership Institute, Tillage Transect
- Laura- Women's Conservation Learning Circles, Leadership Institute, CCSI, ICP Training and Certification Program, IASWCD 2017 Annual Conference Planning Committee, IN Watershed Leadership Academy, INFA, Farmland Preservation/Conservation Easement Workshop
- Tara- CCSI, Leadership Institute, IASWCD 2017 Annual Conference Planning Committee, Water Quality Trading, Women's Conservation Learning Circle, Fayette County Bold Actions Big Dreams Initiative, INFA
- Leah- CWI grants (including CWI FAQ page and creating of more YouTube videos) SSCB duties, CCSI, INFA, ICP Communications Committee
- Jennifer – CCSI, Elkhart Watershed Committee, 4R's, Adams/Allen field day, INFA

**Upcoming Events:**

- Clean Water Indiana Informational and Networking Sessions/Internal Control Workshop:
  - May 18<sup>th</sup>: Jackson County
  - May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ripley County
  - May 24<sup>th</sup>: Daviess County
- August 19<sup>th</sup>: "Communication" Leadership Institute workshop, Fair Oak Farms
- August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Supervisor Summit. Hendricks County Fairgrounds. IDEA is having a Staff Summit this day as well at the same location.

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



# State Soil Conservation Board

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



## Program Updates

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**
  - Amendment to the CREP Agreement between FSA and ISDA has been signed by Ted McKinney, and is in Washington, D.C. to be signed by USDA. We hope to get it back within the next two weeks. Then the amendment will be finalized.
  - Attached to this report is a report on the current status of acres and dollars in CREP.
  - There has been a lot of interest by landowners for CREP projects. So far this year, there has been 1,288.40 acres of enrollment, which already exceeds last year's total enrollment.
  - There have been a couple of issues with CREP Easements being sold and changing ownership and the communication not happening with ISDA and DNR as required by the contracts. I worked with Tom Laycock at DNR to work on paperwork for these. A protocol will be developed on what we need to do if and when CREP Easements are sold.
- **IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)**
  - The latest version of the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>.
  - Work is on-going to characterize and prioritize watersheds based on HUC 12 watersheds by using a number of different resources and tools such as analyzing water quality monitoring data, modeling, WMPs, Drinking water sources, Groundwater Vulnerability maps, State Resource Assessments, etc.
- **Gulf Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)**
  - Jordan and I attended the spring Hypoxia Task Force meeting in St. Louis, Missouri from April 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Work is on-going with the Coordinating Committee and with the Sub-Committee on 'Common Measures' and data sharing within the states in order to determine the impact we are having on the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Zone.
- **Western Lake Erie Basin**
  - A GIS Story Map for the WLEB has been developed and includes background information on the watershed, water quality monitoring information, nutrient load reduction information for the WLEB, rural and urban conservation program information for the landowners and the public, educational opportunities, as well as features the WLEB webpage on the ISDA website and ISDA contacts in the WLEB.
  - The WLEB webpage on ISDA website can be found here: <http://www.in.gov/isda/3261.htm>.

SSCB Meeting - May 17, 2016

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total		
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 5/12/2016	174.80	14.00	3616.10	17.20	361.61	3543.32	222.80	1440.89	9,390.72	26,250.00	35.77%
Total CREP Enrollment	202.98	14.00	3734.02	18.27	371.01	4617.46	805.12	1819.65	11,582.51	26,250.00	44.12%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90		

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fee	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total CREP Dollars	\$ 17,480.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 361,610.00	\$ 7,126.00	\$ 158,073.00	\$ 1,521,949.00	\$ 175,150.00	\$ 853,345.50	\$ 3,096,133.50	\$ 168,150.85	\$ 3,264,284.35

# SSCB Meeting - May 17, 2016

## Post-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.10	79.70	0.00	0.00	82.80
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	372.86	0.00	0.00	372.86
Lower East Fork White	33.50	7.00	0.00	5.40	41.10	567.80	0.00	0.00	654.80
Lower White	10.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	251.60	0.00	0.00	262.30
Middle Wabash-Busseron	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	667.30	0.00	0.00	667.30
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	5.80	0.00	0.00	21.20	0.00	0.00	33.60
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	134.70	0.00	0.00	139.20
Tippecanoe River	90.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.41	21.40	73.30	463.39	652.40
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74.16	0.00	0.00	74.16
Upper Wabash	3.70	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	161.30	27.80	33.60	233.40
Upper White	20.80	0.00	65.80	0.00	173.30	133.40	0.00	3.90	397.20
<b>Reported Completed as of 5/12/2016</b>	<b>170.70</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>71.60</b>	<b>5.40</b>	<b>220.91</b>	<b>2,485.42</b>	<b>101.10</b>	<b>500.89</b>	<b>3,570.02</b>
<b>Enrolled as of 5/12/2016</b>	<b>198.88</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>189.52</b>	<b>6.47</b>	<b>230.31</b>	<b>3,559.56</b>	<b>683.42</b>	<b>879.65</b>	<b>5,761.81</b>

## Pre-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.50	0.00	215.00	10.80	16.40	109.20	0.00	0.00	353.90
Tippecanoe River	0.00	0.00	2916.80	0.00	7.80	20.40	121.70	924.00	3990.70
Upper White	1.60	0.00	412.70	1.00	116.50	928.30	0.00	16.00	1476.10
<b>Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,544.50</b>	<b>11.80</b>	<b>140.70</b>	<b>1,057.90</b>	<b>121.70</b>	<b>940.00</b>	<b>5,820.70</b>

	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total Extension Acres
Extension Acres -Tippecanoe			14.80	121.70		136.50
Extension Acres -Upper White		1.00	53.70	413.70	6.00	474.40
<b>Total Extension Acres</b>		<b>1.00</b>	<b>53.70</b>	<b>428.50</b>	<b>121.70</b>	<b>610.90</b>

# SSCB Meeting - May 17, 2016

## Post-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fees	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 31,880.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,120.00	\$ 3,312.00	\$ 36,432.00
Lower Wabash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,144.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,144.00	\$ 14,914.40	\$ 164,058.40
Lower East Fork White	\$ 3,350.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 16,440.00	\$ 227,120.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 249,770.00	\$ 24,977.00	\$ 274,747.00
Lower White	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,640.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 101,710.00	\$ 10,171.00	\$ 111,881.00
Middle Wabash-Busseron	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 266,920.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 266,920.00	\$ 26,692.00	\$ 293,612.00
Middle Wabash-Deer	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 580.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,480.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,720.00	\$ 972.00	\$ 10,692.00
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,880.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,330.00	\$ 5,433.00	\$ 59,763.00
Tippecanoe River	\$ 9,090.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 8,560.00	\$ 69,635.00	\$ 440,220.50	\$ 528,869.50	\$ 52,886.95	\$ 581,756.45
Upper East Fork White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,160.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,160.00	\$ 2,716.00	\$ 29,876.00
Upper Wabash	\$ 370.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,520.00	\$ 26,410.00	\$ 31,920.00	\$ 123,920.00	\$ 12,392.00	\$ 136,312.00
Upper White	\$ 2,080.00	\$ -	\$ 6,580.00	\$ -	\$ 69,320.00	\$ 53,360.00	\$ -	\$ 3,705.00	\$ 135,045.00	\$ 13,504.50	\$ 148,549.50
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,980.00
<b>Reported Paid as of 5/12/2016</b>	<b>\$ 17,070.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,160.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,160.00</b>	<b>\$ 90,164.00</b>	<b>\$ 991,664.00</b>	<b>\$ 96,045.00</b>	<b>\$ 475,845.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,681,508.50</b>	<b>\$ 168,150.85</b>	<b>\$ 1,849,659.35</b>

## Pre-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 4,316.00	\$ 6,564.00	\$ 43,680.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,310.00
Tippecanoe River	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 291,680.00	\$ -	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 8,160.00	\$ 48,680.00	\$ 369,600.00	\$ 721,240.00
Tippecanoe River Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 30,425.00	\$ -	\$ 34,125.00
Upper White	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 41,270.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 46,600.00	\$ 371,320.00	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 466,150.00
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 11,625.00	\$ 103,425.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 116,800.00
<b>Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP</b>	<b>\$ 410.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 354,450.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,966.00</b>	<b>\$ 67,909.00</b>	<b>\$ 530,285.00</b>	<b>\$ 79,105.00</b>	<b>\$ 377,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,414,625.00</b>



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

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



**IASWCD**

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**To:** State Soil Conservation Board

**From:** Mike Starkey, President, IASWCD

**Date:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016

**Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)**

- CCSI Director has been selected; however an official announcement will not be made until contract with NRCS has been signed.
- Agronomist position interviews will be taking place soon.
- CCSI applied for another CIG grant for continuation of soil health sampling efforts. However, 2016 sampling is taking place thanks to support from Corn/Soy organizations, Knox County SWCD, and others.
- Additional economic case studies will be available soon.

**Pathway to Water Quality**

- Lots of updates to PWQ being done
  - Septic system display
  - New green roof front entrance
  - Redesign of volunteer slots; called Ambassadors now. Fewer volunteers needed, but emphasis on quality of delivery
- Official sign up for State Fair is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**District Agreements**

- New CRP agreement for 2016 that will be valued at over \$260,000 for Districts is ongoing. Warrick County SWCD is providing overall coordination for this project.
- Program Support Services contribution agreements are in place with 39 Districts to provide administrative assistance to NRCS. This work is valued at over \$300,000 for Districts. A meeting on May 19 is scheduled to look at current and future agreement.

**Other**

- Amy Work has been hired by the IASWCD as our new Communication & Member Programs Manager.
- Language has been provided to all Districts regarding a policy for paying for meals. A special thanks to the DSS's for getting this drafted and working with Districts. This will streamline how Districts can pay for meals and is a win-win for them.
- The Indiana Conservation Alliance is planning a "Conservation Congress" for Friday, September 30.
- ICP leader visits (with Districts) getting scheduled.
- A special thanks to everyone for supporting the May 10 employee meeting.

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

# Indiana NRCS State Conservationist's Report - SSCB

May, 2016

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## **FARM BILL PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

General 16-1 applications were to be in eligible status by May 2, 2016. Evaluation with the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT) must be completed by June 3, 2016 with acres and score showing in ProTracts. The state office will preapprove applications June 6-8th.

### **Wetland Enhancement Reserve Program (WREP)**

NRCS is investing \$15 million nationwide in the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP), a special Initiative under NRCS' Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), to work through agreements with states, nongovernmental organizations, not for profit organizations, and tribes to help create and restore wetlands. Through targeted WREP projects, dollars are made available for new enrollments into permanent or 30-year easements or restoration and management of existing Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and Wetlands Reserve Enhancement (WRE) enrollments. Proposals for WREP projects for both General WREP and WREP MRBI were due from partners by May 16<sup>th</sup>. Funds are still available to enhance existing WRP sites for monarchs.

## **SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

FY17 Application for Program Funding (APF) has been announced. Pre-proposals were due May 10.

Partnership agreements are being developed for the FY16 funded projects, listed below. Program sign up for these projects can be announced after the agreements are signed, with a likely sign up deadline of late June.

- Soil Heath on Reclaimed Mine Lands, Knox Co SWCD (State proposal, SW)
- Big Pine Watershed Partnership, The Nature Conservancy (National, NW)
- Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (National, includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas & Wisconsin)

Existing Projects (from the FY14-15 call for proposals) include the WLEB-RCPP, St. Joseph-MI and Indiana Watershed Initiative-University of Notre Dame. Program sign-up for FY16 closed on March 18<sup>th</sup> for WLEB-RCPP and St. Joseph. Program sign-up is May 20 for University of Notre Dame.

### **Western Lake Erie Basin**

On March 28th, Chief Weller announced a significant investment of \$41 million in a three-year initiative to support the work of farmers in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio to improve water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). The initiative helps farmers implement science-based conservation measures to reduce runoff from farms entering the region's waterways. This initiative will expand conservation and financial assistance opportunities available to WLEB farmers who want to take additional steps to improve the quality of the water feeding the Lake. This funding is in addition to the \$36 million the Agency has already planned to make available in the basin through the 2014 Farm Bill, for a combined three-year investment of \$77 million to improve water quality and support sustainable production in the Basin. The EQIP application deadline is April 29<sup>th</sup>. Visit the Indiana EQIP webpage for screening tools and ranking sheets: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/programs/financial/eqip/>



### **Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project**

The monarch butterfly has suffered from significant population declines over the past two decades. This EQIP Initiative will allow NRCS to work with partners and clients to increase monarch habitat on private agriculture lands. This effort is focused on planting milkweed and other nectar-rich forbs and reducing pesticide use in proximity to monarch habitat through the EQIP program. All counties in Indiana are eligible for this project. Applications must be received by June 17, 2016 to be considered for current funding.

### **Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Project**

Indiana received \$1.5 million as a federal investment to restore forests, reduce wildfire threats, protect water supplies, improve wildlife habitat and support rural economies through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and NRCS. The Hoosier Hills and Highlands Oak Community Restoration Partnership project area is located within 18 counties of the most heavily forested and biologically diverse forest systems in the Central Hardwoods Region including the counties of: Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Orange, Owen, Perry, Putnam and Washington. EQIP applications must be received by June 17, 2016 to be considered for current funding. Core conservation practices include:

- 314 Brush Management
- 666 Forest Stand Improvement
- 338 Prescribed Burning
- 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment
- 394 Firebreak Construction
- 655 Forest Trail & Landings
- 391 Riparian Forest Buffer
- 649 Structures for Wildlife
- 660 Tree and Shrub Pruning

### **SOIL HEALTH TECHNICAL BRIEFINGS**

Members of Indiana's soil health teams are working with Tom Beckman and *Indiana Prairie Farmer* on a monthly section in the magazine and on the *Indiana Prairie Farmer* website committed to soil health technical tips for farmers. This section will include quick tips and photos to assist farmers in improving their soil health. Topics include precision messages about erosion, terminating cover crops, fall/spring tillage, pests, side-dress, prevented planting and more. The first edition was launched in the April issue.

### **FALL TILLAGE AND COVER CROP TRANSECT RESULTS**

Results from the 2015 Indiana Fall Tillage and Cover Crop Transect indicate that overall soil health in Indiana is improving. Hoosier farmers also continued the trend of plowing less and using sound conservation practices that preserve valuable topsoil. According to the data:

- Over 1.1 million acres of cover crops were planted in 2015, an increase of nearly 10 percent compared to the previous year.
- In addition, Indiana farmers planted an additional 100,000 acres of green growing covers such as wheat, barley, or other winter grains. The fall transect methods cannot discern whether these will be treated as a cover crop and not harvested, or if they will be harvested as a commodity.
- Results for residues and soil undisturbed on harvested acres during the winter months include:
  - 55% of corn acres;
  - 59% of soybean acres; and
  - 55% of small grain acres.

### **AVIAN INFLUENZA**

The last remaining quarantine associated with the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) cases identified in Dubois County has officially been lifted by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH). This quarantine release coincides with the state achieving avian influenza-free status, after logging 90 consecutive days with no new cases of the poultry disease.



Washington Co. SWCD would like to thank the State Soil Conservation Board for their continued support and enthusiasm to put conservation on the ground and their leadership to aid in funding numerous programs yearly.

Thank you for coming to Washington County to host your quarterly meeting and allowing us to showcase some of our local conservation to the meeting attendees today. With your vocal support and energy, Washington County continues to see conservation successes daily.

Many Thanks,

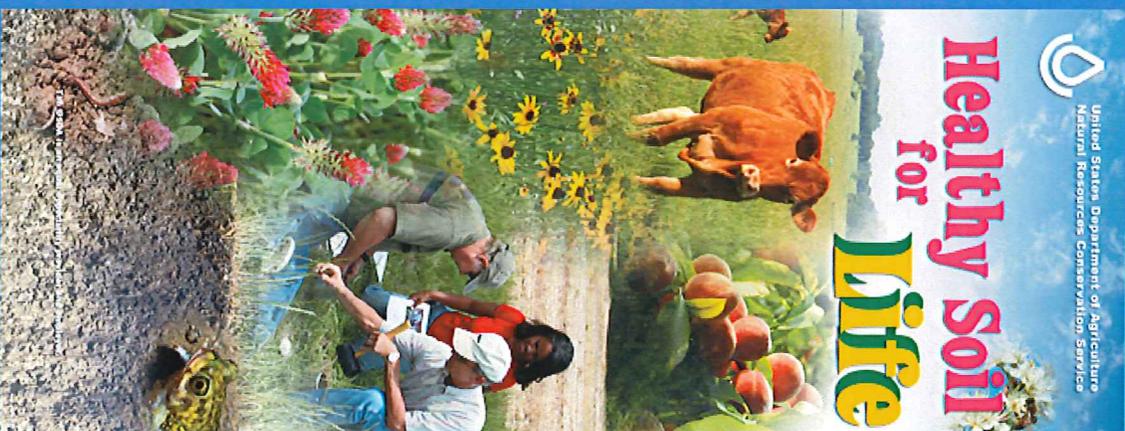
*Michael D. Amador*



Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative



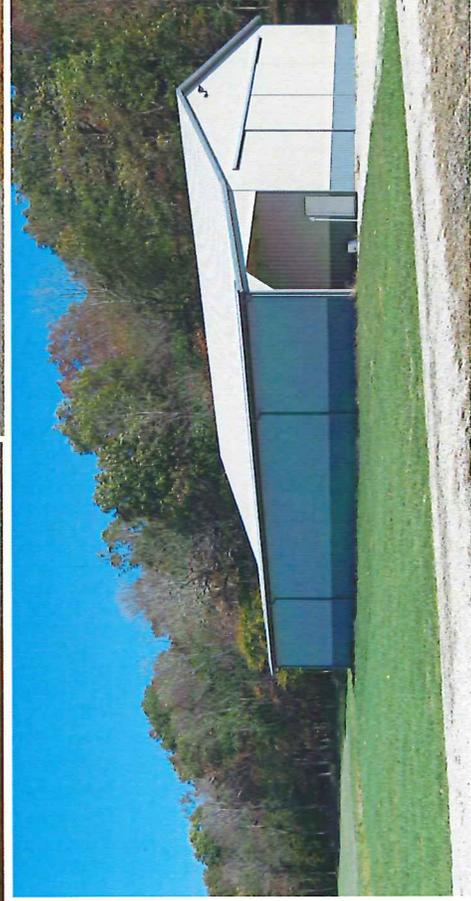
# WASHINGTON CO. SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTS:

### Jim Sullivan:

Cover Crop	99.9 ac
Critical Area Planting	0.5 ac
Roof Runoff Mgmt	248 ft
Underground Outlet	370 ft
Stream Crossing	70 LF
<i>Load Reduction 2015 -</i>	
<i>Sediment</i>	<i>407 tons/yr</i>
<i>Phosphorus</i>	<i>405 lbs/yr</i>
<i>Nitrogen</i>	<i>809 lbs/yr</i>



### Fordyce Farms, LLC:

Cover Crop	96.5 ac
Grassed Waterway	0.7 ac
Lined Waterway	20 ft
Critical Area Planting	0.9 ac
Heavy Use Area Protection (2)	1.0 ac
Watering Facility	1 no
Pipeline	600 ft
Mulching	0.2 ac
Diversion	140 ft
Fence	905 ft
Access Road	500 ft
<i>Load Reductions 2015 --</i>	
<i>Sediment</i>	<i>405 tons/yr</i>
<i>Phosphorus</i>	<i>402 lbs/yr</i>
<i>Nitrogen</i>	<i>804 lbs/yr</i>

