INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

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

To: All SWCD Staff and Supervisors
Date: December 16, 2021
Re: Supervisor and Staff Training Reimbursements

The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is pleased to again offer SWCD supervisor and staff training funds for 2021 and 2022. This year the funds will be available in the form of reimbursements.

The funds are reserved for training registration fee reimbursements only. Each district is eligible to apply for supervisor and/or staff training reimbursements through March 15th, 2022. Actual amounts of training reimbursements will depend on the number and amount of requests submitted and will be capped at $1,000 per district. Funds will be prioritized to supervisors and those districts demonstrating financial need. Eligible trainings take place **between March 16th, 2021, and March 15th 2022.** Reimbursement requests are due **March 15th, 2022** and will be reviewed thereafter, and applicants will be notified immediately after the review is complete. If awarded, registration fees will be reimbursed to districts pending confirmed attendance with 2021 AFR grant payments. Please note that AFR eligibility is not required to apply for training funds.

The form to be used to request reimbursements will be uploaded to Conservation Link. Submit the form to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov **through March 15, 2022**.

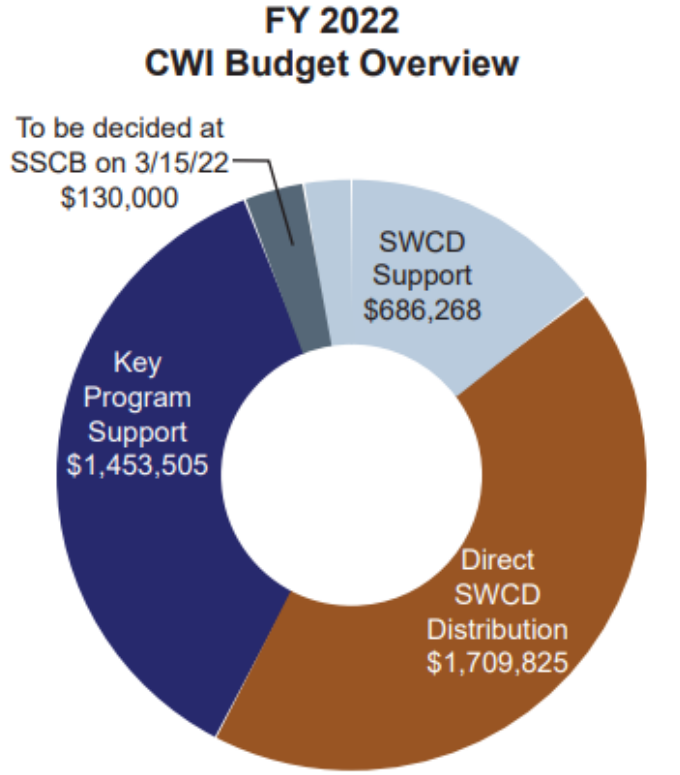
Please contact your District Support Specialist with any questions on the program.

Sincerely,

Amy Burris
Chair, State Soil Conservation Board

Board Members,

Please see the chart below:



- *Includes $970,000 general fund appropriation Total: $3,979,599*
- *The Clean Water Indiana dedicated fund received a 15% cut in FY22.*
- *This fund is non-reverting*
- *The Division of Soil Conservation has a separate budget.*
- *All funds are subject to a 2% reserve.*
- *A balance remains in the fund to be allocated by the SSCB at the end of the fiscal year.*

From: https://www.in.gov/isda/files/2022-CWI-Budget-Overview-012322.pdf

First, just want to take some time to recap the CWI Budget Overview from last SSCB meeting.

Above is the graph I presented to the soil board last meeting (1/23/2022). If you recall, I've asked this board to come to consensus on a decision regarding the $130,000 left-over from a CWI grant that was declined. I asked that this be voted on at the upcoming (3/15/2022) State Soil Conservation Board meeting.

To go beyond these numbers, on the next page – I've included a break-out of what each slice of pie in the above chart means on the next page in a table. Note the CWI budget, consists of a general fund appropriation, as well as dedicated funds from cigarette tax dollars.

FY2022 CWI Budget Overview	Beginning Balance	3,979,599.00
	DSS Salaries + Fringe	487,888.88
	Gas	3,629.69
	Travel	1,495.00
	Seat Charges, Phones Etc	88,351.51
SWCD Support	**Total:**	**581,365.08**
	AFR	920,000.00
	CWI Competitive	789,825
Direct SWCD Distribution	**Total:**	**1,709,825.00**
	CREP Salaries	754,998.22
	CWI CREP	698,507.00
Key Program Support	**Total:**	**1,453,505.22**
	Rejected CWI	130,000.00
	Remaining Fund	104,903.49
Remaining Balance	**Total:**	**234,903.49**

Estimate as of 11/30/2021^

SWCD Support	581,365
Direct SWCD Distribution	1,709,825
Key Program Support	1,453,505
Remaining Balance	234,903
Total	**3,979,599**

So, to round this off – after a decision is made on how to spend this $130,000 our CWI bucket will have about ~$100,000 remaining balance. This fund is **non-reverting**. This means that these dollars will roll into next year. Additionally, we will take any remaining dollars in the Division of Soil Conservation's Dedicated funds (looking to be about ~$65,000) and roll that into CWI for next year. Leaving us with roughly **~$155,000. (that's the $100,000 CWI remaining + $65,000 Division remaining – surety bond).**

Conservation			
42134-036	Soil Conservation Division		
	Dedicated Funds	1,205,700	1,205,700
54310-036	Clean Water Indiana		
	Gen-1000-16970-Clean Water Indiana-General Fd	970,000	970,000
	Ded-3980-42140-Cigarette Tax Fund	2,519,014	2,519,014
	Total	3,489,014	3,489,014
60080-036	Ind. Dept. of Agriculture/U.S. Dept. of Education		
	TEO-1000-10730-COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE	32,827	32,827
	TFI-8084-62620-Department of Education	202,000	202,000
Conservation Totals			
	General Fund	970,000	970,000
	Dedicated Funds	3,724,714	3,724,714
	Total	4,694,714	4,694,714

From: https://www.in.gov/sba/files/2021-WholeBudgetReport-1.pdf

If you recall our July 2021 board meeting - we were able to use that our roll-over to maintain our CREP investment as well as our ~1,000,000 CWI Competitive grants as usual.

See below (as passed CWI budget by SSCB from July, 2021):

As approved from last meeting:

Clean Water Indiana	FY21	Rollover(6/30)	FY22	Difference
General Fund	$970,000	x	$970,000	
Cigarette Tax	$2,963,546	x	$2,519,014	$($444,532)
Total	$3,933,546	$466,408	$3,489,014	**~~$($21,876)~~**
Soil Conservation				
Cigarette Tax	$1,418,471	0	$1,205,700	$($212,771)

Division of Soil Conservation FY 22 & 23

- Maintain some vacancies, reduce discretionary spending, bring in additional funds through grant administration.
    - **Posting 3 positions, holding 3 positions indefinitely**

CWI FY22

- ISDA Proposes continuing the $660,000 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) annual investment.
- Maintain the traditional dollar amount for CWI Competitive Grants (about $1,000,000)
    - **For FY22 CWI I ask that we allocate $950,000 towards CWI Competitive Grants**
    - Will continue to seek outside dollars for CREP, and continue to monitor demand

CWI FY23

- Rollover balance from our Soil Conservation dedicated fund will likely be significantly less
    - Take cut from CREP investment
        - **We continue to seek outside dollars, and will keep you updated**
- Maintain the traditional dollar amount for CWI Competitive Grants (about $1,000,000)
- Continue to seek outside investments and monitor demand

From: https://www.in.gov/isda/files/SSCB-092121-attachments.pdf

Ultimately, when comparing our FY20-21 budget to FY22-23 budget we are looking at a -$450,000 difference. For this current FY22 we had the luxury of about $460,000 of roll-over from FY21 to FY22. This year we will enter FY23 down around $450,000 (estimated). The idea is to take that cut from CREP and maintain our typical ~$1,000,000 CWI competitive grant program. This would leave roughly $215,000 for CREP out of the typical $660,000 investment.

We did have a *less* demanding year for CREP, but with current enrollment we will need an estimated $250,000 in FY23 (as of 2/17/22) to fulfill our standing financial obligations to growers. This does not cover future sign-ups or any potential uptick in demand. The ~$215,000 CREP investment can be supplemented with the ~$155,000 Division & CWI rollover to meet current demand while leaving a small cushion. At this time, I don't have a dollar figure for CWI funds unspent by SWCDs that will return to CWI.

Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Governor Eric Holcomb
Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development
Bruce Kettler, Director

The District Support Specialists are requesting CWI funds to host a Grant Writing Training for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This training will be virtual and take place in 2022. The funds will go through the IASWCD if approved.

CWI funding request:

- $300 for speaker, Amy Shankland

Amy Shankland has worked with us in the past and is familiar with the SWCDs.

Amy Shankland, GPC, has been a grant professional for over 19 years. She has worked for a variety of non-profit organizations and local governments, including the City of Noblesville, Indiana from 2007-2016. While employed by the city, Amy and her grants team consistently obtained a 50% or higher win ratio. She has been a member of the Grant Professionals Association (GPA) since 2007 and has held nearly every local GPA chapter leadership position. Amy is the author of Hoop Mama, a novel, and two self-help books, Joy to You and Me (at Work!) and How to Lighten Your Mental Load.

March 15, 2022

Contact Information

Lead Entity: Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Fiscal Agent for CCSI)
Address: 225 S East Street, Suite 142
City, State, Zip: Indianapolis, IN 46202
Lead Entity Contact Name & Title: Joe Schmees, Executive Director
Email Address joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org
Phone: 317-692-7325
Project Amount Request: $65,000.00 - $90,000.00 (dependent upon Pathway to Water Quality)
Signatory Authority: Joe Schmees
Signatory Authority Email: joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org

Cooperating SWCD: Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Point of Contact: Joe Schmees, Executive Director
SWCD Phone: 317-692-7325

Project Contact: Lisa Holscher, Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative Director
Project Contact Email: lisa.holscher@in.nacdnet.net
Project Contact Phone: 812-890-3631
Project Website: www.ccsin.org

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative – Support for Program Manager Positions

Description:

The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) is a program of the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP), a unique partnership of the IASWCD and Indiana's 92 SWCDs, Indiana USDA-NRCS, ISDA, Purdue University, the State Soil Conservation Board, IDEM, IDNR, and Indiana USDA-FSA – all sharing a common goal of promoting conservation.

The mission of the CCSI program is to improve soil health on Indiana cropland – primarily through outreach and education support along with a training program for conservation staff and other partners. Since its official inception in 2010, CCSI has materially participated in nearly 700 soil health events, reaching over 42,600 attendees. In addition, the program has provided soil health technical training to over 900 unique conservation staff members and agronomists, many of whom have attended multiple courses that make up a full soil health training curriculum.

These trainings, outreach support, and other offerings of the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative have allowed Indiana SWCD, NRCS, Extension and other Local-Level Partners (LLPs) to provide a consistent, science-based and farmer-proven soil health message to an ever-broadening group of farmers, landowners, and those who influence farmers' conservation decisions.

In addition, CCSI works to facilitate and support partnerships that span geographic, organizational, and expertise boundaries. Organizational partners include farmer networks, NGOs, watershed organizations, ag retailers, and commodity groups.

CCSI Program Managers are critical to facilitating these services:

- "Blank-label" planning and execution of LLPs roundtables, workshops, and field days;
- Behind-the-scenes support for partner training (virtual and in-person);
- Providing connectivity between partners, programs, and soil health experts

BACKGROUND AND SITUATION (Need for Project)
The Gulf Hypoxia Task Force agreement calls for 25% reduction of N loading to surface waters by 2025. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement calls for 40% P loading reductions by 2025. To reach those reductions, soil health practice adoption goals have been identified by partner organizations, including NGOs, commodity organizations, and the ICP. Specific practices to meet these targets include:

- 100% of Indiana farmers regularly perform soil sampling and implement nutrient management plans by 2025
- 75% of Indiana farmers apply nutrients at planting or in-season
- 100% of Indiana farmers apply nutrients to frozen and/or snow-covered ground as a last resort
- Increase living green cover acres to 40% of Indiana cropland by 2025
- 25% increase of minimum tillage acres by 2025
- 10% increase of no-till and strip till acres by 2025

As these practices are adopted, **four of the five SSCB statewide natural resource priorities are addressed:**

- Surface water quality improvements
- Reduction of soil degradation through loss of soil biology and depletion of soil organic matter; reduction of soil compaction
- Reduction of wind and water erosion
- Reduction of streambank erosion through improved infiltration and retention of precipitation

Soil health training, education, and outreach are critical to ensuring that farmers have the tools, resources, and technical assistance needed for the successful BMP adoption needed to meet these goals. Because of the program's robust outreach, education, and training platforms, a large percentage of conservation financial and technical assistance are indirectly touched by CCSI and its Program Managers.

From small round-table discussions to events with 250+ attendees, CCSI Program Managers provide critical support to Indiana SWCDs and other conservation partners to design and execute their local soil health outreach and education programs. This work is done in a manner that ensures SWCDs and local partners are the "face" of these efforts, helping to elevate THEIR cost-share and technical assistance programs, connect with THEIR growers, and get more conservation on the ground. The support provided by CCSI Program Managers can add to District capacity by enabling SWCD staff to concentrate less energy on attracting growers to attend field days - and more energy on the next steps of getting growers through the conservation office door and into conservation programs.

Whether providing technical assistance, developing conservation plans, or enrolling a farmer or landowner in a cost-share program, CONSISTENT farmer-proven and science-based information is vital for making significant strides in successful soil health BMP adoption. Developed in partnership with technical experts for USDA-NRCS, Purdue University, and expert farmers, CCSI's soil health training curriculum is the main vehicle to impart soil health knowledge and skills to ICP staff. Because CCSI spans agency boundaries, these trainings provide opportunities for SWCD staff to learn alongside NRCS, Extension and other conservation professionals. From on-site logistics to registration management and more, CCSI Program Managers are integral to the seamless delivery of these trainings – allowing presenters and others to concentrate on content delivery.

Even in the face of the unprecedented disruption caused by COVID-19, CCSI Program Managers helped SWCDs and other partners adapt by providing facilitation support as events moved to virtual platforms. As restrictions

are lifted, CCSI Program Managers are continuing to adapt to the changing demands of partners and attendees through support of hybrid events, virtual trainings, and other tools that are now readily accessible.

ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

Activities:

Communications with Stakeholders

- CCSI Program Managers meet with an average of 2-3 Indiana SWCDs and other local conservation partners each month to provide information on services currently provided by the program (https://www.ccsin.org/internal-services) as well as actively listen as partners describe their challenges and successes with soil health outreach and education. These sessions not only raise awareness of how CCSI can help local partners' increase their outreach and education capacity, they provide roadmaps for the continual evolution of CCSI services. (Strategic Plan Goal 2.3)
- CCSI Program Managers coordinate 9-10 teleconferences for each quadrant of Indiana (based upon NRCS Areas) during the last week of the month. These teleconferences are a forum for Indiana SWCDs and other local stakeholders to hear updates on trainings, events, research, and outreach platforms as well as provide feedback and generate ideas for projects. (Strategic Plan Goal 2.3)
- CCSI Program Managers are expected to visit an average of 1 innovative/visionary soil health farmer per quarter and 1 conservative/pragmatic farmer per quarter. Time spent with innovative/visionary soil health farmers helps identify needed field day and training topics, while visits with conservative/pragmatic farmers helps gain perspective on their concerns about soil health practices – which is then used for outreach development. (Strategic Plan Goals 1.1 and 1.2)

Support for Indiana SWCDs' and Other Local Partners' Outreach and Education Programs

- CCSI Program Managers support a minimum of 12 locally-led soil health outreach/education efforts per quarter, combined. A spreadsheet listing active Clean Water Indiana and EPA Section 319/205 grants helps identify local-level partners with specific outreach deliverables. As described above, this "blank label" approach to soil health outreach helps Districts and other partners elevate their cost-share and technical assistance programs and connect with their growers to get more conservation on the ground. When combined with intake as described above in communications with stakeholders, development of these programs can better resound with partners' target demographic groups, improving outreach effectiveness.
- Soil health trainings provided to Indiana SWCDs and other conservation agencies have enabled local staff to deliver consistent farmer-proven and science-based information on soil health practices. CCSI Program Managers provide 'behind-the-scenes' support for delivery of soil health trainings for Indiana SWCDs and other conservation partner staff. This includes flyer development and registration management, vetting and securing venues, booking and travel arrangements for guest speakers, down to AV, catering and other day-of logistics. This helps to ensure that the CCSI Agronomist and partner training organizers can focus on content. During virtual training events CCSI Program Managers have also taken on the role of meeting facilitators – handling admission to meetings/webinars in compliance with USDA guidelines, providing off-line tech support for attendees having trouble with the platform, and managing the platform audio, video, and chat. Again – these activities help to ensure seamless delivery of soil health trainings so that presenters and training organizers can focus on content. (Strategic Plan Goals 2.2 and 2.3)
- The CCSI team has collectively developed a wide-spread network of farmers, researchers, agronomists and other soil health experts. CCSI Program Managers provide connectivity between that network and local-level partners. This provides additional technical support to the farmers with whom District and other conservation staff work to help ensure successful adoption of soil health practices. (Strategic Plan Goal 1.3)

**Please note: the CCSI Strategic Plan will be reviewed by the Oversight Committee in June 2022. Further steps/potential modifications will be identified at that time.*

Outcomes/Goals:

Short-term (Learning & Knowledge)

- Improved capacity of partners, especially at a local level, for soil heath outreach and education.
- Improved targeting and delivery of local-level outreach and education efforts
- Improved Indiana SWCD and other conservation partner staffs' knowledge and skills to assist farmers and landowners seeking to adopt soil health practices.

Medium Term (Action)

- Increased number of farmers and landowners seeking information, programmatic, and technical assistance to adopt soil health practices
- More ag professionals seeking additional information and skills in soil health practices
- Substantial progress to adoption of BMP adoption goals as described in background and situation

Long Term (Conditions/Ultimate Impact)

- Increased adoption of soil health practices leading to
    - Increased SOM
    - Improved aggregate stability
    - Increased water infiltration
    - Increased water-holding capacity
    - Improved nutrient use efficiency
    - Enhanced and diversified soil biology
- Improved surface water quality
- Improved habitat for beneficials, including pollinators
- Improved resiliency of farmland in soil health systems to extreme weather events
- Improved profit stability for farms

**See Attachment B, Program Manager 2022 Plan of Work, for detailed information on outcomes and goals related to specific activities.*

TRACKING AND EVALUATION

CCSI maintains a database of soil health training attendance dating back to 2008 and continues to do so. This database has proved invaluable to track and identify USDA-NRCS, SWCD, and Indiana State Department of Agriculture staff who need to attend trainings to comply with Certified Conservation Planning requirements and add trainings as necessary to help ensure staff meet those requirements. Post-training surveys are used to develop and refine future trainings.

CCSI maintains a database of soil health events in which the program materially participated. This database includes dates, locations, target audiences, speakers/topics – and attendance. Year-to-year county-level analysis is used to identify SWCDs and other local partners that may not be as active and may be in more need of outreach support than others. Additionally, a survey developed by the National Wildlife Federation for a pilot impact-tracking project will be deployed (as approved by event partners) to gauge the effectiveness of soil health events. Results will be shared with partner organizations

BMP adoption progress is tracked through Indiana Tillage and Cover Crop Transect results along with cooperative tracking by Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance and 4R partners.

PARTNER PROJECTS AND CONTRIBUTION

Formally established on January 28, 2010, the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) is a program of the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP). In 2011, five of the eight ICP organizations entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to define the roles and responsibilities of the partners. The MOU was updated and reaffirmed in October 2017, defining the partner roles and responsibilities as follows:

- State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB)
    - Support CCSI in the SSCB Business Plan;
    - Provide base funding for the program as available;
    - Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program; and
    - Assist in the future growth of the program.
- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD)
    - Collect and administer the funds for the CCSI program;
    - IASWCD Executive Director will provide day to day supervision of the CCSI Director;
    - Communicate about the program in the Bi-weekly Update e-newsletter;
    - Serves as fiscal agent for the program
    - Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program; and
    - Assign the IASWCD Executive Director to the Oversight and Executive Committees.
- USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
    - Provide base funding for the program as available;
    - Provide additional technical resources and training as needed and available;
    - Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program; and
    - Assist in the future growth of the program.
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
    - Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program;
    - Assist in the future growth of the program; and
    - Provide additional technical resources and training as needed and available.
- Purdue University Extension Service
    - Annually appoint (2) liaisons (staggered terms) to the oversight committee to assist in providing strategic direction for the program;
    - Provide additional technical resources and training as needed and available;
    - Explore new/on-going research needs related to the program; and
    - Assist in the future growth of the program.

Additional to the MOU, Purdue University Agronomy Department provides support for the CCSI Agronomist position, including partial salary and fringe, office space, IT, and general administrative assistance.

The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Chapter, and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council/Indiana Soybean Alliance also provide guidance and support as affiliate members of the CCSI oversight committee.

The National Association of Conservation Districts currently provides $93,000 in financial support for Program Manager Salaries and Fringe through September 2022.

USE OF CWI FUNDS

CWI funds are requested for a 24-month period to support salary, travel, supplies and equipment for CCSI Program Manager positions. (Note – fringe has been specifically omitted to ensure alignment with Clean Water Indiana guidelines.

In 2020, a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Technical Assistance grant was awarded to CCSI to support CCSI Program Manager Salary and Fringe Expenses. This grant will expire in September 2022. Currently, the amount requested through Clean Water Indiana would provide support for Program Manager Salary through mid-May 2023. If a "Priority Request" application to NACD is approved for funding, the amount requested through Clean Water Indiana would provide Program Manager travel, supplies and equipment support through December 2023; additionally, CWI funds would provide partial Program Manager salary support through February 2023.

Two CWI budget scenarios are attached to this proposal (Attachment A):

- Scenario 1 reflects Program Manager support *without* approval of an NACD Priority Request application.
- Scenario 2 reflects Program Manager support *with* approval of an NACD Priority Request application.

Attachment A - Budget

SCENARIO 1 PROGRAM MANAGER NACD + CWI

CY 2022 - Scenario 1				
		NACD	CWI	Other
Program Managers				
Salary	116,000	71,500	44,500	
Fringe	21,500	21,500		
Travel	12,000			12,000
Supplies and Equipment	1,200	-		1,200
	150,700	**93,000**	**44,500**	**13,200**

CY 2023 - Scenario 1				
		NACD	CWI	Other
Program Managers				
Salary	120,000	-	45,500	74,500
Fringe	22,000			22,500
Travel	12,000			12,000
Supplies and Equipment	1,200	-		1,200
	155,200	**-**	**45,500**	**110,200**

CWI Ask - $90000 over 2 years
CWI Match -97% (NACD)
Salary and Fringe include COL increases for 2022 and 2023

SCENARIO 2 PROGRAM MANAGER + CWI

CY 2022 - Scenario 2				
		NACD	CWI	Other
Program Managers				
Salary	116,000	71,500	44,500	-
Fringe	21,500	21,500		
Travel	12,000		9,000	3,000
Supplies and Equipment	1,200	-	900	300
	150,700	**93,000**	**54,400**	**3,300**

CY 2023 - Scenario 2				
		NACD		Other
Program Managers			CWI	
Salary	120,000	97,600	22,400	-
Fringe	22,000	22,500		
Travel	12,000		12,000	-
Supplies and Equipment	1,200	-	1,200	-
	155,200	**120,100**	**35,600**	**-**

CWI Ask - $90000 over 2 years
CWI Match 237% (NACD)
Salary and Fringe include COL increases for 2022 and 2023
Scenario 2 = 2nd round of NACD TA grants
Scenario 2 "Other" reflects costs incurred through March 2022

Attachment B
CCSI Program Manager - Calendar Year 2022 Plan of Work

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1.1 Innovative and Visionary Farmers

Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long or farm shop visit (each Program Manager)

Activity: Visits with Innovative/Visionary Farmers. Also include phone calls, dinners, etc.

↓↓↓↓

Outputs: 1) Topics identified by Innovative/Visionary Farmers as needed for CCSI outreach/education. 2) Innovative / Visionary Farmers are part of structured programs (workshops, field days, mentoring) to reach other farmers.

↓

Outcome: Refined workshops and field day topics and speakers as adoption needs and crop year conditions require. Information to be shared with other CCSI staff during weekly teleconference.

↓

Goals: 1) Increase in adoption of soil health practices. 2) Increase in number of Innovative/Visionary farmers serving as mentors or conservation organization advisors.

1.2 Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, farm shop visit, or round table (each Program Manager)

Activity: Visits with Conservative/Pragmatic Farmers.

↓↓↓↓

Outputs: 1) Concerns/problems Conservative/Pragmatic Farmers have with soil health practice adoption are identified. 2) Potential conservative/pragmatic farmer panelists are identified for field days.

↓

Outcomes: 1) Better definition of information needed by farmers newer to soil health practice adoption. Information to be shared with other CCSI staff during weekly teleconference. 2) More conservative/pragmatic farmers become champions of soil health practices

↓

Goals: Increase in number of farmers successfully adopting of soil health practices.

1.3 Farmer Influencers

Quarterly Target: 1 meeting with influencer/influencer group specific to conservation adoption OR 1 meeting with Local Level Partnership specific to their adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (each Program Manger)

Activity: Connecting Ag-Retailers, Agronomists, Lenders, Groups like Women4theLand, etc. with LLPs - to influence Influencers to be included in outreach and education planning. (Not just sponsorship)

↓↓↓↓

Output: Farmer Influencers become part of Local Level Partners' planning or outreach/education teams.

↓

Outcome: Additional pathways to reach Conservative/Pragmatic farmers to influence their conservation adoption.

↓

Goal: Increased number of Conservative/Pragmatic farmers attending workshops, enrolling in conservation programs, or seeking technical assistance in soil health practice adoption.

G2. Local Level Partnership Support

2.1 Support Local Level Partnerships' Outreach and Education

Quarterly Target: Materially participate in / support average of 6 LLP outreach efforts (each Program Manger)

Activity: Helping organize, find speakers for, and generally supporting workshops, field days, round tables, virtual farm visits, etc. targeting farmers, landowners, or farmer-influencers.

↓↓↓↓

Output: Soil Health outreach/education events – ideally designed for and targeted to specific audiences.

↓

Outcome: Farmers, landowners, and farmer-influencers – ideally newer faces – attend outreach education events.

↓

Goal: Farmers, landowners, and farmer-influencers learn about soil health practices and the assistance available to them to help improve successful adoption of conservation practices, resulting in increased acres in soil health systems.

2.2 Trainings

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with CCSI Training Advisory Committee. Can also include events like Hoosier Chapter SWCS meetings.

Activity: Train-the-Trainer learning events for conservation staff and others who work one-on-one with farmers, landowners, and farmer influencers.

↓↓↓↓

Output: Those who work one-on-one with farmers, landowners, and farmer influencers attend trainings.

↓

Outcomes: 1) Those who work one-on-one with farmers, landowners, and farmer influencers increase soil health practice knowledge and technical skills; 2) Consistency of language in soil health communications by those who work one-on-one with farmers, landowners, and farmer influencers.

↓

Goal: Farmers, landowners, and farmer influencers receive increased/improved technical assistance in adoption of soil health practices, resulting in increased acres in soil health *systems.*

2.3 Local Level Partnership Visits

Targets: 2-3 LLP visits/month; 9 CCSI Teleconference / Region annually (each Program Manager)

Activity: LLP "meet-n-greets"; CCSI Regional Teleconferences.

↓↓↓↓

Output: LLPs receive information and updates about CCSI activities and resources available through CCSI.

↓

Outcome: LLPs have increased understanding of the tools and resources CCSI can provide as support for their outreach/education activities.

↓

Goal: Increased use of CCSI resources, especially those helping to target specific audiences; Identification of needed tools and resources.

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

3.1 Marketing

Quarterly Target: 2 CCSI Updates at larger partner meetings. Ex -NRCS Area Meetings, Soil Health Team Meetings, SWCD Region Meetings, IDEA Meetings, etc. (each Program Manager)

Activity: Partner meeting updates.

↓↓↓↓

Output: Partners receive information and updates about CCSI activities and resources available through CCSI.

↓

Outcome: Partners have increased understanding of the tools and resources CCSI can provide as support for their outreach/education activities.

↓

Goal: Increased use of CCSI resources, especially those helping to target specific audiences; Identification of needed tools and resources.

3.2 Soil Health Messaging Materials & Tools

Quarterly Target: 1-2 Blog Posts (each Program Manager); 6 Newsletters (newsletters are a combined CCSI staff effort) Note – podcasts are by other staff.

Activity: Write Blog Posts; Collect partner highlights for CCSI Soil Health Newsletter; Draft semi-monthly CCSI Soil Health Newsletter (newsletter draft is a combined effort).

↓↓↓↓

Output: Partners receive information and updates about podcasts and other timely topics in blog posts; Partners receive updates on upcoming soil health events and partner efforts are highlighted in CCSI Newsletter.

↓

Outcome: Partners and others learn about Indiana soil health activities, upcoming events, and soil health practices.

↓

Goal: Partners and others attend more soil health events; Increased support of CCSI and partners.

3.3 Social Media

Monthly Target: 2 Facebook Posts (each Program Manager). Note – Twitter posts by other staff

Activity: Post content to CCSI Facebook page. May be from outreach event, LLP meet-n-greet, pictures of soil health practices, a timely topic, etc.

↓↓↓↓

Output: Regular updates to CCSI Facebook page.

↓

Outcome: Partners and others learn about CCSI activities and Indiana soil health practices.

↓

Goal: Increased awareness and support of CCSI and partners.

Project Funding Request:

Pathway to Water Quality, Exhibit Repairs, Replacement and Upgrades

Lead Organization:

IN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD),

On behalf of the Indiana Conservation Partnership

Short Description: The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) has operated the Pathway to Water Quality (PWQ) exhibit at the IN State Fair for over 28 years. This model watershed exhibit directly educates over 70,000 Hoosier fairgoers annually about how their actions influence water and soil quality, and what they can do to improve these resources. The ICP is requesting funding to help replace and repair aging infrastructure in the exhibit, as well as add soil health components to a newly acquired expansion that opened during the 2021 IN State Fair.

Funding Request:

The funding request is separated into three tiers of potential funding. The PWQ Steering Committee, made up of representatives from each of the ICP partners, met twice to discuss priority needs to upgrade and repair the existing exhibit. While the PWQ committee gets a small supply based budget annually from the IN State Fair, that budget has reduced from $6,000 annually to $2,500 annually in the last several years. The funding requests below are focused on permanent repairs and installations, and not on expendable annual supplies, which would be covered under our regular, annual budget.

The High Priority budget includes those items that need immediate repair or attention. The Medium Priority budget includes the highest priority items, along with items that need attention in the next few years. The Low Priority budget includes the high and medium priority items, plus long term items that will improve the exhibit. Itemized budgets for each priority funding request are included in the attachments.

Funding Request Priority	Funding Amount Requested
High Priority	$30,000
Medium Priority	$40,000
Low Priority	$65,000

SWCD involvement: Many districts send volunteers to work the PWQ annually, teaching attendees about soil health, water quality and other natural resource issues like invasive species. Some districts have even used the PWQ model to establish similar exhibits or initiatives at their county fairs. SWCDs are also advertised and acknowledged along with other ICP partners as sponsors of the exhibit. SWCDs have always had, and will continue to have, representation on the PWQ Steering Committee.

High Priority Request Budget	
Item	**Cost**
Replace bridge and deck**	$23,000.00
Repair back shelter roof	$150.00
Establish soil health expansion exhibits	$6,005.00
Miscellaneous (additional materials)	$885.00
TOTAL	**$30,000.00**
*** Based on 3 individual contractor quotes & recommendations for replacement*	

Medium Priority Request Budget	
Item	**Cost**
High priority request items	$30,000.00
Septic display plexiglass & construction	$300.00
Permanent/Artificial Soil Health Root Tubes	$6,100.00
Gravel for Soil Health expansion path	$600.00
PWQ T-shirt purchase	$2,000.00
Miscellaneous (additional materials)	$1,000.00
TOTAL	**$40,000.00**

Low Priority Request Budget	
Item	**Cost**
High & medium priority request items	$40,000.00
ICP partner signs for expansion PWQ sign	$2,025.00
Electric people counters for attendees	$700.00
Red barn stabilization	$180.00
Pervious pavement in Soil Health area expansion	$22,095.00
TOTAL	**$65,000.00**

High Priority Request Attachments

Shelter Repair

Deck Replacement

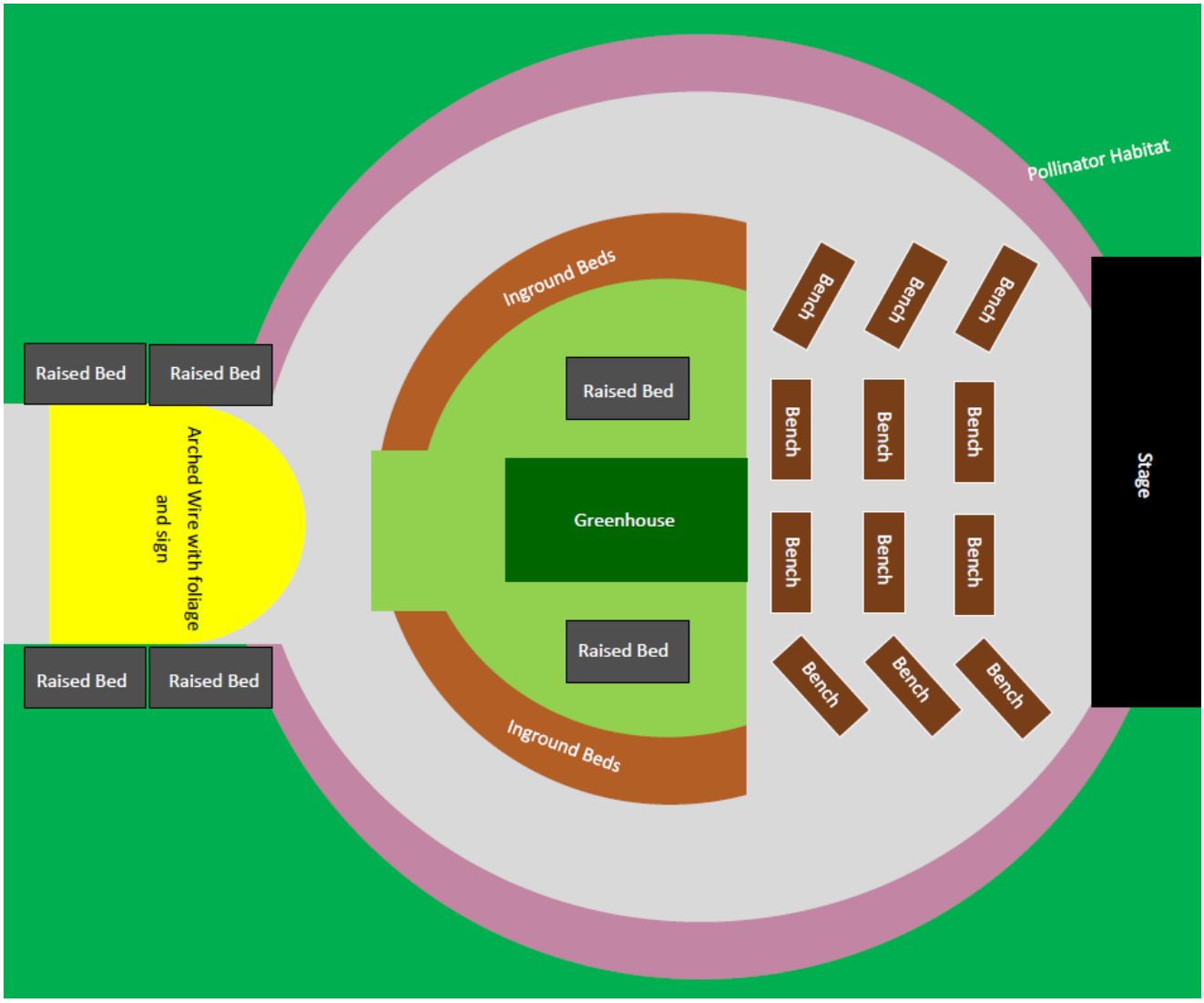
Urban Soil Health expansion budget

PRIMARY ELEMENTS			
Raised beds	Per unit	#	
Wood	$ 50.00	6	$300
Cinder blocks	$ 1.00	104	$104
Stain / weather proof	$ 10.00	4	$40
Nails / screws	$ 20.00	1	$20
Soil (blend of compost / topsoil)	$ 35.00	8	$280
Soil delivery	$ 100.00	1	$100
Landscaping fabric	$ 20.00	2	$40
Gravel	$ 50.00	2	$100
Cattle pannel - arches	$ 30.00	2	$60
T-posts / other	$ 7.00	8	$56
Fasteners	$ 25.00	1	$25
Wood mulch	$ 30.00	5	$150
Irrigation - drip	$ 50.00	2	$100
			$1,375
High tunnel (mini)	Per unit	#	
Cattle pannel	$ 30.00	2	$60
T-posts / other	$ 7.00	8	$56
Greenhouse plastic	$ 100.00	1	$100
Fasteners	$ 25.00	1	$25
Irrigation - drip	$ 50.00	2	$100
			$341
In-Ground beds	Per unit	#	
Sod removal	$ 100.00	1	$100
Soil (blend of compost / topsoil)	$ 35.00	4	$140
Trellising	$ 100.00	1	$100
Cattle pannel	$ 30.00	2	$60
			$400
Conservation practices	Per unit	#	
Mulch - straw/hay	$ 7.00	4	$28
Plastic mulch	$ 100.00	1	$100
Landscaping fabric	$ 100.00	1	$100
Paper roll	$ 40.00	1	$40
Cover crop seed	$ 100.00	1	$100
Silage tarp	$ 100.00	1	$100
Row cover?	$ 20.00	1	$20
Row cover hoops	$ 6.00	6	$36

			$524
Plants	Per unit	#	
Annual vegetable starts	$ 5.00	50	$250
Annual flowers starts	$ 3.00	50	$150
Native plants - plugs	$ 5.00	100	$500
			$0
			$900
Signage	Per unit	#	
Practices, etc.	$ 125.00	8	$1,000
Cover crops / annual practices	$ 20.00	10	$200
			$1,200
Other	Per unit	#	
Hose, sprayer	$ 40.00	1	$40
Fertilizer / amendments	$ 50.00	1	$50
Pest management	$ 25.00	1	$25
Whisky barrels - flower beds	$150	1	$150
			$265
	Total		**$5,005**
$1,000 buffer for expenses	Total		**$6,005**

Soil Health Area expansion

Proposed Updates to Soil Health Area expansion



Medium Priority Request Attachments

Artificial/Permanent Soil Health Tubes ($1,500/tube)

Low Priority Request Attachments

Partner signs (picture is existing/original sign)

State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan
2020-2024

The mission of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is to provide information, advice, consultation and resources to Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors to assist them in carrying out their powers and programs.

Key Actions/Progress: The SSCB will provide policy and funding direction to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC) on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana Program (CWI), to help address statewide natural resource concerns on rural, suburban, and urban lands as identified in local Soil and Water Conservation District business plans.

The SSCB has identified the following as statewide priority natural resource concerns to be addressed over the next five years:

- **Water Quality** including sediment, nutrients, pesticides, *E-coli* and other non-point sources of water pollution found in our streams, rivers and lakes.
- **Soil Health/Degradation** which includes but isn't limited to, soil biology impacts that degrade soil quality, the loss of top soil due to water and wind erosion, the depletion of organic matter, as well as soil compaction.
- **Invasive Species**, both flora and fauna, specifically in regards to developing an understanding with state organizations in regards to invasive species control
- **Erosion**
- **Streambank Erosion**

Other statewide priority:

- **District Capacity/Accountability** which empowers Soil and Water Conservation Districts to effectively address the prior mentioned resource concerns.

Strategic Plan Vision:

The SSCB identified the priority resource concerns above. We will prioritize our evaluations of the CWI grant program based on these resource concerns. In the next five years we will use these resource concerns to guide all decisions made by the SSCB. The SSCB has determined the following four areas in which we will focus our attention on to help advance conservation in Indiana. We have also identified priorities that will help guide our CWI grant program during the life strategic plan.

Proposed High Level Goals and Action Items

- **Engage supervisors to be effective leaders in their communities and at the state level.**

  Actions:

  - Support Leadership Institute for supervisors and employees by increase participation and access. Consider providing both in person training as well as on-line training opportunities.
  - By 2023, __60_____% SWCD supervisors of the district will have attended training. (3/5?)
  - Support new supervisor orientation
    - Each new supervisor will be required to participate
    - New supervisors shall be advised on the reporting requirements for SWCD's to remain eligible and within legal requirements of the state.

- **Increase local SWCD capacity to be effective partners in the Indiana Conservation Partnership delivery of conservation across the state.**

  Actions:

  - The leveraging sheet will continue to be updated and available for SWCD use annually.
  - Create a portfolio of example policies for SWCDs
    - County council representative as an SWCD Associate Supervisor
    - Supervisor attendance policy
  - Work with ICP to find creative ways to increase capacity at local level
  - Ensure all capacity funding through ICP is supported by local officials
  - Encourage and facilitate when possible non-ICP (non-traditional) partnerships for new resources (i.e., food industry, fertilizer suppliers)>
  - Encourage supporting tools for current SWCD staff by working closely with IDEA, ISDA and IASWCD.
    - Job description
    - Performance evaluations

- **Keep elected officials, local to state, informed on conservation progress and needs to reach statewide goals.**

  Actions:

  - Produce a "State of the State" annual report targeted at decision makers.
  - Ensure resources are available for outreach materials for counties to use to educate decision makers.
  - Support the ICP to establish metrics for soil and nutrient loss for Indiana.
  - Lead or facilitate opportunities for elected officials to learn about resource concerns.

- **Report to IN [larger public] progress and concerns for the priority natural resources concerns.**

  Actions:

  - Improve communication/coordination with IASWCD to make sure both successes and needs are being shared widely cross the state.
  - Build a communication strategy by supporting existing ICP partnership, SSCB will help to ensure delivery of communications and resources needed to be effective.
  - SSCB will take leadership role on reporting conservation status both successes and needs that will help advance conservation.

Strategy Plans for CWI funding:

CWI Grants goals

- SSCB would like to see specific outcomes on grant applications and impact on community defined in each application.
- Increased accountability across the state to ensure deliverables are being met and accountability requirements in compliance.
- Grants that are awarded that are intended to be long-term projects (greater than 3 years) become sustainable projects with a plan developed and implemented for funding from a different source (non-CWI).

State Soil Conservation Board 2021 Annual Plan of Work DRAFT

Updated 7.20.21

High Level Goal: **Engage supervisors to be effective leaders in their communities and at the state level.**

Priority	Action	Why	Lead	How	When
Look further into asking supervisors and staff to be leaders (not just trained) and communicators. Example- they need to be going to county council meetings and communicating their goals.	Raise awareness of supervisor responsibilities as elected officials to see that the natural resource needs of their communities are addressed.	The office of Sup. Is delegitimized by the fact that it is not on the general ballot. They operate in a vacuum compared to other elected officials. Low bar for accountability and performance.	Ray (Outline) Kenny Brad (Outline) Ray and Brad will work with DSS's to develop message based on outline.	Speak at annual conference breakout sessions or regional training events or other platforms. Message should be the same in every region.	ASAP
Work with ICP to create metrics	Engage ICP to use their resources to create metrics for soil loss that can be used at the district and state levels to raise awareness of the current costs of soil erosion economically and environmentally.	Current metrics on tons saved and benefits of soil health need to be balanced by recognizing the magnitude of the damage and costs of current soil loss, particularly due to streambank erosion.	Ray will take the lead to develop this. Jordan shared contact information for Arthur, to get on ICP Agenda. Arthur.Hawkins@USDA.GOV	Get on the agenda of the ICP leaders and present at one of their regular meetings. This was passed as a resolution at the IASWCD business meeting a few years ago. They need to be reminded.	This year if possible.

High Level Goal: **Increase local SWCD capacity to be effective partners in the Indiana Conservation Partnership delivery of conservation across the state.**

Priority	Action	Why	Lead	How	When
Encourage and facilitate non ICP-partnerships of like minds	Motivate IASWCD Regional directors to reach down and get involved in their regions' districts. KC	The lack of local supervisors' connection to the bigger picture and importance of their role in ICP	SSCB member	Give update of responsibilities and a portrait of the perfect Regional Director	Whenever we can get on their agenda. KC

High Level Goal: **Keep elected officials, local to state, informed on conservation progress and needs to reach statewide goals.**

Priority	Action	Why	Lead	How	When
Not as much a priority item, but a tool to help SSCB meet other goals. Update board on this tool as more is developed on it this year.	Begin work on State of the State report. Possibly allocate resources towards this. Look at pieces of communication of other agency reports (e.g. ISDA, IASWCD) too.		Julie/Purdue contractor IDEM funds are being used to develop this goal Amy	Department of Ag works with Association to develop this.	This Fall, Amy and Julie will update the board with where this tool stands and what is next.
Need more dollars to fund programs needed on effectiveness of projects.	Develop the information from all reports into one large report of information. Have a report card to show "how we are doing".	Hypoxia task force, nutrient load reduction information.		Can we allocate CWI $ to create this report.	

High Level Goal: **Report to IN [larger public] progress and concerns for the priority natural resources concerns.**

Priority	**Action**	**Why**	**Lead**	**How**	**When**
Get a message and platform to reach the general public. Could we collaborate with DSC on this and get a press release out to the population at large?	Reach out to "Big Picture Studio" to market ICP goals to general public. KC	Educate the general public the relevance of soil carbon sequestration (CCSI), and all the other efforts the ICP are making to mitigate climate change. I would hope with an awareness of our efforts and successes we can enlist more passion from the general public... motivated supervisors will come to the fore.	Kenny Cain Reach out to lead for more information or new ideas.	Think outside the box and spend some money raising awareness within the general public, that their legacy will be a planet their grand kids are not going to like. (Fear of loss... great motivation) KC	Ray and I are on CCSI ad hoc committee meetings with "Big Picture Studio" March 4th and 9th to expand our CCSI communication efforts, and we will report back the 16th. KC

High Level Goal: **Strategy Plans for CWI funding:**

Priority	**Action**	**Why**	**Lead**	**How**	**When**
Emphasize quality goals are needed in CWI applications (e.g. specific, quantifiable) and applications will be scored on these goals	Hire passionate staff	Supervisors and one staff person not enough Goals in past are not measurable	Larry Amy	Get the word out in 2022	Soon .... grants committee doodle poll is about done KC Networking sessions this year.
Promote Soil Health	Continue CCSI KC	Soil Health KC	Ray and Kenny for now I'm (Kenny) out of rotation next year as a member of CCSI steering committee	Continued membership from SSCB on CCSI steering committee	On going

INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

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

MEMO
To: All SWCD Supervisors
Date: March 16, 2022
Re: Preventing Workplace and Sexual Harassment Training for SWCD Supervisors

Awareness around workplace and sexual harassment has changed significantly in recent years. The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB), the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) have taken a proactive approach to examine what's provided to local SWCD leaders. In November 2018, we recommended each SWCD board of supervisors participate in a training webinar "Preventing Workplace and Sexual Harassment" and review the training at least once every three years.

An updated version of this training is now available: https://youtu.be/xDWaywaBjAY. The video is approximately 10 minutes in length.

By August 30, 2022, all supervisors within each SWCD should complete the training. Supervisors can document their participation here: https://arcg.is/1ruyfP. ISDA will maintain this tracking sheet. Districts can request a copy of this data by contacting their District Support Specialist https://www.in.gov/isda/files/DSS-MAP-012522.pdf.

Also, we recognize some county governments or employers already require similar sexual harassment prevention training for SWCD supervisors or individuals. In this case, please provide documentation of completed training within the last three years within the link above as this is considered a substitute.

Please join us in this statewide effort to continue strengthening a positive working environment. We appreciate all that you contribute. Please contact your DSS with any questions.

Thank you,

(insert electronic signatures only after mutual approval)

Kenny Cain	Bruce Kettler	Bobby Hettmansperger
Chairman	Director	President
SSCB	ISDA	IASWCD

SSCB Meeting - March 15, 2022 - CREP Summary

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total		
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 3/9/2022	233.48	52.20	6,531.32	51.63	830.92	8,056.58	1998.42	3,783.13	**21,537.68**	**26,250.00**	**82.05%**
Total CREP Enrollment	240.07	52.20	6,843.60	74.14	863.14	8,350.47	2246.21	3,977.46	**22,647.29**	**26,250.00**	**86.28%**
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	**610.90**		
								Difference =	1,109.62		

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fee	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total CREP Dollars	$ 23,158.00	$ 5,220.00	$ 661,622.00	$ 21,530.00	$ 345,397.00	$ 3,329,921.00	$ 1,797,787.50	$ 2,915,756.50	**$ 9,100,392.00**	**$ 768,576.70**	**$ 9,868,968.70**

Federal Match of $4-$13 is between $ 36,401,568.00
$ 118,305,096.00

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 3/9/2022	0.00	0.00	358.09	1.58	2.90	34.56	0.00	211.02	**608.15**

Note: These acres are not re-counted in the total above, however they do receive incentive payments.

SSCB Meeting - March 15, 2022 - CREP Acres (broken down by watershed)

Post-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	0.00	0.00	11.98	0.00	3.10	134.60	0.00	0.00	149.68
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	21.51	0.00	0.00	644.70	0.00	0.00	666.21
Lower East Fork White	53.50	45.20	168.71	30.30	83.17	751.44	287.16	0.00	1419.48
Lower White	10.70	0.00	189.97	0.00	129.29	2,255.91	123.03	0.00	2,708.90
Middle Wabash-Busseron	2.00	0.00	9.02	0.00	17.40	1,550.69	753.58	91.60	2,424.29
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	108.63	0.00	0.00	73.10	37.17	59.42	284.92
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	165.34	6.97	64.11	754.39	505.89	177.70	1,678.90
Tippecanoe River	93.84	0.00	664.07	0.00	3.41	21.40	87.30	2,354.13	3,224.15
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	419.65	0.00	38.40	201.92	0.00	0.00	659.97
Upper Wabash	23.15	7.00	1011.50	2.56	64.19	282.43	82.59	89.10	1562.52
Upper White	35.09	0.00	216.44	0.00	287.15	328.10	0.00	71.18	937.96
Reported Completed as of 3/9/2022	**229.38**	**52.20**	**2,986.82**	**39.83**	**690.22**	**6,998.68**	**1876.72**	**2,843.13**	**15,716.98**
Enrolled as of 3/9/2022	**235.97**	**52.20**	**3,299.10**	**62.34**	**722.44**	**7,292.57**	**2,124.51**	**3,037.46**	**16,826.59**

Pre-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.50	0.00	215.00	10.80	16.40	109.20	0.00	0.00	353.90
Tippecanoe River	0.00	0.00	2,916.80	0.00	7.80	20.40	121.70	924.00	3,990.70
Upper White	1.60	0.00	412.70	1.00	116.50	928.30	0.00	16.00	1476.10
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	**4.10**	**0.00**	**3,544.50**	**11.80**	**140.70**	**1,057.90**	**121.70**	**940.00**	**5,820.70**

Extension Acres

				CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total Extension Acres
Extension Acres -Tippecanoe						14.80	121.70		136.50
Extension Acres -Upper White				1.00	53.70	413.70		6.00	474.40
Total Extension Acres				**1.00**	**53.70**	**428.50**	**121.70**	**6.00**	**610.90**

CREP to CREP reenrollment

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland Pigeon	0.0	0.0	25.53	1.58	2.90	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.01
Tippecanoe	0.0	0.0	292.65	0.00	0.00	14.1	0.0	193.82	500.53
Upper White	0.0	0.0	39.91	0.00	0.00	20.5	0.0	17.2	77.61
CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 3/9/2022	**0.0**	**0.0**	**358.09**	**1.58**	**2.90**	**34.56**	**0.0**	**211.02**	**608.15**

SSCB Meeting - March 15, 2022 - CREP Dollars (broken down by watershed)

Post-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fees	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	$ -	$ -	$ 2,881.00	$ 632.00	$ 2,400.00	$ 53,840.00	$ -	$ -	$ 59,753.00	$ 5,975.30	$ 65,728.30
Lower Wabash	$ -	$ -	$ 1,188.00	$ -	$ -	$ 257,880.00	$ -	$ -	$ 259,068.00	$ 25,906.80	$ 284,974.80
Lower East Fork White	$ 5,350.00	$ 4,520.00	$ 16,871.00	$ 12,120.00	$ 33,268.00	$ 300,576.00	$ 272,802.00	$ -	$ 645,507.00	$ 64,550.70	$ 710,057.70
Lower White	$ 1,070.00	$ -	$ 8,275.00	$ -	$ 51,716.00	$ 899,804.00	$ 98,107.00	$ -	$ 1,058,972.00	$ 105,897.20	$ 1,164,869.20
Middle Wabash-Busseron	$ 200.00	$ -	$ 642.00	$ -	$ 5,400.00	$ 620,276.00	$ 691,701.00	$ 87,020.00	$ 1,405,239.00	$ 140,523.90	$ 1,545,762.90
Middle Wabash-Deer	$ 660.00	$ -	$ 10,863.00	$ -	$ -	$ 29,240.00	$ 21,781.50	$ 18,073.00	$ 80,617.50	$ 8,061.75	$ 88,679.25
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	$ 450.00	$ -	$ 10,074.00	$ 2,788.00	$ 25,644.00	$ 301,756.00	$ 480,595.50	$ 163,315.00	$ 984,622.50	$ 98,462.25	$ 1,083,084.75
Tippecanoe River	$ 9,384.00	$ -	$ 94,226.00	$ -	$ 1,364.00	$ 14,184.00	$ 75,235.00	$ 2,135,548.00	$ 2,329,941.00	$ 232,994.10	$ 2,562,935.10
Upper East Fork White	$ -	$ -	$ 41,965.00	$ -	$ 15,360.00	$ 80,768.00	$ -	$ -	$ 138,093.00	$ 13,809.30	$ 151,902.30
Upper Wabash	$ 2,125.00	$ 700.00	$ 96,167.00	$ 1,024.00	$ 25,676.00	$ 112,972.00	$ 78,460.50	$ 59,799.50	$ 376,924.00	$ 37,692.40	$ 414,616.40
Upper White	$ 3,509.00	$ -	$ 24,020.00	$ -	$ 114,860.00	$ 128,340.00	$ -	$ 74,501.00	$ 345,230.00	$ 34,523.00	$ 379,753.00
Upper White Extensions	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,800.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,800.00	$ 180.00	$ 1,980.00
Reported Paid as of 3/9/2022	**$ 22,748.00**	**$ 5,220.00**	**$ 307,172.00**	**$ 16,564.00**	**$ 277,488.00**	**$ 2,799,636.00**	**$ 1,718,682.50**	**$ 2,538,256.50**	**$ 7,685,767.00**	**$ 768,576.70**	**$ 8,454,343.70**

Pre-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	$ 250.00	$ -	$ 21,500.00	$ 4,316.00	$ 6,564.00	$ 43,680.00	$ -	$ -	$ 76,310.00
Tippecanoe River	$ -	$ -	$ 291,680.00	$ -	$ 3,120.00	$ 8,160.00	$ 48,680.00	$ 369,600.00	$ 721,240.00
Tippecanoe River Extensions	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,700.00	$ 30,425.00	$ -	$ 34,125.00
Upper White	$ 160.00	$ -	$ 41,270.00	$ 400.00	$ 46,600.00	$ 371,320.00	$ -	$ 6,400.00	$ 466,150.00
Upper White Extensions	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 250.00	$ 11,625.00	$ 103,425.00	$ -	$ 1,500.00	$ 116,800.00
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	**$ 410.00**	**$ -**	**$ 354,450.00**	**$ 4,966.00**	**$ 67,909.00**	**$ 530,285.00**	**$ 79,105.00**	**$ 377,500.00**	**$ 1,414,625.00**

CREP to CREP reenrollment

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland Pigeon	$ -	$ -	$ 1,683.00	$ 632.00	$ 1,160.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,475.00
Tippecanoe	$ -	$ -	$ 28,145.00	$ -	$ -	$ 5,624.00	$ -	$ 77,528.00	$ 111,297.00
Upper White	$ -	$ -	$ 3,966.00	$ -	$ -	$ 8,200.00	$ -	$ 6,880.00	$ 19,046.00
CREP to CREP reenrollment reported paid as of 3/9/2022	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 33,794.00**	**$ 632.00**	**$ 1,160.00**	**$ 13,824.00**	**$ -**	**$ 84,408.00**	**$ 133,818.00**

Note: These incentive dollars are figured in the total above. This table shows only the breakdown of what is paid for reenrolled CREP to CREP acres.

Update on the Indiana Science Assessment to support the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy

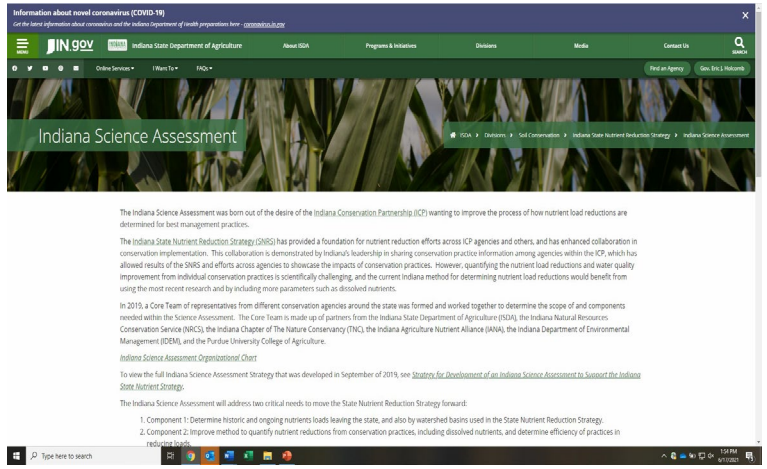
ICP Leaders Meeting
January 11th, 2022

Julie Harrold – Program Manager, CREP and WQ Initiatives
Indiana State Department of Agriculture
jharrold@isda.in.gov

Indiana Science Assessment

- Indiana Science Assessment Core Team
  - * Julie Harrold, ISDA
  - * Marylou Renshaw, IDEM
  - * Jill Reinhart, USDA NRCS
  - * Jane Frankenberger, Purdue University
  - * Ben Wicker, IANA
  - * Mike Dunn, The Nature Conservancy

- Indiana Science Assessment Strategy Developed and Finalized in September 2019
  - Includes two components
  - https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/



Overview of Science Assessment Components

- **Component 1**: Determine historic and ongoing nutrient loads leaving the state, and also by watershed basins used in the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
  - Work on Component 1 began with convening a Sub-committee in September 2019
  - Led by ISDA personnel with support from IDEM, USGS and TNC

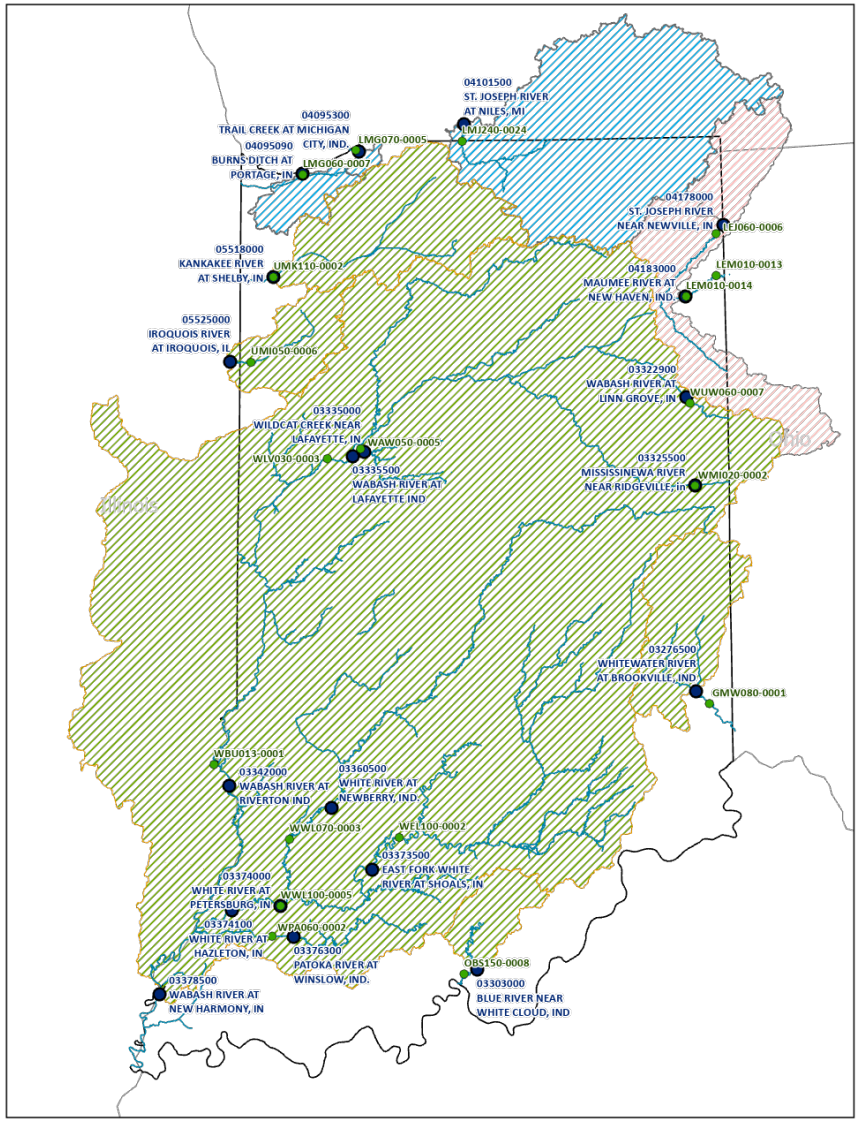
- **Component 2**: Improve method to quantify nutrient reductions from conservation practices, including dissolved nutrients, and determine efficiency of practices in reducing loads.
  - An EPA grant was received in 2020 to help carry-out Component 2
    - Under this grant, a Research Associate was hired to work at Purdue University

INDIANA
STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

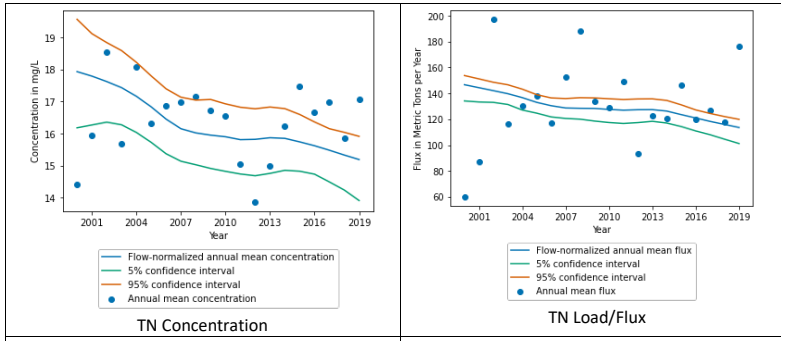
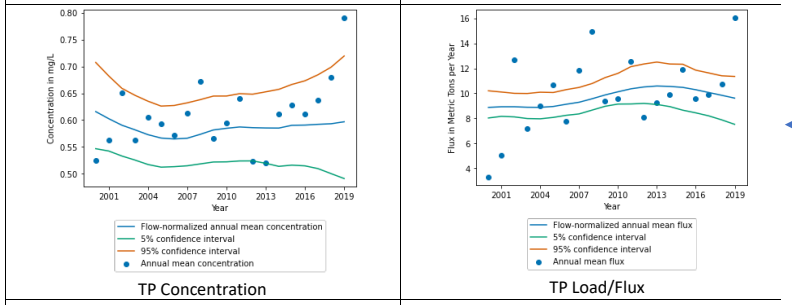
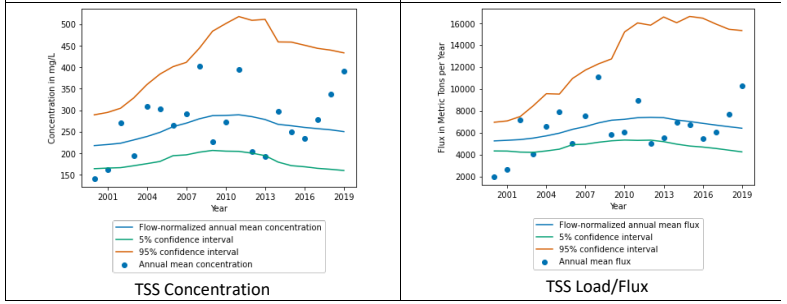
Component 1 Process

- Determine nutrient loads and water quality trends at pour points at the state border and within the state in the major river basins using the USGS Weighted Regressions on Time, Discharge and Season (WRTDS) model
  - IDEM Fixed Station Network Monitoring Sites and USGS Discharge and Stream Gages Network

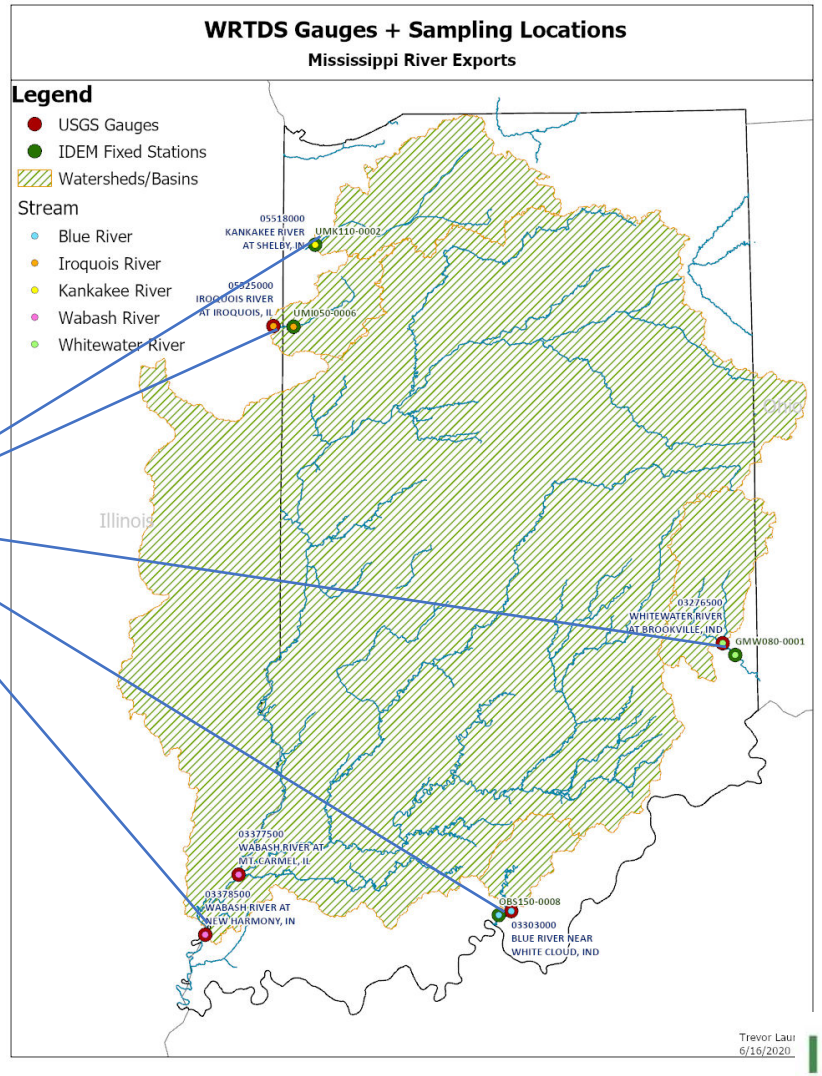
- Parameters in the analysis include: Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, Total Suspended Solids



Component 1 – Trend Analysis Results

	Concentrations	Loads
Total Nitrogen		
Total Phosphorus		
Total Suspended Solids		

*5 Mississippi River Basin Export Sites



Component 2 – Purpose and Outcomes

- Purpose of project is to use in tracking and reporting nutrient loss reductions and practice efficiencies (to improve the state's current process)

- Project also includes having a collective list and consistent definitions of conservation practices

- Outcomes
  - An "estimator" or "calculator" tool for determining reductions in tons and/or lbs. that will be widely accepted and applied to practices implemented in Indiana.

  - A table with widely accepted percent reductions/efficiencies for each practice in Indiana.

Science Committee for Component 2

- Made up of researchers and experts from 5 academic institutions in Indiana and 2 federal science agencies (USDA-ARS and USGS)

Name	Affiliation
Shalamar Armstrong	Purdue University, Agronomy
Bob Barr	IUPUI, Center for Earth and Environmental Science (CEES)
Nate Bosch	Grace College, Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams
Sylvie Brouder	Purdue University, Agronomy
Jim Camberato	Purdue University, Agronomy
Bernie Engel	Purdue University, Agricultural & Biological Engineering
Dennis Flanagan	USDA-ARS, National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory
Jane Frankenberger	Purdue University, Agricultural & Biological Engineering
Jeff Frey	USGS Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center
Eileen Kladivko	Purdue University, Agronomy
Sara McMillan	Purdue University, Agricultural & Biological Engineering
Chad Penn	USDA-ARS, National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory
Linda Prokopy	Purdue University, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
Daniel Quinn	Purdue University, Agronomy
Carson Reeling	Purdue University, Ag Economics
Todd Royer	Indiana University, O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Jennifer Tank	University of Notre Dame, Biology Department
Mark Williams	USDA-ARS, National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory

- Purpose of the Science Committee is to provide guidance on the data analysis and practice criteria, as well as provide feedback on nutrient processes and the effects of conservation practices.

INDIANA
STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Component 2 Staffing

- An EPA grant was received in 2020 to help carry-out Component 2
- A Research Associate is working at Purdue University to conduct literature reviews and data analysis.
  - Gilles Tagne (January to July 2021)
  - Katy Mazer (October 2021 to present)

Time Frame for Component 2

2021

- **10 conservation practices**
  - Soil Health (3 practices)
  - Nutrient Mgmt (4 practices)
  - Edge of Field (3 practices)
- Agree on practice definitions and criteria
- Convene Science Committee to provide expertise and feedback
- Synthesize nutrient load reductions from literature review (in % and lbs/acre)

2022

- **At least 15 additional practices**
  - Agree on practice definitions
  - Synthesize nutrient load reductions
- Reduction efficiencies for the initial 10 practices will be made available in a table format
- Develop draft calculator tool for state use in tracking and reporting nutrient loss reductions

2023

- Complete reduction estimates and calculator tool
- Use in state planning, tracking, reporting

Component 2 - Year 1 practices (first 10 practices)

Soil Health

1. No-Till
2. Reduced Tillage
3. Cover Crops

Edge-of-Field

8. Drainage Water Management
9. Filter Strips
10. Grassed Waterways

Nutrient Management

4. Nitrogen Rate
5. Phosphorus Rate (Based on soil test P)
6. Nitrogen Timing
7. Subsurface Phosphorus Application

- Practices were chosen based on data and goals:
  - data results from ICP assistance (highest adoption)
  - potential of highest load reductions for both nitrogen and phosphorus
  - social science data
  - to align with goals of conservation agencies and organizations

Practice Definitions

- For each practice, definitions and criteria for inclusion in the assessment were developed.

For each practice, three items are given:

1. **NRCS Conservation Practice Standard:** This is included so that the resulting assessment can be used to determine load reductions as practices are implemented by NRCS and the ICP partners. The definition provides a basis for the definition used in this project.
2. **Practice definition**: This definition should provide a broad overview of the practice. It may be the same as the NRCS CPS definition, or it may be modified for clarity. It may include the purpose, and a photo or diagram. The purpose is not to provide details for someone to be able to implement.
3. **Criteria for inclusion in the assessment:** Provide a basis for deciding which studies to include in the systematic review. For this purpose, the definition should focus on required characteristics of implementation or management, not the purpose or goal.

Cover Crops	
NRCS Cons. Practice Standard	Cover Crop (340) Definition: Grasses, legumes, and forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover.
Practice Definition(s)	Cover crops are planted to cover the soil for seasonal protection and soil improvement. Cover crops manage soil erosion, soil structure, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, diseases, biodiversity, and wildlife in an agroecosystem. They can be seeded using a variety of methods including drilling the seed after crop harvest, broadcasting the seed after crop harvest, or aerial broadcasting the seed before harvest. The planting date (early, standard, or late) is based on the average frost date for the area.
Criteria for inclusion in the assessment	To be included in the assessment for **cover crops**, a study must meet the following criteria: 1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and the non-preferred practices. • Preferred (BMP): Cover crop • Non-preferred: No cover crop 1. The cover crop should be established between successive productive (cash) crop harvests, which in Indiana typically means Fall/Winter. 2. Latitude (or regions of the state) will be included as a factor in the effectiveness of the cover crop. 3. The species of the cover crop (winterkill vs. winter hardy) will also be included as a factor in the effectiveness of the cover crop.

Practice Definitions

Guide to Conservation Practice Definitions for Indiana Science Assessment – Version 1

Table of Contents

The **General information/General Practice Definition & Benefits** is intended to provide a broad overview of the practice, and to provide a basis for the definition used in this project.

The **Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment** is to provide a basis for deciding which studies to include in the systematic review. For this purpose, the definition should focus on the required characteristics of implementation or management, not the purpose or goal.

Note: Definitions of other conservation practices will be available in future editions of this guide as practices are added to the Indiana Science Assessment process.

No-Till

General information/General Practice Definition & Benefits

No-till farming is an agricultural technique for growing crops or pasture without disturbing the soil through tillage. It limits soil disturbance to manage the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and plant residue on the soil surface year-round, which can reduce erosion, increase soil health, and conserve soil moisture. Strip-till, which fits the definition of no-till, is the practice of tilling the row where the seed and/or fertilizer will be placed, keeping the residue between the rows undisturbed.

ISDA photo gallery

ISDA photo gallery

This practice includes planting methods commonly referred to as no-till, quality no-till, never-till, zero-till, slot plant, zone-till, strip-till, or direct seed. Approved implements are no-till and strip-till planters; certain drills and air seeders; strip-type fertilizer and manure injectors and applicators; and similar implements that only disturb strips and slots.

Full-width disturbance of any kind is not used for any operation considered a no-till system. Full-width disturbance is any operation that disturbs more than 70% of the soil surface and residue within the implement impact area (i.e. – the soil surface and residue between the plant rows is not disturbed).
The current NRCS definition of no-till for the purpose of conservation practice standard 329 is that the soil tillage intensity rating (STIR) value, which shall include all field operations that are performed during the crop interval between harvest and termination of the previous cash crop and harvest or termination of the current cash crop (includes fallow periods), shall be no greater than 20.

A no-till operation for a single crop year is not a no-till system. See reduced tillage definition.

Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment

To be included in the assessment for **no-till**, a study must meet the following criteria:

1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and non-preferred practices.
   - Preferred (BMP): No-till
   - Non-preferred: Conventional Tillage

Available on [Indiana Science Assessment](#) website

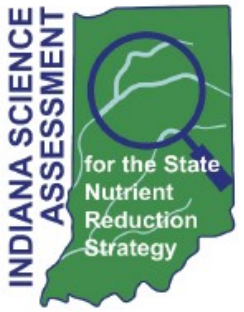
Year 1 Progress Report is completed and is available on the Indiana Science Assessment website.

Science Assessment to Support the
Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Component 2: Quantify Expected Nutrient Reductions from Conservation Practices

Progress Report for Year 1

Prepared by Jane Frankenberger, Purdue University



Background and Vision

The Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy has provided a foundation for nutrient reduction efforts across Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) agencies and has enhanced collaboration in conservation implementation. To address scientific question needed to move the strategy forward, the Indiana Science Assessment is being implemented, comprising two components. Component 1 focuses on determining historic and ongoing nutrients loads leaving the state and its basins, and is led by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Component 2, which focuses on quantifying nutrient reduction from conservation practices, is described in this report.

The goal of the Science Assessment Component 2 is to **develop a method to quantify expected nutrient reductions from conservation practices in Indiana to be used statewide**. The vision is that this process will lead to (1) improved documentation of statewide progress towards nutrient reduction goals, (2) prioritization of the most effective conservation practices based on Indiana conditions to improve program implementation, (3) more accurate assessment of Indiana's contributions to downstream water quality issues, and (4) alignment of communication by researchers, agencies, and others throughout Indiana about conservation practices effectiveness.

Participants and Roles

The Core Team, with members from major conservation organizations and agencies, provides overall guidance to the process.

Core Team Members

Name	Affiliation
Julie Harrold	Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Ben Wicker	Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance
Marylou Renshaw	Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Jill Reinhart	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mike Dunn	The Nature Conservancy
Jane Frankenberger	Purdue University Extension; Agricultural & Biological Engineering

The assessment is guided by a Science Committee composed of experts from throughout Indiana, which provides scientific input and evaluation of the process. The members are established researchers from five academic institutions in Indiana and two federal science agencies (USDA-ARS and USGS) who conduct research related to nutrients and water quality in Indiana.

INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Indiana Science Assessment will lead to:

- Improved documentation showcasing statewide progress towards nutrient reduction goals
- Prioritization of the most effective conservation practices based on Indiana conditions, to improve program implementation
- More accurate assessment of Indiana's contributions to downstream water quality issues.
- Alignment of communication by researchers, agencies, and others throughout Indiana about conservation practices effectiveness
- Enhanced transparency and accuracy for Indiana's water quality improvement quantifications
- A bolstered set of reportable goal-tracking parameters that include dissolved nutrients
- A scientifically sound understanding of the nature of nutrient loading in Indiana waterways.

INDIANA
STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Guide to Conservation Practice Definitions for Indiana Science Assessment – Version 1

Table of Contents

The **General information/General Practice Definition & Benefits** is intended to provide a broad overview of the practice, and to provide a basis for the definition used in this project.

The **Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment** is to provide a basis for deciding which studies to include in the systematic review. For this purpose, the definition should focus on the required characteristics of implementation or management, not the purpose or goal.

Note: Definitions of other conservation practices will be available in future editions of this guide as practices are added to the Indiana Science Assessment process.

No-Till

General information/General Practice Definition & Benefits

No-till farming is an agricultural technique for growing crops or pasture without disturbing the soil through tillage. It limits soil disturbance to manage the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and plant residue on the soil surface year-round, which can reduce erosion, increase soil health, and conserve soil moisture. Strip-till, which fits the definition of no-till, is the practice of tilling the row where the seed and/or fertilizer will be placed, keeping the residue between the rows undisturbed.

ISDA photo gallery

ISDA photo gallery

This practice includes planting methods commonly referred to as no-till, quality no-till, never-till, zero-till, slot plant, zone-till, strip-till, or direct seed. Approved implements are no-till and strip-till planters; certain drills and air seeders; strip-type fertilizer and manure injectors and applicators; and similar implements that only disturb strips and slots.

Full-width disturbance of any kind is not used for any operation considered a no-till system. Full-width disturbance is any operation that disturbs more than 70% of the soil surface and residue within the implement impact area (i.e. – the soil surface and residue between the plant rows is not disturbed).
The current NRCS definition of no-till for the purpose of conservation practice standard 329 is that the soil tillage intensity rating (STIR) value, which shall include all field operations that are performed during the crop interval between harvest and termination of the previous cash crop and harvest or termination of the current cash crop (includes fallow periods), shall be no greater than 20.

A no-till operation for a single crop year is not a no-till system. See reduced tillage definition.

Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment

To be included in the assessment for **no-till**, a study must meet the following criteria:

1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and non-preferred practices.
   - Preferred (BMP): No-till
   - Non-preferred: Conventional Tillage

2. Duration: a no-till system should be accomplished continuously for at least 3 years to be defined as no-till. Less than 3 years could be called transitional no-till or rotational no-till. Improved benefits of a no-till system are typically measurable after five years of continuous years of this practice.

Reduced Tillage

General information/General Definition & Benefits

NRCS online photo gallery

Reduced tillage refers to any farming operation or system that disturbs the surface, but leaves at least 30% residue cover after planting. It is less intensive and aggressive than conventional tillage, but more intensive than no-till (i.e. – full-width disturbance is used for at least one crop cycle). A conventional tillage system leaves less than 30% of the soil surface covered with crop residue.

This practice includes tillage methods commonly referred to as mulch tillage, which include full-width disturbance operations such as vertical tillage, chiseling and disking. It applies to stubble mulching on summer-fallowed land, to tillage for annually planted crops and to tillage for planting perennial crops. It also includes some planting operations, such as hoe drills that disturb a large percentage of the soil surface during the planting operation and cropping systems in which the majority of surface area is disturbed during harvest operations. Also included is the use of a "modified no-till" system that uses full width tillage but leaves as much as 85% of the initial residue on the soil surface.

Current NRCS definition is that crop residue coverage meets the NRCS crop residue cover requirement (30-59% crop residue coverage) and STIR value ranges from 20 to 80.

Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment

To be included in the assessment for **reduced tillage**, a study must meet the following criteria:

1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and non-preferred practices.
   - Preferred (BMP): Reduced tillage
   - Non-preferred: Conventional tillage
2. Historical studies that use ridge till may also be included, although the term is rarely used currently. Ridge tillage refers to a conservation tillage practice in which planting is completed in a seedbed prepared on ridges. Residue is left on the surface between ridges (see NRCS Tillage Equipment Pocket Identification Guide).

Cover Crops

General information/General Definition & Benefits

Cover crops are planted to cover the soil for seasonal protection and soil improvement. Cover crops manage soil erosion, soil structure, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, diseases, biodiversity, and wildlife in an agroecosystem. They can be seeded using a variety of methods including drilling the seed after crop harvest, broadcasting the seed after crop harvest, or aerial broadcasting the seed before harvest. The planting date (early, standard, or late) is based on the average frost date for the area.

ISDA photo gallery

ISDA photo gallery

Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment

To be included in the assessment of **cover crops**, a study must meet the following criteria:

1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and the non-preferred practices.
   - Preferred (BMP): Cover crop
   - Non-preferred: No cover crop
2. The cover crop should be established between successive productive (cash) crop harvests, which in Indiana typically means Fall/Winter.
3. Latitude (or regions of the state) will be included as a factor in the effectiveness of the cover crop.
4. The species of the cover crop (winterkill vs. winter hardy) will also be included as a factor in the effectiveness of the cover crop.

Nutrient Management

General information/General Definition & Benefits

Nutrient Management involves using crop nutrients and manure as efficiently as possible to improve productivity while protecting the environment. The key principle behind nutrient management is balancing soil nutrient inputs with crop requirements. It requires managing the amount (rate), source, placement (method of application), form, and timing of the application of plant nutrients and soil amendments. A nutrient management plan includes utilizing soil testing and nutrient applications to maximize nutrient use efficiency.

Four individual components of nutrient management are defined as of 2021. Other components of nutrient management will be added in the future.

A. Nitrogen (N) Rate

General information/General Definition & Benefits

Nitrogen strip trials on corn – Shalamar Armstrong, Purdue University

Applying nitrogen at the rate needed by the crop can reduce nitrate loads in subsurface drainage water. "Base the nutrient management plan on current soil test results in accordance with land grant university (LGU) guidance, or industry practice when recognized by the LGU." In Indiana, this means using Purdue guidelines for the Economically Optimum Nitrogen Rate (EONR) found at (https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/NitrogenMgmt.pdf) or online at the multi-state Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator Web site (http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu).

B. Nitrogen (N) Timing

General information/General Definition & Benefits

The timing of nitrogen application allows for efficient use of applied nitrogen and can reduce the risk of nitrogen loss to the environment. It includes applying nitrogen close to the time when crops can utilize it; making side-dress nitrogen applications close to the time of most rapid uptake; split applications, involving more than one application; and using nitrogen stabilizers in the soil to extend the availability of nitrogen in the root zone during critical growth stages.

Y-drop N side-dress application into standing corn – CCSI, Mike Starkey

C. Phosphorus (P) Rate (based on soil test P)

ISDA photo gallery

General information/General Definition & Benefits

Soil testing allows for nutrient-use efficiency of phosphorus applications, and the soil test results give farmers the information they need for proper application amounts and placement of fertilizers. "Base the nutrient management plan on current soil test results in accordance with land grant university (LGU) guidance, or industry practice when recognized by the LGU." In Indiana, this means using the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations.

D. Subsurface Phosphorus (P) Application

Subsurface manure application – NRCS online photo gallery

General information/General Definition & Benefits

Subsurface phosphorus application, whether synthetic or manure, is the practice of getting nutrients placed into the soil profile versus leaving nutrients on the soil surface.

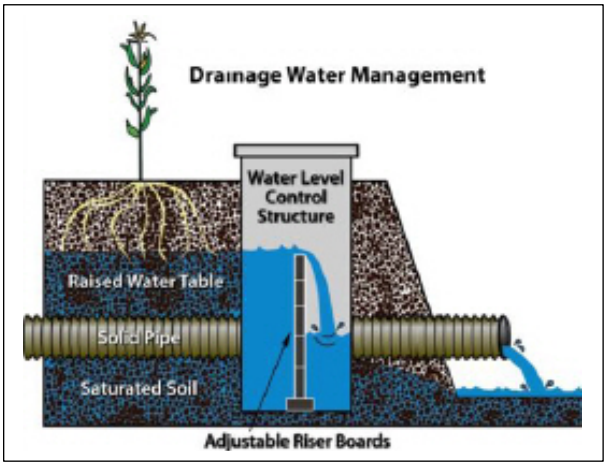
Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment for Nutrient Management Practices

Nutrient Management Practice		Preferred (BMP)	Non-preferred
N rate		Total N application (sum of all applications for a single season) at [or below] Purdue recommended Economic Optimum N rate (EONR)	Total N application above EONR
N timing		Application at or within 2 weeks of planting, or in-season (sidedress)	Fall application or early spring pre-planting
P rate		If soil test P is above maintenance limit, no P fertilizer application.	P fertilizer application when soil test P is above maintenance limit.
P placement (application method)	No-till systems	Subsurface application (injected, deep banded, or strip till)	Surface application (broadcast)
	Tillage systems	Injected or incorporation before rainfall, usually within one week of application	Incorporation more than one week after application.

Drainage Water Management

General information/General Definition & Benefits

Drainage Water Management (DWM) is a practice in which the outlet from an underground drainage system is intercepted by a water control structure that effectively functions as an in-line dam, allowing the drainage outlet to be artificially set at levels ranging from the soil surface to the bottom of the drains. Water can be adjusted and held in the field reducing the overall amount of drainage water and nitrogen that moves downstream.



Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment

Other terms that have been used in published studies include controlled drainage, controlled tile drainage, water table control, controlled agricultural drainage, and drainage control. Water table management is also used but more commonly refers to controlled drainage with subirrigation.

To be included in the assessment for **drainage water management**, a study must meet the following criteria:

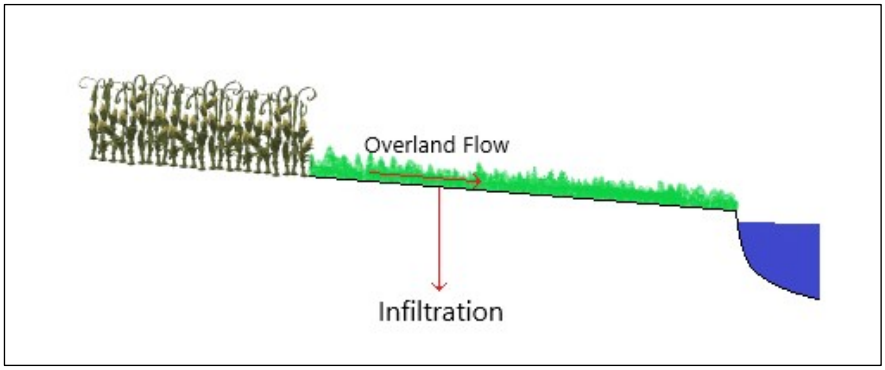
1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and non-preferred practices.
   - Preferred (BMP): Drainage water management
   - Non-preferred: Conventional free drainage
2. The comparison of free drainage and controlled drainage must be in the same year with consistent drainage treatments for at least one year.
3. Studies that combine subirrigation with controlled drainage are excluded.

Grassed Filter Strip

General information/General Definition & Benefits

A Filter strip is an area of grass or other permanent vegetation planted between cropland and a stream or other water body, which acts as a filter to trap sediment, fertilizers, and other pollutants from surface runoff and wastewater before they reach a water body. Filter strips have habitat benefits, provide animal corridors, reduce sediment transport from fields, provide a zone of no nutrient and pesticide applications near sensitive areas, and stabilize stream banks.

ISDA photo gallery



Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment

To be included in the assessment for a **filter strip** practice, a study must meet the following criteria:

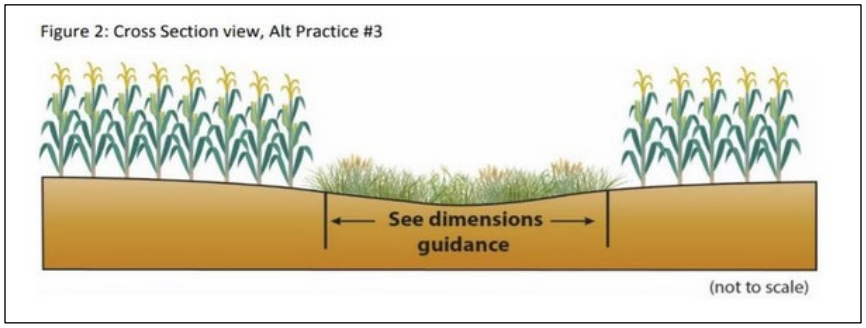
1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and non-preferred practices.
   - Preferred (BMP): Filter strip
   - Non-preferred: no filter strip
2. The filter strip should be located immediately downslope from the source area of contaminants. Loads should be measured upslope and downslope of the filter strip.
3. It must have permanent vegetation (grasses and legumes).
4. It must be designed so that overland flow entering the filter strip is uniform sheet flow. Concentrated flow is dispersed before it enters the filter strip.
5. The slope of the filter strip and also the width must be provided, as these will be used in factors of effectiveness. (NRCS criteria is 30 feet to reduce dissolved contaminants in runoff and 20 feet to reduce suspended solids in runoff, but studies do not need to meet these criteria.)

Grassed Waterway

General information/General Definition & Benefits

A grassed waterway is a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded and planted with suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff from a field or diversion without causing erosion in the channel and flowing to a stable outlet. The vegetation in the waterway slows the water as it flows through the waterway and may uptake nutrients before reaching nearby surface waters.

ISDA photo gallery



Criteria for Inclusion into the Science Assessment

The purpose of grassed waterways is to convey water without erosion, not to trap sediment or increase infiltration. Therefore, we will use the current (Region 5 model) method of estimating erosion reduction, which uses dimensions of the gully to calculate sediment, with a ratio for particulate N and P estimation and an assumption that 100% of gully erosion sediment is delivered offsite. We do not expect any significant reduction in dissolved nutrients because infiltration is not the purpose, and we will not address any possibility that waterways could become a source of dissolved P because that would have been the same without the waterway.

To be included in the assessment for **grassed waterways**, criteria and assumptions include the following:

1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and non-preferred practices.
   - Preferred (BMP): Grassed waterway
   - Non-preferred: gully resulting from no waterway
2. Any study with the name “grassed waterway” will be included.

Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Governor Eric Holcomb
Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development
Bruce Kettler, Director

TECHNICAL REPORT FOR SOUTHEAST REGION

MARCH 2022

Clean Water Indiana(CWI) Grants—Currently 11 active CWI grants involving 13 counties. 3 counties are involved in multiple grants. 42 practices designed and awaiting completion. Some grants have a waiting list in case allocated funds are not used by current applicant.

EPA 319 Grants-- 7 grants for land treatment involving 14 counties. Three counties with multiple grants. 27 practices designed and awaiting completion.

Lake and River Enhancement(LARE)—Currently 2 grants.

IN Field Advantage(INFA)--- Staff have assisted with enrollment of 14 applicants, pulled 52 soil samples and 13 biomass clippings.

CREP—Staff has approximately 50 required status reviews and will most likely complete more.

FARMBILL PROGRAMS—Staff continues to provide technical assistance with federal programs as requested.

STAFFING—Currently one Resource Specialist vacancy and one Resource Specialist on extended leave.

LOCAL PROGRAMS— Resource Specialist Manager will have $175,000.00 local cost share funds available to one of his assigned counties. He will assist SWCD staff with technical training and implementation of the program.

State Soil Conservation Board
March 15, 2022
District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 1/4/22 to 2/28/22

Statewide or Regional Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff

- **New Supervisor Training:** offered on an ongoing basis. Please reach out to your ISDA DSS for more information. Training is available to seasoned supervisors as well!
- **2022 Annual Conference:** Tara and Laura sat on the Road to Supervisor Success panel
- **Grant and Funding Opportunities for SWCDs:** one agency will be featured at 12PM each Thursday in April. Please contact your ISDA DSS for more information.
    - April 7: Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)- Lake & River Enhancement Program Join Meeting (presented by Doug Nusbaum)
    - April 14: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Targeted Initiatives and Partnership Opportunities Join Meeting (presented by Jill Reinhart)
    - April 21: National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)- Grants & Resources From NACD Join Meeting (presented by Beth Mason and Meg Leader)
    - April 28: Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)- 319 & 205j Nonpoint Source Grants Join Meeting (presented by Angie Brown)

Supervisor Training Survey

ISDA and IASWCD are evaluating training content and delivery methods for SWCD Supervisors. As of March 7, we had 112 responses representing 46 SWCDs. Supervisors, please participate here: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/3a4830190c06439ba2d75dc9647bfca7.

SWCD Upcoming Deadlines:

- March 15: CWI Supervisor and Staff Training Reimbursements applications due (as of March 7, 25 SWCDs had applied)
- March 31: SWCD Excel Spreadsheet Annual Financial Reports due to ISDA
- Certification of Election of Supervisors: due within 7 days of annual meeting

Clean Water Indiana:

- DSSs worked with grantees on the biannual grant update reports that were due January 31 and tasks related to these updates such as claims and possible modifications needed.
- The team is also working with Districts as they prepare Annual Financial Reports (AFR) due March 31, that qualifies them for the (up to) $10k legislative matching grant. As of March 9, 52 AFRs had been processed.

DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period	Total
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	15
Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, CWI, etc.	112
Assistance With SWCD or Partner Strategic Planning	2
New Staff or New Supervisor Training	1
Attendance and Assistance At SWCD Annual Meetings	13

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

SSCB Report

January 18, 2021 – March 9, 2022

Highlights

Staffing Change Update

The CCSI Agronomist position was offered to and accepted by Hans Schmitz, Purdue Extension, Posey County. His first day will be March 1. In addition to his time with county-level Extension, Hans brings a background in climatology to the position, and will continue his work in this area. Finally, as co-owner of his family's farm, he brings a 'farmer's perspective' to the role as well..

CCSI-SARE Core Soil Health Systems Trainings

Dates set: April 5, 19, and 26 (virtual) plus an optional in-person day on April 12. Based on 2020 and 2021 responses, future Core Trainings will be held virtually. Registration is live https://ccsin.info/Core2022

CCSI-SARE Continuing Education: BMPs for Herbicide Application and Cover Crop Termination

In response to expected herbicide shortages and spiraling prices, along with requests from field-level ICP staff, a training was developed by Stephanie McClain, NRCS State Soil Health Specialist; Fred Whitford, Director of Purdue Pesticide Programs; Bill Johnson, Purdue Extension Weed Specialist; and Tony Bailey, NRCS State Conservation Agronomist. 90+ attendees in the live sessions. Both sessions have been recorded and made available through the CCSI YouTube channel.

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

- **Innovative and Visionary Farmers**
  Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)
  Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.
  - 01/20 Ray McCormick (D)
  - 01/21 Pat Bittner (D)
  - 01/21 Dave Brandt (D)
  - 01/25 Mike Shuter (D)
  - 02/15 Phone – David Brandt, OH (D)
  - 02/16 Phone – Loran Steinlage, IA (D)
  - 02/21 Phone - Pat Bittner, Vanderburgh County (SPM)

- **Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers**
  Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.
  Quarterly Targets: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)
  - 02/16 Field Visit – Tim Busick, Orange County (SPM)
  - 02/16 Field Visit – Nick Fleenor, Orange County (SPM)
  - 02/16 Field Visit – Michael Trueblood, Orange County (SPM)

- **Farmer Influencers**
  Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)
  Continued work with W4tL, IANA, and other influencer groups.
  - Elam Fisher, Byron Seed (D)
  - 02/16 Phone – Liz Haney, Soil Regen (D)

- **Presentations**
  Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)
  - 01/24 Women Leaders in Conservation Panel facilitation (D)
  - 01/24 Hybrid and Virtual Events – Hands-on Tips and Tricks (D, NPM, and Joe Rorick Corn/Soy Agronomist)

G2. Local Level Partnership Support

1. **Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership's Outreach and Education**
   Quarterly Target: CCSI as a group materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts groups (CCSI Team Goal)
   Workshops Completed
   - 02/19 Indiana Black Loam Conference, Evansville; approx. 25 attendees
   - 02/08 Regional Soil Health Workshop, Salem; 90 attendees in-person, 15 virtual
   - 02/26 Indiana Black Loam Conference, Ft. Wayne; 40 attendees
   - 02/28 Lost River Watershed "Meet-and-Greet" with Dale Strickler, Green Cover Seeds; 20 attendees
   - 03/01 Lost River Watershed/Orange County Cover Crop Workshop, Paoli
   - 03/08 Warrick County Cover Crop Breakfast
   - 03/09 Miami County PARP, Peru

   Workshops in Progress:
   - 03/12 Indiana Black Loam Conference / Legacy Taste of the Garden, Gary
   - 03/15 Trust in Food / America's Conservation Ag Movement ShopTalk, Vanderburgh Co.
   - 03/17 Going Green for Ag, Allen County
   - 03/19 Indiana Black Loam Conference / Legacy Taste of the Garden, Bloomington
   - 03/23 Howard/Tipton County SWCD Workshop
   - 03/23 "Healthy Farms, Healthy Communities w/ Ashley Hammac, Crawfordsville
   - March 2022 – Miami County Winter PARP
   - 1st quarter 2022 Indian-Kentuck Watershed event. Most likely virtual.
   - 04/14 Byron Seed Spring Event
   - 08/16 Fab 5 Soil Health Event, SW Indiana
   - 08/23 Indiana field day with Ward Labs at Rulons
   - August 2022 Adams County
   - 09/01 Clay County Event
   - September 2022 – Porter County
   - Lawrence County Soil Health event (before 2025)
   - DeKalb County SWCD Workshop – Date TBD
   - March – Miami County Winter PARP meeting

- 2021 – 23 – Kankakee Basin and WLEB series of events to support existing RCPP (WLEB) and proposed RCPP (Kankakee) (NPM)

2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.
Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health
Completed Trainings

Trainings in Progress:

- April 5, 12 (optional), 19, 26 – Core Cover Crops and Soil Health Systems
- 04/13 Byron Seed Dealer Training Series (with Barry Fisher)
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review (TBD)
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (TBD)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program Development
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program (TBD)

3. Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.
Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills
Completed Trainings:

- 03/2-3 CCSI-SARE Continuing Soil Health Education: BMPs for Herbicide Application and Cover Crop Termination; approximately 90+ attendees each session

Trainings in Progress

- 2022 SARE PDP – Cover Crop in Vegetable Production – PAC Demonstrations
- Date TBD - 2022: Pilot Social Science Training
- Date(s) TBD - 2022: CCSI-SARE Livestock Integration Trainings
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 01/23 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting (D)
- 01/23-24 IASWCD Annual Conference (all)
- 01/27 Virginia Morris, Harrison SWCD, and Erica Wyss, NRCS Soil Conservationist (SPM)
- 01/28 Assisted with tech test for the Dubois County Annual Meeting to enable a virtual option for their in-person event (SPM)
- 02/02 Connect Shirley Heinze Land Trust/Starke and Marshall Co SWCD and NRCS (NPM)
- 02/03 WLEB RCPP Planning (NPM)
- 02/07 Otter Creek/Clay County SWCD (SPM)
- 02/16 Kankakee RCPP Planning (NPM)
- 02/23 NE CCSI Regional Teleconference (All)
- 02/23 NW CCSI Regional Teleconference (All)
- 02/28 SE CCSI Regional Teleconference (All)
- 02/28 SW CCSI Reginal Teleconference (All)

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

1. Marketing

Quarterly Targets: 3-4 "formal" CCSI Updates (CCSI Team Goal)
Annual Target: 1-2 New External Partners
Ensure LLPs understand CCSI resources available to them; Ensure external partners are aware of CCSI strengths, tools, and opportunities.

- 02/16 IASWCD Board of Directors (All)
- 02/22 NW NRCS Area Meeting (NPM)
- February 1 – Events Newsletter; 647 delivered, 366 opened, 144 follow through
- February 15 – Events Newsletter; 643 delivered, 437 opened, 99 follow through
- March 1 – Events Newsletter; 627 delivered, 445 opened, 103 follow through

2. Soil Health Messaging

Quarterly Targets: 3 Podcasts; 3-6 Blog Posts; 6 Newsletters;
Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.
Completed Materials:

- Podcasts
    - Learning from Your Peers: Andrew Bernzott and Mike Shuter
- Blog Posts
    - Jerry Raynor Op-Ed
    - Black Loam Press Release
- Social Media
    - Twitter
        - January: 84 Tweets, 43.8K impressions, 13 mentions, 2,815 profile visits, 11 new followers.
        - February: 55 Tweets, 15.1K impressions, 9 mentions, 1,445 profile visits, 3 new followers
    - Facebook (January): 17,308 reach, 23,533 impressions, 1734 engaged users
    - Facebook (February / Specific Posts):
        - 02/01 Black History Month post (47 reach)
        - 02/02 Share ISDA post welcoming DSS Sandra Hoffarth (102 reach)
        - 02/03 Bi-County Soil Health Workshop post (Carroll & White) (132 reach)
        - 02/03 Winter Storm Landon post (135 reach)
        - 02/03 Regional Soil Health Workshop Flyer (54 reach)
        - 02/08 Regional Soil Health Workshop Carter Morgan (841 reach)
        - 02/10 Pandemic Cover Crop Program post (78 reach)
        - 02/15 Share CCSI newsletter to FB (68 reach)
        - 02/16 WREC event RESCHEDULED post (16 reach)
        - 02/17 Orange County Root Dig (846 people reach)
        - 02/18 Kosciusko trailer wrap/Tashina pic post (251 reach)
        - 02/19 Evansville Black Loam Conference post (176 reach)
        - 02/19 Share Urban Soil Health Evansville Black Loam post (78 reach)
        - 02/21 Share Ft. Wayne Black Loam event post (35 reach)
        - 02/21 Orange County/Lost River Watershed Workshop Flyer (287 people reach)
        - 02/26 Ft. Wayne Black Loam Conference post (561 reach)
        - 02/28 Dale Strickler Meet and Greet (548 people)

- Website
    - January 598 Users / 825 sessions
    - February 689 users/987 sessions

Materials in Progress:

- TNC-NRCS-CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (TBD)
- Soil Compaction Video with Purdue Extension
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download
- Soil Health Nexus – Soil Health Matrix completed, submitted for review (TBD)

G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

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

- Support - Indiana University SARE - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss (Yoder)
- Support – Purdue University SARE - Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (Armstrong)
- Support – No-till Pumpkin and Sweet Corn in Cover Crops (Maynard)
- Grassland Oregon and Purdue Agronomy research coordination
- Notre Dame – Indiana University – Purdue University collaboration

OTHER

- Program Managers *finally* received shipment of replacement laptops.
- Ag Learn Disabilities Training (all)
- 01/26 Meeting with Jason Henderson, head of Purdue Extension; Ron Turco, Purdue Agronomy Department Head; Ernie Shea, Solutions from the Land; and Don Villwock (D)
- 01/27 AGree Advisory Committee Meeting (D)
- 01/28 NWF Conservation Champions Coffee Shop Chat (NPM)
- Professional Development – 02/1-2 NWF Virtual Presentation Trainings (D, SPM, NPM, and Conservation Champions)
- Solutions for the Land / Indiana Climate Smart Ag – assist with organizational meetings

EVALUATION OF COVER CROP BREAKFAST DATA

WARRICK CO SWCD –BOONVILLE—MARCH 8, 2022

Survey Data:

Overall, how would you rate the quality of this workshop? 57% Excellent 43% Good

How effective were the speakers at this workshop? 58% Excellent 38% Good 4% Average

How effective were the presentations? 63% Excellent 33% Good 4% Average

Which best describes you? 21 - Farmer/operator 2 - Landowner 5 - Advisor/consultant

How many acres do you farm/consult on? 80 – 15,000 acres

What types of practices are you currently doing on your farm? (check all that apply)

No till/strip till - 20
Cover crops - 23
Field borders/buffers - 13
Plant Green – 1
Waterways - 1
Rotational/prescribed grazing - 5
Nutrient management - 14
Wildlife habitat plantings - 1
Turbo Till – 2
Extended crop rotation - 4
No conservation practices - 1
Other: Conservation Till – 2
Multispecies – 1

How do you plan to incorporate what you saw or learned at today's event?

I plan to begin or continue use of cover crops in 2022 - 17
I will seek more information on how to manage cover crops successfully - 20
I will discuss soil health practices or management options with my crop advisor - 9
I will discuss conservation and soil health ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants - 15
I will discuss cost-share options with my local conservation office - 13
I do not plan to make any changes based on this event - 0

What was your main reason for coming to this event?

- Cover Crop Education – 7
- Network, support farmers
- Learning to improve farming practices
- Increase profit

After attending this event, I am confident in my ability to implement and manage cover crops

29% Strongly Agree 67% Agree 5% Neutral

I am interested in using cover crops to reduce soil erosion

50% Strongly Agree 50% Agree

I am interested in using cover crops for weed reduction

48% Strongly Agree 38% Agree 14% Neutral

I am interested in using cover crops for increasing soil health

67% Strongly Agree 33% Agree

I am interested in using cover crops for applied fertilizer reduction

50% Strongly Agree 50% Agree

I am interested in using cover crops for potential yield increases

55% Strongly Agree 41% Agree 5% Neutral

A barrier for using cover crops is timing of management

22% Strongly Agree 61% Agree 17% Neutral

A barrier of using cover crops is input cost

23% Strongly Agree 43% Agree 22% Neutral 4% Disagree 4% Strongly Disagree

A barrier of using cover crops is concerns of mismanagement

17% Strongly Agree 43% Agree 35% Neutral 4% Strongly Disagree

How likely would you attend another farmer-focused event in your area coordinated by SWCD?

46% Strongly Agree 54% Agree 4% Neutral

Thank you for your feedback! If there are any additional thoughts or comments of future events, speakers, etc., please provide below:

- Less slide presentation and more time for panel discussion
- Help with cost of planting cover crops
- Seed rates because of seed costs
- Local farmers sharing their program on cover crops or specific topics
- Let's keep networking and supporting however possible
- Advance soil health training was a great benefit to all who participated
- Rodney was redundant but well versed on subject
- Joseph Kern willing to travel 50 miles to share his story, slides and photos of his farm

Science Assessment to Support the
Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Component 2: Quantify Expected Nutrient Reductions from Conservation Practices

Progress Report for Year 1

Prepared by Jane Frankenberger, Purdue University

Background and Vision

The Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy has provided a foundation for nutrient reduction efforts across Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) agencies and has enhanced collaboration in conservation implementation. To address scientific question needed to move the strategy forward, the Indiana Science Assessment is being implemented, comprising two components. Component 1 focuses on determining historic and ongoing nutrients loads leaving the state and its basins, and is led by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Component 2, which focuses on quantifying nutrient reduction from conservation practices, is described in this report.

The goal of the Science Assessment Component 2 is to **develop a method to quantify expected nutrient reductions from conservation practices in Indiana to be used statewide**. The vision is that this process will lead to (1) improved documentation of statewide progress towards nutrient reduction goals, (2) prioritization of the most effective conservation practices based on Indiana conditions to improve program implementation, (3) more accurate assessment of Indiana's contributions to downstream water quality issues, and (4) alignment of communication by researchers, agencies, and others throughout Indiana about conservation practices effectiveness.

Participants and Roles

The Core Team, with members from major conservation organizations and agencies, provides overall guidance to the process.

Core Team Members

Name	Affiliation
Julie Harrold	Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Ben Wicker	Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance
Marylou Renshaw	Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Jill Reinhart	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mike Dunn	The Nature Conservancy
Jane Frankenberger	Purdue University Extension; Agricultural & Biological Engineering

The assessment is guided by a Science Committee composed of experts from throughout Indiana, which provides scientific input and evaluation of the process. The members are established researchers from five academic institutions in Indiana and two federal science agencies (USDA-ARS and USGS) who conduct research related to nutrients and water quality in Indiana.

Science Committee Members

Name	Affiliation
Shalamar Armstrong	Agronomy, Purdue University
Bob Barr	Center for Earth and Environmental Science, IUPUI
Nate Bosch	Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, Grace College
Sylvie Brouder	Agronomy, Purdue University
Jim Camberato	Agronomy, Purdue University
Bernie Engel	Agricultural & Biological Engineering, Purdue University
Dennis Flanagan	USDA-ARS National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory
Jeff Frey	U.S. Geological Survey, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center
Eileen Kladivko	Agronomy, Purdue University
Sara McMillan	Agricultural & Biological Engineering, Purdue University
Chad Penn	USDA-ARS National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory
Linda Prokopy	Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University
Dan Quinn	Agronomy, Purdue University
Carson Reeling	Agricultural Economics, Purdue University
Todd Royer	O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University
Jennifer Tank	Biology, University of Notre Dame
Mark Williams	USDA-ARS National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory

Project implementation is led by Jane Frankenberger, Purdue University, through a subcontract from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture managed by Julie Harrold. Research Associates were **Gilles Tagne** (January to June 2021) and **Katy Mazer** (October 2021 to the present; *kmazer@purdue.edu*).

Decisions and Overall Strategy

The Science Committee met nine times between June and December 2021, and made the following decisions:

1. The assessment will focus on long-term effectiveness, not on the variation from year to year which cannot be predicted in advance.
2. The reductions will be provided in at least two separate formats:
    a. A table for communicating the results that is easy to read and understand.
    b. An electronic calculator tool that can be used to apply the method to thousands of practices by ISDA or others.
3. The goal is for the tool to be applicable to non-incentivized conservation as well as incentivized conservation. However, the method for tracking non-incentivized conservation is beyond our scope.
4. Reductions will be provided as both a quantity (i.e., lbs/acre) and a percent reduction, to the extent possible. For achieving this, we will use the following four-component method, based on the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy with some modification and also recognizing opportunities for revisions to increase accuracy:
        1. Estimate flow (surface and subsurface) and erosion from fields across Indiana and create a map that can easily be used in calculations.

2. Estimate concentration for each of these pathways based on measurements. (Note: Many decisions remain on how to do this and how location might affect this).
3. Multiply flow at each location by the expected concentration to get estimated load, which will be publicly available as an online tool.
4. To get load reduction,
    i. For in-field practices, multiply load by a reduction percentage
    ii. For edge-of-field practices, calculate load reduction based on size/design of practice

This process is adaptable, and we will continue to modify and improve it to make it as accurate as possible. We should also keep in mind the value of enhancing future research through this process, which may include validation, varying scales, comparing load reductions from the model, and adding processes that better capture the load as a quantity.

Conservation Practices Assessed in Year 1

The Core Team selected 10 practices to focus on in Year 1, based on those that are widely used and thought to be effective in reducing nutrient loss from Indiana agriculture. They were grouped in three categories:

Practices that can improve soil health: (1) No till, (2) Reduced tillage, and (3) Cover crops
Edge of field practices: (4) Filter strips, (5) Grassed waterways, and (6) Drainage water management
Nutrient management practices: (7) Nitrogen rate, (8) Nitrogen timing, (9) Phosphorus rate, and (10) Phosphorus Timing

For each practice, definitions and criteria were developed and substantial progress was made on a summary of reductions. Also, the Science Committee made decisions on key factors that will be included in the performance assessment. The definition for (3) Cover Crops, below, gives an example of definitions and criteria, which have been developed for each of the ten practices. A public version of the definitions document is at the Indiana Science Assessment website managed by the ISDA.

Example definition and criteria for inclusion in the assessment. Similar definitions were developed for each of the ten practices listed above.

Cover Crops	
NRCS Cons. Practice Standard	Cover Crop (340) Definition: Grasses, legumes, and forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover.
Practice Definition(s)	Cover crops are planted to cover the soil for seasonal protection and soil improvement. Cover crops manage soil erosion, soil structure, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, diseases, biodiversity, and wildlife in an agroecosystem. They can be seeded using a variety of methods including drilling the seed after crop harvest, broadcasting the seed after crop harvest, or aerial broadcasting the seed before harvest. The planting date (early, standard, or late) is based on the average frost date for the area.

Criteria for inclusion in the assessment	To be included in the assessment for **cover crops**, a study must meet the following criteria: 1. The study must compare the nutrient loads from the preferred (BMP) and the non-preferred practices. • Preferred (BMP): Cover crop • Non-preferred: No cover crop 2. The cover crop should be established between successive productive (cash) crop harvests, which in Indiana typically means Fall/Winter. 3. Latitude (or regions of the state) will be included as a factor in the effectiveness of the cover crop. 4. The species of the cover crop (winterkill vs. winter hardy) will also be included as a factor in the effectiveness of the cover crop.

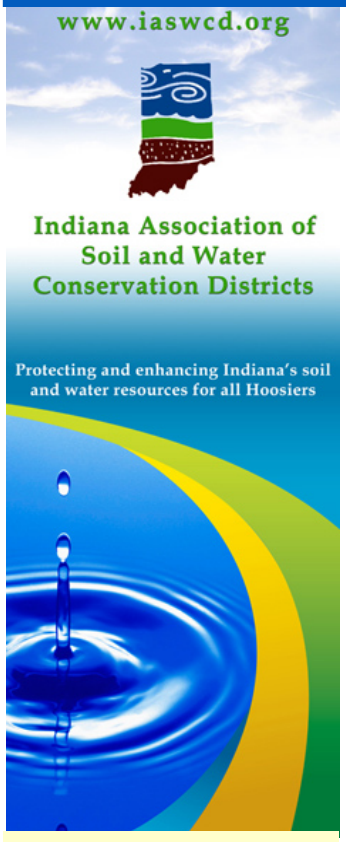
Literature reviews are being completed of nutrient reductions monitored in agricultural systems similar to those in Indiana, following the criteria identified, to inform the expected reduction estimates.

Next steps

Now that the overall method has been determined by consensus of the Science Committee, the analysis will move forward. Annual expected flow through surface and subsurface pathways will be estimated through modeling validated by streamflow records. These will be combined with concentrations compiled from literature values measured in similar agricultural systems to estimate loads without conservation practices. The reduction efficiencies for the initial ten practices will be made available in an accessible table for education and outreach in 2022. A tool will be developed to enable the Indiana Conservation Partnership staff to estimate load reductions for conservation practices implemented across the state. The final tool is expected to be ready in 2023.

Contact for questions: Jane Frankenberger, frankenb@purdue.edu

Photos from Purdue University and USDA-NRCS



IASWCD
225 S. East Street
Suite 142
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317.692.7325

Web: *www.iaswcd.org*

To: State Soil Conservation Board

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

- Several soil health trainings are already scheduled for this upcoming year; refer to the CCSI report provided.

Urban Soil Health Program

- Staff continue to meet with districts and assist with local working group development and capacity.
- Completed a soil health in high tunnel training series that is ongoing.

Pathway to Water Quality

- The Pathway will be in its 29th year this summer during the Indiana State Fair. Volunteers and committee members are already meeting monthly, prepping the site and coordinating budget needs for 2022.

Legislative Issues

- The National Association of Conservation Districts' Federal Legislative Fly-In has been organized as a Virtual Advocacy week again this year, the week of March 21. IASWCD is scheduling virtual Zoom meetings with Indiana legislators to talk about federal conservation funding and programs.
- HB 1001 was signed into law and ended the public health emergency. This affects how districts can hold meetings, particularly virtual meetings. In conjunction with ISDA, IASWCD sent out information and guidance to districts on this matter. IASWCD has secured the Public Access Councilor for a webinar this Thursday, March 17 to answer district questions.
- SB 85 created a Drainage Taskforce, and one of the members of that group has been designated as an SWCD supervisor. The taskforce must complete work by the end of 2023.

Other

- The SWCD Annual Conference planning committee will meet April 12 to choose topics and speakers for the 2023 conference. A call for abstracts has gone out and will be open through the end of March.
- IASWCD will be holding a weekly, technical webinar series for staff through the month of April, every Wednesday at 12:00 PM.
- ISDA and IASWCD are continuing work together on a new structured training program for supervisors. We will be meeting again soon to begin formulating the structure and trainings within the program. We sent out a survey to supervisors at the beginning of the year, and now have over 100 responses.

Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

March 2022 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

FARM BILL

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The call for proposals for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is open through April 13. Projects can request between $250,000 and $10 million, and partners should bring contributions at least equal to the request for NRCS funds. Priority activities include climate-smart agriculture, urban agriculture and racial justice and equity. Proposals are competitively selected based on impact, partner contributions, innovation and capacity for successful project management.

There are two types of funding opportunities under RCPP: RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA). RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities, in collaboration with project partners. Through RCPP AFA, partners have more flexibility in working directly with agricultural producers to support the development of new conservation structures and approaches that would not otherwise be available under RCPP Classic. Project types that may be suited to AFA, as highlighted by the 2018 Farm Bill include:

- Projects that use innovative approaches to leverage the federal investment in conservation.
- Projects that deploy a pay-for-performance conservation approach.
- Projects that seek large-scale infrastructure investment that generate conservation benefits for agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest owners.

For a copy of the Classic or AFA solicitation please contact Jill Reinhart, ASTC Partnerships at jill.reinhart@usda.gov.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Black River Watershed Project

NRCS is accepting producer applications until March 25 to be considered for the next round of funding to improve water quality in the Black River watershed located in Posey and Gibson counties. This funding opportunity is made possible through NRCS' National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI).
Applications are accepted on a continuous basis but to be eligible for this round of funding, all applications must be received by March 25.

Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscapes Partnership

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, comprised of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Interior (DOI) announced three new areas designated as sentinel landscapes, one in Indiana, where natural and working lands thrive alongside military installations and ranges. These landscapes play a key role in strengthening the nation's military readiness while addressing natural resources concerns like climate change and contributing to the America the Beautiful initiative.

The Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape is anchored by four critical DoD installations and ranges that provide a variety of testing and training opportunities for the Army, Navy, Air Force,

Marine Corps, National Guard, as well as federal and state partners. This vast landscape also contains six state parks, seven state forests, nine state fish and wildlife areas, 39 state-dedicated nature preserves, one National Forest and three National Wildlife Refuges. With the primary objective of preserving and protecting military mission readiness, operations, testing and training capabilities, the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape partners will also promote and support agricultural and working lands; provide for watershed and riparian corridor protections by promoting landscape resiliency; sustain and restore forest lands through sustainable land management and protections; and ensure endangered, threatened and at-risk species protection through habitat preservation and restoration.

Sentinel landscapes accomplish their objectives by connecting private landowners with voluntary state and federal assistance programs that provide agricultural loans, disaster relief, educational opportunities, financial and technical assistance and funding for conservation easements.

RETURN TO WORKPLACE

While we continue to monitor the status of the pandemic, it is our intent to also continue our phased return to the physical workspace. There are three key components to this next phase:

- On February 28, we welcomed the senior leadership cadre back to physical office spaces. This included political appointees, senior executive service, senior level, scientific and professional, senior scientific and technological service and senior foreign service officers.
- FPAC will notify employees of the upcoming phased return dates for FSA, NRCS and RMA. Currently it is anticipated to be in mid-April or early May.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON URBAN AG

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack selected 12 members to serve on USDA inaugural Secretary's Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture to provide input on policy development and to help identify barriers to urban agriculture as USDA works to promote urban farming and the economic opportunities it provides in cities across the country. The new committee is part of USDA's efforts to support urban agriculture, creating a network for feedback. The committee is made up of agricultural producers, and representatives from the areas of higher education or extension programs, non-profits, business and economic development, supply chains and financing. More information can be found by visiting: Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production | USDA

CLIMATE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS

USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities will provide grants for pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forest products produced using climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring and verification of greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration benefits.

Pilot projects must focus on the on-farm, on-ranch or forest production of climate-smart commodities and associated reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and/or carbon sequestration. Highly competitive projects will include agricultural and forestry practices or combinations of practices, and/or practice enhancements that provide greenhouse gas benefits and/or carbon sequestration.

First funding pool applications due April 8: These proposals are from $5 million to $100 million and should include large-scale pilot projects that emphasize the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production and include direct, meaningful benefits to a representative cross-section of production agriculture, including small and/ or historically underserved producers.

Second funding pool applications due May 27: These proposals are from $250,000 to $4,999,999 and are limited to particularly innovative pilot projects. These projects should place an emphasis on:

- Enrollment of small and/or underserved producers, and/or
- Monitoring, reporting and verification activities developed at minority-serving institutions.

For more information and resources to support your application, visit Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities | USDA.

CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP) REPORT

NRCS is releasing a Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) report and accompanying 4-page summary which quantifies the environmental effects of conservation practices and programs over a decade. The report shows use of no-till, crop rotations, more efficient irrigation methods and advanced technologies have climbed in recent years and demonstrates progress made through voluntary conservation over a 10-year period. Findings from the report will inform future conservation strategies, including USDA's efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

State Soil Conservation Board

March 15, 2022

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold

Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Attached to this report is the usual report showing the current status of acres and dollars in CREP, including total completed acres and total enrolled acres since the beginning of the program, and total dollars paid out through the CREP program.
- According to the states tracking system, we are currently at approximately 22,647 acres of enrollment, which is 86% of the enrollment goal.
- To date, the state has paid out more than $9.8 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately $4-$13 for every state dollar, which is currently between $36 million and $118 million of federal dollars depending on the practice.
- The 2021 CREP Annual Report can be found on the CREP website on the ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation website at https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/conservation-reserve-enhancement-program/annual-reports/.

IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)

- The current strategy document can be found at https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/.
- Comments on the SNRS can be sent to ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov.
- Indiana Science Assessment – Final draft of report for Component 1 showing results of water quality trends in Indiana is almost completed.
- Indiana Science Assessment – Component 2: Current progress includes continued analysis of research and data for the first set of 10 practices, and discussion by the Core Team and Science Committee on deciding the next set of practices to include in the Assessment.
- The Science Committee continues to meet regularly and have been very Active, resulting in key decisions and consensus achieved on strategies.
- Important documents to share:
  - The Year 1 progress report for Component 2, https://www.in.gov/isda/files/Indiana-Science-Assessment-Year-1-Progress-Report.pdf
  - The definitions document for the initial 10 conservation practices and criteria assessed for the Science Assessment, https://www.in.gov/isda/files/BMP-Practice-definitions-for-Science-Assessment_Version-1-Final.pdf.

Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)

- The HTF has a quarterly newsletter now and if interested in looking at the latest newsletter or receiving future ones, visit https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf/hypoxia-task-force-newsletter-january-2022.
- I serve as co-chair of the Research Needs Workgroup for the HTF. Workgroup is still in the process of getting the database set-up where research articles and studies can be viewed by a limited number of state representatives related to identified research topics and needs by the HTF states.
- We are still working on determining the use of the new HTF dollars through the Infrastructure Law. More to come on this throughout the next few months.

State Soil Conservation Board

Policy on Electronic Participation in SSCB Meetings

In accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-3.6, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) establishedunder IC 14-32-, may allow board members to participate in SSCB meetings by electronic means.This policy, effective upon approval by the SSCB, establishes the requirements for participation in SSCB meetings by electronic means.

1 There must be at least four (4) SSCB voting members physically present at the place where the meeting is conducted.

2 Each board member is required to physically attend at least one (1) meeting of the SSCB annually.

3 A board member who is not physically present at an SSCB meeting may participate in the meeting by electronic communication only if the member uses a means of communication that permits simultaneous communication during the meeting between:

(A) the member;
(B) all other members participating in the meeting;
(C) all members of the public physically present at the place where the meeting is conducted; and
(D) all members of the public participating electronically in the meeting.

4 Remote participation may be accomplished by using an internet connection with audio and, if feasible, video or by a telephone connection.

5 Any voting member who participates in a meeting by electronic communication:

(A) is considered to be present at the meeting;
(B) shall be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum; and
(C) may vote at the meeting.

6 All votes of the SSCB during the electronic meeting must be taken by roll call vote.

7 Members of the public may attend an SSCB meeting at the place where the meeting is conducted and a minimum of four (4) voting board members is physically present, or they may attend remotely through the virtual meeting platform used by the SSCB to conduct board meetings.

8 Except under an Executive Order of the Governor, the SSCB may not conduct meetings using a means of electronic communication until the SSCB adopts this policy by a simple majority of a valid quorum at a meeting that meets the requirements of IC 5-14-1.5, also known as Indiana's "Open Door Law".

9 This policy must be adopted by the State Soil Conservation Board and posted on the ISDA web site at: https://www.in.gov/isda/boards/state-soil-conservation-board.

Indiana Code Summary: 5-14-1.5

Public Access Law (Open Door Law)

Following is a summary of Indiana Code 5-14-1.5, and is not all-inclusive. To view the full code, please visit: https://www.in.gov/pac/files/PAC-Handbook-2017.pdf

Public Meetings vs Executive Meetings

- Generally, all meetings of the governing bodies of public agencies must be open at all times so members of the public may observe and record them.
- Executive sessions: the ODL permits governing bodies to meet privately only under certain circumstances. The allowable reason for the executive session must be posted with the notice for the session. However, any final action (i.e. a vote) must be taken at a meeting open to the public.

Notification to Public

- Public notice of the date, time, and place of any meetings, executive sessions, or of any rescheduled or reconvened meeting, shall be given at least 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) before the meeting.
- A public agency must
  - post a notice of meetings at the principal office of the agency, and if no such office exists, at the place where the meeting is to be held.
  - provide electronic access to meeting notices on the Internet.
- A governing body of a public agency is not required to use an agenda, but if it chooses to utilize one, the governing body must post a copy of the agenda at the entrance to the location of the meeting prior to the meeting.
- The ODL does not require a public agency to formally adjourn its meetings. This does not relieve the public agency its requirement to post notice of its meetings 48 hours in advance as prescribed by I.C. § 5-14-1.5-5(a).

Memoranda

- Memoranda are to be available within a reasonable period of time after the meeting. The minutes, if any, are to be open for public inspection and copying.
- Memoranda should include:
  - date, time, and place of the meeting;
  - the members of the governing body recorded as either present or absent;
  - the general substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided;
  - and a record of all votes taken, by individual members, if there is a roll call.

Virtual Meetings

- At least 50% (4) board members must be present, otherwise meeting must be canceled or postponed. Offsite participants must be able to be seen and heard by the public in order to vote.

- Should the remote board member not have access to technology allowing them to be seen, they can still participate in discussion but cannot be considered to be present or participate in any final action.
- A policy setting parameters around virtual meetings is mandatory for electronic participation.
- All votes must be taken by roll call.
- An individual member cannot participate remotely by electronic means in more than half of the governing body's meetings annually unless the member's physical absence is due to military service, illness or medical conditions, death of a relative, or an emergency threatening life or limb.
- While a member is limited to participating electronically in two consecutive meetings only, they may extend consecutive meetings if their physical presence is precluded by military service, illness or medical conditions, death of a relative, or an emergency threatening life or limb.
- Among other subject matter, adopting a budget must only be taken in person.

Under public health emergency, the entirety of a governing body may participate remotely with the following requirements:

- The public must simultaneously observe the meetings. All of the practical requirements noted above remain in place as to reasonable technological fidelity.
- Memoranda must identify the platforms used and the members who participated electronically.
- All votes are to be taken by roll call.
- Based on local and state health orders and caps on gathering size, whether to allow a physical audience is at the discretion of the governing body. As with any meeting, the public must be notified of the date, time, and location of the meeting 48 hours in advance.

The Public Access Handbook addresses many of the key issues of interest to SWCDs. To learn more, visit: https://www.in.gov/pac/. The newly adopted virtual meeting guidance may be found at https://www.in.gov/pac/files/1437-guidance-final.pdf.