

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
July 14, 2015
The Nature Conservancy
Indianapolis, IN

- I. 9:30AM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of May 2015**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon
 - b. 2016 Clean Water Indiana Grants- Bob Eddleman
 - c. Clean Water Indiana Budget Update- Jordan Seger
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
 - a. SSCB Chairman’s Report-Scott Ham
 - b. SSCB Business Plan
 - c. Pollinators-Jordan/Meg
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Howard County SWCD- Geneva Tyler
 - b. Clinton County SWCD- Geneva Tyler
 - c. Huntington County SWCD- Jennifer Thum
- VI. ISDA Updates**
 - a. Director’s Report- Jordan Seger
 - b. Technical Report- Mike Johnson
 - c. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
 - d. Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst
 - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
 - f. Water Quality and CREP-Julie Harrold
- VII. Conservation Partner Reports**
 - d. IASWCD Report
 - 1. CCSI Update/New Opportunities- Les Zimmerman
 - b. IDEM Report
 - c. DNR Report
 - d. Purdue Report
 - e. FSA Report
 - f. NRCS Report
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Next Meeting:**
2015 Meeting Dates

September 16, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis	October 27, Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Pike County
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- X. 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

Meeting Sign-In

Date July 15th, 2015

Location The Nature Conservancy

Name/Agency

Leah Harmon ISDA

JASON KISHTON FSA

Emily Meikel IASWCD

Sheryl Bughn

Walt Sell

Jennifer Thum ISDA

Jill Krause ISDA

Jordan Seger ISDA

Kevin Kreuzman

Mike Johnson

Roger Kult

Laura Fribley

LES ZIMMERMAN

Nathan Stoelting

Name/Agency

BOONE SWCD

Purdue Extension

ISDA

ISDA

ISDA

NRCS

ISDA

CESI

ISDA



State Soil Conservation Board

July 14, 2015

Clean Water Indiana Grants



Program Updates

Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

The 2015 CWI Competitive Grants are now in full swing. Several districts have updated their reports on SharePoint and we expect more this month as we wrap up the 2nd quarter. All 2012 CWI grants have now been closed out with final payments processed.

Clean Water Indiana 2016

The CWI grants committee met on June 24th to discuss the 2016 round of CWI competitive grants. After reviewing feedback from districts and ISDA staff regarding the process, the committee drafted grant guidance and an application to present to the full SSCB.

Annual Financial Report Grants

All annual financial report grant agreements are fully executed. As of July 8th, there are still 8 claim vouchers that need to be submitted. We expect these to be in soon.

After AFR grants are finished and before CWI competitive grants, ISDA staff plan to discuss our grant processes with the Lieutenant Governor's office division of grant services to evaluate how the partnership between the two agencies worked this year and how it could be improved. This will help us be more efficient in upcoming grant cycles.



INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

1 North Capitol, Suite 600 • Indianapolis, IN 46204 • 317.232.8770 Phone • 317.232.1362 Fax

Chair
Scott Ham

Vice Chair
Ray Chattin

Members
Nola Gentry
Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Robert Woodling

To: District Supervisors and Staff
From: Scott Ham, Chair-State Soil Conservation Board
Subj: 2016 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program
Date: July 15, 2015

On behalf of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB), I'm pleased to inform you we are launching our 2016 CWI Grant Program today. The State Soil Conservation Board has voted to utilize Clean Water Indiana Grant Program funds to support competitive proposals for multi-district, multi-year projects which address the state priorities in the State Soil Conservation Board's Business Plan adopted in 2010 (and updated in 2012, 2013, and 2014) identified as follows:

Soil Quality Degradation which includes the loss of top soil due to erosion, the depletion of organic matter, as well as soil compaction and other soil biology impacts that degrade soil quality.

Water Quality Impairments including sediment, nutrients, and/or pesticides.

Eligible Applicants: SWCDs should partner with at least one other district and are encouraged to partner with other organizations. However, only one application is permitted per project and must be submitted by the designated lead SWCD. Participating districts are not required to share borders, but must be in the same geographic area. **All participating SWCDs must be current on reporting and the lead district must meet the SWCD Required Deadlines as identified in the District Deadline Verification Tool (enclosed) effective May 8, 2013. Deadlines considered will fall between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015.** CWI funding to expand or extend current CWI projects/initiatives is available to current grantees, provided the project is at least 66% complete. Districts currently serving as lead district on an active CWI project may apply as the lead district in a new project, however new lead districts are encouraged.

Application Process: Application forms are available through your District Support Specialist. These forms shall be completed and submitted back to the District Support Specialist as an email attachment. Please work closely with your District Support Specialists throughout the application process.

Application Deadline: The application must be submitted to your District Support Specialist, as an e-mail attachment, by 4PM on October 1, 2015. The application **must** be approved by the chairman of each participating district.



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Enclosed is a copy of the **2016 CWI Grant Guidelines** which further details the scope of the grant opportunity as well as the **2016 CWI Grant Application Form**. These documents are also available from your District Support Specialist. **Please carefully review the 2016 CWI Grant Guidelines with your board(s) before completing the grant application.**

We look forward to receiving your grant application.

Scott Ham
Chairman
State Soil Conservation Board



2016 Clean Water Indiana Grant Program

Indiana State Department of Agriculture
State Soil Conservation Board

Executive Summary: The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the Clean Water Indiana Fund to support Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in efforts to **reduce sediment and nutrients** from nonpoint sources to help improve water quality. The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is accepting competitive proposals for multi-district, multi-year projects. Project proposals can be for up to three years in length and up to \$75,000. Grant funding can be used to help support one or more of the funding categories listed below:

- Increase Direct Technical/Professional Assistance to Land users
- Cost Share Incentives/On Farm Demonstrations
- Adult Education (see additional info on page 5)

General Grant Guidance:

- Two or more districts **should** be actively involved in the project/initiative proposed. A lead district must be selected to serve as the grantee to receive and administer the grant. However, grant funds can be shared between the districts through cooperative agreements developed locally.
- The grant proposal must document how the grant funds will address at least two of the State priorities in the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB's) Business Plan adopted in 2010 (updated in 2014) and identified as follows:
 - **Soil Quality Degradation** which includes the loss of top soil due to erosion, the depletion of organic matter, as well as soil compaction and other soil biology impacts that degrade soil quality.
 - **Water Quality Impairments** including sediment, nutrients, and/or pesticides.
- Proposals that support current state and/or national initiatives are strongly encouraged. Examples of state and national priority initiatives include: projects/programs to reduce sediment and nutrient loading into the Gulf of Mexico (MRBI) and the Great Lakes (WLEB and GLRI). Current examples of initiatives partially assisted with Clean Water Indiana funding include the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI), and **INField Advantage**.
- Proposals that outline how the CWI funds will leverage additional funding from other sources as well as engage other partners are strongly encouraged. CWI project proposals that will be in tandem with

ongoing projects are encouraged. Example: CWI funds might be used to add technical assistance to help implement sediment and nutrient reduction practices cost-shared through a LARE or 319 project.

- Proposals relating to water usage/conservation (irrigation management) will only be considered if the water quality project and conservation practices offered in it will also reduce sediment and nutrient reduction.
- **Research projects, including water quality monitoring, are not eligible under the 2016 CWI grant program.**
- Projects relating to urban practices that will reduce sediment and nutrients are eligible; however, no funding will be awarded for cost share on rain barrels. Cost-sharing is also not allowed on specific practices that an entity or individual is required to install to comply with a state or local rule or ordinance. For example, CWI funds cannot be used to meet MS4 requirements unless the proposed use of funds goes “above and beyond” the requirements outlined in the MS4 permit’s Storm Water Quality Management Plan.
- When practical, Districts are encouraged to cost share only on plants native to Indiana.

Applicants should consider the ratio of BMP cost to load reduction and make judicious use of their limited grant funding.

Application Process: Application forms are available from your District Support Specialist. Applications are in a fillable PDF format which can be saved to your computer and electronically submitted to your District Support Specialist as an email attachment. Districts should only submit the application and **the current District Deadline Verification Tool**. No other documents will be considered when scoring applications.

Application Deadline: The application must be submitted by **October 1, 2015**. By electronically submitting the application, the lead SWCD certifies each partnering district has agreed to the terms outlined in the application.

Eligible Applicants: The multi-district applications may be submitted by any SWCD in the State of Indiana. However, only one application is permitted per project and must be submitted by the designated lead SWCD. Participating districts are not required to share borders, but must be in the same geographic area. **All participating SWCDs must be current on reporting and the lead district must meet the SWCD Required Deadlines as identified in the District Deadline Verification Tool (attached) effective May 8, 2013. Self assessments for all participating districts must be included with the application submission. Deadlines considered will fall between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015.** Please note:

Clean Water Indiana funding to expand or extend current CWI projects/initiatives is available to current grantees, provided the project is at least 66% complete. Project status must be documented on the grant report in SharePoint at the time of 2015 application submission. Extension applications may include minor changes, however must stay within the scope of the original approved grant. All changes requested must be explained on the last page of the application. Districts currently serving as lead district on an active CWI project may apply as the lead district in a new project, however new lead districts are encouraged.

Project Description: The proposal must identify the current non-point source water quality concerns in the selected districts. If there is an existing Watershed Management Plan or one currently under development and will be the focus of the grant, please include the name of the plan and identify who developed it or is developing it.

Partnerships: SWCDs **should** partner with at least one other district and are encouraged to partner with other organizations. Each application must state clearly what each partner (particularly partner district(s)) will be contributing to the proposed project in the grant application (i.e. outreach, professional assistance, estimated funds, etc.).

Funds Available: Each applicant will be given the opportunity to apply for funding under one or all of the grant funding categories. Please see the **Grant Funding Categories with Descriptions** on the next page for additional information. Please note this grant opportunity will be competitive. The SSCB is looking for proposals up to \$75,000 over three years, however additional funding considerations will be made for exceptionally strong proposals. The SSCB will utilize a score sheet criteria to aid in ranking the proposals. **In addition, the SSCB may use some discretion when awarding grant funds by prioritizing newly applying districts as well as districts/areas statewide who have received less CWI funding since 2011.**

Match Requirement: A 50 percent cash and/or in-kind match is required. Match contributions can be federal, state and/or local sources including such things as landowner costs, staff time, supervisor time, equipment use, purchase, rental, etc. The match is applicable only if directly related to the purpose of the proposed project.

Project Dates: All 2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant projects shall take no longer than three full years to complete. Projects will start on **January 1, 2016** and must be finished by **December 31, 2018**.

Funding Restrictions: Proposals must fall within the funding context allowed under the Clean Water Indiana Law (IC 14-32-8). The law prohibits funds to be used for food, food related paper products, office equipment or district self-promotional materials (examples include mugs, t-shirts, pens, etc).

Leveraging Funds: SWCD's are encouraged to partner with traditional and non-traditional organizations/agencies at the local, state and federal level to leverage additional dollars for their project/initiative. However, the SSCB will show preference to projects which do not add to the percent cost share/incentive rate offered through another program.

Process of Payments: Once the proposal is approved by the SSCB, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) will issue a contract to the designated lead SWCD. SWCDs should return their signed contract to ISDA within 14 days of receipt in order to receive their funds. Funds must be utilized in a timely manner. Districts will receive 50 percent of their grant funding up front and the remaining 50 percent at the end of the project, upon receipt of the final report.

Reporting Requirements: Annual reports through SharePoint will be required for the duration of the grant project and a final report will be due at the end of the grant period. This report must summarize the outcomes and achievements of the project. Tracking of conservation practice implementation must be reported through SharePoint's conservation practices tracking system on a (minimum) quarterly basis.

Grant Funding Categories with Descriptions:

- **Cost-Share/Incentives/Demonstrations:** Practices and measures must be focused on the reduction of sediment and nutrients for the proposed districts. Districts are encouraged to provide matching dollars and to leverage additional dollars from other sources. Conservation practices and structural measures shall follow NRCS Field Office Technical Guide where applicable. New technologies not currently in the technical guide may be implemented if reviewed and concurred in by a technical representative of the Conservation Implementation Teams (CIT) or their designee. Districts also have the ability to assist in the purchase/lease or off-set of rental costs for equipment to encourage new technology adoption. Districts may also want to offer financial assistance for demonstration projects or farm comparison plots to demonstrate and evaluate options for reducing erosion and /or nutrient inputs or adoption of new equipment technologies. The SSCB will show preference to projects that are not fundable by other programs, or which do not add to the percent cost share/incentive rate offered through another program. For cost-share practices, CWI funds may be used to pay up to a maximum of 75% of the total BMP cost. At least 25% of the cost must be provided by the landowner or other non-federal source as match. However, cover crop cost share is limited to a maximum of \$20/acre. **The SSCB will give preference to applications targeting users new to cover crops.** For demonstration practices, CWI funds may be used to pay up to 100% of the total cost of the BMP. **Note: if applying for cost share, please describe the process you will implement to select grant recipients. Priority will be given to SWCDs who demonstrate a strategic process for managing cost share dollars.**
- **Direct Agronomic, Technical and Conservation Program Participation Assistance:** Funding under this category is for the purpose of increasing the amount of direct agronomic, technical and conservation program planning/participation assistance to land users in the target areas that are willing to adopt best management practices and technologies for sediment and nutrient reduction. The BMP should address the goal(s) of the watershed management plan and be appropriate for the nonpoint source pollution in the critical area where the project site lies. For example, even within a critical area, it would not be wise to place a BMP where runoff already infiltrates and has little chance of reaching a Water of the State. Furthermore, CWI grant funds shall not fund BMPs that are “bandages”, or spot fixes of much larger issues. For example, stabilizing streambanks without first addressing the source of the extra flow and sediment causing the bank instability is not a high value project or a funding priority. Examples of how funding in this category might be used include:
 - **Contracted Services** – Funding under this category may be used for contracts or fee based agreements with individuals, firms, organizations or project partners who can provide

additional on-site agronomic and/or other technical assistance to land users to help them plan and implement best management practices and technologies that will reduce erosion and sedimentation and/or improve nutrient management. This may include helping land users understand what conservation program assistance is available to address these resource concerns and helping them apply for conservation program assistance.

- **Matching Funds for Additional Professional Assistance** –Funding in this category may also be used as match to help partnering districts acquire additional personnel, to provide the types of professional assistance described above on a multi district basis. Examples include but are not limited to: Watershed Technician, Watershed Agronomist, Conservation Program Specialist (agriculture or urban), and Conservation Cropping Systems Specialists.

Adult Education—Districts may apply for up to \$1,000 per year to support Adult Education activities, events/workshops, etc that help with implementation of the multi-district project/initiative proposed. However, grants will not be awarded for Adult Education only. Districts that are willing to measure effectiveness of adult education events may receive additional consideration when applications are evaluated.

Questions? Please contact your District Support Specialist. See [DSS Map](#) and contact information under documents on SWCD SharePoint.

Clean Water Indiana Grant Program Application

Please complete the application in 12 point Arial or Times New Roman Font

Administering SWCD

If this application is extending a current CWI grant,
please enter the agreement number here

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Signature Authority
(District Chairman)

Contact Name/
Title

Email

Proposal
Amount

Participating
Districts

**Project
Title and
Description**

*Please note:
text limited to
approximately
180 words*

Briefly describe
the role each
district listed
above will play
in the project/
initiative.

*Please note:
text limited to
approximately
180 words*

Briefly list
and describe
the role each
partner will play
in the project/
initiative.

*Please note:
text limited to
approximately
180 words*

Why was this region selected? Please provide a description of the water quality concerns that will be addressed by this project. *Please note: text limited to approximately 300 words*

Has a water quality management plan been developed or is it in development for the watershed(s) in the participating districts above?

Yes
No

Please provide the name of the plan and who developed it.

Please describe how requested funds will be utilized in the Cost Share/Incentives/Demonstrations Category. *Please note: text limited to approximately 360 words*

Please describe how requested funds will be utilized in the Technical Assistance Category. *Please note: text limited to approximately 260 words*

Please describe how requested funds will be utilized in the Adult Education Category and if/how you plan to measure success/effectiveness.

Provide a description of practices and goals of what will be implemented during the life of the project.

*Note: Reporting of accomplishments is to be done on the CWI Grant report form as well as the Conservation Project Tracking sheet on SharePoint.

Practice Type/Description	Year 1 (acres/number)	Year 2 (acres/number)	Year 3 (acres/number)	Amount

Provide goals of the number of demonstration, on-farm plots, and rental equipment acres which will be accomplished during the life of the project.

*Note: Reporting of accomplishments is to be done on the CWI Grant report form on SharePoint.

Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Amount
Demonstrations				
On-Farm Plots				
Rental Equipment Acres				
Other (specify)				
Other (specify)				
Other (specify)				

Provide goals of the agronomic, professional, and/or technical assistance which will be accomplished during the life of the project.

*Note: Reporting of accomplishments is to be done on the CWI Grant report form on SharePoint.

Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Amount
Number of Direct Contacts				
Acres Impacted				
Other (specify)				
Other (specify)				
Other (specify)				

Please list the partnering district's chairman name(s) below. By entering the names, you agree each district has reviewed the proposal and is in full support of this project and will support it as outlined above.

District Name
Chairman Name

Optional space for additional information about expense types (pages 3-5) or other applicant info. **If participating districts are not contiguous, explanation is required. If you are applying for an extension to an existing grant and are making changes to the grant, please describe those changes and explain why.** *Please note: text limited to approximately 780 words.*

District Deadline Verification Tool

District Name of person completing form Date Completed

All deadlines are to have been met from September 1st, 2014 to August 31st, 2015 unless noted otherwise.

Section I

Items in Section 1 are considered "critical criteria". Items in Section I may be found in district law or are imposed by another entity (i.e. State Board of Accounts). Failure to meet deadlines in section 1 will result in ineligibility for discretionary grants (i.e. competitive, training).

Item and Due Date	Submitted on or before due date	Submitted Late	Other (please describe)
Election Committee Report (November 1 st)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recommendation for Supervisor Appointment (November 1 st)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nominees for Election (December 1 st)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sales Tax form ___ completed (January 31 st)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Designation of Depository (January 31 st)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Annual Meeting Held (March 31 st)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Annual Financial Report and Audit Form/page 2 of AFR (March 31)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Election of District board officers – (April 30 th)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recommendation for Temporary Appointment for Vacant Appointment or Elected Supervisor Position (Within 30 days after the vacancy occurs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Annual Financial Report entered in Gateway (60 days after the end of the calendar year)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Debt Management entered in Gateway (60 days after the end of the calendar year)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
100R form entered in Gateway (60 days after the end of the calendar year)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Certification of Election of Supervisors – (Within 7 days of election)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CWI Grants Reports and Conservation Practice Tracking (Due dates established in grant agreements)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Section II

Items in Section II are considered essential for sound district operations, but are not required by statute. Failure to meet deadlines below may result in penalty points assessed when competitive grants are scored, such as the Clean Water Indiana grants.

Item and Due Date	Submitted on or before due date	Submitted Late	District has met goal
District Annual Meeting Information. (January 1 st - minimum of date and location entered in SharePoint)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Updated SharePoint Directories including designation of board chair and any staff and supervisors changes within 30 days of changes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2014 District Success Story uploaded to ICP website. (Due dates to be determined by ICP outreach committee)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have at least one current supervisor attend the Supervisor Summit training session that is sponsored by IASWCD and ISDA since 2013.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Have at least one current supervisor attend a Leadership Institute Workshop Session since 2008.			<input type="checkbox"/>
District staff or supervisors participated in 2014 cover crop transect or 2015 spring tillage transect.			<input type="checkbox"/>
District has a current business plan.			<input type="checkbox"/>



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To: All SWCD Staff and Supervisors

Date: July 15, 2015

Re: Supervisor and Staff Training Sponsorships and Reimbursements

Encl: 2015-2016 Training Reimbursement Application

The State Soil Conservation Board is pleased to again offer SWCD supervisor and staff training funds for 2015 and 2016. In their July meeting, the SSCB voted to set aside \$XXXX.XX for training from the Clean Water Indiana budget. This year the funds will be available in the form of sponsored district capacity building trainings and reimbursements. This new process is a result of feedback from districts and should help to maximize training funds.

A portion of these funds will directly sponsor established trainings. This will reduce registration fees and increase availability to high quality speakers. Support will be directed to trainings such as the August 2015 Supervisor Summit, October 2015 Indiana District Employees Association Fall Conference, November 2015 Leadership Institute.

The other portion of these funds will be reserved for training registration fee reimbursements. Each district is eligible to apply for supervisor and/or staff training reimbursements through March 15th, 2016. Actual amounts of training reimbursements will depend on the number and amount of requests submitted, and will be capped at \$1,000 per district. Funds will be prioritized to supervisors and those districts demonstrating financial need. Eligible trainings take place between June 15th, 2015, and March 15th, 2016, and include the December 2015 Leadership Institute, January 2015 IASWCD Annual Conference, February 2016 Leadership Institute, and other district capacity building training events. Reimbursement requests are due **September 15th, December 15th, and March 15th** and will be reviewed thereafter, and applicants will be notified immediately after the review is complete. If awarded, registration fees will be reimbursed to districts pending confirmed attendance with 2015 AFR grant payments. Please note that AFR eligibility is not required to apply for training funds.

Attached is the form to be used to request reimbursements. Submit the form and the current District Deadline Verification Tool electronically as needed by **through March 15, 2016** to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov.

Please contact your district support specialists with any questions on the new procedures.

Thank you,

Scott Ham
Chairman
State Soil Conservation Board



Supervisor and Staff Training Reimbursement Application



Instructions:

Complete all required fields (denoted with *). Incomplete forms will not be considered.

Please note: Training funds apply *only* to registration costs. Any other associated costs (such as hotel and Meals) are not included. Applications must be submitted electronically to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov.

District Name* Address*

City, State, ZIP*

Contact Name and Title

Phone Number* Email*

Name and Title of Applicant(s)*	Amount Requested*
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Total Amount Requested*

Please select the training opportunity that you are requesting assistance for:

- Leadership Institute- Impacting Community
- Leadership Institute- Board Development
- Leadership Institute- Communication
- Leadership Institute- Leadership in Change
- IASWCD Annual Conference
- Other

Please describe how your district will benefit from your attendance to the above selected training(s).*

Checking account balance at the end of last year Total Current Investments (Savings, CDs)

Funds in account currently allocated for projects

Please describe your district's financial need for assistance. Please provide an explanation of investment balances (i.e. CWI grant funds).*



State Soil Conservation Board

July 14, 2015

ISDA-DSC Director, Jordan Seger



Updates

- **Crop Damage** - After a historically good planting season heavy rain leading to severe flooding is greatly damaging IN's 2015 Corn and Soybean crop. Damage estimates are in the hundreds of millions of dollars.
 - ISDA is working with the Farm Service Agency and Governor's office to prepare for any county disaster declarations, which occur when >30% of single crop damage occurs in a county
 - The ICP is encouraging landowners to limit fields with bare soil and plant cover crops on prevented planting acres and heavily damaged fields when possible
- **Lake Erie** – Excessive rain will likely lead to large algae blooms in Lake Erie this year, especially if temperatures rise. Recall the Toledo drinking water ban last Aug.
 - The ICP has initiated a WLEB action plan including local partners and state leaders outlining how IN will continue to address IN nutrient runoff in the WLEB. A meeting with this group will occur in August. Part of this plan includes the new USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant awarded to IN, OH, and MI.
 - ISDA is establishing a IN WLEB web page on the ISDA website to highlight past and present ICP efforts in the WLEB including an estimated reduction of 112,000 lbs of phosphorus reduced from ICP projects since 2013
 - OH, MI, and Ontario signed onto an agreement in June to reduce phosphorus loading in the WLEB by 40% by 2025 with interim goal of 20% reduction by 2020 with a plan in place by Oct 1, 2015 for doing so and using a baseline year of 2008. IN deeply cares about water quality, but choose not to sign this agreement due to a lack of 2008 baseline data, lack of WLEB shoreline in that IN loses control of water after it leaves the state boundary, and lack of clarity for how reductions would be allotted.
- **ISDA Staffing** – ISDA is pleased to announce four recent new hires and a recent promotion:
 - New Hire – Amy Sims, Resource Specialist in the SW based in Rockport
 - New Hire – Andrea Gogel, Resource Specialist in the SW based in Princeton
 - New Hire – Kevin Kreuzman, Resource Specialist in the SE based in Columbus
 - New Hire – Jill Krause, Resource Specialist in the NE based in Ft. Wayne
 - Promotion – Julie Harrold, Program Manager for Water Quality and CREP located in Columbia City
- **Indiana Grown** – Officially launched on July 7th, is an all inclusive marketing program that embraces and assists all Indiana agricultural ventures.
 - Indiana Grown offers immense potential to create new local and regional market channels for Indiana agricultural and food businesses while educating consumers on the opportunity to buy Indiana Grown products. It will also increase networking and sales opportunities for Indiana farmers and expanding support for Indiana processors in their effort to use more Indiana Grown products. www.IndianaGrown.org
- **Trade Mission** -Lieutenant Governor Ellspermann and ISDA Director Ted McKinney along with a delegation of IN Ag industry representatives just returned from a successful trade mission trip to China with the goal to increase IN Ag exports.
- **Avian Influenza** – ISDA has been working with BOAH, IDEM, DHS, and others to prepare for an AI outbreak in IN.

- Thus far only one backyard flock in Whitley County has tested positive. These entities have also been working with other states, namely Iowa to learn better how to handle a large outbreak. ISDA has focused namely on disposal of birds in regards to soil and water contamination
- **EPA/ACOE WOTUS FINAL RULE** - Final rule posted in Federal Register on Monday, June 29th. It is largely similar to the proposed rule published in 2014. No comment period. It will take effect on August 28, 2015.
 - IN has joined more than 27 other states filing suit against EPA
 - EPA and the Corps appear to be expanding their federal jurisdiction over non-navigable waters that have traditionally being governed by the states, such as farm ditches.
 - ISDA and IDEM along with the Governor's office have all sent detailed letters to EPA and ACOE strongly opposing the rule
 - ISDA is very concerned this rule, if implemented could greatly hamper voluntary conservation efforts with more redtape, permitting, federal oversight, and regulatory confusion. ISDA feels it should be made easier for landowners to install conservation not more difficult and this rule may lead to the latter.
- **CWI** - ISDA has been working with the LG's office and OMB to confirm CWI is a non-reverting fund as stated in statute. ISDA has received notification from OMB that CWI is indeed a non-reverting fund.
- **FY 16 DSC Budget** – will look very similar to FY 15 budget.
 - Proposed budget with high level allocation is due to OMB by July 30 with the SSCB approving and providing more detailed allocation thereafter
- **SWCD Meetings** -ISDA, IASWCD, and NRCS Leadership will be attending SWCD board meetings over the coming months to share ICP accomplishments and seek feedback and alignment on state ICP initiatives
 - SSCB members are more than welcome and encouraged to join in these visits as they get scheduled
- **Nutrient Reduction Strategy/Load Reduction Modeling** – ISDA is working with IDEM and EPA to finalize the IN Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
 - In July ISDA published the ICP 2014 Conservation Accomplishments and Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions report:
http://www.in.gov/isda/files/2014_ICP_Conervation_Accomplishments_and_Nutrient_and_Sediment_Load_Reductions_Report.pdf
 - A compilation of ICP wide achievements and a real team effort. Thanks to all ICP employees for their participation
 - ISDA and the ICP will continue to publish this report annually while making improvements to the process and end products as we go
 - IN is the only state outside the Chesapeake Bay to assemble such information
- **Modeling vs. Monitoring** - ISDA focuses on installation of conservation practices on private lands and now *modeling* the water quality benefits of those practices along with ICP implemented practices. The modeling approach is less resource and time intensive allowing ISDA to devote staff and budget to conservation implementation, SWCDs, and landowner assistance
 - ISDA looks to IDEM, the Feds/USGS, and universities for water quality monitoring data – a process that requires lots of capitol and time

- ISDA recognizes the modeling AND monitoring approach is needed to address the nutrient issue. Modeling, ISDA can and will do working with the ICP, with improvements needed yes, but ISDA can do this now annually with the current resources at hand
- Monitoring, is not the business of ISDA. The right monitoring in other agencies/university's also likely requires additional resources and multiple years for any valuable feedback and/or a complete change in the current philosophy of how monitoring is conducted.
- Yes we are showing only modeled reductions in this report, but IN is the only state on the Hypoxia Task Force (12 states) that can measure nutrient and sediment reductions on an annual basis at this scale– ISDA sees this as a pivotal part of a state nutrient reduction strategy and everything we're hearing from EPA confirms that.
- The non regulatory ISDA is filling a unique niche as we've talked to state counterparts. USDA, which installs the vast amount of practices shown on these documents, will not share data with a regulatory entity. This is likely one of the reasons other states are struggling to undertake similar efforts.
- **State Fair** – ISDA is gearing up for the “Year of the Farmer” at the 2015 IN State Fair
 - ISDA staff will be working at the P2WQ, Normandy Barn, Glassbarn, and Dupont Pavillion
 - ISDA Director McKinney and staff will be meeting with over 28 groups representing all aspects of the IN Ag industry to hear concerns and identify areas of collaboration
- **IN Ag Strategic Plan** – ISDA, working with Ag partners has initiated a strategic planning process for the future of the IN Ag Industry
 - A plan for the Ag industry, not just ISDA
 - Will review and incorporate over 43 existing strategic plans from across the IN Ag industry to identify commonalities
 - Will host several listening sessions around the state to solicit stakeholder feedback
- **2014 Fall Cover Crop and Tillage Transect** – data has received the final quality control
 - Indiana farmers planted over 1,000,000 acres of living covers such as cover crops and winter cereal grains on their harvested crop fields this past fall and winter.
 - NRCS and ISDA working to condense info into maps and visuals as well as working on a joint press release which may also include the state fair highlighting the year of the farmer

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State Soil Conservation Board

July 14, 2015

DSC Technical Assistance Report

Field Staff Activities

January 1, 2015 – June 19, 2015

Resource Specialist Activities	Total
SWCD Board Meetings	131
ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars, etc.	289
Field Days	45
Training	96
Conservation Planning	336
Survey, Design and Inspections	588
Construction	81
Public Interaction	19,389
CREP – Met with Landowners	70

DSC Conservation Workload

January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015

Action	Currently Reported
Technical Assistance	854
Practices Underway	273
Completed Practices	197
Practice Acres	6,161
Practice Feet	67,990
Field Acres	9,226
Nitrogen Reduction	38,593 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	18,892 lbs.
Sediment Reduction	17,337 tons



State Soil Conservation Board

July 14, 2015

Meg Leader

Agricultural and Environmental Affairs Program Manager



Program Updates

➤ INfield Advantage

- INFA is wrapping up 2015 registration this month with about 800 fields enrolled. The heavy flooding has severely impacted the program in portions of the state. INFA has over 320 growers involved this year. This is 20% growth over last year's participants.
- The ISDA intern, Trevor Laureys, has been very helpful with overseeing INFA registration with the increased program size this year.

➤ Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Program

- Julie Harrold and I are conducting site visits of the award finalists this week. Ted McKinney will be announcing the winner at Red Gold's July 31 Grower Meeting.

➤ Roadside Pollinator Program

- David Bausman, Director of Policy Affairs for ISDA, Jeffrey Cummins, ISDA Program Manager, and myself hosted about 30 people on June 4th for a Pollinator Round Table discussion. The participants included: ISDA, IDNR, INDOT, NRCS, IASWCD, Purdue University, The Nature Conservancy, Xerces, Indiana Wildlife Federation, Indiana Farm Bureau, Agribusiness Council of Indiana, Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance, US Fish and Wildlife, State Chemist Office among others.
- The meeting members joined three subcommittees to explore topics in detail. The subcommittees are meeting this month. They are: Industry Partnerships, Public Outreach and Explore new Habitat Options.
- The full Pollinator Round Table will be meeting again on August 20th to discuss the subcommittee reports

➤ Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- CCSI has multiple field days scheduled around the state this summer with Ray Archuleta, Dave Brandt and Ray Weil. I've arranged for INFA to have a display table at most of the field days to reach out to growers that aren't currently involved in INFA.
- Lisa Holscher and I are working to enroll the Hub Farmers with CCSI fields that fit INFA replicated strip trial protocols in INFA. For 2015, we anticipate having our first soybean and wheat INFA replicated strip trials with the CCSI Hub Farmers.



State Soil Conservation Board

July 14, 2015

Accountability and Technology



Program Updates

2014 ICP Conservation Accomplishments and Nutrient Load Reductions Report

The 2013 and 2014 cumulative maps were updated to include graphics representing the amount of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus kept from Indiana's waterways. Based upon feedback from ICP Leadership, a few cosmetic revisions were made to the report. You can view the report online at [Indiana's Nutrient Reduction Strategy](#).

ICP Reports Web Application

A total of 22 Districts have uploaded their 2014 success stories to the [ICP Reports](#) web application. District Support Specialists will continue to work with Districts who have not submitted their success stories.

2014 Fall Cover Crop and Tillage Transect

Shannon Zezula is currently conducting quality assurance checks on the 2014 data and will be provide statewide summaries soon. At first glance, it appears we had over 1,000,000 acres of cover crops planted in 2014, but we are not announcing the results until Shannon completes the quality assurance check. ISDA is working with NRCS to write a joint news release which will be submitted to the media by mid-July. 2014 results will be posted online at [Conservation Tillage Program](#).

2015 Spring Tillage Transect

A total of 56 Spring Tillage Transect Surverys have been completed statewide. Due to adverse weather, several surveys were delayed, but should be completed soon.

ISDA-District Support Specialists Team Activity Report (May 2, 2015 – July 3, 2015)

Major Activities or Events:

- All DSSs have assisted counties with their tillage transect survey spreadsheets. DSSs physically assisted in the following counties: Crawford, Hamilton, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Tipton, Washington
- DSSs set up four Regional Conservation Partnership Program meetings and attended meetings in Jennings and Pike Cos

Ongoing Key Support:

- DSSs have attended SWCD Board meetings and assisted with various topics in the following counties: Allen, Bartholomew, Benton, Clay, DeKalb, Delaware, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Howard, Huntington, Jefferson, Johnson, Kosciusko, Lake, Marion, Marshall, Miami, Morgan, Newton, Noble, Orange, Perry, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Joseph, Starke, Steuben, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Union, Warrick, Washington, Wayne
- SWCD Staff visits: DSSs visited staff and provided training, assistance with various projects or tasks, and provided guidance in the following counties: Allen, Clinton, Floyd, Jasper, Jay, Jennings, Johnson, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Orange, Owen, Scott, Steuben, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Washington, Wayne
- District Supervisor visits: Hendricks, Knox
- New Staff Training was conducted in the following counties: Scott, Warrick
- CWI Grant audits: Orange, Owen
- DSSs presented at or attended events, field days, workshops, or Partnership meetings where they were also able to interact with the following Districts: Dubois, Gibson, Greene, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Parke, Pike, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo, Warrick
- Jennifer attended a Delaware Co Commissioners' meeting in support of their request for funding

Committees and Advisory Roles: DSSs have been involved serving on committees and accomplishing related tasks.

- CWI Grants Committee: DSSs assisted the SSCB with updating draft guidance and documents
- DSSs provided feedback on the SSCB's draft Business Plan
- Nathan: Pathway to Water Quality including multiple work days, August Leadership Institute
- Geneva: CCSI, Tillage Transect, August Leadership Institute
- Laura: CCSI, ICP Training and Certification Program, Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy, Purdue Rainscaping
- Leah: SSCB duties, CWI grants, GIS Map duties
- Tara: August Leadership Institute, CCSI, Water Quality Trading
- Jennifer: WLEB, RCPP

Other Key Items:

- Jennifer, Leah, and Laura met with State Board of Accounts staff to discuss audits, procedures, and trainings
- Geneva met with Indiana District Employees Association to discuss future trainings and funding needs
- Planning is underway for the fall Communications Leadership Institute
- Tara presented at the Hoosier Chapter SWCS on Water Quality Trading
- Jennifer led an educational youth session in Adams Co
- Jennifer presented at the WLEB RCPP Kick-off meeting in Ohio

Upcoming Events:

- SWCD Supervisor Summit: August 25th at Hendricks County Fairgrounds
- Impacting Community Leadership Institute: August 28th & 29th at Fair Oaks Farm
- Communications Leadership Institute: November 17th at Manchester University
- SWCD Staff Training: December 17th at Indiana Farm Bureau Building

**Note: due to the large amount of data summarized, errors or omissions may exist.*

ICP Training and Certification Program

Two hands-on forestry trainings are planned. The southern meeting is in Henryville on July 15th. The northern meeting is TBD. Attendees are encouraged to bring the books the SSCB purchased for each county- Sally Weeks' "Shrubs and Woody Vines of Indiana and the Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use" and "Native Trees of the Midwest".

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Self Assessment: Common Themes

Background: beginning in 2012, District Support Specialists (DSSs) have offered SWCDs an optional self-assessment tool based on the "Measures of Excellence", a document that's been in use for many years. Other SWCDs have alternatively opted to do a "SWOT" (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. Overall, 30 SWCDs participated. Below are some key trends DSSs noticed from facilitating these meetings.

Common Strengths: *below are items in which SWCDs commonly ranked themselves higher:*

- The district has a welcoming and inviting office and staff that can direct our customers' questions and concerns in a timely manner.
- The district's information and education outreach focuses on soil, water, and related natural resource conservation.
- The district is governed by a Board of Supervisors, made up of three elected officials and two appointed officials who possess diverse backgrounds, talents, skills, and experiences
- The district has a business plan
- There's respect for staff and supervisors, and good working relationship with producers and Partners

Common Opportunities: *below are items on which SWCDs commonly ranked themselves lower:*

- All supervisors are actively engaged in trainings.
- The district possesses a recruitment plan for bringing in new supervisors
- All district staff have current job descriptions and regularly get evaluations.
- Concerns with replacing, maintaining, or attracting good staff
- Getting the district out in front of the community more

SWCDs- are you interested in doing a self-assessment? Please contact your DSS.



State Soil Conservation Board

July 14, 2015

ISDA - CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Working with TNC and DNR to finalize the final payments for the CREP Easements so that the contract with TNC on the CREP Easements can be closed out. The Contract expired in April but there are two more projects that ISDA needs to be reimbursed for by TNC. The invoice for these two final projects will be sent to TNC within the next two weeks. I am also working on putting together the final report as required by the Contract.
- In CREP, the Tippecanoe Watershed has had a tremendous amount of sign-ups for wetland restorations in the past year, mostly due to CRP re-enrollment interests from 2014 and 2015 and new sign-ups for WL restorations. The account for this watershed did not have enough money to pay for the increased interest in these restoration sign-ups. I am working with LG staff to address this issue and figure out how to get the landowners paid. The Administrating SWCD for the Tippecanoe watershed is Fulton County and a new contract amendment with them will have to be approved with a total amount of \$511,340.00 in order for these projects to be paid.
- In CREP, Contract Amendments with all the SWCD County Administrators needs to be done and I am working on these amendments. In the past, these amendments were written for a one-year time frame. I am working with LG staff to make these contracts the maximum four-year timeframe allowed so that all we have to do is add money to the CREP Watershed accounts as needed.

IN Nutrient Reduction Strategy (INRS)

- I have been reading materials and learning more about Indiana's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. This strategy needs to be finalized, so Jordan and I will be meeting with IDEM this week to continue to work toward finalizing this written strategy.
- The 2014 ICP Conservation Accomplishments report for the Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions have been completed and published. The report can be found at [http://www.in.gov/isda/files/2014 ICP Conservation Accomplishments and Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions Report.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isda/files/2014_ICP_Conervation_Accomplishments_and_Nutrient_and_Sediment_Load_Reductions_Report.pdf)

Other Water Quality Issues

Gulf Hypoxia TaskForce (HTF)

- I am reading materials to learn more about this group and how the Gulf Hypoxia affects Indiana and vice versa. I have been participating in Conference calls with the HTF.

Western Lake Erie Basin

- The excessive amount of rainfall this summer will obviously have its affect on the outcome of the Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) in Lake Erie. ISDA is putting together materials and a webpage of information to be prepared for any potential issues that may arise. We want to be ahead of the issue and be prepared as much as possible.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) – the Funding Stream

Project Year	What it Funded	Total Project Costs	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3
Sept. 2010- Dec. 2011 (Contribution agreement 50/50)	1 FTE Technical; ½ FTE Technical	\$180,633	NRCS (state) \$90,316.50	Clean Water Indiana \$90,316.50	Nature Conservancy \$10,000 (videos)
Sept. 2011- Dec.2012 (Contribution agreement 75/25)	1 FTE Technical; ½ FTE Technical + 2 WQ monitoring site equipment +CCA's	\$433,335.78	NRCS (state) \$325,001.84	Clean Water Indiana \$89,000	IASWCD, ISDA and others in-kind match \$19,333.95
Sept. 2012- August 2014 (Foundation Grant 50/50)	1 FTE Technical; ½ FTE Technical	\$355,646	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation \$177,646	Clean Water Indiana \$178,000	
Sept. 2012- August 2015 (Conservation Innovation Grant 50/50)	Soil Health Manager; Soil Health Sampling; Purdue contract; 17 Hubs; CTIC for communication	\$1,668,176.90	NRCS (national) \$834,088.46	IN State Dept. of Agriculture (not CWI) \$140,000	IN Corn Marketing Council/IN Soybean Association \$124,000; SWCDs, Purdue, other partners providing in-kind (total match \$694,000)
Sept. 2014- Sept. 2018 (Contribution agreement 75/25)	Urban Soil Health Specialist; Soil Health Manager; Conservation Cropping Systems Agronomist; technical speakers; events	\$768,999.63	NRCS (state) \$384,499.82	Clean Water Indiana \$267,000	Additional in-kind from ISDA-DSC; Marion County SWCD (total match over \$117,000), and others
TOTALS		\$3,406,791.20	\$1,811,552.60	\$764,316.50	Over \$965,000

*A second CIG submitted for Sept. 15-Sept. 18 – Total project cost \$1,890,894.35; partners providing half in match (Purdue, SWCDs, IASWCD, ISDA, IN Corn/Soy, private, etc.)

**Conservation Cropping
Systems Initiative (CCSI)**

Indiana Conservation Partnership
(ICP)

CCSI Oversight Committee

CCSI Executive Committee

IASWCD (administration of grants
& contracts; employees)

NRCS (Technical experts;
promotion; funding)

ISDA (technical assistance;
promotion; funding)

Purdue (technical experts;
subcontractors)

SSCB (promotion; funding)

Soil Health Manager

CCSI PR/Communications

CCSI Director

State Soil Health Specialist

Program Manager

Professor, Agronomy

Conservation Cropping
Systems Agronomist

CCSI Future Funding Budget

<u>Position</u>	Year 1							<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>75% NRCS</u>	<u>25% IASWCD</u>
	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>Other Fringe</u>	<u>Equipment & Supplies</u>	<u>Travel</u>				
Communications & Outreach	low	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 43,600.00	\$ 32,700.00	\$ 10,900.00
	high	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 54,900.00	\$ 41,175.00	\$ 13,725.00
Director	low	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 86,600.00	\$ 64,950.00	\$ 21,650.00
	high	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 97,800.00	\$ 73,350.00	\$ 24,450.00
Communication & Outreach (1/2FTE)	per hour	\$ 20.00	\$ -							

CCSI Future Funding Budget

<u>Position</u>	Year 2							<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>75% NRCS</u>	<u>25% IASWCD</u>
	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>Other Fringe</u>	<u>Equipment & Supplies</u>	<u>Travel</u>				
Communications & Outreach	low	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 43,600.00	\$ 32,700.00	\$ 10,900.00
	high	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 54,900.00	\$ 41,175.00	\$ 13,725.00
Director	low	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 84,100.00	\$ 63,075.00	\$ 21,025.00
	high	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 95,300.00	\$ 71,475.00	\$ 23,825.00
Communication & Outreach (1/2FTE)	per hour	\$ 20.00	\$ -							

CCSI Future Funding Budget

<u>Position</u>	Year 3							<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>75% NRCS</u>	<u>25% IASWCD</u>
	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>Other Fringe</u>	<u>Equipment & Supplies</u>	<u>Travel</u>				
Communications & Outreach	low	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 43,600.00	\$ 32,700.00	\$ 10,900.00
	high	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 54,900.00	\$ 41,175.00	\$ 13,725.00
Director	low	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 84,100.00	\$ 63,075.00	\$ 21,025.00
	high	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 95,300.00	\$ 71,475.00	\$ 23,825.00
Communication & Outreach (1/2FTE)	per hour	\$ 20.00	\$ -							

Position Description

Director

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

The Director of the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative is a position within the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and is responsible for day to day activities of the project including administration, fundraising, grant development, relationship building, budget development and management, oversight of CCSI staff, and technical presentations and writing.

Reports to: Executive Director, IASWCD with additional support from the CCSI Oversight Executive Committee

Full-time Professional exempt position: 3 years (Fall 2015-Fall 2018) with additional years contingent upon further funding.

Location: Negotiable

Duties:

- Oversee daily business of the CCSI project
 - Grant administration
 - Management/direction of CCSI staff
- Develop annual CCSI budget
- Establish working relationships with ICP partners, private agriculture industry, and other non-governmental organizations
- Implementation of CCSI business plan
- Developing and executing fundraising plan – includes grants, private support, etc.
- Coordinate CCSI Oversight Committee meetings
 - Provide support to CCSI Oversight Committee
- Represent CCSI in public appearances to inform the public of the purpose of the program
- Represent CCSI at various meetings, hearings, conferences, forums, workshops and conventions
- Technical presentations as needed on conservation cropping systems to various audiences
- Technical writing as needed

QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Agriculture/Agronomy/Natural Resources/Agri-business/Agri-economics or related field
- Minimum of 4 years in coordinating a large project with multiple partners
- Fostering and maintaining cooperative working relationships with traditional and non-traditional conservation partners

- Strategic planning to reach organizational goals
- Fiscal management
- Grant writing and fund administration
- Personnel management
- Demonstrated leadership and teambuilding skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Understand the principles of conservation cropping systems and soil health

Preferred:

- Experience with or knowledge of the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) and/or the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP)

Position Description
Communications & Outreach Coordinator (or Manager or Liaison)
IASWCD

Reports to: IASWCD Executive Director (guidance also provided by CCSI Oversight Committee and/or CCSI Team)

Full-time, exempt position – 3 years (Fall 2015-Fall 2018) with additional years contingent upon funding

Location: IASWCD office in Indianapolis

Job Description: 50% of time dedicated to the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (& Soil Health); 50% of time dedicated to soil and water conservation district members.

Duties Explained

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (50%)

- Articulate the CCSI program and mission
 - Partnerships
 - Media (press releases, articles, radio, etc)
 - Social media
 - Website
 - Event publicity
- Develop new avenues for reaching audiences
 - Podcasts
 - Webinars
- Writes, edits, coordinates layout and production of materials
- Assess effectiveness of outreach strategies
- Collect and assess potential newsworthy information from various sources
- Document media and other coverage of CCSI and its impact
- Coordinate on-line registration for CCSI events as needed
- Assist with fundraising efforts as needed
- Maintain media relations for CCSI

Soil and Water Conservation District Members (50%)

- Articulate IASWCD and SWCD's mission and programs
 - Partnerships
 - Media
 - Social media
 - Website
 - E-newsletter

- Brochures
- Communicate conservation information to SWCDs, District Supervisors, the Indiana Conservation Partnership and other conservation organizations. Assist in promoting conservation program information, be it federal, state or local, through all available communication tools.
- Support IASWCD's leadership by promoting and/or developing support materials for SWCDs to include, but not limited to, topics such as:
 - a. How to "brand" a local SWCD as the clearinghouse for conservation information at the local level.
 - b. How to strengthen an SWCD's ability to deliver conservation programs in their county.
 - c. How to inventory and reach out to underserved audiences, including specialty crop, organic, beginning, limited resource and minority producers.
 - d. Leadership development at the county level, including recruitment materials for new supervisors and staff.
- Provide information to State and Federal legislators to keep them informed of soil and water conservation issues, impact of local conservation projects, and results/impacts of ICP partnership projects as they affect SWCDs and the Indiana Conservation Partnership
- Assist with outreach initiatives and activities that promote the work and accomplishments including measureable outcomes of IASWCD, SWCDs, ICP and NRCS
- Maintain media relations for IASWCD.
- Handle media calls; distribute appropriately to staff, Districts or conservation partners
- Represent the IASWCD on the Indiana Family of Farmers and ICP Outreach Committee
- Annual Conference
 - Conference Program/brochure: design, layout, editing
 - Write and edit Awards script
 - Secure photographer for awards event
 - Prepare PowerPoint presentations
 - Prepare District Showcase Video
 - Prepare media advisories and news releases
 - Design and edit the Sponsorship Brochure and insert materials.

NRCS State Conservationist's Report July 2015

Avian Bird Flu Updates: (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 (HPAI))

Twenty one states have reported incidences of HPAI which have resulted in the death of more than 50 million birds. To date, Indiana has reported one instance in Whitely County in late May.

NRCS employees have been instructed to continue to adhere to previously issued protocols outlined in an all employee memo from the State Conservationist dated May 14, 2015 when working with poultry owners in their counties.

An update from the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) states they are continuing to follow up on sick poultry calls and working with Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) on wild bird sampling (to date, all have been negative). They are also continuing to work with Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) on disposal issues, including a meeting with some landfill operators that went well. They have confirmed that Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) does not consider this infectious/hazardous waste. State Board of Health (SBOH) is working with Department of Correction to train offenders as responders. The poultry industry continues to work with BOAH and others to plan for an event.

BOAH is seeking comments on the temporary prohibition of movements of birds to an event where co-mingling occurs, such as: exhibitions, fairs, swap meets and sale barns through an online public hearing. Comments will be accepted through July 1, 2015 on their website. <http://www.in.gov/boah/2717.htm>

HPAI is deadly to domestic poultry, however it does not present a food safety threat and according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention the virus poses little risk to human health. As a reminder, poultry owners who notice illness in their birds consistent with avian influenza are encouraged to call the Healthy Birds Hotline at 866-536-7593 to speak with a state or federal veterinarian. Anyone who notices five or more dead feeder-type wild birds should contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources at 812-334-1137. For more information about HPAI go to www.in.gov/boah/2390.htm.

Indiana Flooding – Heavy rains and major flooding have been common throughout Indiana this planting season. The full impact to agriculture is not yet clear, but we know farmers will need manage and recover from the aftermaths of rains and floods now and in the future. Purdue Extension held a summit on Friday, June 26, 2015 to talk about current conditions, weather forecasts and resources available. Counties are currently collecting loss data for FSA to determine the need to file for disaster assistance.

According to Purdue Extension, Indiana yield potential was reduced about 5% for corn and 3% for soybeans over a two week period – June 7 through June 21. Preliminary impacts on the value of lost corn and soybean production is nearly \$300 million (when adjusted for Government program impact and possibly higher prices on remaining production, the losses project so far this year are \$180 million).

In 2014, 81% of the corn acreage in Indiana was insured; 83% of soybean acreage. The final planting date for corn was June 5th and the late planting period is June 6-30. The final planting date for soybeans was June 20th with the late planting period being June 21-July 15th. Coverage is reduced by 1% per day for each of 25 days in the late planting period. Insured acres not planted at the end of the late planting period due to insurable causes can still be insured at the *prevented planting* coverage level chosen in the original insurance policy (generally 60% of the original guarantee).

Cover Crops As An Option For Prevented Planting Fields – Farmers need to weigh not only their program and insurance options (*prevented planting*), but also consider the opportunities to increase long-term productivity from this difficult situation. As an alternative, NRCS recommends farmers consider planting cover crops to improve soil

health. Cover crops not only will help keep growing roots in these fields, they will fix and/or hold onto unused nitrogen and other nutrients, build organic matter, control weeds, control erosion and/or improve soil health during the remainder of the season. Farmers are reminded to check with their Farm Service Agency office and insurance agent about prevented planting acres prior to any action.

A producer already enrolled in EQIP to plant a cover crop this coming fall, could proceed to plant cover crops early per the Agronomy Tech Note- Cover Crops to Improve Soil in Prevented Planting Fields. This would only be an option for land already in a contract where cover crops are planned to be completed.

Producers signing up for EQIP in any of the special initiatives areas (Regional Conservation Partnership Projects (RCPP), Mississippi River Basin (MRBI) and National Water Quality Incentive (NWQI) projects) may request a waiver from the State Conservationist to begin planting cover crops in a prevented planting field before their application is approved. Producers making this request would have to have submitted an application and meet all eligibility requirements and submit the request, in writing through the NRCS State Office.

Conservation Client Gateway (CCG) is Available! Please help us continue to spread the word that Conservation Client Gateway is available to all individual farmers. CCG is a secure website that makes it easier than ever for farmers to access conservation information and assistance. No more trips to the field office just to sign a document. No waiting until office hours to check the status of applications or view conservation plans. Conservation Client Gateway is available 24/7, so producers can work with NRCS on their schedule.

Detailed instructions for getting started are on the Conservation Client Gateway website. Note, this version of the program is only available to individual landowners but will be extended to business entities and available on mobile devices in the future. For more information, check out the website www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway. CCG is completely voluntary and just another way to do business with NRCS. NRCS field staff will still be available in your local field office for face-to-face assistance.

Farm Bill Program Updates

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): The first round sign-up is complete. Indiana received 25 applications, 21 of which are eligible. With current funding, nine have been tentatively selected for funding. Indiana will be requesting additional funds for to cover the remaining high scoring applications.

Special Initiatives and Partnership Project Updates

Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): The application deadline for FY-16 RCPP projects has been announced and the pre-proposals are due by **July 8, 2015**. Pre-proposals selected for final grant submission opportunity will be notified in early September and final grant applications will be due November 10th. Indiana is expected to receive \$943,113 for state level projects. The Announcement of Program Funding is posted at www.grants.gov, grant number [USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPP-16-01](http://www.usda.gov/USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPP-16-01). For more information about the RCPP, go to: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/in/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1248173> or contact Jill Reinhart at jill.reinhart@in.usda.gov

RCPP Projects in Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Phosphorus Reduction Initiative and the Michigan/Indiana St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Partnership are expected to make a public announcement of their sign-up period near the end of June.

Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI): States have been asked to identify up to ten additional 12-digit watersheds where focused EQIP and/or CSP funding to farmers can help meet nutrient reduction goals for the basin. EQIP and/or CSP funding will be available in these watersheds annually beginning next fiscal year FY16 through FY18. 12-digit watersheds must be identified on the State's list of 8-digit watershed priorities in the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (<http://in.gov/isda/2991.htm>). Indiana Conservation Partnership leaders, Indiana State Technical Committee, and Area Conservationists have been notified of this opportunity and selection criteria. The deadline for proposed watersheds is July 3rd.

Edge of Field Monitoring Initiative Announced: NRCS is making available \$2 million to interested farmers in eight states to help install voluntary edge-of-field monitoring stations. In Indiana, four MRBI and NWQI watersheds are eligible for funding, including the Little Wea Creek watershed located in Tippecanoe County, Big Pine Creek and Little Pine Watersheds in Benton and White Counties, and Eagle Creek Watershed in Marion, Hendricks and Boone Counties. EQIP applications for this practice are due July 24, 2015.

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP): On Monday, June 22, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced funds are available to help eligible conservation partners restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program's WREP for fiscal year 2015. WREP was created through the 2014 Farm Bill and was formerly known as the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program. Through targeted WREP projects, dollars are made available for new enrollments into permanent or 30-year easements or restoration and management of existing WRP or ACEP-WRE enrollments.

NRCS is investing \$17.5 million nationwide in the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) to work through agreements with states, nongovernmental organizations, not for profit organizations, and tribes to help conserve wetlands and their related benefits. Partners are required to provide a combination of in-kind and cash contributions of at least 25 percent of the easement, restoration, or management costs. Proposals that go above and beyond required contributions will be given higher consideration. Eligible partners may submit proposals for individual projects, watershed-wide or larger geographical area projects to Jill Reinhart at jill.reinhart@in.usda.gov by close of business on **July 31, 2015**.

Indiana Association of Soil and Water District Award Nominations

IASWCD is now accepting annual awards applications for the 2016 Annual Meeting. We encourage Districts to apply for these various awards, especially the District Showcase award. This is such a great opportunity for Districts to talk about the work they are doing and it's an easy application process. The guidelines and applications for the Annual Awards are now available on the [IASWCD website](#). These include:

- District Showcase
- Conservation Farmer of the Year
- Supervisor of the Year
- Friend of Conservation

District Showcase applications are due July 30 and the other three awards have a deadline of September 4. Please contact emily-neitzel@iaswcd.org with any questions about the application process.



I D E A

Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the Indiana District Employee Association

Pathway to Water Quality volunteers needed!

Find more info at www.icp.iaswcd.org/outreach/pathway-to-water-quality-2



Districts are encouraged now more than ever to volunteer their time to serve at the Pathway to Water Quality project during the Indiana State Fair on August 7 – 23. Pathway to Water Quality showcases conservation practices in each of our showcased areas: home, ag/forestry, soils, pasture / grazing, education and greeter areas. No in-depth knowledge of the areas are required as the Pathway committee has you covered with cheat sheets that will help you carry on a conversation about conservation projects with the Pathway visitors.

Volunteer shifts Registration for volunteer shifts will be available starting June 1st at 8 am. There is information on each area of PWQ including the responsibilities of volunteers in those areas. There are 3 shifts for each of the 17 days of the State Fair: 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (greeter slot only); 12:15 to 3:45 p.m.; 3:45 to 7:15 p.m.

If you are new to Pathway, please visit the website above for a brochure, map, and a short video that will help acquaint you with the exhibit. All volunteers should read the descriptions of each area at PWQ and what is expected. The IDEA encourages you to sign up for a volunteer position at the Pathway location and looks forward to working with you at the Fair!

July
August

2015

LOOK INSIDE:

Poster Contest winners

Take a look at who will be representing Indiana in the National Conservation Poster Competition!

Director's positions open for nominations

Four regions are up for new director's - consider joining the board and being a part of something fun & rewarding!

Meet the Fall Conference Keynote Speakers

Just 80-something more days till the Fall Conference and the S-SW is excited to start showing sneak peaks!

North Northwest

Rose Morgan

Newton Co. SWCD

Ph: 219-285-2217

Email:

rose.morgan.swcd@att.net

North Northeast

Julie Knudson, Sec.

DeKalb Co. SWCD

Ph: 260-925-5620 ex.3

Email:

jknudson@dekalb.in.us

South Northeast

Mary Lou Musselman

Miami Co. SWCD

Ph: 765-4736753 ex.3

Email:

mary.musselman@in.nacdnet.net

South Northwest

Scheryl Vaughn, President

Boone Co. SWCD

Ph: 765-482-6355 ex.134

Email:

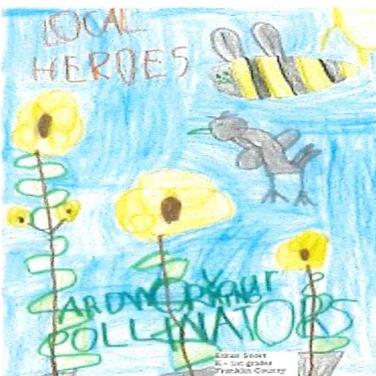
svaughn@co.boone.in.us

IDEA Regional Directors

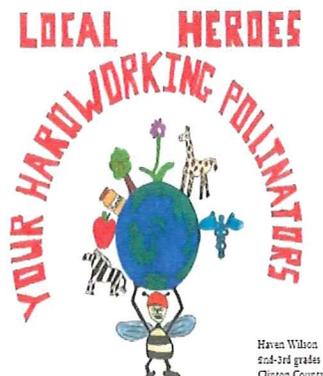
State Poster Contest Champions Crowned

The state poster contest was recently conducted at the IDEA June meeting and judging was tough this year with the amount of artistic talent that was entered. Sweeping the wins was Lake County with three posters taking home the top honors followed by one poster from Franklin County and one poster from Clinton County. A few changes that will be occurring during next year's contest is that the judging for posters will take place in late summer or early fall to encourage more participation and that the posters will be judged at the IDEA Fall Conference providing that there is room and time at the location.

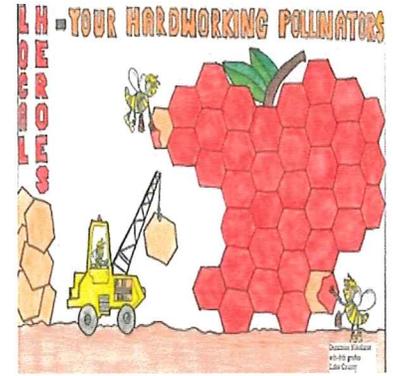
See below for what the title "Local Heroes—Your Hardworking Pollinators" means to our youth and please feel free to use these pictures to promote the students art work and conservation efforts! Congrats to all winners!



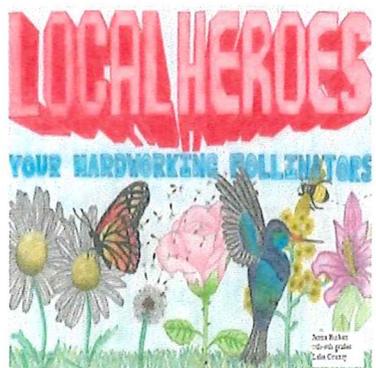
Ethan Short - Franklin County
Kindergarten / First Grade
State Poster Contest Winner



Haven Wilson - Clinton County
Second / Third Grade
State Poster Contest Winner

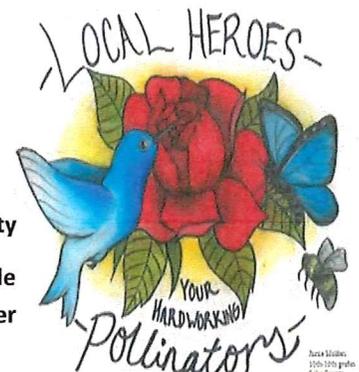


Dimitrios Nikolaras - Lake County
Fourth thru Sixth Grade
State Poster Contest Winner



Jamie Kuiken - Lake County
Seventh thru Ninth Grade
State Poster Contest Winner

Jamie Molden - Lake County
10th thru 12th Grade
State Poster Contest Winner



North Southwest

Jan Came, V. President

Vigo Co. SWCD

Ph: 812-323-0193 ex.3

Email:

jan.came@in.nacdnet.net

North Southeast

Cindy Newkirk, Treasurer

Hancock Co. SWCD

Ph: 317-462-2283 ex.3

Email:

cindy.newkirk@in.nacdnet.net

South Southeast

Kayla Hubbard

Jefferson Co. SWCD

Ph: 812-265-7609 ex.3

Email:

kayla.hubbard@jeffersoncounty.in.gov

South Southwest

S. Erica Burkemper-Fischer

Pike Co. SWCD

Ph: 812-354-6120 ex.3

Email:

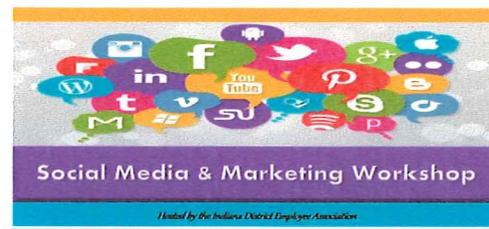
stephanie.burkemper-fischer@in.nacdnet.net

IDEA extends invitation to the Social Media & Marketing Workshops

The IDEA Directors are pleased to announce this exciting training opportunity to sharpen your website development skills and hone in on how to get social media to work for you. The Social Media & Marketing Workshop will be held at two locations in the state: a northern workshop at the Huntington University in Columbia City, Indiana and a southern workshop at the Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell, Indiana.

Registrations are now open for both locations and can be done at www.ideamediaandmarketingworkshop.eventbrite.com with payment being accepted at the door only. Please make checks payable to the IDEA and receipts will be provided too. The cost is \$30 for IDEA members and \$60 for non-IDEA members with lunch and materials provided. There are two things to remember though—seating is limited and registrations are a must for a lunch count so sign up today!

The workshop will feature Amy Mattox, marketing specialist for Clear Elevations. Amy has performed work for numerous fortune five hundred clients and is excited to share tips and tricks that she has learned along the way that will help the SWCD's get social media to work for them. Below is the agenda for both workshops. If you have any questions please contact your IDEA regional director and we look forward to seeing you there for this highly anticipated event!



Social Media & Marketing Workshop
Hosted by the Indiana District Employees Association

NORTH		SOUTH	
Date:	Tuesday, July 28th, 2015	Date:	Thursday, August 6th, 2015
Location:	Huntington University Columbia City Campus 220 Frontage Road Columbia City, IN 46725	Location:	Spring Mill State Park Inn Lakeview Room Hwy. 60 East Mitchell, IN 47446
Time:	9:00am - 3:00pm eastern time	Time:	9:00am - 3:00pm eastern time

REGISTRATION:
IDEA Members: \$30.00 * NON-IDEA Members: \$60.00
Price includes lunch and materials and is payable at the door only. Checks need to be made out to the IDEA. Visit: www.ideamediaandmarketingworkshop.eventbrite.com to register today - seating is limited! Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops (CEE, District or personal) for hands on training.

Ever wonder if your District is using social media to it's fullest advantage? Chances are that it is not. Join us for this exciting workshop presented by Amy Mattox, Marketing Specialist for Clear Elevations out of Romeo, Indiana. Amy will spend the day discussing several marketing options tailored to the District and other partnering agencies needs. She will show the workshop how to get the most out of social media and websites as well as demonstrating a few tricks and tips along the way to make promoting your District as easy as one click of the computer mouse.

Clear Elevations is a top notch firm specializing in Fortune Five Hundred companies and their marketing strategies. Amy has worked with numerous high profile clients including United Way, Huntington University and Habitat for Humanity. The IDEA is excited to offer this training opportunity with her to our members and others that will benefit too!



NORTH

Date Tuesday, July 28th, 2015

Location Huntington University
Columbia City Campus
220 Frontage Road
Columbia City, IN 46725

Time 9:00am - 3:00pm eastern time

SOUTH

Date Thursday, August 6th, 2015

Location Spring Mill State Park Inn
Lakeview Room
Hwy. 60 East
Mitchell, IN 47446

Time 9:00am - 3:00pm eastern time

All times EASTERN for BOTH locations!

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 10:00 a.m. Session 1: Making your Digital Presence Present
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Session 2: Blogging...Have Something to Say!
- 11:45 a.m. Presentation about new Ag Programs
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1:15 p.m. Session 3: Facebook Basics
- 2:00 p.m. Interactive and hands on practice with blogging and Facebook
- 2:30 p.m. Session 4: Using YouTube and Instagram for SWCD
- 3:15 p.m. Closing and Q&A



The IDEA now has a Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/indianadistrictemployeesassociation
It's a GREAT way to stay up to date on the latest events
across the state in regards to SWCD activities.
Plus there is even an event created for the Fall Conference
too that has showcased some sneak peaks!

Director's positions open for nominations

Four director's positions within the IDEA are currently open for nominations for new faces to step up and take part. The Director's position serves as a vital part to the IDEA and helps determine the direction that the association should go. The IDEA is divided up into eight regions across the state and directors are allowed to two 4 year terms consecutively. Those regions who are up for nominations are the South-Northwest; North-Southwest; North-Northeast; South-Southeast. Nominations and elections must be held for each region by October 1st and the new (or re-elected if eligible) director's will be introduced at the IDEA Business Meeting during the Fall Conference.

If you are interested in becoming one of the next region directors for one of the four positions open, please send an email to the current director to let her know. If there is more than one person who responds, then the retiring director for that region will create a ballot and it will be distributed to only those who are I.D.E.A. members in that region for a vote. The official start date of the new director will be January 1st of 2016.

The criteria to be a director includes:

- ◆ Must be an S.W.C.D. employee or a Contracted person whose dues are paid by the District—can be Full or Part-time.
- ◆ Must be current on membership dues (or pay now for 2016).
- ◆ Able to attend Director's meetings, 4 meetings annually; other meetings may be added at the discretion of the President.

The Indiana District Employees Association is looking forward to welcoming the new faces for the director's positions in these regions and is excited for the new ideas that they may bring too. Contact your regional director today for more information and to get on the ballot!

IASWCD Annual Conference award applications still open

The IASWCD is still encouraging District's to take time out and apply for the many awards up for grabs at the IASWCD Annual Conference. Awards that are available are:

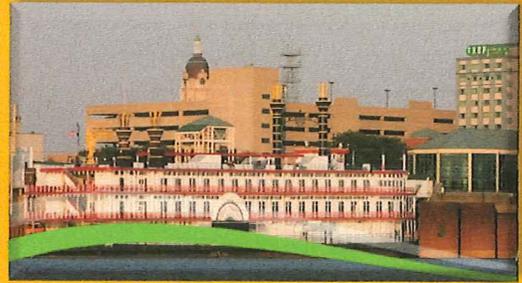
- ◆ District Showcase
- ◆ Supervisor of the Year
- ◆ Conservation Farmer of the Year
- ◆ Friends of Conservation

Visit www.iaswcd.org, click on the tab "For Districts" and follow the link to the different awards available. This is a great way to showcase your conservation efforts and those of the hard working SWCD supporters too!

Save the Date!

October 5-7, 2015 ~ Evansville, Indiana

Don't forget to use the ISDA Training Scholarship for registration!



Meet the Keynote Speakers lined up for Fall Conference

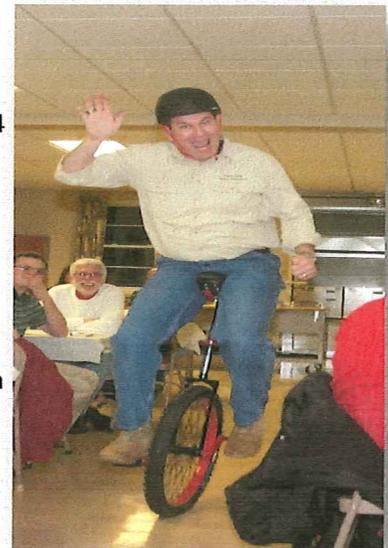
Scott Ham, SSCB Chairman



Scott is husband to Heidi Ham and father to Harvest and Hickory Ham (no joke!). They live in New Albany and are members of Northside Christian Church. Scott is the Manager of Silver Creek Water Corporation where he has worked for 24 years. He has served in the State of Indiana as a certified water operator since 1988 and is active in many local and industry organizations. He was recently selected as Chair for the Indiana State Soil & Water Conservation Board.

He is also a professional entertainer and currently a Command Sergeant Major for the 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, with 26 years of experience in the Indiana Army National Guard. Scott has been deployed overseas three times. Once to Bosnia in 2002, more than a year in Afghanistan in 2004-05 with Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraq as First Sergeant of B Troop 1-152 Cavalry, for Operation Iraqi Freedom 08. He recently spent a year in Texas at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, as well as received his first college degree.

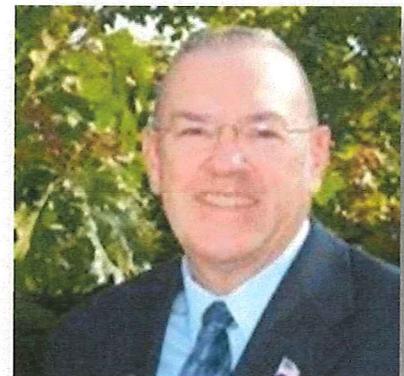
Scott's hope is that through using peoples experiences, we will initiate change where needed, and support those already doing outstanding works.



Bob Eddleman, retired NRCS State Conservationist

Bob grew up on a general farm in Crawford County, Indiana near Pilot Knob. As a youngster, he learned the importance of good soil for crop and vegetable production. He learned about deep gullies left by water erosion and poor management practices as he played cowboys and Indians in the fields with neighborhood friends—knowledge that drove him to make a career out of it.

Enjoying retirement after 42 ½ years with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the last 20 he served as the State Conservationist in Indiana, Bob is married to Patricia French Eddleman and they are the parents of 4 daughters and grandparents too. Bob was a member of the US Army Reserves for 12 years. He also holds a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma and has been active in various SWCD, 4H and RC&D affiliates.



In the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bob held the positions of student trainee, Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, Area Conservationist, Assistant State Conservationist, Deputy State Conservationist and finished his career as State Conservationist. His keynote message will be a humorous, story telling one of the adventures of a state conservationist and how it is important for us all to work together to achieve one goal - conservation.