

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

September 16, 2015

Farm Bureau Building

Assembly Hall D

225 S East St

Indianapolis, IN

- I. 9:30AM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of July 2015**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon
 - a. Jasper County-Dan Perkins
 - b. 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. \$10,000 SWCD/CWI Match- Jennifer Boyle Warner
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Washington County Letter- Jordan Seger
 - b. Noble County- Jennifer Thum
- VI. ISDA Updates**
 - a. Director’s Report- Jordan Seger
 - b. Technical Report- George Reger
 - c. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
 - d. Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst
 - e. District Support-Laura Fribley
 - f. Water Quality and CREP-Julie Harrold
- VII. 10 Minute Break**
- VIII. Conservation Partner Reports**
 - a. IASWCD Report
 - b. IDEM Report
 - c. DNR Report
 - d. Purdue Report
 - e. FSA Report
 - f. NRCS Report
 - g. IDEA Report
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**
2015 Meeting Dates
October 27, Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife
Refuge, Pike County
- XI. 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

September 16, 2015
Clean Water Indiana Grants



Program Updates

Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

- Applications for CWI 2016 grants are due October 1.
- Due to recent flooding, the SSCB and ISDA are allowing early planting of cover crops for those active CWI grants with cover crop cost share funding. Grantees would need to submit a scope modification form to take advantage of this opportunity. As of this time, no grantees have submitted a scope modification form.

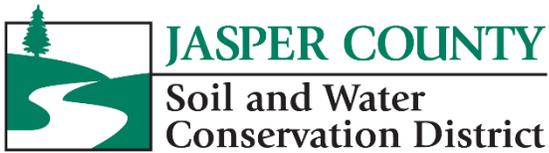
Training Funds

- The first review cycle of training reimbursement applications close September 15th. We have received several applications. The DSS team and grants committee will review the applications in the near future to make decisions regarding these applications.

Annual Financial Report Grants

- All AFR claims for 2014 have been processed.
- Jennifer Thum and I are working on restructuring/simplifying the AFR process for districts. I sent out a survey to all district staff to get feedback on the AFR and Gateway processes. Based on feedback, we are building a new tool that will hopefully simplify the AFR for districts.

In the coming weeks before CWI competitive grants really get moving, ISDA staff will 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.



211 East Drexel Parkway
Rensselaer, IN 47978
219-866-8008 Ext. 3
www.jaspercountyswcd.org

Dear Indiana State Soil Conservation Board,

Lake, Newton, Porter, Benton, and Jasper SWCD are requesting a change to their 2014 CWI High Clearance Seeder (HCS) Cover Crop Program.

Currently, the HCS grant is written for High Clearance seeding of cover crop at a per acre rate with a "high clearance tool", we are requesting to expand the cost-share to "equipment modification for cover crop seeding" and/or "seeding with an air seeder" Let's let farmers innovate and solve the problem of more timely cover crop application in NW Indiana.

Why?

1. We still only have 1 HC rig that can service this area and it isn't local. He can give us 8 days in early Sept, before he has to head back to Carrol County.
2. After one year we have only spent ½ of the yearly cost share allotment. This will not increase as only 1 rig can only seed so many acres. Also, air seeders mounted to vertical tillage tools or other equipment is gaining popularity and would be another toolbox for timely seeding.
3. If we can help with conversion costs and/ or "per acre cost share with air seeding rig "We know we can get one or two local farmers to do the conversion and have a local source.
4. We are proposing that CWI funds could be used to fund 75% or up to \$10,000 for up to 2 equipment conversion that results in cover crop seeding equipment.
5. Proposals would be accepted and then the SWCD's would decide which two have the most merit (based on a ranking sheet) and fund that equipment modification.
6. We would continue to offer the "per acre cost share for HCS" but add " air seeders " at 8\$ acre like is currently being offered for high clearance.
7. We are not on track to spend all the money via " per acre cost share" by the grants end, so would like some other options that still meet the objective of getting cover crop seeded.
8. All the participating counties are in agreement with this change.

Jasper County SWCD Chairman

Lake County SWCD Chairman

Newton County SWCD Chairman

Benton County SWCD Chairman

Porter County SWCD Chairman

Thank you,

Dan Perkins: Watershed & Conservation Program Specialist

Jasper County Soil & Water Conservation District

211 East Drexel Parkway

Rensselaer, IN 47978

219-866-8008 ext. 115

jaspercountysoilandwater@gmail.com



Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
2600 N State Highway 7 • North Vernon, Indiana 47265-9109
Phone: 812-346-3411 Extension 3 FAX: 855-496-7857
www.jenningsswcd.org info@jenningsswcd.org

September 15, 2015

Dear State Soil Conservation Board,

Just recently, board representatives of Jennings, Jackson, Scott and Jefferson Counties met to discuss how to create new ideas in working with landowners on installing conservation practices that support water quality and nutrient uptake.

It becomes more and more difficult to convert cropland acres into other land uses such as pasture and/or hay land with the CWI grant alone. I think we have reached our potential over the last two years. We still have \$56,000 of incentive funding in our CWI 2014 grant.

We would like to make a slight change in the scope of the 2014 grant, which is explained below.

One of the areas of concern within our counties is the amount of **CRP filter strips and field borders that are coming back into production and therefore losing our important buffers for water quality**. As with many programs that have been around for several years, they lose their freshness and become stagnant. Even though the filter strips, wildlife plantings, and field borders trap nutrients and protect water quality, the marketing of “water quality protection” alone is not as alarming as it once was.

We have a new marketing idea that will hopefully sell more filter strips, field boards and cropland conversion to other cover. That idea is to market the need for *“keeping our waters clean and clear with a landscape of grasses and flowers, bees and butterflies, just like the old days. It’s really something to see.”*

The idea is simple but would be highly effective. We would discuss with the producer the benefits of those conservation practices (filter strips, field borders, etc.) of trapping sediment, plants using nutrients, etc., as it pertains to the quality of our water. We would then discuss the alarming rate of the population decline of our native and domestic bees and butterflies due to habitat loss of flowering habitats. We would present one solution for all, more forbs added in with our grass and legume mix. These **dense stands** of warm and cool season grasses, legumes and abundant flowers create a mat of vegetation. That will **increase** the trapping of sediment, provide **more** nutrient uptake and **double** the pollinator habitat.

Jennings County SWCD Mission Statement:
To provide natural resource leadership for rural and urban customers
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

This is how we would make this work. We want to combine the efforts of the CRP program with our CWI practice incentive **only if they agree to a mix that applies the required grasses, legumes and forbs that will get our nutrient uptake, water quality and pollinator habitat benefits** (which meets NRCS specifications).

We cannot afford to lose those buffers, filters, and small acreages, to intense cropping rotations and mismanaged small fields due to large equipment. That will stress our local water bodies.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support in our conservation endeavors.

Sincerely,

Andy Ertel
Executive Director

Jennings County SWCD Mission Statement:
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Budget Modification (Reallocation of Funds in Excess of 10% of Grant Amount)			
Date:			
Grantee:		Grant Number	
Project:		Approved Grant Amount:	
Contact Person:		Phone/Email:	

Activity	Budget Line Item	Original Amount	Requested Amount

Justification for Modification
<p style="margin: 0;">Attach additional pages if needed. Also submit a complete revised budget.</p>

Signature/Title of Individual Submitting: _____ **Date:** _____
Request

Office Use Only

Budget Revision Approved by:	Date:
Budget Revision Denied by:	Date:
Reason for Denial:	



Washington Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

801 Anson Street Salem, Indiana 47167-9731

Phone: 812 883-3704, Fax: 855-386-9095

August 3, 2015

Indiana State Soil Conservation Board
1 North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Fellow Conservationists,

The Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to share some of our concerns we have observed in the trends of conservation in our county. In the past, Washington County was a leader in the adoption of conservation tillage, including no-till. Our county has historically been one of the top five counties with highest percentage of no-till corn and soybean acres in the tillage transects for many years.

There are still many acres of no-till in our county and it is reflected in our recent tillage transect completed in June, although we have begun to notice a trend away from conservation tillage. This trend, while it may seem slight to many, to us is very concerning. Especially in a county that has over 87,000 acres of highly erodible acres in a row crop rotation. There are members on this Board that remember the transformation of reduced tillage in agriculture through the T by 2000 movement led by the Conservation Partnership of this state. We remember the tons of sediment that had to be removed from roadside ditches after major storm events. We remember the gullies formed in crop fields that had to be disked in year after year prior to planting. We, as a Board, do not want to go back to this time in agriculture.

We would like to share some of our thoughts as to why we think this trend may be progressing. In our county, we are seeing a new generation come into the farm operations. They are beginning to make management decisions. This generation is not aware of existing conservation plans on highly erodible land that your predecessors implemented. They do not remember when those gullies had to be disked in every year before planting. They do not remember the saying, "T by 2000" and they don't know what "T" means.

With the recent years of prosperity on the farm, the next generation has been allowed to come back to the farm to work. This influx of manpower on the farm, in addition to available funds, have led to the purchase of big horsepower tractors and tillage equipment. Every man or woman in the operation wants to have a duty in the spring and in the fall. When utilizing no-till, the big tractor pulling the big tillage tool is not needed, as well as that warm body to sit in that tractor seat.

We do recognize that there is currently a downturn in the commodity prices and this could limit the future purchasing of big equipment. Yet, we are very concerned about this increase of tillage on many acres that have been no-tilled for decades now. We are also concerned about the lack of knowledge of following a conservation plan on highly erodible acres as determined by NRCS. We do not feel that Washington County is alone in this trending for conservation tillage in Indiana.

While we work to address this concern at a local level, by incorporating conservation tillage topics into our upcoming Regional Soil Health workshop. We ask of the State Soil Conservation Board to begin dialogue and research as to how this negative trend of conservation tillage can be addressed on a regional and state level in Indiana.

Respectfully,

Michael Ponsford, Chairman



Todd Armstrong, Vice-Chairman



Scott Vannoy, Secretary-Treasurer



James Brown, Member



L. Chris Fordyce, Member



Cc: IASWCD Board of Directors
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD Executive Director
Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist
Jordan Segar, ISDA Director, Division of Soil Conservation



Washington Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

801 Anson Street Salem, Indiana 47167-9731

Phone: 812 883-3704, Fax: 855-386-9095

August 3, 2015

IASWCD Board of Directors
225 S East Street, Ste. 740
Indianapolis, IN 46202

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Cc: Indiana State Soil Conservation Board
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD Executive Director
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Jordan Segar, ISDA Director, Division of Soil Conservation



State Soil Conservation Board

September 16, 2015

ISDA-DSC Director, Jordan Seger

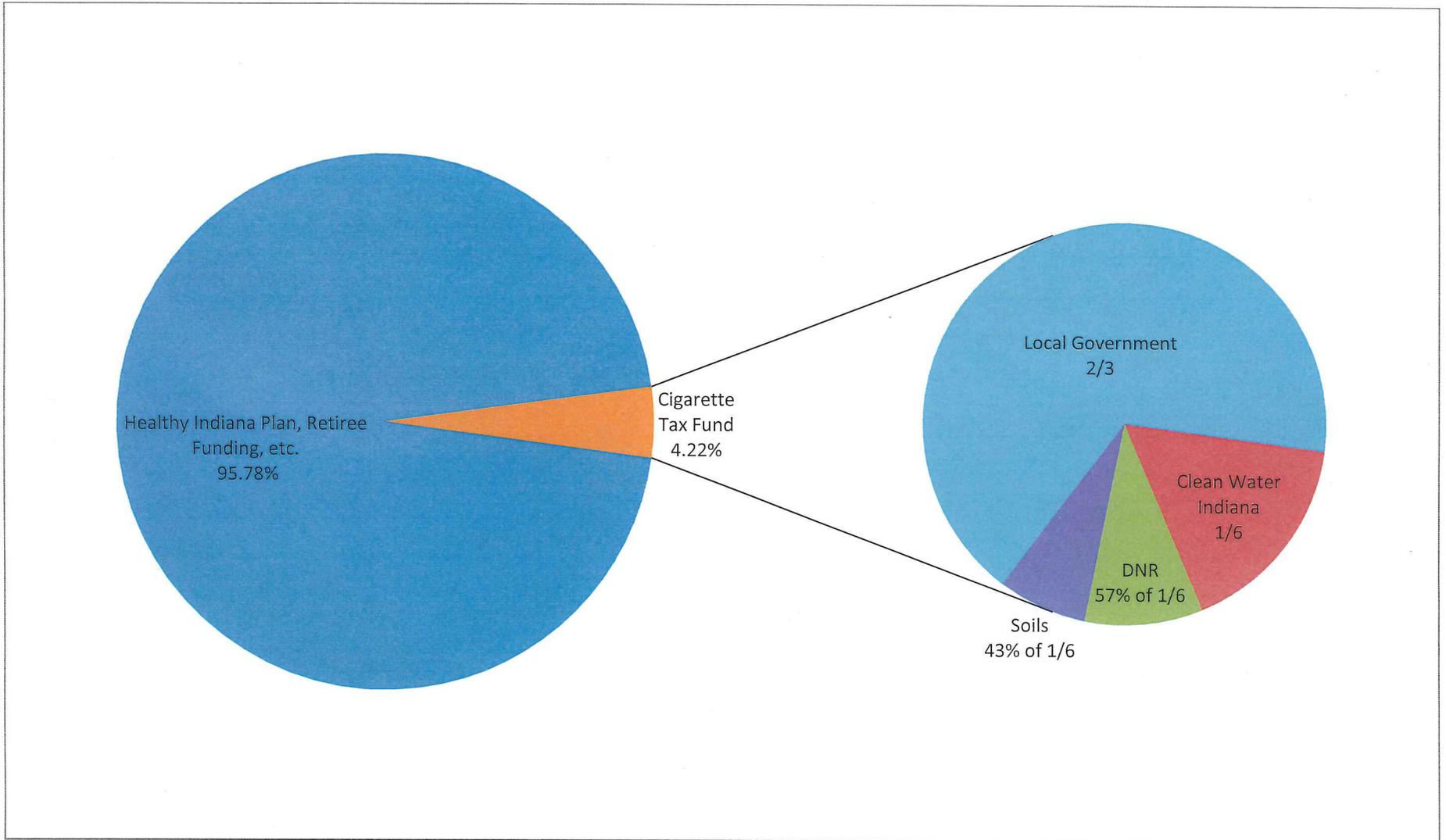


Updates

- **Crop Flooding Damage** - After a historically good planting season heavy rain leading to flooding has greatly damaged IN's 2015 Corn and Soybean crop.
 - After a SSCB vote on 8/20 SWCDs with open CWI grants involving cover crops were given early planting allowance.
 - This early planting allowance affected 42 SWCDs totaling \$275,900 in CWI funds, impacting 17,835 acres
 - Revenue neutral, this showed the SSCB's commitment to adapt CWI funds when the need arises
- **Lake Erie** – Excessive rain leading to large algae blooms in Lake Erie this year,
 - The ICP has finalized 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 occurred in August. Part of this plan includes the new USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant awarded to IN, OH, and MI.
 - ISDA has established an IN WLEB web page: <http://www.in.gov/isda/3261.htm> 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
 - TNC initiated a request to the Lieutenant Governor in Aug which requests more state funds to support two watershed technicians in the WLEB – discussions ongoing
- **ISDA Staffing** – ISDA is pleased to announce one recent new hire:
 - New Hire – Trevor Laurey's – Resource Specialist located in Indy and covering Marion, Clinton, and Tippecanoe counties and well as focusing on general ISDA program support. Trevor was a former summer intern with the DSC, studied Env. Management at IU and has a ton of GIS experience.
- **Indiana Grown** – Officially launched on July 7th, is an all inclusive marketing program that embraces and assists all Indiana agricultural ventures.
 - Indiana Grown officially announces major in-store retail partnership with Marsh Supermarkets - launches kiosks showcasing locally sourced items in 50 Indiana stores (Sept. 10, 2015)
- **Avian Influenza** – ISDA will be meeting with BOAH, IDEM, DHS, the poultry industry and others late Sept. to further prepare for a potential AI outbreak in IN this fall.
 - This spring only one backyard flock in Whitely County has tested positive. ISDA has focused namely on disposal of birds in regards to soil and water contamination
 - AI will likely become more of an issue this fall as birds migrate
 - ISDA staff are not visiting poultry farms, but having poultry farmers come to them for any conservation assistance. ISDA also strongly encourages SWCDs to follow similar procedures.
- **EPA/ACOE WOTUS FINAL RULE** - Final rule posted in Federal Register on Monday, June 29th.
 - IN has joined more than 27 other states filing suit against EPA
 - Since the North Dakota Court did not grant a national stay of the WOTUS rule, Indiana joined 17 states in filing a motion for a nationwide stay of the rule in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.
 - 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

Cigarette Tax Revenue Breakdown

Indiana Code 6-7-1



Quarterly Allotment Schedules

Business Unit	Budgeting Level	Point	Total Annual Appropriation	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Reserve	Total	Reserve %	Warnings/Errors?
<p>Do not add or delete rows. Columns to the right of W may be used for temporary calculations. "Reserve" is calculated as the remainder of the Annual amount minus the amounts in Q1 to Q4. You can adjust the Annual amounts (L) as long as they total up to the original appropriation. In the end, there should be no negative amounts, and no errors.</p>											
00036 Department of Agriculture											
10730-036 Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture - Administration											
	Point 1	1,398,544	349,636	349,636	307,680	349,636	41,956	1,398,544	3.00%		
	Point 2	37,400	13,090	7,854	7,854	7,480	1,122	37,400	3.00%		
	Point 3	149,800	97,370	17,976	17,976	11,984	4,494	149,800	3.00%		
	Point 4	25,600	10,240	5,888	5,632	3,072	768	25,600	3.00%		
	Point 5	5,000	2,500	1,500	500	350	150	5,000	3.00%		
	Point 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 7	476,264	261,945	80,965	80,965	38,101	14,288	476,264	3.00%		
	Point 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 9	227,900	91,160	52,417	50,138	27,348	6,837	227,900	3.00%		
	Total	2,320,508	825,941	516,236	470,745	437,971	69,615	2,320,508	3.00%		
14541-036 Distributions to Food Banks											
	Point 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 7	300,000	165,000	51,000	51,000	24,000	9,000	300,000	3.00%		
	Point 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Total	300,000	165,000	51,000	51,000	24,000	9,000	300,000	3.00%		
17460-036 Value Added Research											
	Point 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Point 9	48,500	19,400	11,155	10,670	5,820	1,455	48,500	3.00%		
	Total	48,500	19,400	11,155	10,670	5,820	1,455	48,500	3.00%		
42134-036 Soil Conservation Division											
	Point 1	1,125,634	281,409	281,409	247,639	281,409	33,768	1,125,634	3.00%		
	Point 2	29,500	10,325	6,195	6,195	5,900	885	29,500	3.00%		

Quarterly Allotment Schedules

Business Unit											
Budgeting Level											
	Point	Total Annual Appropriation	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Reserve	Total	Reserve %	Warnings/Errors?	
	Point 3	39,533	25,696	4,744	4,744	3,163	1,186	39,533	3.00%		
	Point 4	66,000	26,400	15,180	14,520	7,920	1,980	66,000	3.00%		
	Point 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Point 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Point 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Point 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Point 9	39,000	15,600	8,970	8,580	4,680	1,170	39,000	3.00%		
	Total	1,299,667	359,430	316,498	281,678	303,072	38,989	1,299,667	3.00%		
54310-036 Clean Water Indiana											
	Point 1	1,236,388	309,097	309,097	272,005	309,097	37,092	1,236,388	3.00%		
	Point 2	9,000	3,150	1,890	1,890	1,800	270	9,000	3.00%		
	Point 3	660,000	429,000	79,200	79,200	52,800	19,800	660,000	3.00%		
	Point 4	10,000	4,000	2,300	2,200	1,200	300	10,000	3.00%		
	Point 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Point 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Point 7	1,965,648	1,081,106	334,160	334,160	157,252	58,970	1,965,648	3.00%		
	Point 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Point 9	81,000	32,400	18,630	17,820	9,720	2,430	81,000	3.00%		
	Total	3,962,036	1,858,753	745,277	707,275	531,869	118,862	3,962,036	3.00%		

Agency: 00036 - Agriculture				
Fund: 54310 - CLEAN WATER INDIANA				
8/31/2015				
Account	Budget	Spent as of 8/31	Obligations	Availability
Personal Services	1,199,297.00	195,496.69	875,677.32	128,122.99
External Service Expense	640,200.00	0.00	0.00	640,200.00
Supplies Materials Parts	9,700.00	2,019.74	8,750.00	(1,069.74)
Grants Expense	1,906,678.00	47,500.00	1,009,000.00	850,178.00
Administrati and Operating Exp	78,570.00	1,271.23	81,544.80	(4,246.03)
ISF ID Bill Expenses	8,730.00	1,065.14	6,000.00	1,664.86
Total Expenses	3,843,175.00	247,352.80	1,980,972.12	1,614,850.08
			FY15 carryover	79,424.38

Agency: 00036 - Agriculture				
Fund: 42134 - SOIL CONS LAKE ENHANCEMENT				
8/31/2015				
Account	Budget	Spent as of 8/31	Obligations	Availability
Personal Services	1,044,646.00	199,464.13	822,495.45	22,686.42
External Service Expense	85,566.00	596.85	5,500.00	79,469.15
Supplies Materials Parts	64,020.00	11,570.03	44,500.00	7,949.97
Capital	0.00	10.31	0.00	(10.31)
Administrati and Operating Exp	37,830.00	1,413.81	39,320.80	(2,904.61)
ISF ID Bill Expenses	28,615.00	4,359.07	25,000.00	(744.07)
Total Expenses	1,260,677.00	217,414.20	936,816.25	106,446.55
			FY15 carryover	27,129.17

should be made easier for landowners to install conservation not more difficult and this rule may lead to the latter.

- ISDA ran analysis showing this rule could impact 21,826,168 acres of the total 23,158,400 acres in IN
- **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 and CWI Budget** – I will give detailed budget report during AM SSCB update
- **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
 - Thus far Jane, Jennifer, and Jordan have visited Hamilton, Daviess, Martin, Bartholomew, and Dearborn counties with Mike Starkey and Ray McCormick (IASWCD) attending some as well
 - More meetings already scheduled over the next year
 - Big thanks to Jennifer and the IASWCD for scheduling!
- **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
 - ISDA and IDEM submitted a revised version of the IN Nutrient Reduction Strategy on 7/31 to EPA, and are awaiting EPA feedback towards the end of Sept. with the goal of NRS finalization
- **State Fair** – ISDA celebrated the “Year of the Farmer” at the 2015 IN State Fair with many partners hosting around 28 meetings with various Ag stakeholders
 - ISDA staff worked at the P2WQ, Normandy Barn, Glassbarn, and Dupont Pavillion
 - Successful River Friendly Farmer and Hoosier Homestead Award ceremonies
- **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
- **2015 Spring Cover Crop and Tillage Transect** – ISDA working with NRCS to finalize and publish results. Past results posted here: <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>
- **Harvest Safety** - Indiana State Agencies Partnered for a Road Safety Message ahead of Harvest Season with tips found here: <http://www.in.gov/isda/index.htm>
 - ISDA is also working with BMV to incorporate Ag equipment road travel safety into standard driver education

Jordan Seger

C 317.695.4933 | jseger@isda.in.gov



State Soil Conservation Board

September 16, 2015
DSC Technical Assistance Report

Field Staff Activities

January 1, 2015 – August 31, 2015

Resource Specialist Activities	Total
SWCD Board Meetings	170
ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars, etc.	371
Field Days	65
Training	131
Conservation Planning	378
Survey, Design and Inspections	731
Construction	126
Public Interaction	23,214
CREP – Met with Landowners	81

DSC Conservation Workload

January 1, 2015 – September 3, 2015

Action	Currently Reported
Technical Assistance	2,067
Practices Underway	377
Completed Practices	380
Practice Acres	9,708
Practice Feet	78,931
Field Acres	15,169
Nitrogen Reduction	75,396 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	41,133 lbs.
Sediment Reduction	37,504 tons



State Soil Conservation Board

September 16, 2015

Agricultural and Environmental Affairs Program Manager



Program Updates

➤ INfield Advantage

- Our final field/grower counts for 2015 are 822 GSS fields, 28 RST fields and 345 growers.
- The aerial imagery on all fields was flown over late July and early August.
- We held Training Meetings on August 27 (Bedford) and September 4 (Logansport) with corn stalk sampling crews. About 80 people attended one of the trainings. Attendees included: ISDA DSC, ICMC/ISA, SWCD staff, SWCD supervisors, NRCS and PU Extension. Speakers from A&L Labs and PU Extension presented information on the CSNT test and fertilizers, respectively. All attendees participated in a geo-caching game to refresh skills. ICMC/ISA donated prizes for the winning geo-caching teams. Each group picked up their CSNT sampling supplies.
- Many groups are busy collecting samples. Roughly 10% of the fields have been sampled already.
- There is training for INFA group leaders on November 30. Speakers will be discussing remote sensing (imagery) and the impact of the 2015 growing season.
- The winter grower meetings are all scheduled.

➤ Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Program

- On July 31, at Red Gold Growers' Field Day, I announced the 7th Annual Red Gold Conservation Stewardship Award winners. First place was Lievens Bros. in Petersburg, MI, and second place was Myers Sod Farm in Seymour, IN.

➤ Roadside Pollinator Program

- The Office of the Indiana State Chemist, in their update to the Rural Caucus on August 10, identified our work as a major part toward expanding pollinator plantings in Indiana.
- The Pollinator Round Table met on August 20th to discuss options for moving forward. ISDA is building a web portal linking many existing options available to groups interested in adding pollinator friendly plants.

➤ Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- 11 CCSI Hub fields have been enrolled as INFA RST fields. This adds a very diverse range of management choices to our normal different N rate trials.
- The existing CIG grant has been extended to the end of the year. There are some minor deliverables left to finish.
- There is no word on the status of the current CIG application.

- Summer field days were very successful. Excellent attendance from a range growers and agencies. Ray Weil's three days of workshops included giving him a tour of Indiana practices.
- The Speaker's Bureau has had not requests for either speaker suggestions or funding.
- They are considering alternate personnel for collecting field samples.
- They are preparing to add a two new positions, CCSI Director and CCSI Communication, through a new contribution agreement.
- Barry Fisher has indicated that he anticipates staying involved with CCSI as part of his new position. He is also looking to duplicate the program in the other states he'll be working with.



State Soil Conservation Board

September 16, 2015

Accountability and Technology



Program Updates

2015 Spring Tillage Transect Survey

The District Support Specialist's gathered and submitted the final transect spreadsheets to Shannon earlier this month. Shannon is currently working on analyzing the statewide results. Once complete, maps will be generated reflecting the percentage and acreage of no-till per county. ISDA will post the maps to the Cover Crop and Conservation Tillage web page at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>. Currently, Becky Fletcher and Ben Kenney are coordinating on a news release to promote the results.

2015 Fall Cover Crop Transect Survey

Plans are underway to coordinate the fall cover crop transect survey. A conference call is scheduled for September 25, to coordinate efforts to prepare the necessary tools required for the survey. SWCDs and ICP personnel will receive notification in October instructing them to begin preparations for the fall survey.

Improvements to SharePoint Conservation Project Tracking Database

1. To improve upon data integrity, a quality assurance report was created to monitor practice entries in SharePoint. Team Leaders are utilizing this report to better track the accuracy of practice entries and coordinate with SWCD personnel if issues arise. These reports are completed every two months.
2. Discussion occurred with Team Leaders regarding the removal of Farm Bill, IDEM and LARE practices entered by Districts in SharePoint. Everyone agreed that this practice data is not necessary since we obtain these practices from NRCS, IDEM and LARE program personnel. This change will help Team Leaders and field staff to better focus on CWI and OTHER practices entered by the Districts.
3. A notification was sent to all SWCD personnel who enter practice data in SharePoint, informing them of the change above. If the SWCD requested to keep their Farm Bill, IDEM, and LARE practices already entered into SharePoint, they were instructed to copy and paste the practices to an Excel spreadsheet provided to them. They were also instructed not to enter their technical assistance on SharePoint from this point forward. Districts were given a deadline of August 21, to save the practices they wish to track on the spreadsheet provided to them. All SWCD extraneous data has since been removed from SharePoint.
4. To better capture nutrient load reductions, a new column (CompletionDate) was added to the Conservation Project Tracking database. SWCDs were instructed to do the following:
 - a. If your District is currently entering CWI or OTHER practices that were installed/completed in previous years, you should enter a 2015 completion date so the nutrient load reductions will be captured this year.
 - b. If you previously entered CWI or OTHER practices in 2012, 2013 and 2014, and you are now marking those practices as completed, you should enter a 2015 completion date so the nutrient load reductions are captured this year.
5. Addressed practice reporting issues with IDEM and LARE. Joe Schmees will request IDEM's watershed coordinators report nutrient load reductions per practice rather than combining them by the field in which they were installed. Jordan and Greg Biberdorf wrote an MOU of understanding and it has been submitted to the IDNR and ISDA Directors. LARE will begin submitting the UTMs, HUC 8 watersheds, counties, and nutrient load reductions per practice on an annual basis.

WLEB Web Page

In an effort to showcase the ICP's involvement in the Western Lake Erie Basin, ISDA created a WLEB web page which includes the following information:

- Indiana WLEB Initiatives
- The Nature Conservancy WLEB Initiatives
- National WLEB Initiative
- Resources including map of WLEB and rainfall data
- News
- Indiana WLEB Contacts

You can visit the WLEB web page at <http://www.in.gov/isda/3261.htm>. ISDA will continue to add information to the web page as it becomes available. ICP personnel involved in the WLEB are encouraged to submit information pertinent to the web page.

ICP Staff Get-Together

Plans are underway for the 2016 ICP Staff Get-Together. The event is scheduled to be held on May 3, 2016, at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. The planning committee is currently working on meal plans and an agenda for the event.



State Soil Conservation Board

September 16, 2016

District Support Specialist Report (July 4 – September 4, 2015)



Major Activities or Events:

- 10 CWI Grant Info and Informational Meetings and Committee meetings were hosted and/or attended by DSSs. The following counties attended: Adams, Bartholomew, Benton, Blackford, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Crawford, Daviess, Decatur, Delaware, Dubois, Floyd, Franklin, Fulton, Gibson, Hancock, Hamilton, Harrison, Howard, Huntington, Jackson, Jasper, Kosciusko, Knox, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Martin, Newton, Orange, Perry, Pike, Posey, Pulaski, Putnam, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, St. Joseph, Vanderburgh, Vigo, Wabash, Warrick, Washington, Wayne, Wells, and Whitley. The “District Law Summary” was also created and distributed to SWCDs.
- Region SWCD Staff Meetings: Nathan, Tara and Laura hosted meetings and the following staff attended: Bartholomew, Crawford, Daviess, Decatur, Delaware, Dubois, Franklin, Gibson, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Knox, Martin, Orange, Perry, Pike, Posey, Putnam, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Washington, Wayne
- SWCD Supervisor Summit: 28 SWCD Supervisors attended the workshop in Danville, and 43 offices or individuals joined virtually. “Program was good and relevant, presenters were knowledgeable and presented well to group”, said one participant. Adams, Boone, Brown, Clark, Clay, Elkhart, Gibson, Hancock, Hendricks, Huntington, Jasper, Jennings, Lake, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Noble, Pike, Porter, Putnam, St. Joseph, Spencer, Starke, Vanderburgh, Wabash, Warrick, Washington, Wayne, and Wells counties attended. Presentation is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNK4kyz0Xvw>
- 20 individuals attended the Impacting Community Leadership Institute workshop. “The speakers were excellent and provided a lot of ideas to carry back to the office”, a participant commented. Benton, Cass, Dearborn, Hancock, Jackson, Jasper, Lake, Newton, Parke, Porter, St. Joseph, and Wayne counties attended the training.
- All DSSs have assisted counties with their tillage transect survey spreadsheets.
- Sent memo to SWCDs regarding rising SBOA audit costs
- DSSs met with IASWCD Region Directors to discuss new supervisor training, upcoming meetings, etc.

Ongoing Key Support:

- Business plans and/or annual plans of work- DSSs have assisted in the following counties: Dearborn, Lawrence, Marion, Ohio
- SWCD Board Meetings-DSSs have attended and assisted with various topics in the following counties: Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Blackford, Boone, Carroll, Clay, Clinton, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Elkhart, Fayette, Floyd, Hancock, Hendricks, Jasper, Jefferson, Lawrence, LaPorte, Morgan, Ohio, Orange, Parke, Pike, Porter, Steuben, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Vigo, Wayne, White
- District Staff visits- DSSs visited staff and provided training, assistance with various projects or tasks, and provided guidance in the following counties: Allen, Clark, Clinton, DeKalb, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Knox, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Miami, Morgan, Owen, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Scott, Steuben, Sullivan, Vigo, Wabash, Wayne
- District Supervisor visits- DSSs assisted supervisors in the following counties: Cass, Delaware, Fayette, Marion, Scott
- New Staff Training was conducted in the following counties: Brown, Spencer, Warrick
- Jennifer and Laura provided updates at the IDEA Social Media Trainings (included about 40 attendees)

- DSSs presented at, moderated or attended events, field days, workshops, or Partnership meetings where they were also able to interact with the following Districts: Adams, Allen, Boone, Clinton, Crawford, DeKalb, Dearborn, Fayette, Fountain, Floyd, Harrison, Gibson, Greene, Harrison, Knox, Marion, Montgomery, Monroe, Noble, Orange, Parke, Randolph, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo, Warren, Warrick, Washington, Vermillion
- SWCD CWI Grant Audit: Boone Co
- SWCD Election and Annual Meeting documents have been updated on SharePoint
- DSSs assisted SWCDs with budget hearing related materials and tasks

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
- Pathway to Water Quality: all DSSs worked at least one shift at a station or served as Day Coordinator
- Laura: Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI), INField Advantage (INFA), ICP Training and Certification Program, District Showcase
- Jennifer: Western Lake Erie Basin Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Planning and Zoning
- Nathan: Pathway to Water Quality including multiple work days, Leadership Institute, Myers-Briggs, CCSI
- Geneva: INFA, CCSI, tillage transect, Leadership Institute
- Leah: Leadership Institute, Supervisor Summit, INFA, SSCB, CWI grant, GIS mapping, Urban Conservation/Healthy Soils, Indiana Grown
- Tara: Leadership Institute

Upcoming Events:

- “Communications” Leadership Institute: November 17th at Manchester University
- “Leadership in Change” Leadership Institute: December 4th & 5th in Madison
- SWCD Staff Training: December 17th at Indiana Farm Bureau Building
- QuickBooks Training: September 24th at the Fulton County Library

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



State Soil Conservation Board

September 16, 2015

ISDA - CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- All reimbursements for the CREP Easements in the Tippecanoe River Watershed have been received by TNC. Final report to TNC for the CREP Easement and Extension contract was submitted at the end of July.
- Contract Amendments with all the SWCD County Administrators have been written and sent to the appropriate District. The contract amendments this time are written with the maximum four-year timeframe allowed and will now expire in 2018. I have received 6 of the signed contracts back from the 10 County Administrators, and these have been sent to the State office to get required signatures. I should be receiving the remaining 4 contracts by the end of the month.
- CREP Steering Committee has met and talked about several issues – how to increase CREP enrollment, CREP brochures, Revision of CREP agreement with FSA, change to the CREP Filter Strip job sheet, etc.
- The CREP agreement between FSA and ISDA will need to be revised/amended due to the ending of the Easement Incentive with TNC. This is a chance to make other changes under the agreement as well, if needed. Jordan and I will be working with FSA in the next couple of months to work on this revision.

IN Nutrient Reduction Strategy (INRS)

- This report was submitted to EPA on July 31, 2015. We anticipate hearing back from them regarding comments and/or approval of the strategy in mid-September. If any revisions are needed based on EPA's comment, we are planning to address these and have the strategy ready to go before the next Hypoxia Task Force meeting in early November.

Other Water Quality Issues

Gulf Hypoxia TaskForce (HTF)

- Participating in the conference calls for the Coordinating Committee of the HTF group.
- Participating in the 'Common Measures' subgroup of the Non-Point Source Committee of the HTF.

Western Lake Erie Basin

- ISDA has developed a webpage of information about WLEB and what is happening in Indiana to address the issues. It highlights include conservation efforts, rainfall, resources, etc. It can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isda/3261.htm>.
- A WLEB Stakeholder meeting involving partnership leaders and staff in Indiana took place on August 25th. This was the second meeting of this kind to discuss what is going on in the watershed. There was a brief discussion of the WLEB Action Plan that has been developed as a result of these two meetings.



Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farm Bill Program: Results and Opportunities

NRCS offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

- Contracts: 197 (includes 14-1 renewals) as of August 13th
- Acres: 169,418.70
- Dollars: \$3,455,023 dollars
- Backlog is 122 applications for over \$1.3 million on 97,781.1 acres

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

- Contracts: 861
- Acres: 121,656.5
- Dollars: \$18,009,666
- Backlog: 35 preapproved applications for \$902,690 (eligible status does not have all dollar amounts to used preapproved only)
- EQIP is gearing up for more action in the Western Lake Erie Basin but not released yet

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. The program has two components:

- Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component helps state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land.
- Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

Obligations have not been finalized. Based on the applications that will be funded, the anticipated amounts include:

- Applications: 15
- Acres: 769
- Dollars: \$3,082,666
- Backlog: 2 applications, 92 acres for \$306,000





Indiana NRCS has also set aside approximately \$325,000 of repealed Wetlands Reserve Program funds for Monarch initiatives

Total NRCS Conservation Numbers

Current number of conservation practices to be installed (FY-15)

- 52,702 approved practices to be installed (includes agronomic and engineering practices)

Current Total Farm Bill Programs and Watershed Initiatives (FY-14 and FY-15)

- Contracts: 1,802
- Acres: 439,798
- Dollars: \$44,297,355

Total Number of Backlog Requests:

- Contracts: 159
- Acres: 105,011
- Dollars: \$2,408,690

Conservation Partnership Totals in 2014

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Number of conservation practices installed | 21,012 |
| • Tons of sediment reduced | 996,762 |
| • Pounds of phosphorus reduced | 1,137,921 |
| • Pounds of nitrogen reduced | 2,120,554 |



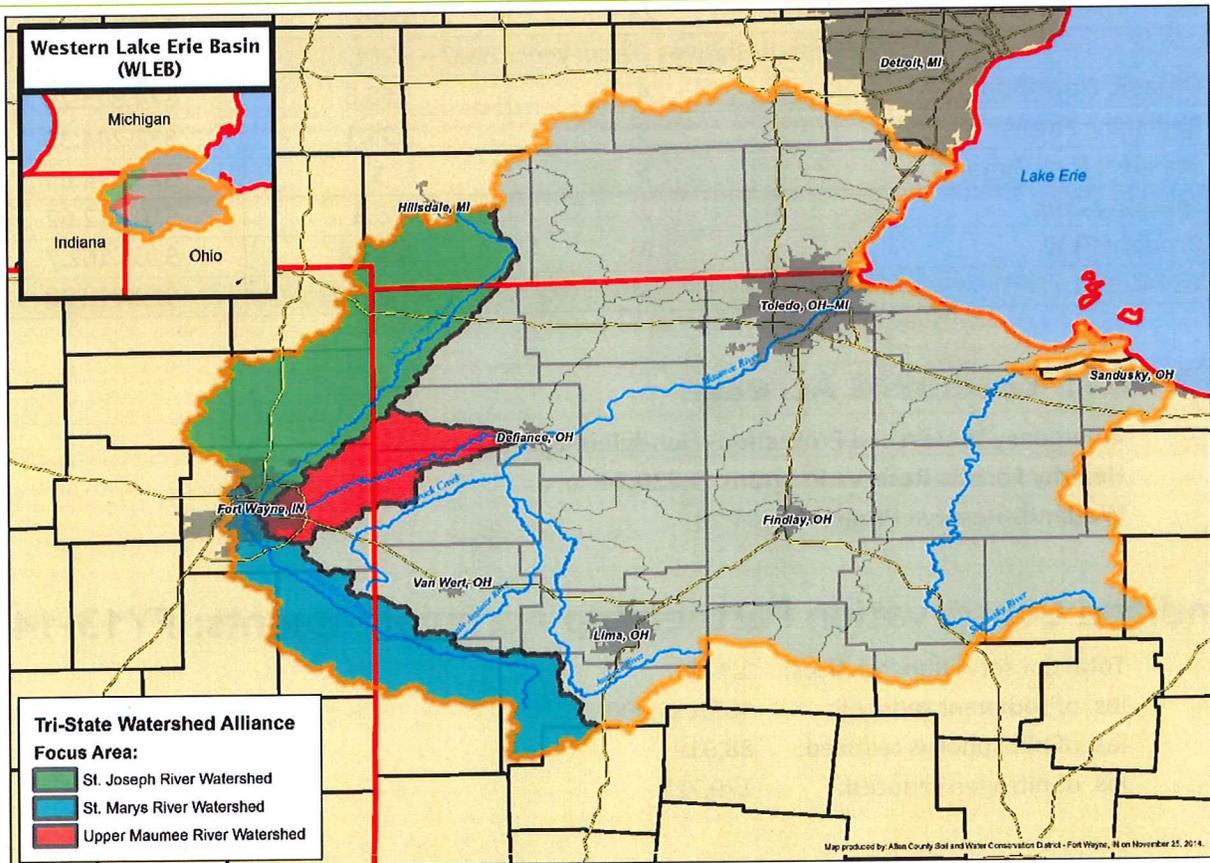


Indiana NRCS: Western Lake Erie Basin

The western Lake Erie basin is one of our nation's most significant collections of inland rivers and streams. The basin is rich in biological diversity and covers over seven million acres in northwest Ohio, as well as portions of northeast Indiana, and southeast Michigan. In Indiana, the area includes parts of Steuben, DeKalb, Allen, Noble, Adams and Wells Counties. Around 75 percent of the land in this area is in agricultural production. Approximately 1.2 million people live in the basin.

Indiana's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is working in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Farm Service Agency and Purdue Extension Service to help farmers who are working to voluntarily reduce the runoff of nutrients and sediment and help improve water quality of the western Lake Erie basin. NRCS provides financial assistance through Farm Bill programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), along with technical assistance to help farmers improve their natural resources.

Western Lake Erie Map



* Data Source: ProTracts FY15 QTR3



Total Farm Bill Contributions*

	Contracts	Acres	Obligation
2008 Farm Bill (Fiscal years 2009-2013)			
CSP	40	11,841.2	\$1,370,645
EQIP	198	38,706.04	\$4,550,270
WHIP	8	3,157.1	\$206,519
TOTAL	246	23,704.34	\$6,127,434
2014 Farm Bill (Fiscal year 2014)			
CSP	47	31,943.2	\$1,367,176
EQIP	40	4,972.2	\$679,764
TOTAL	87	36,915.4	\$2,046,940

Total Initiative Contributions*

	Contracts	Acres	Obligation
Landscape Initiatives (Fiscal years 2009 – 2014)			
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	54	13,035.7	\$1,541,892.45
Western Lake Erie Basin Initiative	23	5566.1	\$294,785.8
State Initiatives (Fiscal years 2009 – 2014)			
Organic Transition	4	168.6	\$74,813.76
Beginning Farmer	3	199.1	\$32,244.35
Seasonal High Tunnels	5	5	\$25,394.64
Specialty Crop	2	33.3	\$10,472.62
Drought FY12	3	3043.8	\$162,162.7
TOTAL	94	22,051.6	\$2,141,766

FY10-13 Easement Acreage

Emergency Watershed Protection- Floodplain Easements: 169.34

Healthy Forests Reserve Program: 1,230.74

Wetlands Reserve Program: 384.18

Indiana Conservation Partnership Accomplishments: FY13-14

Total Conservation Practices: 1,178
 lbs. of sediment reduced: 159,218,000
 lbs. of phosphorus reduced: 88,919
 lbs. of nitrogen reduced: 179,722





Indiana NRCS: Western Lake Erie Basin Summary

FY15 Summary*

Total Applications: 321
 Total Anticipated Contracts: 132
 Total Anticipated Obligations: \$2,999,453

FY15 Total Applications

	Adams	Allen	DeKalb	Noble	Steuben	Wells	TOTAL
GLRI 14/15		7	29	12	1		49
GLRI-P 14/15	11	23				1	35
RCPP	9	28	25	16	2		80
RCPP Requested	\$93,531	\$461,832	\$884,365	\$124,516	20,560		\$1,584,804
EQIP – WLEB	22	25	14	13	1		75
EQIP – WLEB Requested	\$224,675	\$460,432	\$925,143	\$455,566	\$22,620		\$2,088,436
EQIP – Regular							
CSP	7	23	29	23			82
TOTAL	49	106	97	64	4	1	321

FY15 Total Contracts

	Adams	Allen	DeKalb	Noble	Steuben	Wells	TOTAL
GLRI 14/15			5				5
GLRI-P 14/15	10	13				1	24
RCPP		3					3
Anticipated EQIP – WLEB	5	18	7	1			31
EQIP – Regular	5	20	5	6	4		40
CSP	1	2	12	14			29
TOTAL	21	56	29	21	4	1	132

FY15 Total Obligations

	Adams	Allen	DeKalb	Noble	Steuben	Wells	TOTAL
GLRI 14/15			\$168,147				\$168,147
GLRI-P 14/15	\$163,174	\$319,264				\$17,535	\$499,972
RCPP		\$229,671					\$229,671
Anticipated EQIP – WLEB	\$111,886	\$437,104	\$871,906	\$74,474			\$1,495,370
EQIP – Regular	\$43,713	\$165,657	\$37,568	\$75,000	\$29,068		\$351,005
CSP	\$5,882	\$5,257	\$83,831	\$160,317			\$255,287
TOTAL	\$161,481	\$1,156,953	\$993,305	\$309,791	\$2,621,530	\$5,243,060	\$2,999,452





FY15 Total Acres

	Adams	Allen	DeKalb	Noble	Steuben	Wells	TOTAL
GLRI 14/15			3,300				3,300
GLRI-P 14/15	3,839	6,874				626	11,339
RCPP		3,227					3,227
EQIP – WLEB							0
EQIP – Regular	1,861	740	513	1,100	131		4,345
CSP	240	334	4,754	8,173			13,501
TOTAL	5,940	11,175	8,567	9,273	131	626	35,712

2015 Initiatives

	GLRI 14/15	GLRI-P	RCPP	EQIP-WLEB	TOTAL
Allocation	\$180,000	\$500,000	\$204,464	\$1,500,000	\$2,384,464
Obligation	\$168,147	\$499,972	\$229,671	\$1,495,370	\$2,393,160
Rate	93%	100%	112%	100%	100%
Contracts	5	24	3	63	32
Contracted Acres	3,300	11,339	3,227	???	17,866

2016 Initiatives

	GLRI 15/16	GLRI-P 15/16	RCPP 2016	TOTAL
Allocation	\$648,500	\$373,000	\$251,248	\$1,272,748
Obligation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%
Contracts	0	0	0	0
Contracted Acres	0	0	0	0





Indiana Western Lake Erie Basin

The western basin of Lake Erie is one of our nation's most significant collections of inland rivers and streams. The basin area covers over seven million acres in northwest Ohio, as well as portions of northeast Indiana, and southeast Michigan. In Indiana, the area includes parts of Steuben, DeKalb, Allen, Noble, Adams and Wells Counties.

Approximately 1.2 million people live in the basin. The area offers many recreational and is rich in biological diversity, with abundant wetlands, lakes, forested areas and wildlife. Around 75 percent of the land in the watershed is in agricultural production

while developed areas cover about 12 percent.

Indiana's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is working with the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) to help farmers voluntarily reduce the runoff of nutrients and sediment and improve the water quality in this area.

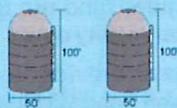
NRCS provides technical assistance to help farmers improve their natural resources, along with financial assistance through Farm Bill programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).



Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions for 2013-2014 in Indiana

Sediment: 159,218,000 lbs.

That's a volume of sediment equivalent to two 50' x 100' grain silos!



Nitrogen: 179,722 lbs.

Or enough to fill two Olympic-sized swimming pools!



Phosphorus: 88,919 lbs.

Or enough to fill an entire Olympic-sized swimming pool!



Total Practices Installed: 1,178

Conservation practices in this watershed have reduced the volume of nutrients and sediment from entering Lake Erie. Top practices include the use of cover crops, residue and tillage management/no-till, and Early Succession Habitat Development.

- Nutrient estimates only consider sediment bound N and P, not dissolved.
- Practices considered only include Indiana Conservation Partnership assisted conservation practices.

> Load reductions based off the EPA region 5 load reduction model.

Farm Bill Accomplishments to Date

	Contracts	Acres	Obligation
2008 Farm Bill (Fiscal Years 2009-2013)			
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	40	11,841	\$1,370,645
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	198	38,706	\$4,550,270
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	8	3,157	\$206,519
TOTAL	246	23,704	\$6,127,434
2014 Farm Bill (Fiscal Years 2014-2015)			
CSP	48	45,444	\$1,622,463
EQIP	45	9,317	\$1,030,769
Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	3	3,227	\$229,671
TOTAL	96	57,988	\$2,882,903

Farm Bill Initiatives Accomplishments to Date

	Contracts	Acres	Obligation
Landscape Initiatives (Fiscal Years 2009-2015)			
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	83	27,675	\$2,210,011
Western Lake Erie Basin Initiative*	23	5,566	\$294,786
State Initiatives (Fiscal Years 2009-2014)			
Organic	4	169	\$74,814
Beginning Farmer	3	199	\$32,244
High Tunnels	5	5	\$25,394
Specialty Crop	2	33	\$10,472
Drought FY12	3	3,043	\$162,162
TOTAL	123	36,690	\$2,809,885

*WLEB data only through 2014

The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) includes eight Indiana agencies and organizations who work together to promote conservation. Members include Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Indiana State Soil Conservation Board, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Purdue Extension Service.

FUNDING

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding is helping farmers install **conservation practices that reduce nutrients entering waterbodies** in the St. Joseph-Maumee, Upper Maumee, Auglaize and St. Mary's watersheds through Fiscal Year 2016.
- Through the GLRI Phosphorus Initiative additional EQIP funding is available to farmers in a targeted area within the basin to install **innovative conservation practices that control phosphorus**, such as drainage water management, two stage ditches, blind inlets and denitrifying bioreactors.
- The **Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin (TWLEB)** project was approved for funding through NRCS's RCCP in 2015. The multi-state, multi-partner project aims to protect the basin area by working directly with farmers to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading and harmful algal blooms with \$17.5 million in NRCS cost-share dollars through EQIP and nearly \$36 million in partner contributions.
- An **innovative IDEM Section 319 grant** application is in process to provide assistance to farmers in areas of highest phosphorus loss risk.
- SWCDs in the basin area **own and rent conservation equipment**, including no-till seeders for use by Amish, as well as others.
- **Clean Water Indiana grants** are being utilized to provide cost-share to help farmers pay for gypsym and cover crops.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- As part of the GLRI phosphorus initiative, **a random selection of farmers in a targeted area of the basin were surveyed** to get input on local water management issues. The survey was coordinated by Purdue in partnership with the local SWCDs and NRCS.
- Plans are underway to develop an **Amish-accessible demonstration site** within the GLRI phosphorus initiative area to show how conservation practices can reduce nutrients and sediment loading.
- SWCDs, NRCS and ISDA are working together to educate **non-traditional landowners, including Amish, urban and lake residents** through field days and pasture walks.
- The ICP's **Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)** is hosting field days to demonstrate various soil health practices and management activities.
- The Tri-State Watershed Alliance recently hosted the **annual River Summit Conference** to bring together agriculture and urban groups to discuss, experience and celebrate the rivers of Fort Wayne.
- ISDA has created a **WLEB webpage** to serve as a one-stop location to find information at <http://www.in.gov/isda/3261.htm>.
- NRCS is working with Adams County SWCD to reach out to the **Amish farming communities** in the Saint Mary's and Auglaize watersheds.

MONITORING

- The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is installing **two edge of field monitoring sites** in the GLRI phosphorus priority areas. These sites will monitor the water quality changes due to implementation of conservation practices such as no-till, cover crops or nutrient management.
- IDEM maintains a **fixed station network of sampling sites** throughout the basin that are collected and analyzed monthly.
- The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is **sampling edge-of-field monitoring sites and streams** to document the impacts of various conservation practices to understand how, when and where nutrients and sediments reach waterbodies.
- NRCS is working with the farmers in the basin on a **Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)** study to document existing conservation efforts and model the best solutions to improve water quality.
- Purdue's Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) modeling program has been used to **evaluate various strategies to improve water quality**.
- Through a Conservation Innovation Grant with NRCS, the Environmental Defense Fund **conducted a pilot watershed study** on Matson Ditch in the St. Joseph watershed that included land use data, social science surveys and existing water quality data.
- **A basic nutrient reduction model was developed** by EPA Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to measure and illustrate water quality impacts at the conservation practice level.
- With EPA funding, ISDA hired additional staff in the basin area to **conduct phosphorus soil sampling** in fields enrolled in the INField Advantage (INFA) program.
- DeKalb County SWCD received IDNR funds for a **watershed land treatment project** to work with partners and the Agriculture Research Service to monitor nutrient loss, specifically phosphorus, from a controlled drainage tile system.
- The ICP's Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) is collecting and analyzing data on the benefits of soil health management systems at their demonstration farms.

WORKING WITH FARMERS

- NRCS has certified conservation planners working directly with farmers to develop conservation plans to address their resource concerns.
- The EPA used GLRI funds to enter into an agreement with ISDA to **fund two technicians** who provide direct technical assistance to landowners and also, education and outreach, with an emphasis on the Amish population.
- Adams County is considering modifying their **Zoning Ordinance** to help deal with the increase of livestock operations and the manure.

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Indiana NRCS Partnership Efforts: **Western Lake Erie Basin**

Tactics

Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy: led by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to ensure collaboration among the conservation partners to address Indiana's priority water quality issues.

A Partnership for the Management of Nutrients and Protection of Water Quality: led by Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Pork, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Corn Growers Association, Indiana Dairy Producers, Indiana Beef Cattle Association, Indiana State Poultry Association, the Agribusiness Council of Indiana, and Purdue Extension to promote nutrient management and soil health practices to farmers to address water quality issues.

4R Certification Program: led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – a program to certify agriculture retailers who agree to only promote nutrient management activities that will limit nutrient losses.

Fertilizer Application Regulations for Growers: led by the Office of the Indiana State Chemist to regulate fertilizer and manure storage and land application setbacks, timing, and some rate restrictions.

Livestock Certification Program: led by ISDA as a voluntary program will recognize farmers that are willing to demonstrate publicly their commitment to the environment, animal well-being, food safety, emergency planning, biosecurity, and being a good neighbor in their community

InField Advantage: led by ISDA to work with farmers to promote adaptive nutrient management.

The Outreach

Social Indicator study: As part of the Great Lakes River Basin Initiative (GLRI) phosphorus initiative, surveys were mailed in early January to a random selection of farmers in a targeted area of the Western Lake Erie Basin to get their input on local water management issues. The survey is being coordinated by Purdue in partnership with the Allen, Adams, and Wells Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and NRCS.

Amish Demonstration Farm: Plans are underway to locate an Amish-accessible site in the GLRI phosphorus initiative area to install practices to show visually how conservation can reduce nutrients and sediment loading.

CCSI Hub Farm in the WLEB: led by the Indiana Conservation Partnership's (ICP) Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) to host field days to showcase demos of various soil health practices and management activities, and to collect data on the benefits of soil health management systems.

Tri-State Watershed Alliance: Recently hosted The River Summit Conference which brought together agriculture and urban groups to discuss, experience, and celebrate the rivers of Fort Wayne. The summit covered topics ranging from agricultural impact and flood plains to riverfront revitalization and





recreation. The focus of the event was to build a better understanding of the current state of the rivers as well as the opportunities the rivers offer for economic growth and community building.

Science Based

The Edge-of-Field monitoring sites-USGS: United States Geological Service (USGS) is putting two edge of field monitoring sites in place in the GLRI Phosphorus priority areas. These sites will monitor the water quality changes due to changes in management practices such as no-till, cover crops or nutrient management.

IDEM monitoring sites: Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) maintains a fixed station network of sampling sites throughout the state that are collected and analyzed monthly, and this data set is also active in the WLEB.

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) water quality study-ARS (edge-of-field and instream): Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues to sample edge-of-field and in-stream water quality to document the impacts of various conservation practices and strategies toward reaching water quality goals and to understand how, when, and where nutrients and sediments reach our streams, rivers, and lakes. They also test and develop unique practices to improve water quality such as blind inlets.

National NRCS WLEB CEAP study: NRCS at the national level is working with the farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) for a focused CEAP study to document existing conservation efforts and model the best solution to improve water quality. The study should be released this spring or summer.

Purdue SWAT modeling was conducted to evaluate potential strategies to improve water quality and will be used to compare other modeling efforts.

Matson Ditch EDF Thinking like a Watershed modeling efforts: Through an agreement with NRCS, Environmental Defense Fund conducted a pilot watershed study in Matson Ditch, in the St. Joseph watershed in the WLEB. The study included looking at land use data, social science surveys and existing water quality data to suggest the best location for various conservation practices.

Region 5: is a basic nutrient reduction model that was developed by EPA Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to measure water quality impacts at conservation level. This model illustrates the value and impact of the Indiana conservation practices and efforts.

Phosphorus Soil Sampling: ISDA received technical funds from EPA to hire additional staff in the WLEB and to conduct phosphorus soil sampling focused on field enrolled in the INField Advantage (INFA), previously known as OFN, fields. The sampling is done to determine the amount of extractable P in the soil.

Local SWCDs Water Monitoring: The Tri-State Watershed Alliance monitors eleven sites in the St. Joseph, St. Marys and Upper Maumee. Water sampling measurements are done in the field with a Hydrolab sonde. They measure water temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), conductance, pH, and turbidity. The air temperature and cloud cover are also recorded.





Financial Assistance

The Great Lakes River Basin Initiative (GLRI): Indiana is targeting GLRI assistance to conservation practices that reduce nutrient reductions in the St. Joseph-Maumee, Upper Maumee, Auglaize and St. Mary's watersheds through Fiscal Year 2016.

GLRI Phosphorus Initiative: As part of the GLRI Phosphorus Initiative additional EQIP funding is available to producers in a targeted area of the WLEB for innovative conservation practices that control phosphorus such as drainage water management, two stage ditches, blind inlets, and denitrifying bioreactors.

Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): The purpose of the Tri-State project is to protect the western basin of Lake Erie by reducing phosphorus and sediment loading and harmful algal blooms. This will be achieved by working with partners and farmers to identify sources of nutrients and sediments and by implementing conservation practices and technology to address them.

On the Ground

The EPA used GLRI funds to enter into an agreement with ISDA to fund two technicians located in the WLEB. They are providing direct technical assistance to landowners and outreach, with an emphasis on the Amish population.

NRCS has entered into an agreement with Adams County SWCD to focus outreach to the Amish farming communities in the Saint Mary's and Auglaize watersheds, with particular focus on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Phosphorus watersheds: Nickelsen Creek, Bulhman Ditch, Weber Ditch and Blue Creek. The contractor with a long history of working with the Amish will identify key individuals in the Amish community who are interested in being change agents and serve as a mentor to partnership and NRCS employees in building trust relationships with these communities.

Lake and River Enhancement (LARE): DeKalb County received funds for a watershed land treatment project through IDNR. This project would partner the DeKalb and Steuben SWCDs with a local landowner, NRCS, and the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) for the monitoring of nutrient loss, specifically phosphorus, from a controlled drainage tile system.

