

## Project Statistics

Lead District: Kosciusko  
Amount Funded: \$75,000  
Participating Districts:  
Whitley



## Project Information:

Project Title: Watershed  
Conservationists -  
Building Relationships,  
Implementing  
Conservation, and  
Improving Soil Health &  
Water Quality  
Project Dates:  
1/1/19-12/31/21

## Project Overview:

Kosciusko and Whitley SWCDs and The Watershed Foundation have been working together since 1997 to protect and improve water quality in the headwaters of the Tippecanoe River - draining to the Gulf of Mexico. This project's watershed covers 246 square miles, includes 60+ lakes, and is 75% agricultural land use. To facilitate the implementation of this initiative in the new downstream watershed, the team will hire a Watershed Conservationist to recruit farmers, provide technical assistance, assist with cost-share applications, connect with partners for additional funding options, and oversee project implementation. Specifically, the SWCD will develop an agreement with The Watershed Foundation to hire the Watershed Conservationist. Filling this position in 2019 will provide the opportunity to build relationships and get commitments from landowners for cost-share funds that will be available from current 2018-2019 and pending LARE Watershed Land Treatment and IDEM 319 Nonpoint Source Grants in 2020-2021.

The Watershed Conservationists have prioritized a system of BMPs for implementation. They focus on promoting the "Healthy Soil, Clean Water Package." This package includes a combination of no-till, cover crops, precision nutrient and pest management, and all buffer practices where needed. This system improves the health of the soil, while at the same time reducing sediment and nutrient runoff to downstream waterways.

## Program Overview:

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program (IC 14-32-8) was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. Through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs, the program supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution.

## Program Administration:

The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB). The fund is derived from a portion of cigarette tax funds. (IC 6-7-1-29.3) The cigarette tax fund is 4.22 percent of total cigarette tax revenue, and the CWI fund receives one sixth of this amount. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects.

For more information about CWI, please visit: [in.gov/isda/2379.htm](http://in.gov/isda/2379.htm).  
For more information about the SSCB, please visit: [in.gov/isda/2361.htm](http://in.gov/isda/2361.htm).  
Email questions or comments to [cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov).  
To find your local SWCD: please visit: [in.gov/isda/2370.htm](http://in.gov/isda/2370.htm).

