(EPA Grant 00E02782)

EPA Grant Work Plan – Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy Science Assessment Support – Relevant Milestones achieved in 2021

Information on the Indiana Science Assessment can be found at https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/. A Core Team of partners in the state are working together on the Science Assessment and include the ISDA, IDEM, NRCS, the Indiana Chapter of TNC, IANA, and Purdue University, College of Agriculture.

The Science Assessment includes two components:

Component 1: Determine historic and ongoing nutrient loads leaving the state, and also by watershed basins used in the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Component 2: Improve method to quantify nutrient reductions from conservation practices, including dissolved nutrients, and determine efficiency of practice in reducing loads.

ISDA was awarded a $200,000 grant from EPA in 2020 through the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force to help advance the state's nutrient reduction strategy. The EPA funds under this grant proposal are being used to help carry out Component 2 of the Assessment, and more information on the workplan for the EPA grant for this component can be found on the website link above.

Relevant Milestones that were achieved under this grant proposal during calendar year 2021 are:

- A logo was developed to enhance communication and to centralize all of the document and reports pertaining to the Science Assessment. It allows the Assessment to become a widely recognized effort.
- Practice definitions and criteria for inclusion in the assessment were determined for each of the first 10 practices, and a public version document of the definitions can be found on the website listed above. *Guide to Conservation Practice Definitions for Indiana Science Assessment – Version 1*.
- Project implementation is led by Jane Frankenberger, Purdue University, through a subcontract from the ISDA managed by Julie Harrold. Research Associates were Dr. Gilles Tagne from January to June 2021, and currently Katy Mazer who began work at Purdue University as the research associate for this project in October 2021.
- A Science Committee was convened including experts and researchers from five academic institutions in Indiana and two federal science agencies (USDA-ARS and USGS) who conduct research related to nutrients and water quality in Indiana. Meetings were held throughout the last half of the year, with consistent participation of at least 10 people resulting in important and key decisions being made.
- A Year 1 progress report has been completed and can be found on the Science Assessment website listed above. Information on key decisions that were made can be found in the progress report.