



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

Contact Information

Lead District	Vigo County SWCD
Amount Requested	\$95,000.00
Participating District(s), if applicable	Clay County SWCD Parke County SWCD

Grant Contacts

Role	Authorized Contract Signatory
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Project Information

<i>Project Title</i>
Otter Creek Cost Share Conservation Program

<i>Project Description</i>
The purpose of this Otter Creek Watershed grant is to supplement conservation practice cost-share funds for the recently approved 319 Implementation Grant sponsored by the Ouabache Land Conservancy (OLC). Funds from this CWI grant will be focused on medium priority 12-digit watersheds. These areas intersect Clay, Parke and Vigo counties in West Central Indiana. The 12 digit watershed will involve: 05120111401, 05120111402, 051201110403 and 051201110406. The Otter Creek Watershed encompasses 124 square miles (79,360 acres) in these three counties draining nearly 13% of Clay County, 3% of Parke County and 14% of Vigo County. As promotion of the Otter Creek Watershed continues, we are generating interest from producers outside of our current funding area. Due to the amount of attention this 319 Grant Program has generated, we have seen a need to offer cost-share in the medium priority/ non critical areas of the Otter Creek Watershed. This program

will offer conservation practices geared toward improving water quality, sediment and nutrient reduction, increasing carbon sequestration, controlling soil erosion, improving pasture productivity, improving soil quality, and providing wildlife habitat. The cost share funds requested will be to implement conservation practices on pastureland for livestock producers. These practices will include a number of livestock best management practices such as: forage/pasture planting, fence exclusion, livestock access control, heavy use area protection, livestock stream crossing, and waterline/watering facility. These practices will furthermore be referenced as "Livestock BMP's (Best Management Practices). The remaining of funds will be used to assist producers in adopting vegetative practices which will address Water, Soil, Air, Plant and Animal resource concern categories while improving farm productivity. These conservation practices include: Field Borders, Filter Strip, Riparian Forest/Herbaceous Buffer, Conservation Cover, Cover Crops, Tree/Shrub Establishment and Wildlife Habitat Planting. This is a voluntary program intended to provide landowners and agricultural producers the technical and financial assistance to install conservation practices. The program will provide 75% of the actual cost of the conservation practice implementation in the medium priority/non - critical areas of the Otter Creek Watershed. These BMPs will provide lasting benefits for soil health, water quality by reducing sedimentation and nutrients as well as get new landowner's in the mindset of implementing conservation well after the grant as ended.

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

According to IDEM's 303(d) list, 24 assessment units of the watershed are considered impaired due to E. Coli contamination. Probable causes for these high E. Coli contamination are associated with livestock runoff and highly erodible ground throughout the watershed, but are concentrated along Otter Creek and its tributaries. Additional potentially highly erodible soils cover the Sulphur Creek, Gundy Ditch and Wastewaters Creek-Otter Creek Sub watershed. Row crop makes up 41.4% or 32,925.0 acres of which roughly only 7000 acres are being no tilled/reduced tilled according to a tillage transect done in 2020. Hay and pasture land make up 5.5% or 4,386 ac . In total, 113 small, unregulated animal farms containing nearly 1,250 animals were identified during the windshield survey, which is most likely an underestimate of the actual number. These small "mini farms" contain small numbers of cattle, horses, llamas, poultry, and goats, which could be sources of nutrients and E. Coli as these animals exist on small acreage lots with limited ground. The vegetative practices and Livestock BMP's will address the issue of erosion, excess nutrients and sedimentation in this watershed area as well as provide carbon sequestration. Through workshops and various events in surrounding counties the 319 Otter Creek Coordinator has attended, she has identified 3 producers wanting to implement conservation practices in the medium priority/non critical areas. We currently have 4 landowners on a waiting list to implement livestock BMP's and 4 have expressed interest in vegetative practices. Both SWCD's have implemented outreach to local landowners in this watershed area. We have 635.8 acres of open water bodies. By offering cost share outside of this critical area of the Otter Creek Watershed we can greatly increase water quality and decrease the amount of

sediment and nutrient loss as addressed in SSCB Business plan as well as both SWCD's Business plans.

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

Project Partners include: Clay, Parke and Vigo County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Ouabache Land Conservancy, Staley's Soil Service, Ceres Solutions, Clay County Extension Office and Brazil City Parks.

Clay and Vigo SWCD partners will offer such services as: accepting applications, compiling maps, completing soils reports. assist with education and outreach programs, print and distribute flyers, put signage at landowners property to advertise this cost share program. See Below for split of time.

As the lead District for this grant Vigo County will supply a sum of \$1,000.00 -cash match and an in-kind match of \$3125.00 (125 hrs. @ \$25/hr.)- handling all financial transactions with landowners/producers with both SWCD's over the course of the 3 year grant cycle. The cash match will be applied to printing, mailings and educational workshops.

Clay County will provide a sum of \$1,000.00 -cash match and an in-kind of \$2,000.00 (80 hrs @ \$25/hr.) over the course of the 3 year grant cycle, by accepting applications, compiling maps, soils report and doing field visits. Clay will be also be responsible for entering data into Conservation Project Tracking spreadsheet. This cash match will be applied to printing, mailings and educational workshops.

Parke County SWCD Due to having a very small percentage of the Watershed Acreage will offer services as In-Kind for education/outreach in the amount of 20 hours (\$25/hr), by advertising and directing any of their landowners in the non critical areas of the watershed to Clay/Vigo county SWCDs for application submission over the course of the 3 year grant cycle .

Natural Resource Conservation Service in-kind match of 380 hours (\$25/hr.) by providing technical assistance to funded applicants to ensure BMP's are designed and installed per NRCS Standards and Specs. Over the course of the 3 year grant cycle.

Ouabache Land Conservancy will contribute with an in-kind match of \$50,000.00 which will include collaborating with their 319 coordinator on partnering for Soil Health and other workshops, outreach to landowners who have applied through OLC but do not live within the critical areas of the Otter Creek Watershed, promotional materials include cost-share fliers and postcards, website and social media promoting the cost-share program and coordination between the 319 Grant and the CWI Grant.

Staley's Soil Service will commit to leading one/ two septic workshop over the course of the 3 year grant cycle. Randy's contribution would be in-kind as 5 hours (\$45/hr.)

Indiana State Department of Agriculture will assist with our education/outreach programs, promoting conservation in the Otter Creek Watershed.

Clay Extension Office will provide In-Kind services by advertising and partnering in workshops and events as well as possible use of drone for fly over pics of watershed area. Estimated time of 40 hours (\$25hr.) .

Ceres Solutions will provide In-Kind services by offering professional assistance as needed at workshops, distribute fliers and promote the cost share program for minimum of 30 hours (\$45hr)

Brazil Parks Department will provide In-Kind services by assisting in implementing an vegetative planting in Craig Park for educational purposes. Estimated time of 20 hours (\$25hr).

Participating producers will contribute an estimated \$23,750.00 cash match over the 3 year grant cycle.

Describe how the funds will be utilized.

In order to address the medium priority/non- critical areas of Otter Creek Watershed (see attached watershed map) best management practices and conservation measures will need to be taken. The applications will be taken and ranked based on the greatest environmental benefit as follows: Vigo and Clay will each receive 50% each of cost share. The points will be on a scale of 1 to10 with 10 being the maximum amount of points you can score.

How points will be awarded:

- *3 pts . New applicant Livestock Producers
- *2 pts. New applicant to USDA
- * 2 pts. Conservation Cover for Nutrient & Sediment Reduction
- *2 pts. Tree Plantings, Wildlife Plantings
- * 1 pt. Cover Crops Only

Cover Crops will be capped at 150 acres per applicant and covered at \$20/ac to follow CWI guidelines.

All Vegetative Practices (Field Borders, Filter Strips, Wildlife Habitat Plantings, Cover Crops, Conservation Cover, Forage and Biomass Plantings) will have seeding mixes developed by using NRCS Seeding Calculator to meet NRCS Standards and Specs. All Engineering practices will be designed and installed per NRCS Standards and Specs.

Placing caps and utilizing a ranking system for the above practices will insure that the CWI funds can be better distributed throughout the community. All funding for Field Day and Educational outreach materials will be covered as cash match by Clay and Vigo Conservation Districts and In Kind match from each partner as listed in "anticipated match to project".

What are the primary goals for the project?

The first goal:
 Implement and promote Best Management Practices within the Medium priority/Non-Critical areas of the Otter Creek Watershed as identified in Watershed Management Plan. Our cost share program will promote Livestock BMPs and vegetative practices identified in the "Project Description " area of this application. All prescribed BMPs will be approved practices as outlined by the Technical Field Guide and personnel of NRCS. We anticipate incorporating at the minimum of 15 producers in both areas of our counties.

Our second goal:
 Target the landowners in the northern part of both counties where we typically don't see as much conservation interest; by providing Technical and Financial assistance to 7 New Livestock Producers that want to adopt Livestock BMPs, which will improve Water quality, Plant productivity and overall Animal Health.

Our Third goal:
 To adopt a minimum of 500 new acres of vegetative practices, not including cover crops, through the use of Region 5 and Step-L models. This will thereby reduce the sedimentation of the medium priority/ non-critical sub-watersheds by, 1643 tons per year, Phosphorus by 2045 lbs per year, and Nitrogen by 4014 lbs per year.

Our Fourth Goal:
 To acquire 1,000 new acres of cover crop seedings within the medium priority/non critical sub-watersheds.

Our Fifth Goal:
 Provide outreach and education opportunities at a minimum of 4 throughout the 3 year grant cycle. We will build positive partnerships with agricultural producers while increasing public awareness about non-point source pollution.

Budget Information

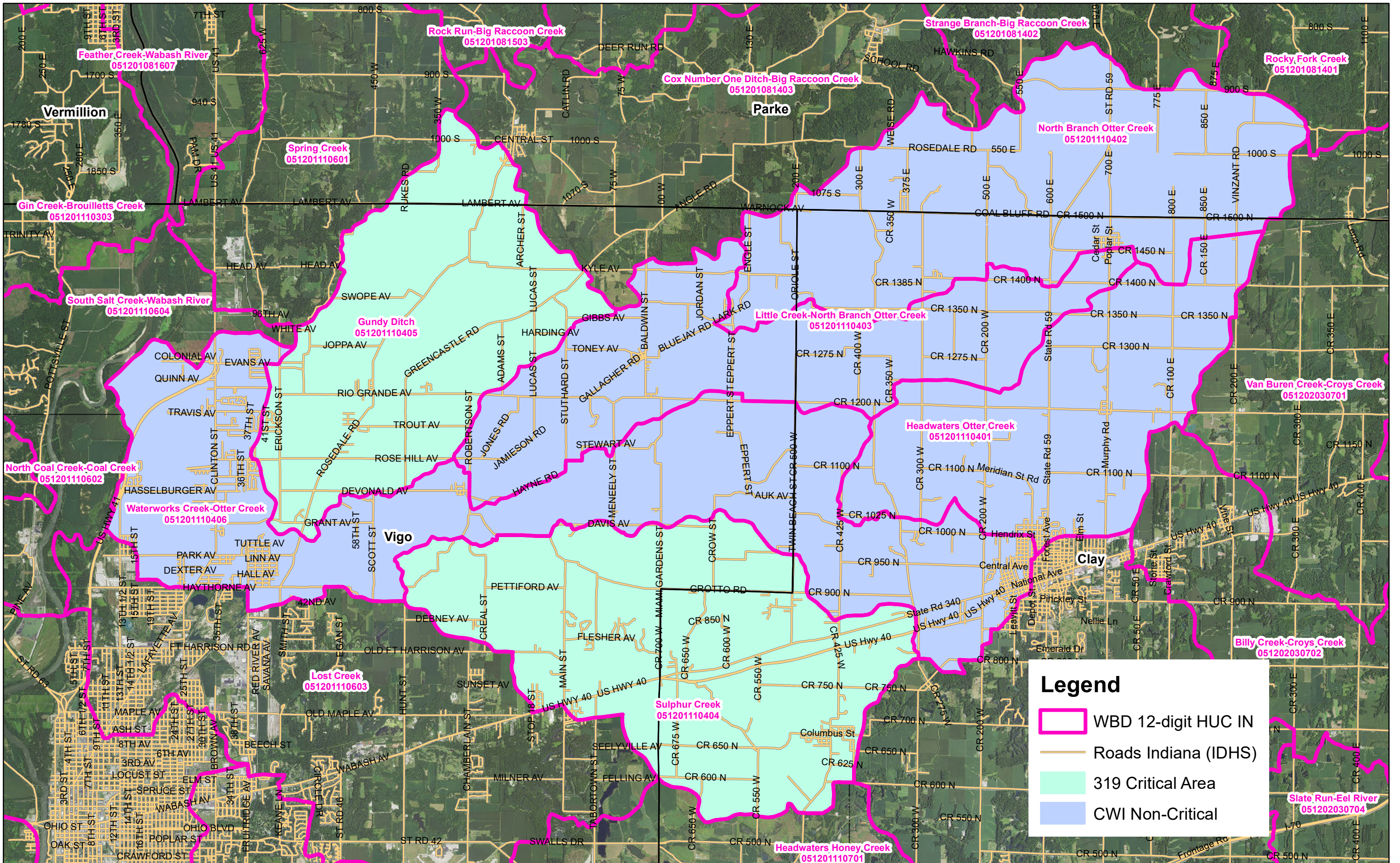
<i>Item Description</i>	<i>CWI Funds Requested</i>	<i>Cash Match</i>	<i>In Kind Match</i>
Livestock BMPs	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buffers, Filter Strips, Biomass Plantings, Wildlife Plantings, Tree Plantings	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cover Crops	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vigo County Soil and Water	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,125.00

Conservation District			
Natural Resources Conservation Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,500.00
Brazil City Parks Department	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$625.00
Staley's Soil Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
Landowner/Producer Funds	\$0.00	\$23,750.00	\$0.00
Ouabache Land Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Parke County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Ceres Solutions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.00
Clay County Purdue Extension Office	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00

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>	Yes
<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 the most recent cover crop transects.</i>	Yes
<i>How many grants other than CWI has the district applied for in the last 3 years?</i>	1



Jan
Carmel



Filter Strips/Conservation Cover can help to control erosion.



Heavy Use Area Protection • To protect or improve water quality (3 shovel-ready projects in the sub-watersheds)



Cattle in stream can cause erosion and bad water quality, Exclusion Fencing protects streams (1 shovel-ready project for fencing)



Cover Crops will help reduce Nitrogen and Sediment in the watershed