



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

Contact Information

Lead District	Fayette County SWCD
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City, State, ZIP	Connersville, IN 47331
Lead District Contact Name	Eugena Monroe
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Phone	765-825-2331 x3
Amount Requested	\$60,000
Authorized Signatory Name	Dave Caldwell
Authorized Signatory Email	Davec795@gmail.com
Participating District(s), if applicable	Union

Project Information

<i>Project Title</i>
Cover Crop and Invasive Incentive Program

<i>Project Description</i>
<p>Fayette and Union County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) are partnering on Cover Crop and Invasive Incentive Program (CCII). This program will provide incentives to private landowners and city and county community parks to start or continue practicing the planting of cover crops and/or removal of invasive plant species. This is a three-year financial in-kind match grant supported by Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant, Fayette and Union County (SWCD), and Fayette and Union County, Foundations.</p> <p>The program provides funds for cover crops to both counties at \$10,000.00 per year \$5,000.00 per county available for landowner match. Landowners will have to follow the guidelines set by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for cover crops and will be monitored with the assistance of an Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Resource Specialist and NRCS District Conservationist.</p> <p>The CCII Program will also provide funds for invasive species plant removal at \$10,000.00 per year \$5,000.00 per county. The individual counties \$5,000.00 per year will be divided into two amounts of \$2,500.00. The first portion will go to the community city and county parks for tools and invasive plant removal within the parks. The second portion will be available to landowners in cash match for removal of invasive species plants on private land. The Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management (SICIM) will be providing a technician for invasive species reports and assistance with public educational programs on invasive plant species identification and removal practices. Fayette and Union County SWCD will be hosting educational events on identification and removal of invasive plant species including why removal of invasive species is</p>

beneficial to water, soil, and natural habitats.

Determination of landowners who qualify for CCII Program to receive funds will be determined by a Fayette and Union County SWCD board committee using a ranking system.

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

The CCII program will allow Fayette and Union County SWCD for the first time to fund opportunities towards taking action in addressing the invasion of invasive plant species and providing private landowners with the resources for cover crops aiding in overall soil health and land preservation.

Cover crop and invasive plant removal are solutions to the following problems facing our counties:

Cover Crop

1. Soil loss resulting from erosion by rain, snowmelt, and wind.
2. The loss of nutrients, aggregates, herbicides, pesticides, manure, and nitrogen from runoff into the water table, bodies of water, rivers, and streams.
3. Soil compaction, diseases, pests, weeds, and invasive species invasion.
4. Over grazing of pastures in springtime.
5. Winter habitats for wildlife, insects, and pollinators.
6. Replenish soil from the loss of nutrients, organic matter, moisture, and forage from cash crops.
7. To provide opportunities to educate and encourage landowners/crop producers about cover crops and the importance of planting them for protection of our soil and water for future generations.

Invasive Plant Removal

1. Displacement of native plants resulting in the destruction and displacement of natural habitats for wildlife, insects, and pollinators.
2. Diseases, chemical toxicity, and harm to soil, water, plants, trees, wildlife, domesticated animals, and humans.
3. Invasive plant species can alter soil chemistry, reduce oxygen in bodies of water, soil erosion, and in grasslands uncontrollable burns.
4. Reduction of crop yields from the invasive plants using the water and fertilizer intended for crops.
5. Invasive plants in pastures result in livestock over grazing on available native plants reducing competition allowing invasive plants to spread.
6. Invasive plants reduce new tree growth resulting in an imbalance forestry habitat leading to a reduction in harvestable timber.
7. To provide opportunities in educating the community about distinguishing between native and

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

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) District Coordinator – Colt VanNatta

Mr. VanNatta will provide council on the CCII Program for NRCS standards for cover crops and invasive plant species. Mr. VanNatta will be a contact for those clients visiting the USDA office that may not qualify for NRCS programs but would match the criteria for the CCII Program.

Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Resource Specialist – Monica Pohlar

Mrs. Pohlar will be making visits to locations to make sure set NRCS standards are being met by the applicant for cover crops and CCII Program standards are being met on private property for invasive species plant removal. Mrs. Pohlar will be helping in the USDA office when clients have questions or need assistance in finding resources. Mrs. Pohlar will be a member of the committee for helping to determine which clients will be chosen for the CCII Program through a ranking system.

Fayette and Union County, Indiana Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Coordinator/Treasurer- Eugena Monroe Supervisors- Daniel Weiler, Dave Caldwell, Steven

Wollyung, Terry Hillman, Troy Tipton, Dana Risch, and Allen Paddock. Fayette and Union County, Indiana SWCD will be providing a in kind match of \$2000.00 per county per year totaling \$12,000.00 in Supervisor hours of service for the CCII Program. Eugena Monroe who is employed part-time (25 hours per week) jointly by both Fayette and Union County SWCD will be the programs Coordinator/Treasurer. Mrs. Monroe will be providing many services including being a person of contact, submitting reports, organizing educational events, advertising/marketing, financial record keeping, and being a part of the committee. The above listed Supervisors will be giving their time for the committee, assisting with educational events, removal of invasive plant species, counseling on cover crops and invasive plant species, grant writing and editing, and promoting the CCII Program. The SWCD is planning on arranging invasive plant removal events at the Union County Park and different locations within the Fayette County Parks and Recreation.

Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management (SICIM) Technician – Liz Yetter
Ms. Yetter will be providing support for the CCII Program with reports on invasive plant species for both community and private land, educating the clients/public on invasive and native plant species, speaking at educational events on invasive species, and being a resource and hands on demonstrator of invasive plant removal. Ms. Yetter has already complete invasive plant species reports on Union County Park and John Conner Nature Preserve Trail Park. Ms. Yetter had the Union County Park property invasive plant species report completed on August 19, 2020.

Union County Park

On August 12, 2020 Eugena Monroe and Dana Risch presented the grant to the Union County Park board along with introducing Liz Yetter to the board as a specialist on invasive plant species. The Union County Park board agreed to allow Ms. Yetter to do a property invasive plant species report on the park property. Eugena then explained that if the grant should be granted the goals would be invasive plant removal with the help of board members and volunteers from the park and permission to host educational events on invasive and native plant species. The board agreed to aid in volunteer hours to help remove the invasive plants along with hosting educational events for the public.

Fayette County Parks and Recreation Board

On August 24, 2020 Dave Caldwell and Eugena Monroe presented the grant to the Fayette County Parks and Recreation Board. The focus will be on John Conner Nature Preserve Trail Park for invasive plant removal. The board agreed to allow Liz Yetter to conduct property invasive plant species report. The Parks Board also agreed to allow us to hold educational events. They also asked if we could educate their park employees on invasive and native plants and the removal process on invasive species. The park employees could then assist with invasive plant removal.

Union County, Indiana Foundation

Union County SWCD board will be submitting a grant to the Union County Foundation asking for \$1,500.00 towards the purchase of herbicides, invasive plant removal tools, and assistance on putting on educational events on invasive plant species for the Union County Park. The grant has been completed and will be submitted on or before the September 30, 2020 deadline.

Fayette County, Indiana Foundation

Fayette County SWCD board will be submitting a proposal to the Fayette County Foundation asking for \$1,500.00 towards the purchase of herbicides, invasive plant removal tools, and assistance on putting on educational events on invasive plant species for the Fayette County Parks and Recreation.

Fayette and Union County, SWCD did discuss and agree on a monetary match of \$2,000.00 per year for three years totaling \$6,000.00 for the Clean Water Indiana Grant because no motion was made by either SWCD this was not added to budget submission.

Describe how the funds will be utilized.

Cover crop funds will be utilized as cash match for the purchase of cover crop seeds up to \$20.00 per acre. Fayette and Union County will be able to cash match up to 250 acres at \$5,000.00 per county per year for the three years of the grant. Totaling \$30,000.00 for the three years.

Invasive plant species private funds will be utilized as a cash match for private property in Fayette and Union County up to the amount of \$2,500 per county per three years of the grant. Totaling \$15,000.00 for the three years

Invasive plant species community funds will be utilized with Fayette and Union County parks to remove invasive plants on community property in the amount of \$2,500.00 per county for three years. Funds will be used to remove invasive plant species by chemicals, tools, and/or machinery. Funds will be used to purchase tools and supplies to remove invasive plant species by volunteers. Funds will be used for educational events where we will educate the public on identification of invasive plants, the best way to remove the invasive plant species, how to use herbicides and tools to remove the invasive plant species, and provide printed educational material on invasive plants. Totaling \$15,000.00 for the three years.

What are the primary goals for the project?

The first goal of the CCII program is to arise new interest from farmers and/or property owners in starting and/or continuing the practice of planting cover crops for soil health and retention and protection of water table, bodies of water, rivers, and streams. CCII program is to provide another source of funding for those who are not chosen for NRCS Cover Crop EQUIP program who are interested in planting cover crops.

The second goal of the CCII program is to provide a source of funding to help private individuals to stop the spread of invasive plant species. This is done by removing the invasive plant species therefore protecting the soil, water, cropland, pastures, forestry, native plants, native animals, and pollinator habitats. CCII program is to provide the city and county parks with the means to educate and remove invasive plant species from the community areas and in return prevent the spread of invasive plants species to private property. Removal of invasive plant species within our community provides protection to soil, water, cropland, pastures, forestry, native plants, native animals, and pollinator habitats. In addition, the city and community parks provide a place to distribute educational materials and to provide hands on experimental learning on identifying and removing invasive plant species.

The third goal is to provide educational material and events to Fayette and Union County residents on the benefits of planting cover crops and removing invasive plant species. Providing education and resources on cover crops and invasive plant species in return makes the community aware of the environmental contributions they can perform now to benefit future generations and the conservation impact they can have on water and soil preservation and renewal.

Budget Information

<i>Item Description</i>	<i>CWI Funds Requested</i>	<i>Cash Match</i>	<i>In Kind Match</i>
Fayette County Parks and Recreation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Cover Crop	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ISDA Resource Specialist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Invasive Plant Species	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SWCD Coordinator/Treasurer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
SICIM Technician	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Union County Park	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
NRCS District Coordinator	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Fayette and Union County, SWCD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
Crop Producer/Landowner	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Totals	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00

Self Assessment

These items are not specified in district law but are considered essential for district operations and will be considered for CWI 2020.

<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>	Yes	
<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>	3	