

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**January 12, 2020**  
**WebEx**

- I. 3:00 pm.: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of November 2020**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants- Geneva Tyler
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
  - a. Chairman's Report
  - b. Appointment of Officers and Committees
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - a. SWCD Supervisor Appointments- Geneva Tyler
  - b. Morgan Co SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
  - c. Vanderburgh Co SWCD- Laura Fribley
  - d. Shelby Co SWCD- Tara Wessler-Henry
  - e. Wabash Co SWCD- Geneva Tyler
  - f. White Co SWCD- Geneva Tyler
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**  
**2021 Meeting Dates**
  - March 16, TBD
  - May 18, TBD
  - July 20, TBD
  - September 21, TBD
  - October 19, TBD

**Break**

- XI. Plan of Work wrap up discussion- Laura Fribley & Nathan Stoelting**
- XII. Adjourn**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.



**State Soil Conservation Board  
January 12, 2021  
Clean Water Indiana Grants**

**Program Updates**

**Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants**

*2021*

- 2021 grants started on January 1st.
- FY2021 CWI are in the process of the routing through State Contract Management System. Three still need district signatory.
  - Tara Wesseler-Henry has been working closely with Grants Management through the grants execution process.
- These grants have a first report due on July 31, 2021.

*2018*

- Projects Expired: 12/31/20 (except Hamilton)
- 3rd and final annual reports and intermediate claims are being processed at this time.
  - To date: Two Districts have completed final reports

*2019*

- Projects Expire 12/31/21
- 2nd annual reports are being processed.

*2020*

- Projects Expire 12/31/22
- 1<sup>st</sup> annual reports are being processed.

*Quality Control*

- After reporting is complete at the end of this month, quality control efforts will begin again to start 2021 grant reporting.

**Non-SWCD Led Projects**

IASWCD (CCSI)

Expires: 12/31/21

Grant Agreement A337-19-CWI-001

Total amount of grant agreement \$64,450.00

Claims: o \$12,385.27

o \$15,538.73

o \$33,163.95

o \$8,362.05

Remaining funds: \$0

Expires: 12/31/2022

Grant Number 37-20-CWI-013

Claims: One claim for \$22,250.00  
Remaining funds: \$22,250.00

### *SICIM*

Expires 12/31/2022

- Grant number: A337-20-CWI-014
- Claims: Two claims totaling \$54,000.00
- Remaining funds: \$0

### **Grant Reviews**

- Similar to year's past, 10 grants will be reviewed in 2021.
- Selections will be made per the CWI communication policy for both marginal and routine grants.

### **AFR**

- The AFR template was sent to all districts in December. These are due to their respective DSS by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- It is very similar to last year's form.
- The direct distribution process will also be the same.

### **CWI Training Dollars**

Information was sent to SWCDs regarding CWI Training dollars for 2021-2022 on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Eligible trainings take place **between July 1st, 2020, and June 30th, 2021**. Reimbursement requests are due **March 12th, 2021** and will be reviewed thereafter, and applicants will be notified immediately after the review is complete.

To date:

- Number of Applications: 2
- Total reimbursement requests: \$400
- Training type: IASWCD Annual Conference
- Supervisors: 6
- Staff:2

County	Supervisor Name
Adams	Paul Bluhm
Allen	Michael Thomas Crowe
Bartholomew	Nate West
Benton	Dale Budreau
Brown	Scott Stephenson
Carroll	Neil Mylet
Cass	Brandon Shaffer
Clark	Margaret (Peg) Wright
Clay	Matt Mace
Clinton	Jerry Batts
Daviess	Todd Allison
Dearborn	John Kruse
DeKalb	Jeff Conrad
Delaware	Erik Fisher
Dubois	Patrick Eckerle
Elkhart	Darrell Shover
Floyd	Tom King
Fountain	Lee Williams
Franklin	David Hartman
Fulton	Matt Harsh
Gibson	Dennis Simpson
Hamilton	Amanda Egler
Hancock	Jeanie Foster
Harrison	Paul J. Chumley
Henry	Mark Hineman
Howard	Andrew Bryant
Jackson	Grant VonDielingen
Jasper	James Martin
Jefferson	Dale Sides
Jennings	Kevin Morin
Johnson	Joe Bill Misiniec
LaGrange	Gary Myers
Lake	Lyle Patchett
LaPorte	Brian Breidert
Madison	Jason Brown
Marshall	Rance Gingle
Martin	Wesley R. Walton
Montgomery	Aron Rhoads
Noble	Eric A Strater
Ohio	Earl Ketenbrink
Orange	Bobby Busick
Owen	Corbin Abrell
Parke	Mitch Gum
Pike	Paul Lake
Porter	Brent Jarnecke
Putnam	David McGaughey

Randolph	William Spencer Howard
Ripley	Thomas Gray
Scott	Daniel H. Smith
Spencer	Alan Waninger
St_Joseph	Sam James
Starke	David Altman
Steuben	Gene Diehl
Switzerland	John Schroer
Tippecanoe	Melody Clouser
Tipton	George Tebbe
Union	Brad Logue
Vanderburgh	Megan Ritterskamp
Vigo	Clint Wiley
Wabash	Rob Shellhamer
Warren	Zachary Dimmich
Wells	Jarin Tucker
White	John Fielding
Whitley	Chris Frazier

## Priorities for 2021 SSCB Annual Plan of Work

Background: SSCB members were asked to select up to three ideas per category they wanted to prioritize moving forward with in 2021. It's possible three votes were not made, even if there were good ideas listed, because of this prioritization.

A checkmark indicates number of times an item was selected for prioritization. A green box surrounds concepts prioritized.

### a. What do we want to make sure we continue doing in 2021 to be successful?

- a. ✓✓✓✓✓ Promoting soil health, preventing soil erosion/degradation, and improving water quality
  - b. ✓✓✓✓ Supervisor and district education
  - c. ✓✓✓✓ District capacity, effectiveness, & accountability
  - d. ✓✓ Offering district educational avenues and including funding so they can attend, put together educational workshops, and get together
  - e. ✓ SWCDs are using the SSCB's business plan in their CWI applications. We're doing a good job communicating about the business plan.
  - f. ✓ SICIM- has yielding progress because it has built relationships with CISMAs and SWCD's.
- 
- g. Addressing invasive species
  - h. Relationship and cadence with SSCB and the department of Ag staff
  - i. Relationships
  - j. We are exemplifying leadership. We are all leaders in our own right.
  - k. Holding our part with District Law
  - l. Ability at annual conference to sit down and talk freely and answer question from staff and supervisors

## 2. What do we need to switch up or stop doing to be effective in 2021?

- a. ✓✓✓ CWI- funded staffing positions: we need to work with them and their local officials to ensure they see the need of these positions.
  - b. ✓✓✓ Get legislators and elected leaders to understand the importance of our basic resources and give us the necessary funding levels. Possibly a long range plan for soil, water and natural resource concerns. A plan people can buy into. Take the plan to county elected officials, councils, to get the local funding and then legislatures for state-wide funding. Promote round table, listening sessions like Morgan County's.
  - c. ✓✓ CWI- we need to incentivize districts to employ professional staff, ones that can write grants, create partnerships that can-do things for supervisors that can't do for themselves.
  - d. ✓ SSCB engagement with SWCDs (e.g. board members engaging more with their districts; working on building relationships and better outreach on a personal level)
  - e. ✓ CWI- better reporting about the success of the grants. Comprehensive report from the success of the Clean Water Indiana grant reports.
  - f. ✓ Top quality supervisor recruitment and retention. Building capacity. Local supervisors are the key.
  - g. ✓ Make decisions based on the business plan. We are not exercising due diligence and using the plan as it could be used and used as a guide and as a way to reach the goals.
  - h. ✓ Support the ICP for metrics of nutrient. Our number one export is soil. If you want to motivate supervisors, we must give people the information to do so. That's going to come from ICP and using the technology they have, and it will be an estimate.
  - i. ✓ Amplify that the economics of what we are doing is the right thing to do
- 
- j. Engage districts more
  - k. Impact the delivery system (e.g. Districts' ability to serve resource needs of their community; we have underperformance and failure on accountability on the lower districts)
  - l. CWI- invasive are important, but they are an easy target. Empower districts to think outside the box, and not just to eliminate them. We need to install a system of soil health, and put something back or the ground is going to erode.
  - m. Outreach and relationships
  - n. Supervisor training and orientation: what is our role?
  - o. More education to our legislative officials. The IASWCD can lobby and propose items. We need to encourage them to work education for our officials. Maybe have three or four meetings at the State that address the concerns and educate them on SSCB and the mission.

**3. Business Plan Goal 1: Engage supervisors to be effective leaders in their communities and at the state level.**

- a. ✓✓✓ Look further into asking supervisors and staff to be leaders (not just trained) and communicators. Example- they need to be going to county council meetings and communicating their goals.
  - b. ✓✓✓ Support the Leadership Institute program and encourage attendance (e.g. update on how many supervisors have attended and have not; incentivize attendance at the Leadership Institute beyond paying tuition)
  - c. ✓✓✓ Motivate and inspire supervisors to engage
  - d. ✓✓ Initiate and cooperate with the ICP a report on the current status of Indiana natural resource concerns
  - e. ✓✓ Invite leaders to speak to us to identify what resources we need in the state. Allocate resources as appropriate to help.
  - f. ✓ Expand on virtual trainings
  - g. ✓ Responsibility #10 of State statute- conduct inventory of natural resource concerns and then tell the state legislatures. We need to carry out the resource concerns in our state and tell our general assembly.
  - h. ✓ Term limits to help foster new ideas. Incentivizes them to come up with new good ideas.
- 
- i. SSCB members participate in the Leadership Institute program
  - j. Legislation that require supervisors to have a certain amount of training in order to be a supervisor and to be accountable

**4. Business Plan Goal 2: Increase local SWCD capacity to be effective partners in the Indiana Conservation Partnership delivery of conservation across the state.**

- a. ✓✓✓✓ Encourage and facilitate non ICP-partnerships of like minds
- b. ✓✓✓ Create update on statewide conservation needs, and then update the inventory of the local conservation needs
- c. ✓✓✓ Working with ICP, create metrics that enable a local district to go before their county officials/other departments and explain how they are going to work on improving those numbers and their role with the funding
- d. ✓✓ Encourage SWCDs to get on the county council/commissioners agenda, or if they can't, follow up with them outside of a meeting.
- e. ✓✓ Have a SSCB representative on the IASWCD Annual Conference planning committee to suggest sessions that impact SWCD Supervisors

**5. Business Plan Goal 3: Keep elected officials, local to state, informed on conservation progress and needs to reach statewide goals.**

- a. ✓✓✓✓✓ Begin work on State of the State report. Possibly allocate resources towards this. Look at pieces of communication of other agency reports (e.g. ISDA, IASWCD) too.
- b. ✓✓✓ Encourage local districts to post their accomplishments (e.g. in newsletters, newspapers) and get written copies in hands of local officials.
- c. ✓✓✓ Create a statewide accomplishment report that is brief, and can fit in a pocket or purse
- d. ✓✓✓ Sponsor (as possible) round tables like Morgan County had in the four corners of the state
- e. ✓ Create a presentation for ICP Leaders that requests establishing metrics for soil and nutrient loss for Indiana. Include "tons lost" as well as tons saved, to tell the full picture to our legislatures.

**6. Business Plan Goal 4: Report to IN [larger public] progress and concerns for the priority natural resources concerns.**

- a. ✓✓✓✓✓ Get a message and platform to reach the general public. Could we collaborate with DSC on this and get a press release out to the population at large?
- b. ✓✓✓ Report the challenges we are trying to address and our needs. Tie this together with the good “truck loads” story we tell.
- c. ✓✓ Explore SSCB’s role in taking leadership on reporting conservation status, both successes and needs that will help advance conservation

**7. Business Plan: Strategy Plans for CWI Funding**

- a. ✓✓✓✓✓ Emphasize quality goals are needed in CWI applications (e.g. specific, quantifiable) and applications will be scored on these goals
- b. ✓✓ Prioritize professional staffing grants over cost share grant application

**8. (Optional) If you have a priority idea/concept that was not captured above, please list it here:**

- a. Underlying challenges are and always will be recruiting, motivating, and inspiring people to do the right thing in all regards; it is my hope that in our endeavors, protecting the natural world, we can create a sense of COMMUNITY with our common goals. CONCEPT: WE WILL SINK OR SWIM TOGETHER

## Priorities for 2021 SSCB Annual Plan of Work

Background: SSCB members were asked to select up to three ideas per category they wanted to prioritize moving forward with in 2021. It's possible three votes were not made, even if there were good ideas listed, because of this prioritization.

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### 5 Votes

- a. ✓✓✓✓✓ Promoting soil health, preventing soil erosion/degradation, and improving water quality
- b. ✓✓✓✓✓ Get a message and platform to reach the general public. Could we collaborate with DSC on this and get a press release out to the population at large?
- c. ✓✓✓✓✓ Emphasize quality goals are needed in CWI applications (e.g. specific, quantifiable) and applications will be scored on these goals
- d. ✓✓✓✓✓ Begin work on State of the State report. Possibly allocate resources towards this. Look at pieces of communication of other agency reports (e.g. ISDA, IASWCD) too.

### 4 Votes

- a. ✓✓✓✓ Supervisor and district education
- b. ✓✓✓✓ Encourage and facilitate non ICP-partnerships of like minds
- c. ✓✓✓✓ District capacity, effectiveness, & accountability

### 3 Votes

- a. ✓✓✓ Look further into asking supervisors and staff to be leaders (not just trained) and communicators. Example- they need to be going to county council meetings and communicating their goals.
- b. ✓✓✓ Create update on statewide conservation needs, and then update the inventory of the local conservation needs
- c. ✓✓✓ Encourage local districts to post their accomplishments (e.g. in newsletters, newspapers) and get written copies in hands of local officials.
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- k. ✓✓✓ Get legislators and elected leaders to understand the importance of our basic resources and give us the necessary funding levels. Possibly a long range plan for soil, water and natural resource concerns. A plan people can buy into. Take the plan to county elected officials, councils, to get the local funding and then legislatures for state-wide funding. Promote round table, listening sessions like Morgan County’s.

## 2 Votes

- a. ✓✓ CWI- we need to incentivize districts to employ professional staff, ones that can write grants, create partnerships that can-do things for supervisors that can’t do for themselves.
- b. ✓✓ Initiate and cooperate with the ICP a report on the current status of Indiana natural resource concerns
- c. ✓✓ Encourage SWCDs to get on the county council/commissioners agenda, or if they can’t, follow up with them outside of a meeting.
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- e. ✓✓ Explore SSCB’s role in taking leadership on reporting conservation status, both successes and needs that will help advance conservation
- f. ✓✓ Prioritize professional staffing grants over cost share grant application
- g. ✓✓ Offering district educational avenues and including funding so they can attend, put together educational workshops, and get together
- h. ✓✓ Invite leaders to speak to us to identify what resources we need in the state. Allocate resources as appropriate to help.

## 1 Vote

- a. ✓ SICIM- has yielding progress because it has built relationships with CISMAs and SWCD’s.
- b. ✓ SSCB engagement with SWCDs (e.g. board members engaging more with their districts; working on building relationships and better outreach on a personal level)

- c. ✓ CWI- better reporting about the success of the grants. Comprehensive report from the success of the Clean Water Indiana grant reports.
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- i. ✓ Term limits to help foster new ideas. Incentivizes them to come up with new good ideas.
- j. ✓ Create a presentation for ICP Leaders that requests establishing metrics for soil and nutrient loss for Indiana. Include "tons lost" as well as tons saved, to tell the full picture to our legislatures.
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# State Soil Conservation Board



January 6, 2021  
NE Technical Report  
Jennifer Thum

Please find attached two pie charts and two bar graphs that explain the NE practices for the of 2020. Thank you to the NE Resource Specialist Team, Lindsey Bluhm, Chris Gardner, Heath Hurst, Dave Lefforge, Katie Secrest, and Kate Sanders for all your hard work and dedication. Thank you to NRCS, without your assistance none of this would be possible.

### **Huntington Tech Team:**

*They had a total of 283 practices installed in 2020. For CRP there were 136 practices installed, for EQIP there were 123 practices, for CTA there were 20 practices, for 319 grants there were 4 practices installed. There were not any installed practices for CREP for 2020.*

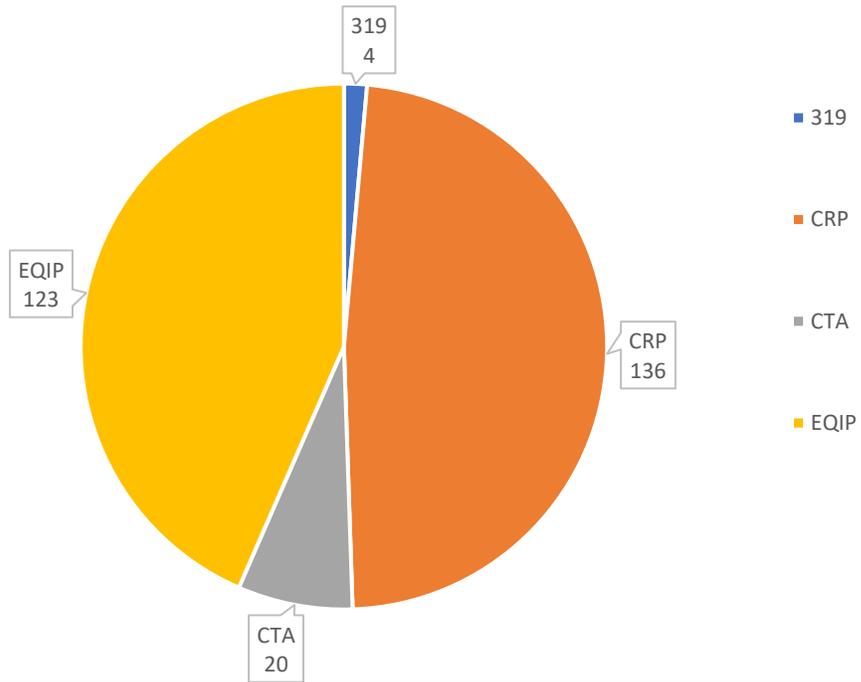
*They had 258 requested practices this year, and only 4 cancelled practices. As you can see by the graph, most of the requests are either in the survey and design phase, or in the ready to build phase of the process. There are 10 practices that are already completed.*

### **Albion Tech Team**

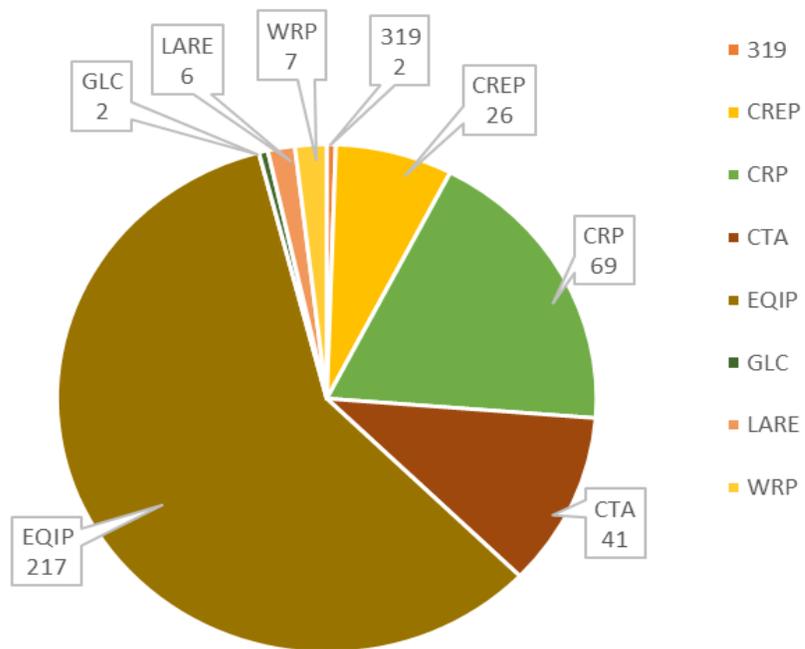
*They had a total of 370 practices installed in 2020. For EQIP there were 217 practices, in the CTA category there were 41 practices, CRP had 69 practices, CREP had 26 practices, 319 grants had 2 practices, WRP had 7 practices, LARE had 6 practices, and GLC had 2 practices installed.*

*They had 380 requested practices this year, and only 8 cancelled practices. As you can see by the graph, practice requests are spread between I&E, Survey, and Ready to Build, and 68 already completed practices.*

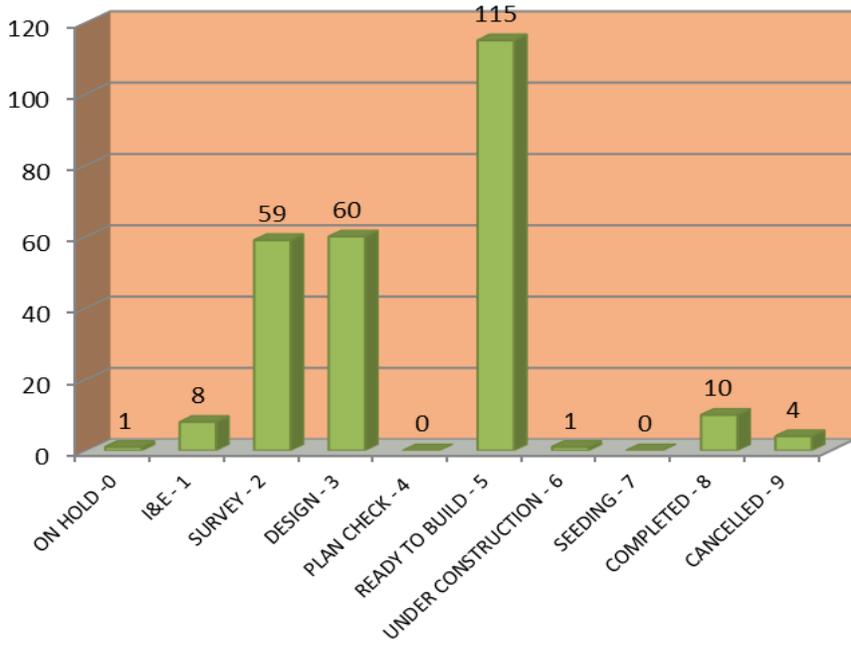
### Huntington Total Practices FY 2020



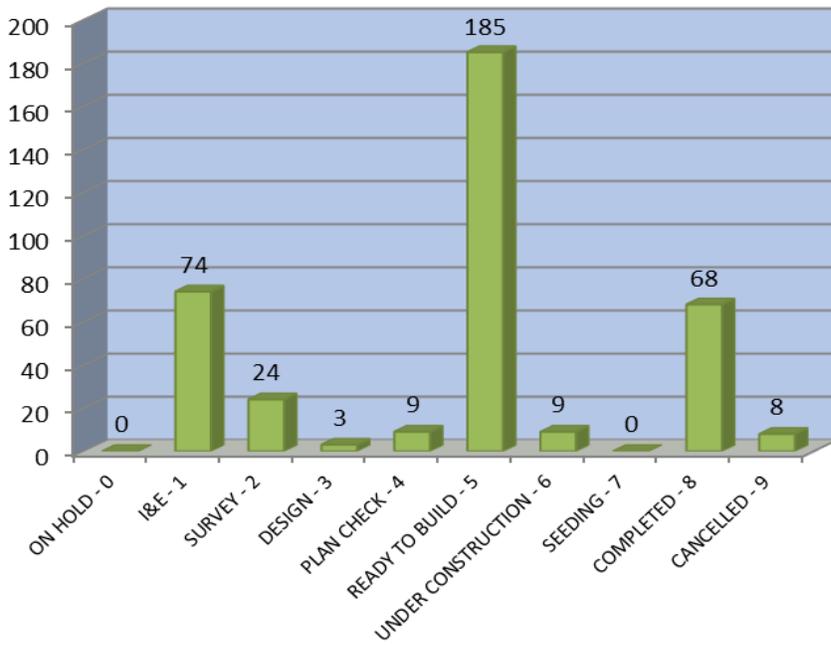
### Albion Total Practices FY 2020



**Huntington Practices Requested in FY 2020 by Status**



**Albion Practices Requested in FY 2020 by Status**





**State Soil Conservation Board**  
**January 12, 2021**  
**District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 10/12/20 to 12/25/20**



**Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff**

- December 1: Indiana State Board of Accounts training for SWCDs (recording available on Conservation Link around mid-January)
- December 17: Virtual Annual Meeting Training for SWCDs, in conjunction with CCSI
- Geneva and Laura hosted SWCD staff Region Meetings

**New Supervisor Training with DSSs since January 2020**

- Annual Conference New Supervisor Training Session.
- Counties: Benton, Cass, Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Hamilton, Howard, Jefferson, LaPorte, Newton, Posey
- Please contact your DSS to schedule a new supervisor training

<b>DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period</b>	<b>Total</b>
Assistance With SWCD Strategic Planning	4
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	37
Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, Input, etc.	31

**Update on SWCD Annual Meetings 2021**

Districts are hosting Annual Meetings in different ways this year due to the public health emergency. Some are virtual, some are hybrid, and others are in-person. Specifics may be found on Conservation Link as SWCDs, where Districts enter their meeting data.

**2021 Annual Plan of Work and Strategic Planning**

Thanks to the SSCB for carving out time to develop their 2021 plan of work. Ideas brainstormed in November by the group were then organized within an online survey. The survey provided a means for SSCB Board Members to indicate as individuals which ideas were of highest priority to them. Results from the survey were compiled. These results can be used as a tool to portray which ideas are of highest priority to the Board as a whole.

**Virtual New Supervisor and Staff Training:** January 14, 2021 7PM - 8:15PM EST. Join us! <https://bit.ly/3qISlIW> Everyone is welcome, whether they are new or have many years of experience. Key topics include: leadership, responsibilities, planning, funding, and ICP Partners. Can't make it? Please reach out to your ISDA DSS instead to schedule an individual or group training that fits your schedule.

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Accomplishments in 2020

The CREP Annual Report can be found at <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/conservation-reserve-enhancement-program/annual-reports/>

### 2020 COMPLETED AND ENROLLED PRACTICES

It was another good year for growth in enrollment in the Indiana CREP by interested landowners with **2,348.8 acres enrolled**, which includes approximately 911 acres being re-enrolled from CRP to CREP and 369 acres from CREP to CREP. This is the first year that acres within the program were able to be re-enrolled back into CREP within the original three watersheds.

In addition, 2020 saw another high number of practice acres completed on the ground or re-enrolled since the expansion at **2,459.6 acres**. These completed acres do not include the 369 acres that were re-enrolled from CREP to CREP so that these acres are not duplicated in the total acres within the program.

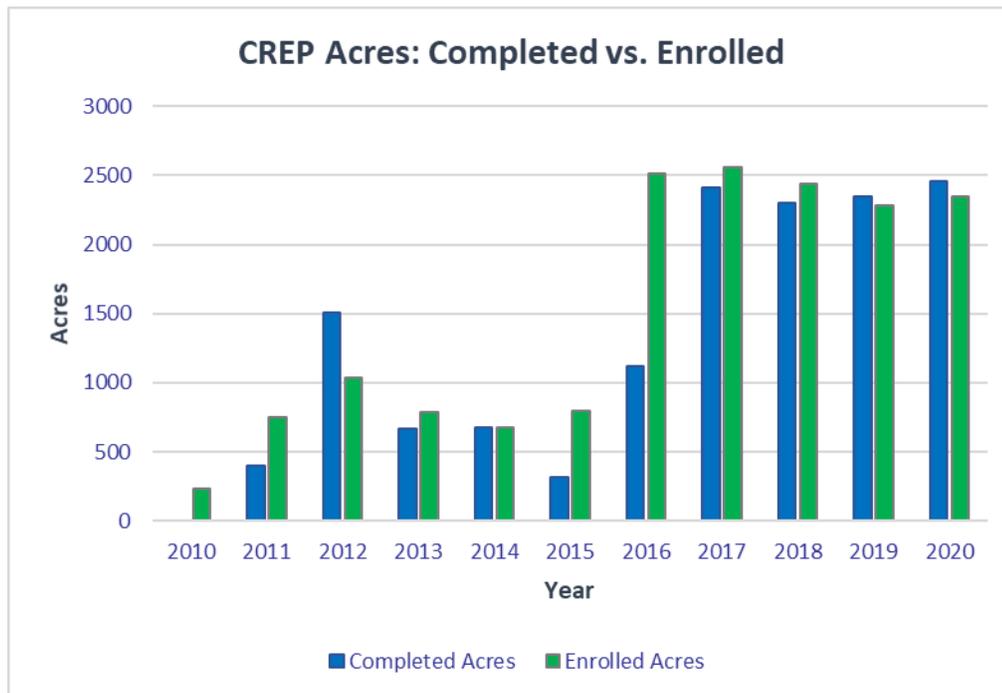
#### 2020 Practices (in acres)

	Native Grasses CP2	Filter Strip CP21	Wildlife Habitat CP4D	Hardwood Tree Planting CP3A	Riparian Buffer CP22	Bottomland Timber Establishment CP31	Wetlands CP23	Wetlands CP23A	Total
<b>Completed</b>	0.00	606.19	38.20	17.2	95.49	701.19	438.07	563.26	<b>2,459.6</b>

\* Completed practices are those projects where conservation practices have been installed on the ground or have been re-enrolled into the program.

\*\* There were no CP2 practices installed in 2020.

### COMPARISON OF COMPLETED ACRES VS. ENROLLED ACRES FROM 2010-2020



## SUMMARY OF STATE FUNDS FOR COMPLETED PRACTICES PAID IN 2020 (PRACTICES AND ADMIN FEES)

State Dollars for Practices Paid in 2020								
CP2	CP4D	CP21	CP3A	CP22	CP31	CP23	CP23A	Practices Total
\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,820.00	\$ 56,579.00	\$ 6,880.00	\$ 38,872.00	\$ 369,396.00	\$ 395,514.00	\$ 416,868.50	<b>\$ 1,289,429.50</b>
							Admin fees	\$ 128,306.95
							Total	<b>\$ 1,417,736.45</b>

## ESTIMATED NUTRIENT LOAD REDUCTIONS IN CREP WATERSHEDS

The annual goal to reduce sediment and nutrients from entering rivers and streams in the designated watersheds is 2,450 tons of sediment, 2,400 pounds of phosphorus, and 4,700 pounds of nitrogen.

Year	Sediment (Tons)	Phosphorus (lbs.)	Nitrogen (lbs.)
<b>2020</b>	<b>17,025</b>	<b>20,120</b>	<b>39,999</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>71,124</b>	<b>82,188</b>	<b>162,219</b>

\*'Overall' refers to the total sediment and nutrient load reductions since the program's expansion in 2010 according to the Region 5 model calculations.

## TOTAL BUFFER LENGTHS COMPLETED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAM

A goal of CREP is to protect a minimum of 3,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of conservation buffer practices. In 2020, there was an additional total of **435,642 feet** and **82.5 linear miles** of buffer lengths installed to protect waterbodies.

2005-2010	2010 - current	Total	CREP Goal	Percentage of Goal
2,627,367 feet	2,229,204 feet	<b>4,856,571 feet</b>		
		<b>919.8 linear miles</b>	<b>3,000 linear miles</b>	<b>30.7%</b>

This includes 472 miles of the Tippecanoe River and its tributaries being protected, and 132 miles of the Upper White River and its tributaries. To see a comparison of the rivers and tributaries that are being protected in all of the CREP watersheds, refer to the 2020 CREP Annual Report.

## WETLAND RESTORATIONS

In 2020, **1,001 acres** of wetland restorations were completed or re-enrolled, and **648** new acres were enrolled. In total since the inception of the program in Indiana, CREP has restored or enhanced 5,207 acres of wetlands.

## NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED IN FLOODPLAINS

Through the CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment practice, trees are planted in floodplain areas to protect waterbodies. In 2020, **549.6 acres** of new trees have been planted through CP31, resulting in approximately **329,760 trees** being planted. Since the inception of the program in late 2005, 7,755 acres of new trees have been planted or re-enrolled into the program, resulting in the planting of approximately 4,123,746 trees.

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total		
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 1/11/2021	229.58	52.20	5,957.38	51.63	791.10	7,729.87	1652.71	3,554.71	20,019.18	26,250.00	76.26%
Total CREP Enrollment	238.17	58.56	6,395.48	51.63	863.95	8,208.72	2111.36	3,971.50	21,899.37	26,250.00	83.43%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90		
									Difference =	1,880.19	

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fee	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total CREP Dollars	\$ 22,958.00	\$ 5,220.00	\$ 573,481.00	\$ 21,530.00	\$ 305,273.00	\$ 3,169,408.00	\$ 1,501,263.00	\$ 2,600,099.00	\$ 8,199,232.00	\$ 678,460.70	\$ 8,877,692.70

Federal Match of \$4-\$13 is between \$ 32,796,928.00  
\$ 106,590,016.00

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 1/11/2021	0.00	0.00	206.98	1.58	2.90	25.16	0.00	132.42	369.04

Note: These acres are not re-counted in the total above.

# Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

## State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

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### FARM BILL PROGRAMS

#### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

January 8 is the application deadline for CSP.

#### Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

February 3 is the application deadline for ACEP.

#### Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

February 26 is the second-round application deadline for the Reclaimed Coal Mine Lands project in southwestern Indiana.

### INDIANA PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION FUNDING

Indiana NRCS will award up to \$1 million to locally driven partnerships that address natural resource issues, encourage collaboration and develop state-and-community-level conservation leadership. The purpose of the Indiana Partners for Conservation funding is to leverage NRCS and partner resources, assist with NRCS workload and focus on the following priority activities:

- Advance the goals of the Indiana Ag Nutrient Alliance and the Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (see <https://inagnutrients.org/>).
- Promote soil health to producers, landowners and/or private agronomic advisors.
- Conduct conservation planning, field practice certifications and/or follow up with producers on establishment of conservation practices.
- Provide soil scientist support and technical assistance including on-site soils investigations and staff training with an emphasis on the southwest area of the state.
- Assist with technical assistance, Farm Bill program promotion, innovative conservation approaches, evaluating conservation outcomes, demonstration farms and/or activities listed above in the Indiana portion of the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Partners may request between \$30,000 and \$500,000 in funding and are expected to offer value-added contributions to amplify the impact of NRCS funding by providing a 50% or greater match to the NRCS investment. Projects can be between two and five years in duration and organizations may use this opportunity to request funding for existing Indiana partnership agreements.

Indiana NRCS is now accepting proposals for the Indiana Partners for Conservation through Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html> (opportunity number: USDA-NRCS-IN-IPC-21-NOFO0001037). Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 25, 2021. For questions regarding this opportunity, please contact Sondra Watkins, Grants Management Specialist, by email at [sondra.watkins@usda.gov](mailto:sondra.watkins@usda.gov) or by phone at: (202) 572-5848.

### PUBLIC INPUT ON GUIDANCE DEFINING NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND ELIGIBILITY

USDA is seeking public input on nonindustrial private forest land (NIPF) related to technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs of NRCS. NRCS welcomes input from stakeholders to assist with the development of guidance about how to identify NIPF for program enrollment purposes. This request for input is to improve transparency about how NRCS makes land eligibility determinations with respect to forest lands. Nonindustrial private forest land criteria will be adopted after the close of the 30-

day period and after consideration of all comments. NRCS invites input on this technical guidance through January 19, 2021. Electronic comments must be submitted through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket ID NRCS-2020-0009 (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/17/2020-27703/guidance-for-identification-of-nonindustrial-private-forest-land-nipf>). All written comments received will be publicly available on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION**

The National Resources Inventory (NRI) is a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection began in early September and runs through the end of January 2021. The soils staff at the state office will collect data. Field office staff and FSA may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plan, cropping history, etc. If you have any comments or questions, please contact John Allen, Assistant State Soil Scientist at [john.allen@usda.gov](mailto:john.allen@usda.gov).

### **DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY**

Direct-Hire Authority (DHA) allows USDA-NRCS to fill vacancies for specific occupations, grade levels and locations when it can be proven that there is a critical hiring need or a severe shortage of candidates. Direct hire authorities expedite the hiring process by eliminating veterans' preference, rating and ranking, as well as the typical selection procedures. Public notice is required, meaning to use a DHA, a vacancy announcement must be posted on USAJOBS listing board and open to the public. All applicants who meet the basic qualification requirements of the position will be referred to the hiring manager for consideration and may be selected.

NRCS has received approval for Direct Hire Authority in FY21 for 1,525 positions throughout the country including: soil conservationist, rangeland management specialist, soil conservation technician, soil scientist, engineering technician, engineer, archaeologist, biologist, economist, forester and agronomist. Some positions have already been announced and other positions will be posted throughout the fiscal year.

### **USDA SERVICE CENTER STATUS**

Based on the rise in COVID cases both nationally and within the USDA-Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) workforce, effective December 1, all FPAC offices located in counties with significant COVID-19 infection rates stepped back to either Phase 0 or Phase 1 of USDA's phased reopening process.

By stepping back to either Phase 0 or Phase 1, these offices will be restricting their in-person appointments. All USDA Service Centers are for open for business, and service center staff members from FSA and NRCS will continue to work with producers by phone, email and digital tools.

Producers wishing to conduct business with the FSA, NRCS or any other service center agency should call ahead to confirm and schedule appointments. More information on service center status can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status>, and contact information for local Service Centers is available at <https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator>.

## Highlights

### WLEB Science and Solutions Facilitation

- Provided technical support for virtual conference of Federal and State Conservation Staff, Researchers from IN, OH, and MI to hold 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Science and Solutions Conference

### 2021 CCSI Webinar and Virtual Shop Visits

- Line up of 2021 Webinar and Virtual Shop Visits started
- January 5 (Webinar) Ken Rulon “Soil Health Economics and Communicating with Ag Lenders”
- January 19 (Virtual Shop Visit) Paul Jasa, UNL “Planter Set-up for High Residue Situations”
- February 2 (Virtual Shop Visit) AJ Adkins, NTM Ag/Dawn Equipment “Planter Modifications for Different Planting Conditions”
- February 16 (Webinar) Rodney Rulon “So... you want me to change how I farm?”

### Soil Health Demo Recordings

- Recorded and edited 3-5 minute videos on soil health demonstrations and in-field diagnostics

### Hoosier Chapter SWCS Fall Conference

- Provided logistical and technical support to hold a virtual fall training on pollinators and pollinator habitat over two sessions; 50+ attendees.

## G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

- **Innovative and Visionary Farmers**

*Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)*

*Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.*

- October 23 David Brandt (D)
- October 23 Mark Anson (D)
- October 23 Gordon Smiley (D)
- October 29 Blake Vince (D)
- November 18 Steve Groff (D)
- November 19 David Brandt (D)
- November 20 Mark Anson (D)
- November 25 Roger Wenning (A)
- December 4 Barry Fisher Farm – Filming / Field Visit (A)
- December 9 Loran Steinlage (D)
- Mike Starkey (A) – multiple before filming
- Intake from top farmers engaged with carbon trading programs for upcoming webinar (D)
- Intake from top farmers re suggested reading for NACD Soil Health Champions (D)

- **Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers**

*Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.*

Quarterly Targets: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

- November 6 – Ride-a-long, Dan Holderby, Newton Co – picking corn in wind-damaged field (NPM)

- **Farmer Influencers**

Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)

*Continued work with W4tL, IANA, and other influencer groups.*

- November 2 - Agronomy Extension Group Meeting (A)
- November 8 – EEAI Conference “Demonstrating and Facilitating Concepts of Soil Health for Secondary Education” 8 attendees live, recorded view tbd, Secondary Ed. Teachers
- November 24 Greg Downing, Cisco (D)
- December 9 Tim Hayes, Duke Energy (D)
- December 17 AGCO Engineer re equipment tech needs in soil health systems (A)
- Indiana CCA and Kentuckiana Crops Conference Presentation Recordings

- **Presentations**

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)

- October 20, 22 WREC presentation recordings (A)
- October 21, 28 (Virtual) – Sessions 1 and 2 of ICP Nutrient Management Workshop (A)
- October 26 – General Soil Health Demo / Presentation Recordings (A)
- October 28 – Agronomy 255 Soils (A)
- November 4 (Virtual) – Session 3 of ICP Nutrient Management Workshop; 25 attendees (A, NPM)
- November 8 – EEAI Conference “Demonstrating and Facilitating Concepts of Soil Health for Secondary Education” 8 attendees live, recorded view tbd, Secondary Ed. Teachers (A)
- November 12 – W4tL Steering Committee “Virtual Field Day Kit Demonstration” (D)
- December 1-2 Kentuckiana Crops Conference (recording) “Soil Health Diagnostics” (A)
- December 15-16 CCA Conference (recording) “Soil Health Diagnostics” (A)
- In-field Assessment Videos for Indiana NRCS trainings (A)
- Tippecanoe County Landowner Virtual Field Day recordings.

## **G2. Local Level Partnership Support**

### **1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership’s Outreach and Education**

Quarterly Target: CCSI as a group materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts groups (CCSI Team Goal)

Workshops Completed

- October 21, 28 (Virtual) WLEB Science and Solutions Researcher and Conservation Professional Conference with added file/presentation sharing, 50 attendees (D, NPM)
- October 21, 28 (Virtual) – Sessions 1 and 2 of ICP Nutrient Management Workshop (SPM, A)  
*Live sessions cancelled due to lack of registrations*
- October 30 (Virtual) – Midwest Cover Crops Conference Retreat, 25 attendees (NPM, SPM)

- November 12 (Virtual) Session 1 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Fall Meeting – Pollinators and Pollinator Habitat; 50 attendees (D, NPM, SPM)
- November 19 (Virtual) Session 1 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Fall Meeting – Pollinators and Pollinator Habitat; 50 attendees (D, NPM, SPM)
- November 20 – (Virtual) Edge of Field Monitoring for NRCS Leadership Program; 20 attendees (NPM facilitated)
- December 8 Webinar: Winter Conservation Meeting (Adams SWCD), 70 participants; 28 remained for Q&A after break (NPM)
- December 8 (Webinar) “Lessons Learned from the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative” – USDA NRCS Soil Health Division
- January 5 (CCSI Webinar) Ken Rulon: Soil Health Economics and Communicating with Ag Lenders; 70 attendees

#### Workshops Cancelled

- November 17 – Spencer/Perry Workshop with Rick Clark and Wayne Fredericks
- December 2 – Boone County Field Day
- February 2 – Southern Region Soil Health Workshop
- February 21 – (In-Person) Howard/Tipton County Workshop

#### Workshops in Progress:

- 2021 CCSI Webinar and Virtual Shop/Field Visit Series
  - January 5 (Webinar) Ken Rulon “Soil Health Economics and Communicating with Ag Lenders”
  - January 19 (Virtual Shop Visit) Paul Jasa, UNL “Planter Set-up for High Residue Situations”
  - February 2 (Virtual Shop Visit) AJ Adkins, NTM Ag/Dawn Equipment “Planter Modifications for Different Planting Conditions”
  - February 16 (Webinar) Rodney Rulon “So... you want me to change how I farm?”
- January 16 IASWCD Annual Conference “Soil Health Diagnostics”
- January 25, 27 – (Webinar) Indian-Kentuck Watershed Cover Crop Webinar
- January 2021 (Virtual) Tippecanoe County Landowner Virtual Field Day
- February 12 (Virtual) – Carbon and Ecosystems Markets with American Farmland Trust
- February 2 – (In-person) Southern Region Soil Health Workshop
- February 4 – (Virtual) Lower Salomonie Watershed Field Day
- February 3, 10, 17, 24 – (Virtual) VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative
- February 12 (Virtual) Carbon Market Trading Panel
- February – March (Virtual) Advanced Soil Health Training for Ag Retail with TNC
- March 4-6 (Virtual) Indiana Small Farm Conference
- Wabash SWCD Annual Meeting (working on speaker support)
- March 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day
- November 2021 – Spencer/Perry Workshop with Rick Clark and Wayne Fredericks
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021
- Vigo Co Small Farm Program – TBD
- December 10, 2021 Howard-Tipton County SWCD with Dr. Kris Nichols

## 2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

*Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.*

*Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health*

### Completed Trainings

- November 5 – (Virtual) Advanced Cover Crops, 50 attendees (A, NPM, SPM)

### Trainings in Progress:

- 2021 Soil Health Training Curriculum / Adaptation Planning
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program (A)
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review (A)
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (A)
- September 2021 Soil Health Nexus In-Service (A)

## 3. Professional Development Opportunities

*Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.*

*Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills*

### Trainings in Progress:

- November 5 - Advanced Cover Crops – *changed to virtual format*
- November 2020 (Virtual) – Hoosier Chapter SWCS – Pollinator Plantings (partners include USFWS and IDNR)

## 4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

*Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NPM, SPM)*

- October 20 – LovINsoil support to Adams Co SWCD (NPM)
- October 22 – Indiana WLEB Stakeholder Meeting (D)
- October 23 – WLEB Science and Solutions Planning Team (NPM)
- October 27, 28 – ANR Extension Virtual Retreat (A)
- October 27 – SSCB (D)
- October 29 – SW Area Soil Health Team Meeting (SPM)
- Harrison County Extension (SPM)
- Connected Pasture Project (rotational grazing) Team with First Capital Meat Processing to support meat processing and expansion development grant (SPM)
- November 5 – Kosciusko SWCD Locally-led Planning Meeting / Board Meeting (NPM)
- November 5 – Blue River Grazing Group (SPM)
- November 9 – Southern Region Workshop Planning Group (SPM)
- November 16 – Miami SWCD Board Meeting (NPM)
- November 18 – Lower Salamonie Watershed – field day planning (NPM)
- November 19 – Marshall SWCD Board Meeting (NPM)
- December 2 (Virtual) College of Ag Staff Meeting (A)
- December 7-8 (Virtual) Purdue Extension Professional Development Conference (A)
- December 7 Adams Co. SWCD Practice Webinar (NPM)
- December 14 Southeast CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, A, NPM, SPM)
- December 14 Southwest CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, A, NPM, SPM)
- December 16 Northeast CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, NPM, SPM)
- December 16 Northwest CCSI Regional Teleconference (D, NPM, SPM)
- December 18 IASWCD Board Meeting (D)

### G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

#### 1. Marketing

Quarterly Targets: 3-4 “formal” CCSI Updates (CCSI Team Goal)

Annual Target: 1-2 New External Partners

*Ensure LLPs understand CCSI resources available to them; Ensure external partners are aware of CCSI strengths, tools, and opportunities.*

- October 5 – Events Newsletter: 1634 delivered; 36% open rate; 8% click rate
- October 29 – Events Newsletter: 1234 delivered; 47% open rate; 14% click rate
- December 01 – Events Newsletter: 1287delivered; 48% open rate; 10% click rate
- December 09 – Upcoming CCSI Events: 1287delivered; 50% open rate; 11% click rate
- December 22 – Events Newsletter: 1287delivered; 48% open rate; 10% click rate

#### 2. Soil Health Messaging

Quarterly Targets: 3 Podcasts; 3-6 Blog Posts; 6 Newsletters;

*Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.*

Completed Materials:

- Videos
  - Soil Health Demonstrations (A)
  - In-Field Soil Health Diagnostics (A)
  - Reading a Soil Test Activity (A)
- Printed / Downloadable
  - Reading a Soil Test (activity) (A)
  - Integrate NRCS article with Blog on No-till Pumpkins for stand-alone document (NPM)
- Podcasts:
  - Nurturing the Invisible Part of the Soil with Dan Perkins and Lori Hoagland
  - Soil Health Economics and Communicating with Ag Lenders with Ken Rulon and Keith Berns
  - Recorded – Cover Crops and Soil Health in Sweet Corn Production
- Blogs
  - No-Till Pumpkins are Clean Pumpkins
  - CCAs: How to Self-report CEUs

Materials in Progress:

- No-Till Pumpkin planting; follow up video and still footage.
- Sweet corn planter testing
- Adaptation of graphics to yard signs for download
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download

### G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

*CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.*

- Support - Indiana University SARE - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss (Yoder)
- Support – Purdue University SARE - Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (Armstrong)

- Support – No-till Pumpkin and Sweet Corn in Cover Crops (Maynard)

## **G5. Funding**

- EPA Farmer to Farmer Mentoring Grant Submitted
- Donation campaign revolving around The Root Project – minimal response
- ISDA-led RCPP application support

## **OTHER**

- CCSI Staff experienced COVID deaths in their families (aunts, uncles), quarantine due to exposure, and balance of eLearning / childcare with deliverables.
- Provided support to LaPorte Co SWCD Board Meeting (teleconference line) (NPM)
- Provided support to Porter Co SWCD Board Meeting (teleconference line) (SPM)
- Provided support to Kosciusko SWCD Board meeting (Zoom) (NPM)
- Provided support to Miami SWCD Board meeting (Zoom) (NPM)
- Provided support to Marshall SWCD Board meeting (Zoom) (NPM)
- 12/1 Kosciusko Co SWCD Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 12/8 LaPorte Co SWCD Board Meeting (Teleconference)
- 12/16 Marshall Co SWCD Board Meeting (Zoom)
- Closed for Holidays 12/24 – 1/3

## Highlights

### OUTREACH EVENTS

- Since its official inception in January 2010, CCSI has participated in some 630 events, reaching over approximately 37,650 attendees.
- In 2020, CCSI materially participated in 38 events, reaching approximately 4650 individuals. Of note: Due to Covid-19, only one live event was held after March 11th, and two events were hybridized to maintain social distancing and safety standards.

### PIVOT TO VIRTUAL

- In spring, CCSI quickly pivoted to increase its capability to produce innovative virtual events.
- “Virtual Field Day Kits” were assembled and made available to partners for their outreach events as well as CCSI-led webinars and virtual field days/shop visits. Kits include tripods, Bluetooth headsets and lapel mics, adapters for phones and tablets, gimbles, and portable chargers. Event support funding also enabled CCSI to pay for both outgoing and return shipping.

### TRAINING

Due to Covid-19, the full scope of CCSI-SARE Soil Health Trainings was reduced.

- Advanced Soil Health – Specialty Crop Track focused upon hemp production and was held in conjunction with the 2020 Hort Congress; 15 attendees
- Core Cover Crops and Core Soil Health Systems Trainings were combined and converted to a series of 3 virtual events. Total attendance was up significantly – 68 total attendees.
- Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health Training) was converted to a hybridized training: 2-1/2 days virtual, one day in-person. Attendance was limited to 25 participants to maintain social distancing.
- Advanced Cover Crops Training was converted to a single webinar; 91 attendees.
- ICP Nutrient Management Training (Virtual); 50 attendees
- ICP Ag 101 (Virtual); 50 attendees
- Soil Health Demo Kits: Using funding from an NRCS Agreement and coordinating with state NRCS staff, CCSI procured equipment to ensure that all 92 of Indiana counties had a complete soil health demo kit. These kits are available for use by ICP partners, farmers, and others promoting soil health. Planned training for use of these kits was delayed to 2021 due to Covid-19

### PODCASTS AND WEBINARS

- In the third season of CCSI-Hoosier Ag Today Soil Health Podcasts, a baker’s dozen (13) were produced, with another already recorded. A second line of topics focusing on soil health in specialty crop production were added to the lineup. They may be found on the CCSI website [ccsin.org/podcast](https://ccsin.org/podcast) along with links to subscribe on a variety of platforms.
- A pair of virtual farmer roundtables were piloted, using the Zoom Meeting platform and CCSI Virtual Field Day Kits. The team looks forward to hosting more virtual roundtables in 2021. One recording may be found on the CCSI website [www.ccsin.org/tools](https://www.ccsin.org/tools)

- Pilot Webinar / Virtual Field Visit. Using CCSI Virtual Field Day equipment and the Zoom Webinar platform, a virtual field visit was piloted. The featured speaker was broadcasting live from a field in Western Kentucky and videos/imagery that complimented his presentation were played remotely. The recording may be found on the CCSI website [www.ccsin.org/tools](http://www.ccsin.org/tools)
- 2021 Webinars and Virtual Shop/Field Visits are being organized. January and February events are scheduled with others to come. Registration is available on the CCSI website [www.ccsin.org/registration-other-events](http://www.ccsin.org/registration-other-events)
- **WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER OUTREACH**
  - A new website [www.ccsin.org](http://www.ccsin.org) was launched in January 2020. Revamped and reorganized, the site provides a one-stop shop for:
    - Soil Health information
    - Events calendars and registration portals
    - Resources such as photos, videos, and landowner outreach tools
  - The Root Project [www.ccsin.org/root-project](http://www.ccsin.org/root-project) is a graphics project illustrating a variety of cover crop species, including their rooting structure. Since its launch in late October 2020, over 425 unique individuals across the globe have downloaded graphics directly from the website, including many university-based persons.
  - A series of 12 billboards with 4 unique designs were rolled out over the courses of the summer focusing on the benefits of soil health. The rollout included a social media campaign: #LovINsoil

#### **FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS**

- An agreement with USDA-NRCS was entered, providing 5 years of full funding for the Director position, and 50% funding for the Agronomist Position.
- Purdue Extension agreed to fund 50% of the Agronomist Position.
- A grant was awarded by the National Association of Conservation Districts to fund the Program Manager activities for approximately 1 year.
- Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Alliance increased financial support, especially for activities such as podcasts that provide wider opportunities for outreach.
- A donations portal was incorporated into the website [ccsin.org/donate](http://ccsin.org/donate), providing an easy way for users to make tax deductible donations.

#### **OTHER SUPPORT**

In addition to CCSI's core mission, staff began providing support to partners in spring to help enable them to continue holding board meetings and other critical work. CCSI staff set-up and made a "Burner" Teleconference line available specifically for this use. They also set-up and hosted a number of Zoom Meetings for SWCDs and other partners for board meetings, interviews, etc.



**Indiana Association of  
Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts**

Protecting and enhancing Indiana's soil  
and water resources for all Hoosiers



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Warrick County

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

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**To:** State Soil Conservation Board  
**From:** Roger Wenning, President, IASWCD  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2020

**Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)**

- CCSI will be rolling out several web trainings, see Lisa's report.

**Urban Soil Health Program**

- IASWCD has hired Eliana (Elli) Blaine as the new Urban Soil Health Program Director; she started on January 4. Applications for the Regional Urban Soil Health Specialists have been received and interviews will be held soon.

**Pathway to Water Quality**

- It will be the 29<sup>th</sup> year for PWQ. The committee will meet at the end of January, and meet monthly. We will get on track for the expansion into the new Pathway area in the adjacent space, using the Indiana American Water grant for seating and signage.

**Legislative Issues**

- Two resolutions have been submitted and considered during the business meeting this morning. Both may require Indiana Code changes if passed at this point.
- The CWI General Fund line item is anticipated to be reduced by 15% from the last biennium budget, which would leave it at \$824,500. IASWCD will be discussing with legislators the merits of the funding and attempting to get it amended back to the \$1 million level.
- A carbon sequestration bill will be introduced in the Senate this session, and it may funnel money for ag practices into a new account under Clean Water Indiana. Joe has been participating in a work group regarding the potential bill, and discussing its merits with ISDA and other agencies, as well as other partners.
- House Bill 1055 has been introduced to help establish new River Basin Commissions in the template of the Kankakee basin, and the bill includes SWCD representation on an advisory council. We will be tracking it.
- Two virtual legislative trainings were held in December for districts, and the recordings will be posted online after conference. IASWCD will be working to make their Zoom account available for districts to set up virtual calls with legislators this session.

**Other**

- District Showcase tours were held this virtually this fall, and they will be recognized at the Awards Luncheon tomorrow.
- Association Board members and staff will be representing Indiana at the National Association of Conservation District meeting in February, which will be held virtually.
- Thank you to all the partners and Districts attending the virtual conference, we hope everyone finds time to explore and learn something new!

**THE IASWCD MISSION** *is to enable the conservation of natural resources of Indiana.*