

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 1:08 PM
To: Tyler, Geneva (ISDA); Harmon, Leah
Subject: Martin Recommendation for Temporary/Vacant Appointment

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Martin has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Martin
Appointment Type
Temporary_Elected_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Kyle Turpin
Term Expiration
01/01/2027
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Nolan Lottes
Address
12003 E 950 S
City, State, ZIP
Loogootee, IN 47553
Qualifications
Associate Supervisor almost 2 years. Practices minimal tillage.
Occupation
Self employed farmer.
Conservation Interests

Rotational grazing, exclusion fencing. Nutrient management.

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

David Gregory

Date of Submission

1787155200000

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

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State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA – DSC Director's Report

September 8, 2026

54310: Clean Water Indiana:

Budget Process: (separate handout will be shared)

- The FY 27 Budget was approved at our May 2026 meeting.
- The State fiscal year is July 1st – June 30th.
- We will have an increase in the IOT charges for technology.

FY2027 Projects

- Cost-Share Program – IMAGE
- Cover Crop **Premium** Discount Program
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Increased training reimbursement line items for SWCD

Staffing Update

- District Support Specialists
 - SW and NE
- Resource Specialist (SW)
- Training Coordinator position

State Fair 2026 - overview

- The River Friendly Farmer
- Pathway to Water Quality
 - SBOA
 - Demonstration – TNC
 - Thoughts for next year?

Other Items

- Agricultural Task Force
- Western Lake Erie Basin – anniversary of the partnership
- Drainage Handbook update advisory board
- Great Lakes St. Lawrence Sustainable Agricultural Action Agenda
- NASCA
 - Survey – State data – programs and conservation dollars
 - Data Centers Position Paper

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WfclmDlGBva_V2XivmwYT1cby1EjpuBO/view?pli=1
- Stewardship Programs
- ICP annual Report
- ICP Webinar



National No-Till Conference Discount Reminder

CCSI has worked with organizers of the 2027 National No-Till Conference to provide an Indiana Conservation Partnership Soil Health Demo Booth, a breakout session and discount for ALL Indiana Conservation Staff and Supervisors. This includes IASWCD, IDNR, IDEM, IDNR, Purdue, SSCB, USDA-NRCS, and USDA-FSA. **SWCD Supervisors, FSA County Committees and Extension County Boards are included as well.**

Use the member discount code - CCSI299 - at registration to bring the cost down to \$299!

One important note: each attendee must register individually using the discount code — the savings don't apply when adding guests under a single registration.

Upcoming Events and Trainings

- 09/02 Farm Advisors Group Meeting
- 09/05 Tri-state Digital Ag Training, Kellogg Center MI
- 09/09 Roemke Field Day
- Sept TBD – Porter County Field Day
- Fall / Post Harvest TBD Dubois SWCD getting started with cover crops
- Nov TBD - Jasper County Field Day with Soil Pit
- 12/01 – CCSI-SARE Conservation Drainage Training, Lewisville
- 12/15-16 - Indiana CCA Conference, Indy
- 01/13-15 – National No-Till Conference, Indy
- 01/24-26 – IASWCD Conference, Indy
- Dec TBD Jay / Randolph Manure Management Field Day
- Date TBD – Clean Water Indiana Pike County Crimper Workshop

Completed Events and Trainings

- 07/14 CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education: Machinery and Equipment Training, Jon Reese Farm, Peru; 35 attendees
- 07/16 CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education: Machinery and Equipment Training, Sudan Farm, Columbus
- 07/20 POTF-SARE Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production, Beck Ag Center, W Lafayette
- CANCELLED - 07/22 POTF-SARE Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production, Davis Purdue Ag Center, Farmland. Cancelled due to low registration
- 07/25 POTF-SARE Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production, Southwest Purdue Ag Center, Vincennes
- 07/30 Rainfall Simulator / Soil Health Demonstrations, Jasper Co Fair
- July (tent) Starke County Field Day
- 08/05 Northern Indiana Organic Forage Workshop, Nappanee
- 08/11 Reclaiming Southwest Soils, Lynnville

- 08/11 Marshall County Aggies Grazing Field Day
- 08/11 Purdue Woodland Edge Feathering Field Day, Butlerville
- 08/18 Miami County Summer Meeting
- 08/18 Farm Advisors Group Meeting, Burney
- 08/19 Decatur SWCD Field Day, Burney
- 08/19 Pinney Purdue Field Day
- 08/27 (tent) – Drone Technology Field Day, Wayne County

CCSI-SARE Continuing Education: Machinery and Equipment in High Residue Systems

July 14 – Jon Reese Farm (Fulton Co)

July 16 – Sudan Farms / Clint Arnholt (Bartholomew Co)

- Sprayer – Brad Cline, former JD Sprayer Tech. Bonus Weed Zapper at Reese farm
- Combine / Headers – Barry Fisher, Fisher Soil Health
- VT / Strip Till – Adam Shanks, CCSI-Purdue On The Farm. Bonus – Redline Equipment and Montag brought a tractor and prototype strip-till unit to Reese farm
- Planters – Amanda Kautz and Solid Rock Ag staff



*"Thank You Shovel Presentations. L-R: Jon and Cathy Reese, Barry Fisher, Clint Arnholt
Bottom collages – L Jon Reese Farm, R Sudan Farm (Arnholdt)"*



Purdue On The Farm – Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production

July 20, Beck Ag Center, West Lafayette

July 24, Southwest Purdue Ag Center, Vincennes

The July 22 training at Farmland was cancelled due to low registrations.

EPA Region 5 + FSA staff at July 20 event led to illuminating conversations regarding EPA / OISC rollout of new pesticide use reporting. Most of the July 24 attendees were from FSA, plus others from SWCD and ISDA



L and Upper Middle - July 20; R and Bottom Middle July 24

Ecdysis Avalanche Training and Sampling

Avalanche is an expansion of Ecdysis' 1000 Farms initiative and involves farmers making a single transect of multiple parameters including: multiple level soils, bulk density, water infiltration, soil capillary infiltration, bird count/diversity, biomass, plant diversity and DNA, insects and other non-vertebrates – above ground and to 1" soil depth.

This is a pilot. Most of the pilot farmers were identified and recruited by Michael O'Donnell, MadAg with some by Hans Schmitz, Soil and Water Outcomes Fund / Farm Advisors, and Lisa Holscher CCSI



SEPAC Woodland Edge Feathering Field Day

These are pics from August 11th at a Woodland Edge Feathering workshop at the Southeast Purdue Ag Center. Most people consider it to be a wildlife practice, but woodland edge feathering can actually raise the APH of fields with the practice by avoiding drier tree drip lines and creating 'trap crops' for critters like deer and racoons. These areas also provide habitat for insect-eating birds and beneficial insects as well as help provide shelter from highwinds.



Decatur SWCD Field Day

Ray Archuleta and David Kleinschmidt along with sheep provided by Baron Deck and a multi-species cover crop mix provided the backdrop for this learning event for farmers and those who work with farmers on incorporating cover crops into a regenerative ag system.



Report to the State Soil Conservation Board

September 8, 2026

Program Director Activities

ONGOING GOAL: Serve as a liaison for the agreement, and publicize opportunities related to the agreement to SWCDs statewide.

- The RITA in Action essays in IASWCD's Conservation INSight newsletter have continued.
- The RITA Strategic Plan
 - On July 16, Lais McCartney and Tanya Hall, PU, led the first Strategic Planning session. With about a dozen representatives from NRCS, ISDA, SSCB and District Staff, we discussed where the RITA program should be focusing for the remainder of the funding. Summary is attached.
 - Strategic planning will be completed with another in-person meeting in December.

ONGOING GOAL: Facilitate and lead local SWCD Boards, SWCD staff and partners in each program region to ensure effective work assignments and outcomes for Conservation Technicians.

- RITA Techs in the northeast, Camille Sczerbowicz, Annabelle McCarthy and Jamie Davenport have been assisting NRCS with WRE reviews.
- All RITA Techs are working more closely with NRCS DCs to address federal work loads and to acquire the experience they need to become a Certified Planner. The focus right now is completing CRP work.
- The results from the quarterly review of RITA Techs by SWCDs for the quarter ending June 30.
 - 94% of the 62 hosting SWCDs completed the review
 - 33% of the 12 Events Only SWCDs completed the review (optional)
 - The average score was 4.60 on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is the best possible score.

ONGOING GOAL: Work with NRCS program contact and qualified professionals to ensure the work identified in this agreement progresses as planned and meets technical standards and requirements.

- On July 7 and 8, the RITA Team was led through Conservation Desktop Training, Part 2 by Shannon Zezula and Jamie Shonkwiler, NRCS. They are now ready to use Conservation Desktop.

RITA Technicians Activities

ONGOING GOAL: Support SWCD priorities and projects and track selected metrics in five categories:

➤ Outreach Activities

Activities	Total
Attend SWCD board meetings	484
Attend ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars	558
Attend Field Days and Trainings	752
Present objectives/accomplishments at SWCD board meetings	225
Presentations at Field Days and Trainings	62
Presentations to the general public	305
Educational interactions with producers/forest owners	63
One-on-One discussions with land users on the benefits of soil health and improving water quality	308

➤ Technical Assistance Activities – Resource Concerns

Soil Health Management	120	Drainage & Water Management	85
Commodity Crops/Cover Crops Management	56	Invasives Management	182
Livestock/Pasture Management	31	Diversified/Orchard/Urban Gardens Management	136
Woodlands/Agroforestry Management	36		
TA to support Historically Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged Producers			73

➤ Planning and Engineering Activities

Completed conservation planning activities	2	Number of designs/inspections completed	6
Number of surveys	8	Number of construction checks completed	2

➤ Program Support

CWI Grants	147	RCPP Grants	8
LARE Grants	11	Other Farm Bill Programs	31
ISDA Soil Sampling	4	NACD Grants	7
EPA 319 Grants	87	Other Agency and NGO Grants*	99

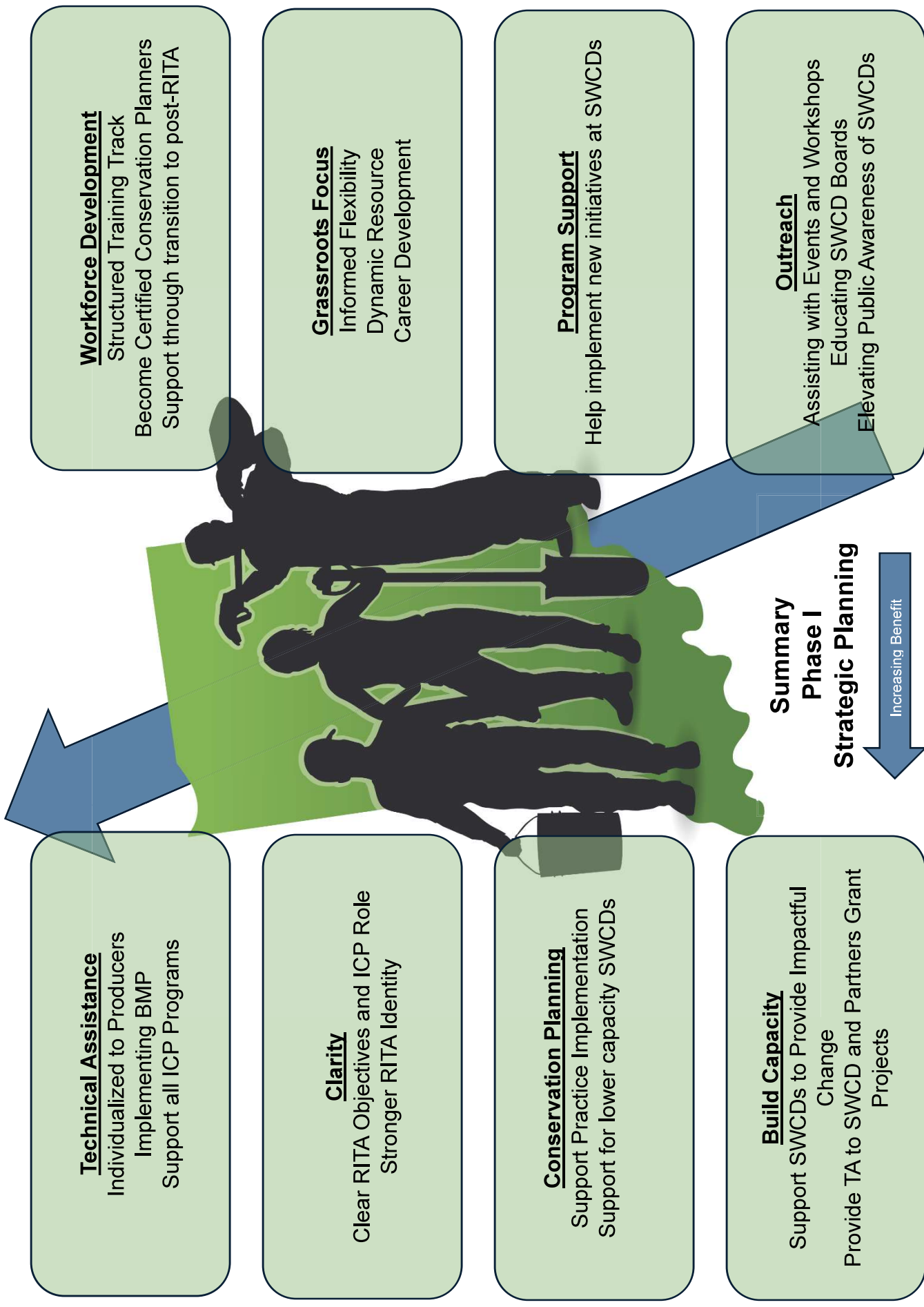
* REMC and Community Foundation of Allen Co. Grants
Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant
IDEM Tire Recycling Grant
Ball Grant
Purdue-funded Study
RC & D Grant

Greenways Foundation Grant
IDNR Community and Urban Forestry Grant
Arrowhead RC&D Grant
IN Native Plant Society Biodiversity Grant
Aluminum Co. of America
Kubota Small Town Grant

➤ ICP Collaboration Activities

Field/Tillage Checks	153	ICP Referrals	9
Transect Participation	32	Meetings with other ICP Staff	251

RESILIENT IN DIANA



Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

July 2026 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Application deadline for the following Farm Bill programs is December 18:

- [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#): The Agricultural Land Easement component of ACEP enables producers to protect their agricultural land from development by enrolling it in a permanent Agricultural Land Easement. The Wetland Reserve Easement component of ACEP helps landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.
- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#): CSP helps producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operation.
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#): EQIP provides producers with the technical and financial resources they need to address resources concerns on their land including improved water and air quality, increased soil health, reduced soil erosion, improved natural vitality and more.
- [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#): Producers can apply for financial assistance in geographically focused RCPP project areas. Talk to your local district conservationist to see if your property is located in a project area. Projects include Kankakee Watershed and Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds (GSS).
- [Regenerative Pilot Program \(RPP\)](#): NRCS is also providing additional financial assistance nationwide through RPP which enables producers to implement whole-farm regenerative practices through a single application for EQIP and CSP.

WETLAND MITIGATION BANKING PROGRAM (WMBP)

NRCS is investing \$3 million in grants for the development of wetland mitigation banks and banking opportunities for agricultural producers. Through wetland mitigation banks, wetlands are restored, created or enhanced, generating credits that can be purchased by producers looking to compensate for unavoidable impacts to wetlands at another location. WMBP awardees work with the NRCS to develop a mitigation banking instrument that provides details for developing, establishing and operating a mitigation banking program.

Applications are due by September 8, 2026. Visit the [Grants.gov](#) opportunity for additional details and to apply. Priority will be given to banks in states with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests. Based on NRCS data, these states are Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. City and county governments, organizations, tribal governments and other entities are eligible to apply. See the notice of funding on [grants.gov](#) for a full list of eligible entity types.

WETLAND DETERMINATION INTERIM FINAL RULE

Producers rely on certified wetland determinations when making decisions about their agricultural operations, which impacts USDA program eligibility such as farm loans, conservation assistance, crop insurance and commodity programs. National NRCS published a new [interim final rule](#) that ensures most wetland determinations made since 1990 are

considered certified, and farmers can rely on the determinations to work farmland. Through this interim final rule, NRCS addressed inconsistencies in how wetland determinations have been certified and issued in the past. It aligns USDA policy with statutory requirements, provides consistent policy producers can rely upon, and reduces unnecessary administrative burden by preventing the reinterpretation or replacement of previously certified determinations unless the producer requests a review. Specifically, the interim final rule ensures all wetland determinations issued after Nov. 28, 1990, are certified if:

- The producer was notified of the determination; and
- The producer was given appeal rights at the time.

Farmers can rely on the decision to install drainage, clear land and conduct other land alterations without risking USDA program eligibility so long as the determination shows the area is not a wetland in accordance with the Wetland Conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP)

The 2026 CEAP survey is a collaboration between NRCS and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to gather in-depth information about the use of conservation practices on cultivated cropland. Around 23,000 farm operators nationwide will be screened for the potential to complete the 2026 CEAP survey. NASS, in cooperation with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), will conduct screening and surveying from June 2026 to spring 2027. The survey data will support the third set of national and regional cropland assessments.

INDIANA STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

We held the Indiana State Technical Committee meeting and tour in Putnam County on August 25. This was the first of its kind in Indiana. The regular State Technical Committee meeting was held in the morning at the Putnam Inn and was followed by a field tour at the Legen Livestock and Grain farm in the afternoon. We had 37 people representing 23 agencies in attendance. Feedback from participants was positive and we anticipate holding similar ISTC meetings in the future. Indiana Pork is the main sponsor for the event.



State Soil Conservation Board

September 8th, 2026

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- CREP Contract Monitoring visits with some SWCDs will happen during the month of September.
- This year there have been two short CRP sign-ups (as determined by FSA), and according to ISDA's tracking system for CREP, there have been **2,935** acres enrolled. I do not anticipate there being another short sign-up period this year.
- For projects that have been completed and paid to date, the state has paid out more than \$13 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$4-\$13 for every state dollar, which is currently between \$47.7 million and \$155 million of federal dollars depending on the practice.

Water Quality Initiatives

- **IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)**
 - The release of the revised SNRS (Version 7) is available on the ISDA website, <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/>.
 - I did a presentation on the SNRS for the NRCS Leadership Team on September 4th, 2026.
 - The process to re-prioritize the priority watersheds was a large effort under this latest revision of the SNRS. This results of this and the report explaining it can be found here, https://www.in.gov/isda/files/f.-SNRS-WS-Prioritization-Methodology_2025-2026-Final.pdf. The plan is to do a presentation about this at a future ICP Leaders meeting to make sure all partners and leaders are aware of the new priority watersheds.
 - Work under Component 2 of the Indiana Science Assessment and the IN Nutrient Research and Education Program (INREP) is continuing related to determining practice effectiveness and tracking nutrient load reductions from practices. Documents for some of the practices that have been completed are available.
- **Gulf of America Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)**
 - The first workplan for the funding provided to ISDA through the GHP program has been extended for another 6-months so that we have more time to spend down dollars; it now will expire March 31, 2027. There is second workplan that we are currently working under that goes until September of 2030. The soil sampling program will continue under this second workplan, as well as provide support for INREP and for USGS super gages, as well as support the staff.



State Soil Conservation Board

September 8, 2026

Nutrient Stewardship Update, Ophelia Norman



Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program

- Procurement process for new contracts with CCA partners is complete and Letters of Award of have been sent to partners. Contract negotiation process is in the works currently with CCA partners and LG Grants/Contracts Services Team.
- Fall 2026 MRB SSP registration dates: Monday, September 14 – Friday, November 6.
 - This round of registration will be the first under Workplan #2.
- The program acreage enrollment threshold for ISDA staff to sample will be 50 acres (pasture, hay, specialty), all crop acres plus any other registrations over 50 acres will be shared with our CCA partners. This change was made in consideration of ISDA Resource Specialists to maintain workload capacity for other responsibilities related to their roles.
- This program includes Indiana watersheds within the MRB and excludes the WLEB and Lake Michigan Basins. This is due to federal statutory language associated with the funds.

Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP)

- The next GHP CC Taskforce Meeting has just been announced and is set for November 18-19 in Florida. Julie and Ophelia will both be attending this HTF CC Taskforce meeting.
- After submitting a request to EPA earlier in August, ISDA has received approval from EPA for a 6-month extension on Workplan #1 that will allow ISDA to purchase much needed supplies for our ISDA field staff. New end date is March 31, 2027.
- Workplan #2 has been approved and is set to start Fall 2026.
 - As a reminder, these are non-competitive funds established under the GHP to allow Hypoxia Task Force Member states to further their nutrient reduction strategy efforts.



State Soil Conservation Board

September 8, 2026 District Support Specialist (DSS) Report:
June 27, 2026 – August 21, 2026

STATEWIDE DSS ACTIVITIES OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD/TOTAL

- Input, assistance & attendance at SWCD Board Meetings: 14
- Assistance with SWCD or Partner strategic planning: 1
- Assistance with CWI initiatives (competitive grants, capacity reports, etc.) as a key focus (doesn't include assistance during other interactions such as Board Meetings): 66
- Other events with SWCDs for training, assistance, guidance, etc.: 16
- Total number of counties impacted by activities of significance: 52

NEW DSS JOB POSTINGS ARE ONLINE AND ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

- One position is for the southwest part of the state:
 - Posting link - [District Support Specialist - Southwest](#)
- A second position is for the northeast part of the state:
 - Posting link - [District Support Specialist - Northeast](#)

STATEWIDE/REGIONAL TRAININGS FOR SWCD SUPERVISORS AND STAFF

Completed trainings and events:

- August 14: Laura attended the SSW IDEA Region Meeting and provided input.

New Supervisor and Staff training: available year-round. Please contact your ISDA DSS for more information.

New SWCD Supervisor training guidelines effective July 1, 2026: beginning January 1, ISDA will begin formally tracking participation via the Board Leadership Program website:

- Newly elected and appointed supervisors must complete training provided by ISDA within one year of new term. Required trainings include: New Supervisor Training, Preventing Workplace and Sexual Harassment, Internal Controls, AND one training event annually.

- Re-elected, re-appointed, and other current supervisors must complete one training event annually. All SWCD Supervisors must complete the Preventing Workplace and Sexual Harassment training at least one time every three years.

DSS COMMITTEE WORK AND OTHER KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Committee work included: Board Leadership Program, State Soil Conservation Board, Pathway to Water Quality, and Women4TheLand
- DSSs are encouraging participation in the Needs Assessment initiative.

CLEAN WATER INDIANA (CWI)

- Competitive grants: DSSs assisted SWCDs with both current CWI grants. They also assisted applicants with the 2027 CWI grant round, providing feedback and reviewing applications.

BOARD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (BLP)

- NEW modules:
 - Hugh Hammond Bennett: This is a 20-minute video that walks viewers through the establishment of the soil conservation movement during the Dust Bowl, and Hugh Hammond Bennett's life work
 - Crafting a Strong Resolution: In this session, Liz Rice, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, explains the process, flow and reasoning behind a strong resolution.
- Access the BLP website: ISDA website [ISDA: Districts Tools](#) and [Conservation Link SWCD Training - Home](#)