



**Clean Water Indiana  
2021 SWCD Led  
Competitive Grant Application**

**Contact Information**

Lead District	Adams County SWCD
Address	975 S 11 <sup>th</sup> St
City, State, ZIP	Decatur, IN 46733
Lead District Contact Name	Sandy Voglewede
Email Address	Sandy.voglewede@in.nacdnet.net
Phone	260-724-4124 x3
Amount Requested	\$48,094
Authorized Signatory Name	Randy Roe
Authorized Signatory Email	Roe@mercerlandmark.com
Participating District(s), if applicable	N/A

**Project Information**

<i>Project Title</i>
Adapting to Conservation Concerns

<i>Project Description</i>
<p>*With the worldwide pandemic, it was noted that agriculture is essential! Adams County needs to adapt to stay in forefront of conservation needs in our area. Issues such as erosion, soil health and water quality need to be consistently addressed and efficiently communicated during our world pandemic. Solutions to new emerging conservation difficulties are sought to face our challenges while promoting conservation and protecting our natural resources to several audiences.</p> <p>*The funds will be utilized to promote the wise use of our natural resources such as protecting our streams and rivers along with producing and maintaining healthy soils with the goal of fighting erosion. Water quality will be improved by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff found in our local streams and rivers of Adams County, Indiana. Through the use of BMPs and creating awareness of environmental concerns, these goals will aid in conservation. It will impact the loss of soil and the depletion of organic matter. Cover crops and diverse rotations address these issues while increasing the soil's organic matter and improving microbial activity</p> <p>*The waters in Adams County run into both the Western Lake Erie Basin and the Mississippi Atchafalaya River Basin. Our county has high priority watersheds in both the WLEB and the MARB. Our US Under Secretary of Ag has taken the WLEB as a</p>

special project. And there are the red tide and shrinking shorelines along the Gulf of Mexico. Reduction of phosphorous and nitrogen levels are key goals in our area. So this emphasizes the needs to improve our watersheds in Adams County.

\*Some of ways we are addressing these issues are thru cover crops & other BMPs will improve our soil quality & health thru reducing soil compaction, weed suppression, moisture retention, & stores soil carbon. Multispecies Cover Crops provide a continuous living root.

*Provide the specific issue, problem or need that the project will address.*

\*\*Adams Co. is ranked #4-cattle, #6-chickens, #6-sheep, #7-hogs, & #14-turkeys. Multiple times our office is called to aid with manure spills or misapplying manure in our county. Manure management in an important need.

\*Specific needs addressed in this project are the communication, education, best management practices and community awareness of manure management, soil health, erosion, and water quality. Adams County SWCD provides programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources across our area during our changing times. Several agencies from the Indiana Conservation Partnership strongly work together with Adams County SWCD to provide successes in conservation.

*Describe each partner and their specific contributions and anticipated match to the project.*

FFA and Adams Central Community Schools: donation of 3 acres land for cover crop plots

Bank of Berne; Field Day sponsorship; \$100

Lehman Feed Mills: Field Day sponsorship; \$250

ICP: Purdue Extension, NRCS, ISDA; PARP and presentations and technical help

State Chemist Office: Presenters and technical help

SNE SWCDs: promotion of events and BMPs program

Local school teachers: present conservation lessons using videos prepared by Adams Co. SWCD

Local producers: Cover crop in-kind, \$4000.00+

Local media: WZBD, Decatur Daily Democrat Newspaper; Berne Witness Newspaper; promotion of conservation program and events

St. Marys Advisory Group. Presenter, technical help, promotion of cost share and education events.

County Commissioners. \$9,900 cash

*Describe how the funds will be utilized.*

**EMPHASIS OF MULTISPECIES COVER CROPS:**

\*Cover Crop Cost Share. Extra points will be given to those who plant 2+ cover crops species.

\*Late Spring 2020 our District received the opportunity to utilize 3 acres at AC School for cover crop demonstration & pollinator habitat by partnering with FFA. Funding would allow us to continue these demonstration plots showcasing 15+ cover crops, interseeding, pasture & pollinators.

**MANURE MANAGEMENT:**

\*Good manure management is a constant struggle in our county.

\*Due to the high number of livestock, there is a large opportunity for education in person and virtual, on this environmental concern.

\*Uniquely, a large portion of our livestock operators are Amish producers. With funding we can continue to advance conservation practices by providing relevant speakers & guidance through farmer-focused education and training to all.

**WHEAT CROP ROTATION:**

\*Another portion of the grant proposal is wheat crop rotation cost share. This provides field area for manure application & management. This would address over-saturation on field ground. Plus, diverse crop rotation provides soil health.

**VIRTUAL RESOURCES:**

\*Another concern is to provide safe public outreach to a larger audience promoting conservation to producers in an accessible means in spite of COVID-19 restrictions.

\*A series of videos will be produced by a professional videographer. Our inspiration is 'Cotton & Covers' video at <https://soilhealthinstitute.org/soil-health-training/> More virtual resources will be developed by SWCD staff to continue the process.

\*The long-term effect goes beyond the 3 year grant cycle. Promotion thru our website, FB, newsletter, & IG where farmers inside/outside Adams Co. will gain insight into soil health & water quality.

\*The award of CWI funds will help farmers address environmental & society challenges. Additionally, it will help producers to combat erosion while protecting our water quality & soil health for Adams County.

***What are the primary goals for the project?***

\$20,000 of cover crops planted cost share program/ \$20 per acre of 75% of the actual costs/whichever is the less amount. Emphasis will be given to multi species cover crops. Outcome: Provides retention of sediment & nutrition runoff. Provides continuous ground cover. Stores carbon. This will improve soil health, water quality, and erosion in Adams County.

10+ videos edited and placed on social media and links in newsletter (combination of professional series and SWCD produced). The professionals are Lofthouse Films in Fort Wayne who produce very high quality, Their quote includes 6-part video series of farmers, soil health, cover crops topics. Each 3-5 min in final length. Outcome: Increase in knowledge and awareness of BMP particularly cover crops, pollinator habitat, manure & livestock management, along with conservation awareness. Benefits beyond the grant cycle.

5 or more species cover mix + Wheat crop rotation Cost Share. Payment: \$35 or 75% of cost/whichever is less. Manure would need to be applied by October. Outcome: Improvement of soil health and increase acreage for manure application. Less manure spills and ground saturation in Adams County since more acreage will be available for application.

2 large or 4 small group educational events contingent on COVID regulations. Outcome: Provide coverage & promotion of BMPs, manure updated record keeping information & management, 4Rs, soil sustainability, benefits of cover crops, importance of water quality and solutions for erosion. Networking with Conservationists and other producers.

Demonstration plots of cover crop, pasture, & pollinator habitat. Provides conservation education opportunities and create awareness to ag and urban communities in a highly traveled area. Collaboration of Adams County SWCD, Purdue Extension, NRCS, ISDA, and Adams Central School administration and local FFA chapter.

### Budget Information

<i>Item Description</i>	<i>CWI Funds Requested</i>	<i>Cash Match</i>	<i>In Kind Match</i>
Cost Share	\$30,000.00	\$9,900.00	\$16,950.00
Virtual Equipment	\$1,404.00	\$0.00	\$6,200.00
Professional 6 video series promoting Soil Health, Water Quality, BMPs	\$14,800.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Adams Central School Demonstration Plots	\$1,150.00	\$0.00	\$11,015.00
Education Event and Field Day	\$740.00	\$500.00	\$2,789.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$48,094.00</b>	<b>\$10,400.00</b>	<b>\$34,665.00</b>

### Self Assessment

*These items are not specified in district law but are considered essential for district operations and will be considered for CWI 2021.*

<i>District Annual Meeting Information: January 1, 2020</i>	Yes	
<i>Updated SharePoint Directories: Within 30 days of changes</i>	Yes	
<i>The district has a current business plan.</i>	Yes	
<i>The district has had at least one current supervisor/staff/active associate attend a Leadership Institute workshop session since 2008. *Note that in order for an associate supervisor to count toward this item, they must be listed in the SharePoint directory.</i>		No
<i>The district has at least one current supervisor/staff/active associate graduate of the Leadership Institute program. *Note that in order for an associate supervisor to count toward this item, they must be listed in the SharePoint directory.</i>		No

<i>District Staff or supervisors participated in fall 2019 cover crop transects.</i>	Yes	
<i>District has applied for a grant other than CWI in the last 3 years.</i>	Yes	
<i>If so, how many?</i>	2	



Office of

**INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER**

*Protecting Indiana's Agriculture and Environment - Feed, Fertilizer, Hemp, Pesticide & Seed*

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Robert D. Waltz, Ph.D.  
State Chemist &  
Seed Commissioner

September 10, 2020

Re: Adams County Soil & Water Conservation District Clean Water Indiana Program

Dear CWI Grant Committee:

I am writing a letter of support for the Adams County Soil & Water Conservation District participation in the Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program. Every civilization is dependent around clean water. Adams County is in a unique position as they are located near the headwaters of both the Wabash River's watershed as well as two different watersheds that flow into Lake Erie. I am certain that I don't need to tell you about those watersheds, but the one that I find the most interesting is around Geneva IN and heads into Ohio and to Lake Erie. It is of interest because Ohio has done a lot of sampling of waters flowing into the Western Lake Erie Basin and has identified that small watershed as being the most contaminated as it enters into the state of Ohio from southeastern Adams County.

With the large Amish population in Adams County, especially in that portion of the county, it is critical that education and outreach be done to emphasis clean water, healthy soil, and manure management to these individuals and their farming operations.

The Adams County Soil & Water Conservation District has a long history of working well with their community partners and have a knack for connecting with the Amish. That connection is vital if we are to help educate this community about the importance of soil health and manure management. If that can be done then the clean water objective will also be achieved.

I am the fertilizer program administrator for the Office of Indiana State Chemist. We are the state agency charged with administering several agricultural laws and regulations. One such regulation is our Fertilizer Material Use, Distribution, and Record Keeping rules, 355 IAC 8. In this rule we require anyone that uses fertilizer or manure to produce an agricultural crop to develop a written fertilizer application plan. We also established setbacks for manure staging and application activities. One of our most difficult groups to communicate with are the Amish. With the assistance from the Adams County Soil & Water Conservation District we have begun to make progress in educating the Amish community about the requirements. I hope that they are awarded this grant so they can continue their outstanding work and continue to promote clean water, healthy soil, and manure management.

Sincerely,

Matthew E. Pearson  
Fertilizer Administrator

# Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District

9602 Coldwater Road, Suite 104 • Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825-2095

Phone 260-484-5848 Ext. 3



September 10, 2020,

To: Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District

From: Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District

Re: Adams County SWCD Clean Water Indiana Grant Application

Dear Sandy,

On behalf of the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and staff, I would like to express our support for the Adams County SWCD Clean Water Indiana Grant proposal. The Allen and Adams County Districts have a long history of working together and in supporting each other's program whenever possible.

The Allen SWCD will help promote and publicize events held as a part of the Clean Water Indiana project. Furthermore, the Allen SWCD fully recognizes that efforts to improve water quality throughout the St. Marys River watershed in Adams County benefits Allen County as well. Therefore, if called upon, the Allen District will also help with program implementation to the extent possible.

Sincerely,

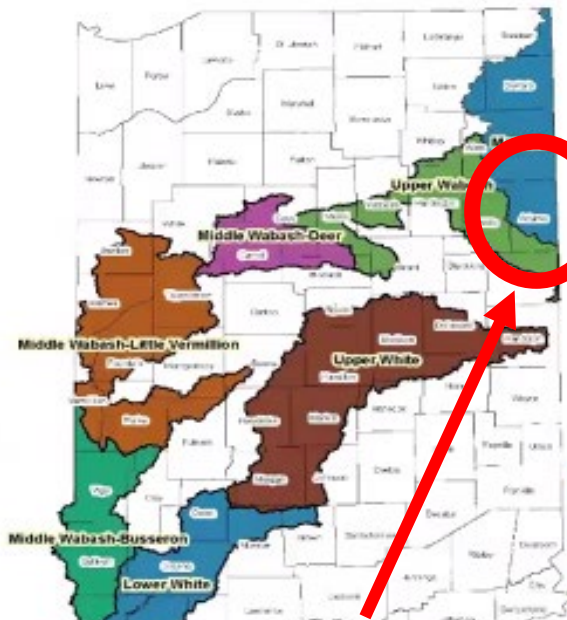
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Lake". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Greg Lake,  
District Director



United States Department of Agriculture

# Water Quality Initiatives



**GULF HYPOXIA  
TASKFORCE**

**20%**

**Nitrogen Loading  
Reduction by 2025**



**WESTERN LAKE  
ERIE BASIN**

**40%**

**Phosphorus Loading  
Reduction by 2025**

**Adams County has high priority watersheds in both:**

- Western Lake Erie Basin – 6 of the top 8 are in Adams County for Indiana
- Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin

