

Floyd County Soil & Water Conservation District



2023

Annual Report





Tom King
Chairman



Ron Wathen
Vice-Chairman



Alisa Perkins
Supervisor



Laura Lewis
Supervisor



Melanie Palaisa
Supervisor



Angel Jackson
Director / Educator

District Office:

2524 Corydon Pike / Suite 103
New Albany, IN 47150
812-945-9936

Open:

Monday – Friday
8:00 – 4:00

www.floydcounty.in.gov

Our purpose is to provide information about soil, water, and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; and connecting land users to sources of educational, technical, and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.



A Review of 2023



County Councilman Dale Bagshaw swears in Supervisors Melanie Palaisa and Laura Lewis following the election at the Annual Meeting.



The District collaborated with Purdue Extension and Farm Bureau to host the first Floyd County Ag. Breakfast in February. Local farmers, growers, and residents attended.



The FCNHRT volunteers along with Bellewood Condominium residents worked to remove a large grove of Burning Bushes.



Ron Wathen presented Larry Bowman with the Forestry Steward Award. Melanie Palaisa accepted the Conservation Steward Award on behalf of Dan & Phyllis Risch.



BAYA (Beautiful As You Are) summer camp attendees learned about storm water pollution and prevention from Director Angel Jackson while attending a day of activities at the 4-H Fairgrounds.

Planning for the district's Annual Meeting consumed most of the month of **January**. Supervisors Tom King and Ron Wathen audited the district's finances for inclusion in the annual report. Supervisor Ron Wathen represented the district as our delegate at the Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) Annual Conference in Indianapolis. The district's Annual Meeting was held the first week of **February** at Newlin Hall where guests were treated to a catered meal and heard from Purdue Extension's Gina Anderson. Supervisor Melanie Palaisa was elected to a 3 year term while Supervisor Laura Lewis was elected to complete the remaining one year of a term. The district recognized Larry Boman as Forestry Steward and Phyllis & Dan Risch as Conservation Stewards. The district also collaborated with Purdue Extension and Farm Bureau to host the county's first Ag. Breakfast. Tom King was motioned to another term as Chairman and Ron Wathen was motioned to Vice-Chair at the **March** meeting. The district picked up tree orders at the state nursery for county residents, purchased 400 lbs. of wildlife seed food plot to give away, and worked with Andry's Fish Farm to take fish orders. In **April** the district helped sponsor Pollinator Day at Purdue Extension and manned a booth with information about the district as well as the current CWI grant for Invasive Removal. The countywide transect survey was also completed. During the month of **May**, the FCNHRT volunteers worked to remove a grove of burning bushes near Silver Creek. Andry's Fish Farm delivered orders taken during our Spring sale.





Director Angel Jackson led the adult Master Naturalist students in a hands-on Watershed activity at the Purdue Polytechnic building.



Supervisors Laura Lewis, Ron Wathen, and Tom King lent a hand during the 4th grade field trip to the Fairgrounds. Fourth graders had an opportunity to learn about careers in agriculture.



The FCNHRT volunteers led a Weed Wrangle at Community Park targeting invasive honeysuckle in late September.



Herbie the Hellbender was at the 4-H Fairgrounds to greet 4th grade students during their field trip.



A District Wedding!! Supervisors Ron Wathen and Alisa Perkins wed in June. Alisa resigned her position on the board and now serves as an Associate Supervisor.



In December, Director Angel Jackson presented Dulcie Willis of Let Us Learn with a sponsorship check. The district sponsored the installation of a raingarden and grow beds at Slate Run Elementary.

In **June** board supervisors and staff lent a hand to the “My Little Farm” attraction at the county 4-H Fair. Supervisor Melanie Palaisa, FCNHRT Secretary Allie Peot, and Director Angel Jackson attended educational classes at the Indiana Invasive Species Conference in Noblesville. **July** was a busy month for site visits to residents interested in our Invasive Removal cost-share grant. Due to a lack of quorum, there was no board meeting. The district worked with Purdue Extension to host a Landscaping With Natives workshop in **August** that was well attended. Supervisors Tom King and Melanie Palaisa took part in a Summer Summit workshop in Corydon also. **September** saw the district work with Purdue Extension and New Albany Floyd County Schools to co-host a field trip for 4th grade students. Supervisors and staff helped as the students spent their day learning about careers in Agriculture at the Fairgrounds. FCNHRT hosted a Weed Wrangle at Community Park to remove Japanese honeysuckle and Multiflora rose brambles. In mid **October** the district worked with the Urban Soil Health Team and Purdue Extension to host an Erosion & Soil Health workshop. In **November** the State Soil Conservation Board approved the temporary appointment of Matt Payne to the board of Supervisors following Alisa Perkin’s resignation. The board approved sponsoring a Let Us Learn grow garden at the **December** board meeting. The grow beds and raingarden will be installed at Slate Run Elementary and be a collaborative effort with New Albany Floyd County Schools, Purdue Extension, Sunnyside Master Gardeners, and Recycle Floyd County. The board also reviewed the Annual Plan of Work and started making plans for 2024 activities.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF FLOYD COUNTY SWCD
January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

RECEIPTS

Balance Brought Forward	\$72,651.03
State for District Operations	\$12,000.00
Clean Water Indiana Grant	\$7875.00
County for District Operations	\$1,669.67
Sales Income (Fish Sale)	\$648.80
Reimbursements (USPS & CWI Training)	\$668.84
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$22,898.31

TOTAL (balance forward + receipts) \$95,549.34

DISBURSEMENTS

Annual Meeting Expenses	\$656.46
Conservation Education Programs	\$376.79
CWI Payment to Washington County SWCD	\$3,937.50
CWI Cost Share & Projects	\$2,479.79
Dues & Subscriptions	\$2,526.00
Office Supplies	\$71.27
Postage & Delivery & Operating Expenses	\$77.40
Printing/Copying Expense	\$664.53
Sales Tax to State	\$37.18
Supervisor Per Diem	\$1,650.00
Supplies for Resale (Fish Sale)	\$609.00
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	\$363.00
Other Disbursements (Thank A Farmer Ad.)	\$206.25
Other Disbursements (Sponsorships / CISMA Sec. / SRE Garden)	\$2550.00
Other Disbursements (Wildlife Seed)	\$326.00
Other Disbursements (RCPP 1 st Year)	\$5,000.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$21,531.17

BALANCE (Total receipts – Total disbursements) \$74,018.17

CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY

Salaries	\$61,350.63
Fringe	\$7,721.24
Other (Mileage)	\$713.93

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Investments	\$17,232.75
Ending Investments	\$17,234.48
Change (+/-)	\$1.73





Harrison/Floyd/Crawford Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) serves the agricultural community by administering many of the federal Farm Bill programs. Among the most popular in this area are the Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL), Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), Disaster Programs for Livestock, and the Farm Loan Programs.

Additionally, FSA administered several COVID-19 pandemic relief programs and disaster assistance programs over the past few years, including two rounds of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP and CFAP2) for crop and livestock producers, the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program (PATHH) for loggers, the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program-Plus (WHIP+) for 2019 excessive moisture damage to crops, and currently the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) for eligible disasters in 2020 -2022. Over \$7.31 Million in CFAP1&2, nearly \$250 Thousand in PATHH, over \$1.58 Million in WHIP+, and \$300 Thousand in ERP funds were distributed to assist eligible producers in the three-county area to date.

The CRP program currently has 173 active contracts (118 in Harrison, 18 in Floyd, 37 in Crawford) with a total of 2151 acres enrolled. The CRP program issues over \$250 Thousand of annual rental payments into the local economy.

Marketing assistance loans provide interim financing at harvest time to help agricultural producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. The producer pledges the agricultural commodity as collateral towards a nine-month loan. Current interest rate is: 6.125%.

The FSFL program provides low interest loans for the construction of commodity storage facilities. These are three to twelve year loans (depending upon the loan amount and equipment constructed) that help provide storage for up to two years of production. Current interest rates are: 4.375% for 3-year term, 4.125% for 5-year term, 4.250% for 7-year term, 4.125% for 10-year term, and 4.250% for 12-year term.

The Farm Loan Programs provide direct loans and loan guarantees for the purchases of land and/or equipment as well as operating loans to local eligible producers. There are 30 direct active loans in the three-county area totaling over \$3 Million and 35 guaranteed loans totaling over \$10 Million.

For additional information on these or any other FSA programs, please feel free to contact the FSA office at 812-738-8121 Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. Regional Farm Loan staff are located in the Salem FSA office and can be reached at 812-883-3006.

County Executive Director: Jennifer Anderson, jennifer.anderson@usda.gov
Farm Loan Manager: Debbie Maudlin, deborah.maudlin@usda.gov





2023 Floyd County Update

With the mission of “Helping People Help the Land,” the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Indiana provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to implement conservation practices to address natural resource concerns on their land related to soil health, water and air quality, and wildlife habitat as well as implement climate-smart agriculture practices. With our help, producers are better able to conserve, maintain or improve their natural resources. As a result of our technical and financial assistance, land managers and communities take a comprehensive approach to the use and protection of natural resources in rural, suburban, urban, and developing areas.

Private citizens own over 90 percent of the land in Indiana which includes nearly 15 million acres of farmland and about 4 million acres of forestland. Making stewardship critical to the health of our environment. Each day, these farmers and forest landowners are making decisions about natural resource use and management that impact soil and water quality. With NRCS assistance, many are managing more productive lands while improving ecosystem health.

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance through voluntary conservation programs for all kinds of land, natural resources, and people.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the primary program that NRCS uses to provide financial and technical assistance to private landowners wanting to install conservation practices on private lands.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities. CSP may address various resource concerns including soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, and animal or timber resources.

Typical EQIP and CSP contracts include practices such as, livestock watering systems, pasture/hay planting, access roads, heavy use area protection, forest stand improvement, invasive species control, cover crops, nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, no-till, pollinator habitat, and tree planting.

Additional EQIP funding will be available in 2023-24-25 through a Reginal Conservation Partnership Program, “Farmers Helping Hellbenders.” With help from nearly \$2.7 million in RCCP funding, the project aims to improve hellbender habitat in a four-county region in south central Indiana, the only remaining habitat for hellbenders in the state, by expanding the use of agricultural conservation practices that lead to decreased sedimentation in local rivers systems. *(Continued on next page)*



The “Farmers Helping Hellbenders” project is led by Dr. Rod Williams and Purdue Extension wildlife specialist/Help the Hellbender project coordinator Nick Burgmeier. Through this initiative, focused on Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, and Washington counties, we expect to improve water quality and aquatic wildlife habitat,” Burgmeier said. “Simultaneously, we hope to improve soil retention and nutrient availability to crops by helping farmers implement practices such as cover crops, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, etc. Additional benefits will include increases in riparian and pollinator habitat and increased protection for karst habitat through the selected targeting of sinkholes.

Improving Soil Health continues to be a major focus of NRCS and the Conservation Partnership. As soil health improves, soils become more resilient and able to function at a higher level even during extreme weather patterns. Healthy soils are more resistant to erosion, absorb more rainfall, cycle nutrients more efficiently, and require fewer inputs. These things are important whether you are producing corn and soybeans or forages for grazing livestock. Implementing practices like no-till, cover crops, nutrient and pest management, conservation buffers, and prescribed grazing will make your soils function at their highest level.

Trevor Mills started work on August 14th at the Corydon Service Center. As a Soil Conservationist.

To find out more about the programs and services offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and available in Floyd County, please contact: Kevin Chastain, NRCS District Conservationist at kevin.chastain@usda.gov or Trevor Mills, NRCS Soil Conservationist at trevor.mills@usda.gov . Or visit www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/. or call (812)738-8121 ext. 3.

activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."

Organizations the District worked with in 2022



Extension























