

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**May 18, 2021**

**SureTech Laboratories**

**7501 Miles Dr, Indianapolis, IN 462**

**Conference call**

- I. 9:30 am.: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of April 2021**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants Program- Geneva Tyler
  - b. Clean Water Indiana Grants Guidance- Tara Wesseler-Henry
  - c. Clean Water Indiana Extension Requests
    - 1. Clinton SWCD- Geneva Tyler
    - 2. Kosciusko SWCD- Jennifer Thum
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
  - a. Plan of Work- Laura Fribley and Nathan Stoelting
  - b. Budget update- Jordan Seger
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - a. Jefferson SWCD- Laura Fribley
  - b. Newton SWCD- Geneva Tyler
  - c. Shelby SWCD- Tara Wesseler-Henry
  - d. Wabash SWCD- Katie Seacrest
- VI. ISDA Reports**
  - a. DSC Director- Trevor Laureys
  - b. CREP and Water Quality- Julie Harrold
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**
  - 2021 Meeting Date**
    - July 20, TBD
    - September 21, TBD
    - October 26\*, TBD
- XI. Adjourn**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.



**State Soil Conservation Board  
May 18, 2021  
Clean Water Indiana Grants**

**Program Updates**

**Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants**

2019

- Projects Expire 12/31/21
- Mid-year updates due 7/31/21

2020

- Projects Expire 12/31/22
- Mid-year updates due 7/31/21

2021

- All grants have requested their initial 50% claim.
- These grants have a first report due on July 31, 2021.

**Non-SWCD Led Projects**

IASWCD (CCSI)

Expires: 12/31/21

Total amount of grant agreement \$64,450.00

Remaining funds: \$0

Expires: 12/31/2022

Claim: \$22,500.00

Remaining funds: \$22,500.00

Claim requested: \$22,000.00

Expires 12/31/2023

Grant ID G-01272

Claim: \$45,000

Remaining funds: \$45,000

*SICIM*

Expires 12/31/2023

Grant number: CWI-21-115

Claim: \$33,000

**Grant Reviews**

- Similar to years past, 10 grants will be reviewed in 2021.
- Selections have been made per the CWI communication policy for both marginal and routine grants.

- District Support Specialists are contacting grantees to schedule reviews.

**AFR**

- The \$10,000 CWI match grant is being deposited to SWCDs, along with any approved training funds.



## Clean Water Indiana 2022 SWCD-Led Competitive Grants Guidance

**Executive Summary:** The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the Clean Water Indiana Fund to Support Indiana conservation groups (nonprofits or units or subdivisions of government), in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in efforts to address the priority concerns of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) business plan. The SSCB is accepting competitive proposals for targeted projects up to three years in length. The Clean Water Indiana fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) under the direction of the SSCB (IC 14-32-8-6).

**Application Process:** Applications are submitted online through the Indiana Grant Management System (GMS). A request for a GMS account is required. Please contact [cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov) to request an account.

All applications will be scored and ranked alongside the SWCD led proposals for CWI funding consideration. The CWI grants committee's funding recommendations for both SWCD-led and Non-SWCD led projects will be presented to the full SSCB at the October SSCB meeting.

**Application Deadline:** The application must be submitted by **September 9, 2021 at 4 pm EDT**. By submitting the application, the lead SWCD certifies that each partnering districts have agreed to the terms outlined in the application.

Upon submission of the application, if a pdf copy is needed please request a copy here: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/2a1a2557c61b4e688b028032c37697a4>

**Eligible Applicants:** Applications can be submitted by any SWCD in the State of Indiana. However, only one application is permitted per project and must be submitted by the lead SWCD. SWCDs may be lead on only one application in the 2021 grant cycle. Lead districts must be up to date on all CWI reporting. Projects relating to urban practices that will reduce sediment and nutrient are eligible. Conservation practices and lab analysis of soil and water that are components of research projects are eligible.

**Ineligible Projects:** The 2021 CWI grant program cannot be used to fund research equipment. Cost-sharing is also not allowed on specific practices that an entity is required to install to comply with a state or local rule or ordinance. *Example: CWI funds cannot be used to meet MS4 requirements unless the proposed use of funds goes above and beyond the requirement outlined in the MS4 permit's Storm Water Quality Management Plan.*

**Proposal Logistics:** This grant opportunity is competitive. Proposals can be for any amount that would accomplish the project described. A lead district must be selected to serve as the grantee to receive and administer the grant. However grant funds can be shared between districts through cooperative agreements locally. The grant proposal must document how the grant funds will address at least two of the State priority resource concerns referenced in the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB's) Business Plan adopted in 2020. Proposals that outline how CWI funds will leverage additional funding from other sources as well as engage other partners are strongly encouraged. CWI project proposals that will be in tandem with ongoing projects are encouraged. *Example: CWI funds might be used to add technical assistance to help implement sediment and nutrient reduction practices cost-shared through a LARE or 319 project.*

**Project Dates:** All 2022 Clean Water Indiana Grant projects shall take no longer than three full years to complete. Projects will start on January 1, 2022 and must be finished and all funds spent by December 31, 2024.

**Project Description:** The proposal must identify the current nonpoint source water quality concern(s) in the selected district(s). The proposal must also identify how addressing this resource concern pertains to both the SWCD business plan(s) and the SSCB business plan.

**Partnerships:** Each application must state clearly what each partner and participating district will be contributing to the proposed project (i.e. outreach, professional assistance, estimated funds, etc.) Partnering districts and organizations must be identified with a point of contact for the project, their contact information, and an explanation of any anticipated cash or in kind match from the partner.

**Conservation Practices:** Conservation practices and structural measures shall follow NRCS Field Office Technical Guide where applicable. New technologies not currently in the technical guide may be implemented if reviewed and concurred in by a technical representative of the Conservation Implementation Teams (CIT) or their designee. *Please note that pollinator plantings must be free of species that are noxious, invasive, and/or all amaranth. To verify that seed mixes are free of these species, a district MUST request the seed lab card from the distributor. For more information, please contact your DSS.* For cost-share practices, CWI funds may be used to pay up to a maximum of 75% of the total conservation practice cost. However, this also applies to cover crops, with 25% of the cost being the responsibility of the landowner and a maximum dollar cap at \$20/ac. If applying for cost share, please describe the process you will implement to select grant recipients. Priority will be given to projects who demonstrate a strategic process for managing cost share dollars and prioritizing first-time users.

**Funding Restrictions:** Proposals must fall within the funding context allowed under the Clean Water Indiana Law (IC 14-32-8). The law prohibits funds to be used for food, food related paper products, office equipment or district self-promotional materials (i.e. mugs, t-shirts, pens, etc.) CWI grant dollars shall not be utilized to pay directly for employee benefits, such as retirement, health insurance, paid time off, taxes, etc. If CWI competitive grant dollars are being utilized to fund a staff position, once the funds are disbursed to a staff person, they may utilize their stipend/wages as they see fit. This only pertains to CWI competitive grant dollars and not to the \$10,000 CWI statutory match.

**Match Requirements:** A 50 percent cash and/or in-kind match is required. Match contributions can be federal, state, and/or local sources including such things as landowner costs, staff time, supervisor time, equipment use, purchase, rental, etc. Proposals that request funds for staffing require a 25% cash or in-kind match for the staffing component. *Example: District A submits a \$10,000 for solely a staff position. District A's proposal requires a match of \$2,500. District B submits a \$10,000 proposal that includes \$5,000 for staff and \$5,000 for cost share. Proposal B is required to have \$3,750 match.* The match is applicable only if directly related to the purpose of the proposed project. The grants committee may give preference to cash match rather than in kind during the scoring process. Grant proposals must use the match standards outlined below to develop their project budget. State employee time may not be used as match.

**Match Standards:** (all figures are per hour of project work)

ICP Staff/SWCD supervisors (including associates) \$25\*

Landowner Time: \$25

Professional Services: \$25

Student/Intern/Volunteer: \$10

\*ICP match rates were calculated from publicly available data in Gateway and public transparency portals.

Any landowner contribution toward the remaining portion of cost share practices should be counted as cash match.

In general, time spent working on the project should be considered in-kind match; whereas money would be considered cash match.

**Leveraging Funds:** SWCDs are encouraged to partner with traditional and non-traditional organizations/agencies at the local, state, and federal level to leverage additional funds for their project/initiative. Projects which add to the percent cost-share/incentive rate offered through another program are prohibited. *Example: A project where CWI funds are used for cost share and 319 funds for technical assistance are acceptable. A project where CWI and 319 funds are both used to give producers a larger cost share amount is prohibited.*

**Scoring Procedures:** The SSCB grants committee will utilize a scoring sheet to aid in ranking the proposals. The SSCB may use discretion when awarding grant funds.

**Process of Payments:** All funded SWCDs are required to register as a bidder with the State of Indiana. Instructions for registration can be obtained from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Once the proposal is approved by the SSCB, ISDA will issue an electronic contract to the grantee. Grantees must return their electronically signed contract to ISDA within 30 days of receipt in order to receive their funds. Funds must be utilized in a timely manner. Up to 50 percent of grant funding may be disbursed at the beginning of the grant, if justified by the applicant in their proposal and approved by the SSCB. All other payments will be made as reimbursement 45 days in arrears upon receipt of an updated report and claim that is submitted on GMS. *Please note that reimbursement claims may require updated financial reporting, a claim voucher and a Quickbooks or similar financial report showing that requested funds have been paid by the lead entity.*

10% of the grant funds must be left before submitting the final report.

**Reporting Requirements:** Financial and project status reports will be required for the duration of the grant and a final report will be due at the end of the grant. The grant reporting forms will be provided. This report must be completed semi-annually (every 6 months) and summarize the outcomes and achievements of the project. These reports will be due 30 days following the anniversary date of the grant and are cumulative. *Example: grants that begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> will have reports due January 31<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>.* Tracking of conservation practice implementation (following FOTG standards) must be reported through Conservation Link Share point conservation project tracking system spreadsheet shall be completed by the 1st Friday of the quarter.

All in-kind must be reported in full for each grant update. In-kind cannot be accounted for at a later report. Any state employee's time may not be counted as in-kind match.

**Grant Reviews:** ISDA routinely visits with its grantees to ensure projects and grants are proceeding as intended and offer guidance and support if needed. Each year, ISDA will strategically select grants to review. These reviews can include open grants and grants that have been completed in the last three years. Upon completion of a review, ISDA will send a summary of results to all districts involved in the project and their board(s). If found during formal review or routine reporting checks, failure to make progress on the project or report progress as specified in the grant agreement will be noted in a project's file and may jeopardize a district's ability to receive competitive grant funds in future cycles.

### Questions:

For assistance please contact your District Support Specialist (DSS).

<i>Northeast:</i>	Jennifer Thum	<a href="mailto:jthum@isda.in.gov">jthum@isda.in.gov</a>	(260) 341-6966
<i>Northeast:</i>	Katie Secrest	<a href="mailto:katie.secrest@usda.gov">katie.secrest@usda.gov</a>	(260) 356-6816
<i>Northwest:</i>	Geneva Tyler	<a href="mailto:gt Tyler@isda.in.gov">gt Tyler@isda.in.gov</a>	(317) 518-4036
<i>South:</i>	Laura Fribley	<a href="mailto:lfribley@isda.in.gov">lfribley@isda.in.gov</a>	(812) 595-5641
<i>Southeast:</i>	Tara Wesseler-Henry	<a href="mailto:twesseler@isda.in.gov">twesseler@isda.in.gov</a>	(765) 745-0306
<i>Southwest:</i>	Nathan Stoelting	<a href="mailto:nstoelting@isda.in.gov">nstoelting@isda.in.gov</a>	(812) 320-9873





**Deadlines that SWCDs must meet to be eligible to be lead on an application for CWI 2022**

- Election Committee Report: November 1, 2020
- Recommendation for Supervisor Appointment: November 1, 2020
- Nominee for Election: December 1, 2020
- Annual Meeting Held: March 31, 2021
- Election held at Annual Meeting: March 31, 2021
- Annual Financial Report and Audit Form/Page 2 of AFR: March 31, 2021
- Certification of Election of Supervisors: Within 7 days of election

*The items are not specified in district law but are considered essential for district operations and will be considered for CWI 2021. These questions will appear as a self-assessment on the CWI application.*

- Updated SharePoint Directories: Within 30 days of changes
- The district has a current business plan.
- District Staff or supervisors participated in the fall/winter 2020/2021 cover crop transects.
- District has applied for a grant other than CWI in the last 3 years and how many.



## **Clean Water Indiana 2022 Non-SWCD Led Competitive Grant Guidance**

**Executive Summary:** The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the Clean Water Indiana Fund to Support Indiana conservation groups (nonprofits or units or subdivisions of government), in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in efforts to address the priority concerns of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) business plan. The SSCB is accepting competitive proposals for targeted projects up to three years in length. The Clean Water Indiana fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) under the direction of the SSCB (IC 14-32-8-6).

**Application and Selection Process:** All interested parties **must submit** a concept paper to the SSCB, which will be reviewed at their meeting on July 20th, 2021 in Indianapolis or virtually. At this meeting, the SSCB will decide which concepts will move on for further consideration for CWI funding. Selected concepts will receive applications, which will be scored and ranked alongside the SWCD led proposals for CWI funding consideration. The CWI grants committee's funding recommendations for both SWCD-led and Non-SWCD led projects will be presented to the full SSCB at the October SSCB meeting.

Contact the State Soil Conservation Board at [cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov) to request the concept paper form.

**Application Deadlines:** Concept papers are due **Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. All concept papers moving forward must be submitted a application by **September 9, 2021, at 4 pm EDT**. Submit concept papers to [cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov).

Applications are submitted online through the Indiana Grant Management System (GMS). A request for a GMS account is required. Please click here <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/898f6ffc7f794f80abda15c5b773ba93> to request an account.

All applications will be scored and ranked alongside the SWCD led proposals for CWI funding consideration. The CWI grants committee's funding recommendations for both SWCD-led and Non-SWCD led projects will be presented to the full SSCB at the October SSCB meeting.

**Application Deadline:** The application must be submitted by **September 9, 2021 at 4 pm EDT**. By submitting the application, the lead Grantee certifies that each partner has agreed to the terms outlined in the application. Upon submission of the application, if a pdf copy is needed please request a copy here: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/2a1a2557c61b4e688b028032c37697a4>

**Eligible Applicants:** Applications can be submitted by natural resource related conservation groups in the State of Indiana. Preference may be given to projects tied to the Indiana Conservation Partnership and its shared goals. Non-SWCD applications must show a partnership with a SWCD. Projects relating to urban practices that will reduce sediment and nutrient are eligible. Non-SWCDs may be lead on only one application in the 2022 grant cycle. Applicants must be up to date on all CWI reporting if they have received CWI grant funds in the past. Conservation practices and lab analysis of soil and water that are components of research projects are eligible.

**Ineligible Projects:** The 2021 CWI grant program cannot be used to fund research equipment. Cost-sharing is also not allowed on specific practices that an entity is required to install to comply with a state or local rule or ordinance. *Example: CWI funds cannot be used to meet MS4 requirements unless the proposed use of funds goes above and beyond the requirement outlined in the MS4 permit's Storm Water Quality Management Plan*

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**Proposal Logistics:** This grant opportunity is competitive. The grant proposal must document how the grant funds will address at least two of the State priority resource concerns referenced in the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB's) Business Plan adopted in 2020. The plan can be found at <https://www.in.gov/isda/2361.htm>. Proposals can be for any amount that would accomplish the project described. The SSCB may use discretion when awarding grant funds. Proposals that outline how CWI funds will leverage additional funding from other sources as well as engage other partners are strongly encouraged.

**Project Dates:** All Clean Water Indiana Grant projects shall take no longer than three full years to complete. Projects will start on January 1, 2022 and must be finished and all funds spent by December 31, 2024.

*If funded, lead entities will need to set up a vendor and bidder profile with the State of Indiana.*

**Project Description:** The proposal must identify the current natural resource concern(s) in the selected district(s). The proposal must also identify how addressing this resource concern pertains to both the organization's business plan and the SSCB business plan.

**Partnerships:** New application must state clearly what each partner and participating district will be contributing to the proposed project (i.e. outreach, professional assistance, estimated funds, etc.) Partnering local districts and organizations must be identified with a point of contact for the project, their contact information, and an explanation of any anticipated cash or in kind match from the partner.

**Conservation Practices:** Conservation practices and structural measures shall follow NRCS Field Office Technical Guide where applicable. New technologies not currently in the technical guide may be implemented if reviewed and concurred in by a technical representative of the Conservation Implementation Teams (CIT) or their designee. *Please note that pollinator plantings must be free of species that are noxious, invasive, and/or all amaranth. To verify that seed mixes are free of these species, the grantee MUST request the seed lab card from the distributor. For more information, please contact your DSS.* For cost-share practices, CWI funds may be used to pay up to a maximum of 75% of the total conservation practice cost. At least 25% of the cost must be provided by the landowner/producer as match. However, this also applies to cover crops, with 25% of the cost being the responsibility of the landowner and a maximum dollar cap at \$20/ac. If applying for cost share, please describe the process you will implement to select grant recipients. Priority will be given to projects who demonstrate a strategic process for managing cost share dollars and prioritizing first-time users.

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may jeopardize an organization's ability to receive competitive grant funds in future cycles.

**Questions:** Please contact the State Soil Conservation Board at [cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov](mailto:cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov).



## CLINTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

860 S. Prairie Ave., Suite 1 • Frankfort, IN 46041 • Phone 765-659-1223 Ext. 3 • Fax 855-408-4685

May 14, 2021

State Soil Conservation Board  
c/o Geneva Tyler, District Support Specialist  
Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
One North Capitol Ave., Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

State Soil Conservation Board members:

The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors recently evaluated the status and budget of the Clean Water Indiana grant (#A337-20-CWI-002) awarded to us and executed on January 1, 2020.

While every effort is being made to fulfill the obligations outlined in the agreement prior to the current expiration date of the agreement (12/31/2022) the Board of Supervisors would like to request a one-year extension.

The past year has presented many obstacles that the District has had to adapt to including COVID-19 and frequent and extended absences by key staff members due to personal health concerns. Staff have attempted to pivot under the circumstances by using technology, social media and other media outlets to "sell" the availability of cost-share and to meet the educational requirements. We continue to re-assess and adapt as we attempt to fully utilize the funds for their intended purpose – to provide technical, educational and financial resources for producers to build their soil health system of practices.

Thanks for your consideration and please direct questions to District Administrator, Leah Harden at 765-659-1223 extension 3 or [leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net).

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint Orr".

Clint Orr, Chairperson  
Dustin, Johnson, V. Chairperson  
Jerry Batts, Supervisor  
Matt Kelley, Supervisor



## Clean Water Indiana Grant Modification

Grantee	Kosciusko County SWCD
Project Contact	Staci Wolley
Grant Administration	G-01100

### Modification Information

<i>Activity to be Changed</i>
This grant is scheduled for completion in Dec 2021. We are requesting a time extension.
<i>Proposed Change</i>
Our partnership is requesting an extension through October 2022.
<i>Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.</i>
<p>There have been roadblocks to the completion of this project in the timeframe originally stated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-The obvious one is COVID. Many offices closed or went to reduced work schedules. People, including our target audience, were not as receptive to meeting, discussing or committing to projects with the uncertainty connected to the virus.</li><li>-Project contractors were not available. Contractors in our area, unlike many segments of the economy, became very busy in the past year, making it difficult to schedule the implementation of projects. With this uncertainty, our target audience was less receptive to discuss projects that may not be achievable. Contractors have recently expanded their capacity to accommodate an increased workload.</li></ul> <p>Some pluses for extending this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-This project provides technical assistance to identify issues and match landowners with a variety of funding sources to complete projects.</li><li>-We have utilized CRP, LARE and NRCS programs for this assistance.</li></ul>



-In January of 2021, an EPA 319 grant (\$400,000) for this watershed area was activated, providing a large funding pool to assist landowners. The extension of the CWI grant will allow us to tap into this attractive source of funding as a match.

Submission Date: May 5, 2021



**Clean Water Indiana  
Grant Modification**

Grantee	Grant County SWCD
Project Contact	Belinda Hussong
Grant Administration	G-01071

**Modification Information**

<i>Activity to be Changed</i>
Wetland restoration activities within Marion, Indiana to a native planted garden and educational space.
<i>Proposed Change</i>
The Gardens of Matter Park has approximately 5,225 square feet of space that needs updating to better fit into the Marion Parks Master Plan. This proposal would allow for funding to be used to complete this project.
<i>Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.</i>
<p>Matter Park in Marion, Indiana is 101-acre park containing 6.3 acres of gardens and landscaping. The gardens feature butterfly gardens, children’s vegetable gardens, native plant educational signage, and a meadow. The gardens also host many events ranging from weddings, fairs, concerts, to educational events and classes. However, there are currently some areas in the park that need improvement to keep up with the needs of the community and the Marion Parks Master Plan.</p> <p>The approximately 5,225 square feet of land that needs new plantings would be cleared and re-seeded with native pollinator plants. The plants intended to be used for these areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elymus canadensis (Canada Wild Rye)</li> <li>• Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)</li> <li>• Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)</li> <li>• Allium cernuum (Nodding Wild Onion)</li> <li>• Asclepias syriaca (Common Milkweed)</li> <li>• Asclepias tuberosa (Butterflyweed)</li> </ul>

- *Baptisia alba* (White Wild Indigo)
- *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (Partridge Pea)
- *Coreopsis lanceolata* (Lance-leaf Coreopsis)
- *Dalea purpurea* (Purple Prairie Clover)
- *Echinacea purpurea* (Purple Coneflower)
- *Eryngium yuccifolium* (Rattlesnake Master)
- *Helianthus occidentalis* (Western Sunflower)
- *Heliopsis helianthoides* (False Sunflower)
- *Liatris pycnostachya* (Prairie Blazing Star)
- *Monarda fistulosa* (Bergamot)
- *Oligoneuron riddellii* (Riddell's Goldenrod)
- *Oligoneuron rigidum* (Stiff Goldenrod)
- *Penstemon digitalis* (Foxglove Beardtongue)
- *Pycnanthemum virginianum* (Mountain Mint)
- *Ratibida pinnata* (Yellow Coneflower)
- *Rudbeckia hirta* (Black-eyed Susan)
- *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (Sweet Black-Eyed Susan)
- *Senna hebecarpa* (Wild Senna)
- *Silphium integrifolium* (Rosinweed)
- *Silphium terebinthinaceum* (Prairie Dock)
- *Symphotrichum laeve* (Smooth Aster)
- *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (New England Aster)
- *Tradescantia ohioensis* (Ohio Spiderwort)
- *Vernonia gigantea* (Tall Ironweed)
- *Zizia aurea* (Golden Alexanders)

It is anticipated that the cost for plugs for this area is approximately \$3,500. The area would be cleared using Parks Department labor and equipment. The plugs would be planted with volunteers coordinated by the city.

The addition of native rain and pollinator gardens could spur additional educational events, which is encouraged by the Marion Parks Master Plan. Matter Park already educates about native species and invasive removal – adding additional areas where invasive species need to be removed and where native species are planted will encourage attendance at those events.

Submission Date: May 13, 2021



## Clean Water Indiana Grant Modification

Grantee	Grant County SWCD
Project Contact	Belinda Hussong
Grant Administration	G-01071

### Modification Information

<i>Activity to be Changed</i>
Grant deadline.
<i>Proposed Change</i>
Extend for another year.
<i>Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program.</i>
Due to Covid-19 and extreme reduction of SWCD hours due to budget issues, it has not been possible to execute this grant as planned.

Submission Date: March 15, 2021

**State Soil Conservation Board 2021 Annual Plan of Work DRAFT**

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

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>When</b>
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 Sup. 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
Supervisor and District Education					
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. Authur.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
<p>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?</p>	<p>Reach out to “Big Picture Studio” to market ICP goals to general public. KC</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Kenny Cain</p> <p>Reach out to lead for more information or new ideas.</p>	<p>Think outside the box and spend some money selling the general public the fact if they don’t get off their ass, their legacy will be a planet their grand kids are not going to like. (Fear of loss... great motivation) KC</p>	<p>Ray and I are on CCSI ad hoc committee meetings with “Big Picture Studio” March 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to expand our CCSI communication efforts, and we will report back the 16<sup>th</sup>. KC</p>

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

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





# State Soil Conservation Board

May 18, 2021  
ISDA – DSC Director’s Report



## Trevor Laureys promoted to ISDA-Division of Soil Conservation Director

### Budget(s)

All figures before reserve, per Fiscal Year. x 2 for biennium figure

	<u>FY21</u>	<u>4/30/21 Balance</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>Difference (FY21-FY22)</u>
Clean Water Indiana				
General fund	970,000	-	970,000	0
Cig tax	2,963,546	-	2,519,014	-444,532 (15%)
Total	3,933,546	209,991	3,489,014	-234,541
Soil Conservation				
Cig tax	1,418,471	0	1,205,700	-212,771 (15%)

- CWI FY 22 (7/1/21 – 6/30/22) budget to be presented to SSCB for vote at 7/20/21 Board meeting
  - ISDA will propose taking the approx. 235k cut out of the traditional 660k Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) annual investment
    - If SSCB approves ISDA would work to maintain match requirements with USDA-FSA and private CREP partners
      - Includes maintaining SE Resource Specialist CREP Leader vacancy
    - This move would maintain the traditional \$ amount for CWI competitive grants
  - CWI FY 23
    - Likely similar plan with larger cut to CREP since we likely won’t have any rollover balance
    - This move would maintain the traditional \$ amount for CWI competitive grants
- Division of Soil Conservation FY 22
  - Maintaining some vacancies, reducing discretionary spending, charging indirect rates on incoming grants

### SSCB Member Terms

- Four member terms expiring 11/30/21, all can be submitted for reappointment if interested
  - Mr. Warren Baird
  - Mr. Kenny Cain
  - Mr. Larry Clemens
  - Mr. Brad Dawson
- Per IN Code 14-32-2-3 Qualifications of members
  - Sec. 3. (a) A majority of the seven (7) appointed members of the board must have experience as district supervisors. (b) In making appointments to the board, the governor may invite and consider the recommendations of the following:
    - (1) The Purdue University cooperative extension service.
    - (2) The Indiana state department of agriculture.
    - (3) The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District

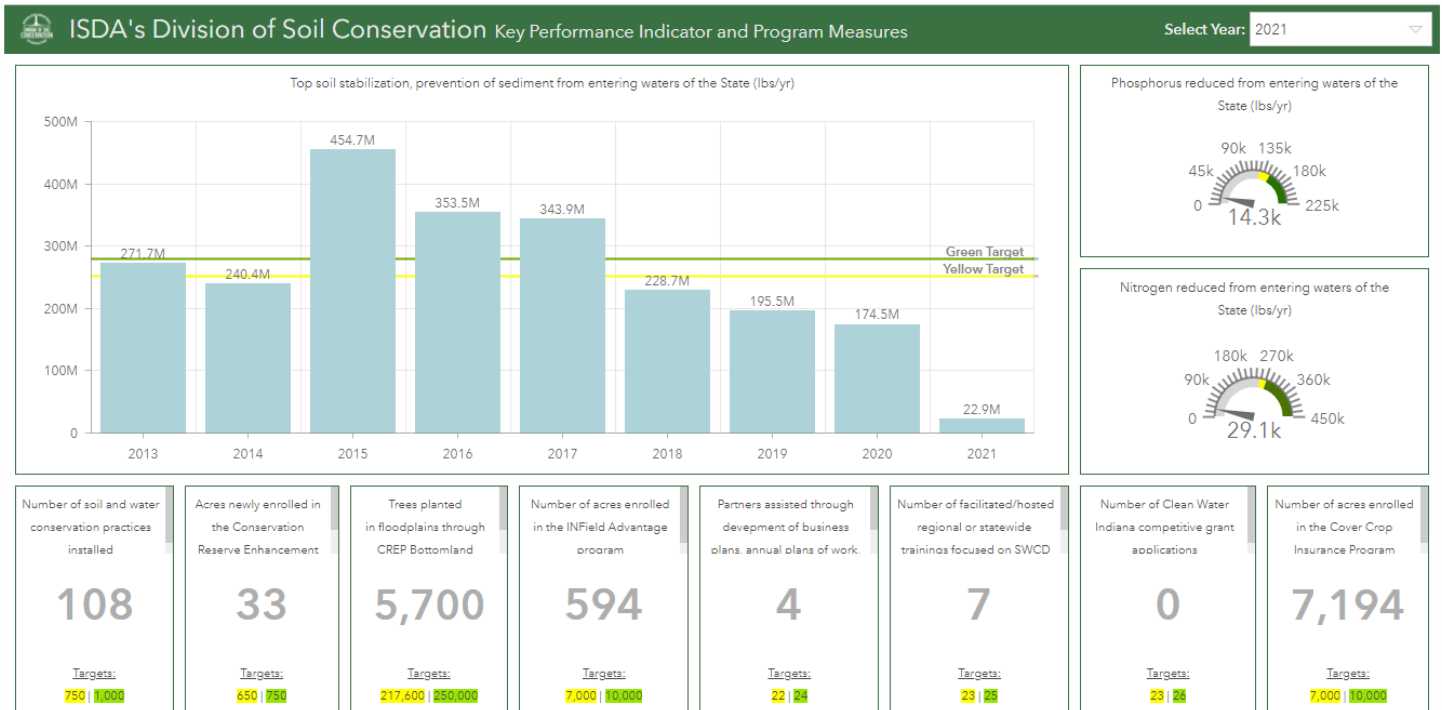
- (c) All appointments to the board shall be made without regard to political affiliation.
- (d) The members appointed to the board under section 2(1) and 2(2) of this chapter must be residents of at least four (4) different geographic regions of Indiana.

**Interim**

- Will continue to support and strategize with data team in limited capacity.

**Division of Soil Conservation Key Performance Indicator & Program Measures**

- Can be found on our soil conservation homepage
- Publicly available now, and good for tracking program progress



**2020 ICP Accomplishments Published (<https://arcp.is/re5OG0>)**

- Press release on Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Record year for ICP conservation implementations (32,000 practices)
- Financial Information can be found at the statewide and county level (see attached sheet)
  - Continuing to push our deliverables into more user-friendly formats.

# Spring 2021 Engineering Workload

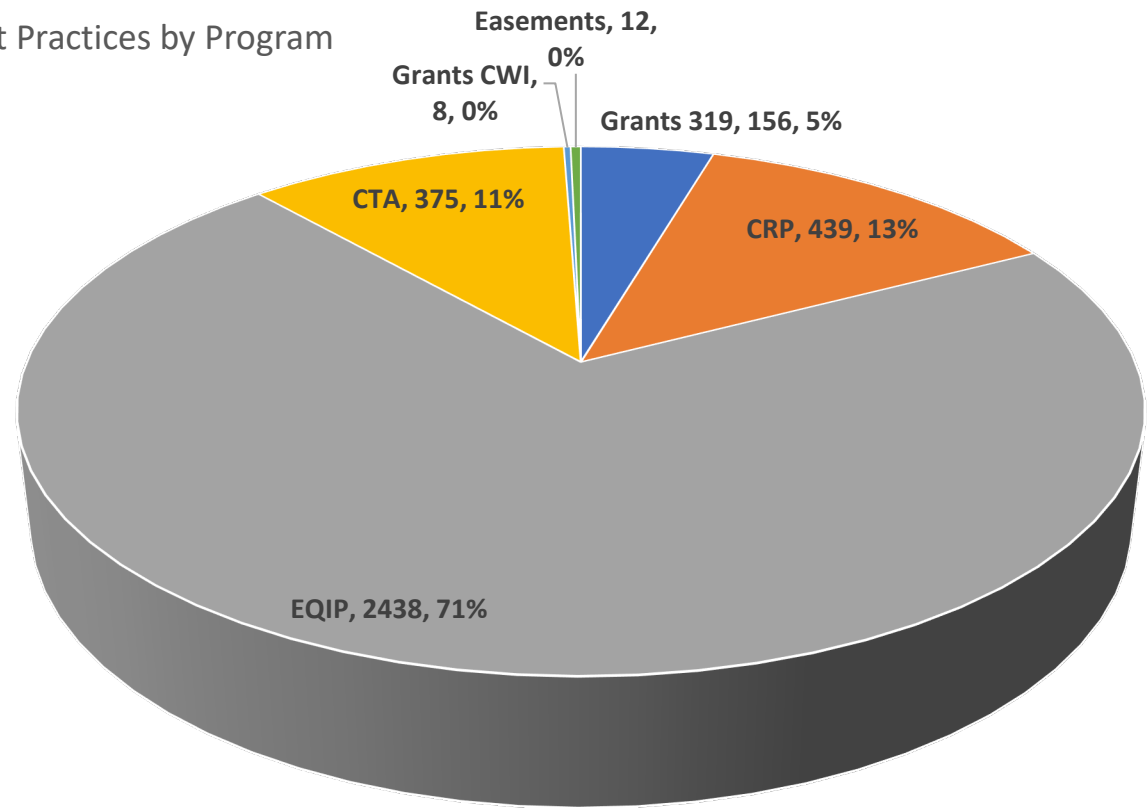
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SW Area Indiana

Andrea Gogel

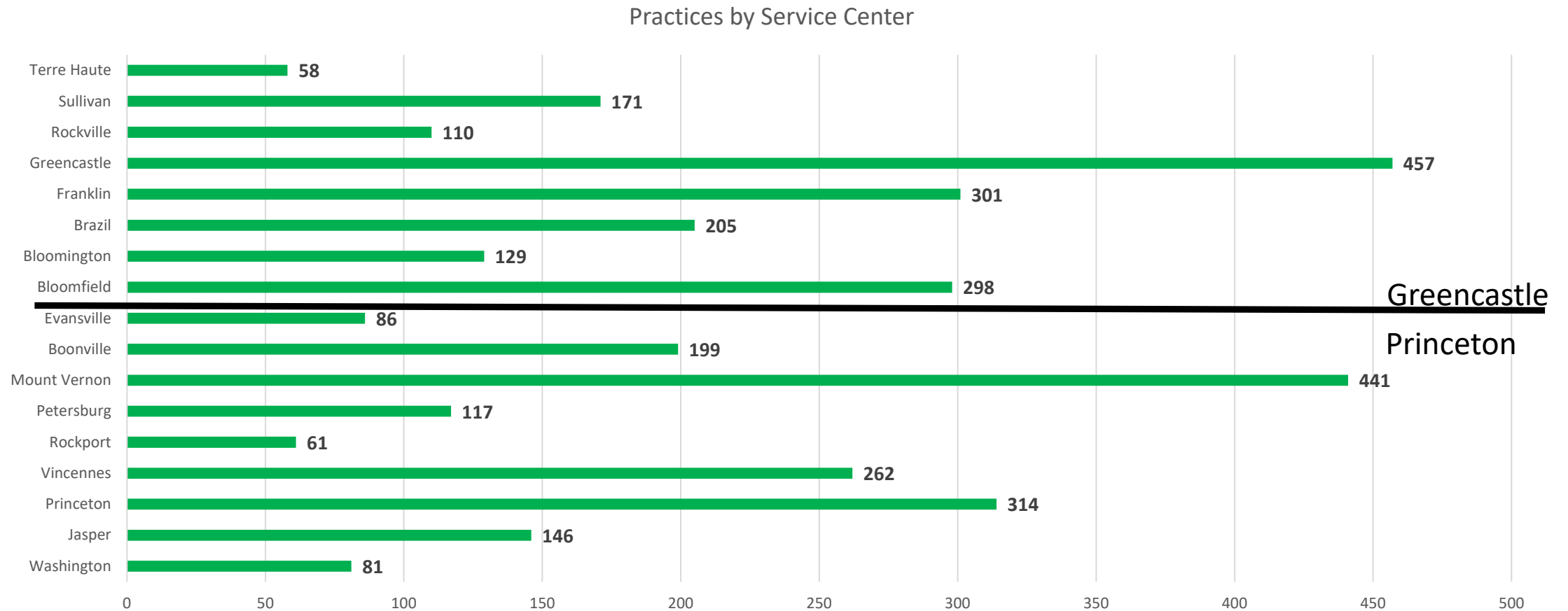
# Percent of Engineering Practices by Program

Percent Practices by Program

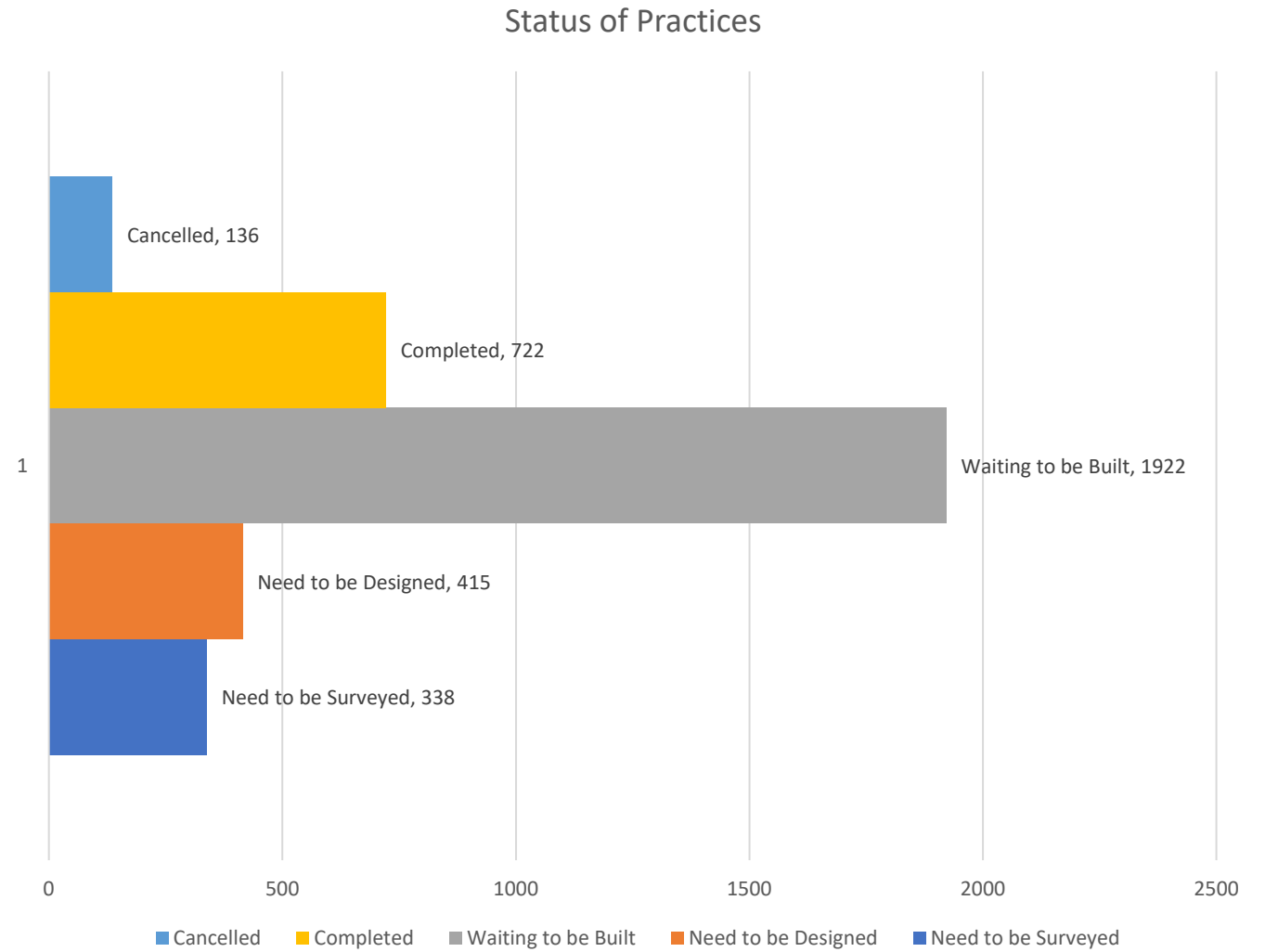


■ Grants 319 ■ CRP ■ EQIP ■ CTA ■ Grants CWI ■ Easements

# SW Area Practices by Service Center



# Status of Practices – SW Area



SSCB Meeting - May 18th, 2021 - 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 5/17/2021	231.58	52.20	6,007.59	51.63	800.67	7,739.37	1911.76	3,596.21	20,391.01	26,250.00	77.68%
Total CREP Enrollment	238.17	58.56	6,405.98	51.63	853.65	8,184.85	2082.15	3,956.19	21,831.18	26,250.00	83.17%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90		
									Difference =	1,440.17	

	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	\$ 587,374.00	\$ 21,530.00	\$ 325,301.00	\$ 3,175,208.00	\$ 1,723,160.50	\$ 2,671,976.00	\$ 8,532,927.50	\$ 711,830.25	\$ 9,244,757.75

Federal Match of \$4-\$13 is between \$ 34,131,710.00  
 \$ 110,928,057.50

	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 5/17/2021	0.00	0.00	206.98	1.58	2.90	25.16	0.00	132.42	369.04

Note: These acres are not re-counted in the total above.

## SSCB Meeting - May 18th, 2021 - 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	114.73	0.00	0.00	129.81
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	9.88	0.00	0.00	644.70	0.00	0.00	654.58
Lower East Fork White	53.50	45.20	147.89	30.30	83.17	717.85	287.16	0.00	1365.07
Lower White	10.70	0.00	61.85	0.00	111.20	2,133.43	123.03	0.00	2,440.21
Middle Wabash-Busseron	2.00	0.00	6.42	0.00	13.50	1,522.10	672.62	42.06	2,258.70
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	107.23	0.00	0.00	73.10	37.17	59.42	283.52
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	142.62	6.97	61.80	676.16	514.19	177.70	1,583.94
Tippecanoe River	93.84	0.00	614.76	0.00	3.41	21.40	73.30	2,221.56	3,028.27
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	378.55	0.00	36.50	197.71	0.00	0.00	612.76
Upper Wabash	21.25	7.00	804.98	2.56	64.49	275.85	82.59	84.29	1343.01
Upper White	35.09	0.00	176.93	0.00	282.80	304.44	0.00	71.18	870.44
Reported Completed as of 5/17/2021	227.48	52.20	2,463.09	39.83	659.97	6,681.47	1790.06	2,656.21	14,570.31
Enrolled as of 5/17/2021	234.07	58.56	2,861.48	39.83	712.95	7,126.95	1,960.45	3,016.19	16,010.48

### 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	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland Pigeon	0.0	0.0	19.83	1.58	2.90	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.31
Tippecanoe	0.0	0.0	156.80	0.00	0.00	14.1	0.0	132.42	303.28
Upper White	0.0	0.0	30.35	0.00	0.00	11.1	0.0	0.0	41.45
CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 5/17/2021	0.0	0.0	206.98	1.58	2.90	25.2	0.0	132.42	369.04



## SSCB Meeting - May 18th, 2021 - 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 Dollars	CP-4D Dollars	CP-21 Dollars	CP-3A Dollars	CP-22 Dollars	CP-31 Dollars	CP-23 Dollars	CP-23A Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,881.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 45,892.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,805.00	\$ 5,180.50	\$ 56,985.50
Lower Wabash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 988.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 257,880.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 258,868.00	\$ 25,886.80	\$ 284,754.80
Lower East Fork White	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 4,520.00	\$ 14,789.00	\$ 12,120.00	\$ 33,268.00	\$ 287,140.00	\$ 272,802.00	\$ -	\$ 629,989.00	\$ 62,998.90	\$ 692,987.90
Lower White	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ 6,185.00	\$ -	\$ 44,480.00	\$ 853,371.00	\$ 98,107.00	\$ -	\$ 1,003,213.00	\$ 100,321.30	\$ 1,103,534.30
Middle Wabash-Busseron	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 642.00	\$ -	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 608,840.00	\$ 614,789.00	\$ 39,957.00	\$ 1,269,828.00	\$ 126,982.80	\$ 1,396,810.80
Middle Wabash-Deer	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 9,983.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,156.00	\$ 21,781.50	\$ 15,633.00	\$ 75,213.50	\$ 7,521.35	\$ 82,734.85
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 8,232.00	\$ 2,788.00	\$ 24,720.00	\$ 270,464.00	\$ 488,480.50	\$ 159,315.00	\$ 954,449.50	\$ 95,444.95	\$ 1,049,894.45
Tippecanoe River	\$ 9,384.00	\$ -	\$ 76,036.00	\$ -	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 14,184.00	\$ 69,635.00	\$ 1,956,720.00	\$ 2,127,323.00	\$ 212,732.30	\$ 2,340,055.30
Upper East Fork White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,855.00	\$ -	\$ 14,600.00	\$ 79,084.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 131,539.00	\$ 13,153.90	\$ 144,692.90
Upper Wabash	\$ 2,125.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 63,092.00	\$ 1,024.00	\$ 16,240.00	\$ 90,236.00	\$ 78,460.50	\$ 55,230.00	\$ 307,107.50	\$ 30,710.75	\$ 337,818.25
Upper White	\$ 3,509.00	\$ -	\$ 12,241.00	\$ -	\$ 113,120.00	\$ 110,676.00	\$ -	\$ 67,621.00	\$ 307,167.00	\$ 30,716.70	\$ 337,883.70
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,980.00
<b>Reported Paid as of 5/17/2021</b>	<b>\$ 22,748.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 232,924.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,564.00</b>	<b>\$ 257,392.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,644,923.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,644,055.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,294,476.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,118,302.50</b>	<b>\$ 711,830.25</b>	<b>\$ 7,830,132.75</b>

### 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 Dollars	CP-4D Dollars	CP-21 Dollars	CP-3A Dollars	CP-22 Dollars	CP-31 Dollars	CP-23 Dollars	CP-23A 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
<b>Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP</b>	<b>\$ 410.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 354,450.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,966.00</b>	<b>\$ 67,909.00</b>	<b>\$ 530,285.00</b>	<b>\$ 79,105.00</b>	<b>\$ 377,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,414,625.00</b>

### 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 Dollars	CP-4D Dollars	CP-21 Dollars	CP-3A Dollars	CP-22 Dollars	CP-31 Dollars	CP-23 Dollars	CP-23A Dollars	Total Dollars
Highland Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,683.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 1,160.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,475.00
Tippecanoe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,560.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,624.00	\$ -	\$ 52,968.00	\$ 73,152.00
Upper White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>CREP to CREP reenrollment reported paid as of 5/17/2021</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 16,243.00</b>	<b>\$ 632.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,160.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,624.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 52,968.00</b>	<b>\$ 76,627.00</b>

# Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

## May 2021 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

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### FARM BILL PROGRAMS

#### **National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)**

Indiana NRCS is accepting applications until June 18, 2021 to be considered for planning or implementation projects.

NWQI began in 2012 as an initiative delivered jointly with EPA and IDEM to address nutrients, sediment and pathogens in priority small scale watersheds impaired from ag sources. In 2017, NWQI piloted a “readiness” phase, now called a “planning” phase, where technical assistance is provided for conservation planning, outreach and coordinating with partners prior to receiving financial assistance. In 2019 NWQI expanded to include source water protection of ground or surface water as eligible watersheds.

NWQI watershed projects must first complete a watershed assessment plan (planning phase) meeting NRCS guidance (funding is available for a one-year agreement to complete this work). This planning phase will provide time for watershed-level assessment, on-farm planning, and outreach to support development of the multi-year implementation plan that will assist states with their nutrient loss reduction strategies or source water protection.

Watersheds with an approved assessment plan can apply for targeted EQIP funding for implementation of conservation practices over the course of several years. The approved assessment plan does not have to be a product of the NWQI readiness phase but does need to meet the NRCS assessment plan criteria.

Partners who are interested in being a part of an NWQI readiness phase or implementation phase should contact Jill Reinhart, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships. Application materials will be due no later than June 18, 2021 for funding in fiscal year 2022.

#### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)**

NRCS is seeking proposals to fund new, unique projects under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program’s (RCPP) Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) that take innovative and non-traditional approaches to conservation solutions at the local, regional and landscape scales. Through 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 effectively implemented through the classic RCPP.

A significant portion of funds will address projects related to climate smart agriculture and forestry. These include projects related to carbon markets and new technologies. NRCS also strongly encourages proposals from projects that address the conservation needs of urban farmers in metropolitan areas, supporting access to healthy fresh food in historically underserved populated communities.

NRCS will execute AFAs through agreements with eligible lead partners who will be responsible for contracting directly with eligible producers and landowners to implement conservation activities on the ground.

Project types that may be suited to RCPP-AFAs, as highlighted by the 2018 Farm Bill statute 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.

NRCS is accepting RCPP-AFA project proposals now through May 28. Proposals must be submitted through the RCPP portal at <https://nrcs-sites.secure.force.com/>. Information about this request for proposals is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). NRCS recently held a webinar about the RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement. This can be found on the RCPP - How to Apply website located here: [RCPP - How to Apply | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](#).

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

Indiana NRCS is investing \$7.8 million in the Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Collaboration project. The Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Collaboration is a partnership driven by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), which joins forces with more than 30 partners to help participating farmers improve soil health, reduce phosphorus and sediment loading and prevent harmful algal blooms in the Western Lake Erie basin by using a suite of conservation practices, working towards a 40% reduction of dissolved phosphorus. The partnership will use sophisticated targeting tools, like the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), to work with producers and landowners operating near the Maumee headwaters, an area identified as a source of high levels of excess phosphorus, to further education, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil, water and wildlife on a watershed scale.

### **Additional Farm Bill Funding**

As we continue to see an increase in workload throughout the state, Indiana NRCS is receiving additional dollars for several of our programs, for a total of \$27M+ in technical assistance and \$42M+ in financial assistance.

### **CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS – ON FARM TRIALS**

NRCS is seeking proposals through June 21 for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials). On-Farm Trials feature collaboration between NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact. Incentive payments are provided to producers to offset the risk of implementing innovative approaches.

NRCS is seeking proposals that address at least one of the following four On-Farm Trial priorities:

- Climate-smart agricultural solutions
- Soil health demonstration trial
- Irrigation water management
- Management technologies and strategies
- NRCS will accept proposals from the following eligible entities:
- Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture
- Non-government organizations with experience working with agricultural producers
- Non-federal government agencies

On-Farm Trial CIG applications must be submitted through Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=332993>) by 11:59 p.m. EDT on June 21. A webinar for potential applicants is scheduled for 3 p.m. EDT on May 13. Join the webinar through your TEAMS app by visiting: <https://bit.ly/2yRK9i9>. If you don't have access to TEAMS, you may also call in +1-202-650-0123 and use conference ID 878271943#.

## **CONSERVATION AGRICULTURAL MENTORING PROGRAM (CAMP)**

Through a mentee/mentor relationship, this NRCS program offers new employees and newly relocated employees an exciting opportunity to grow relationships with local producers and elevate their expertise of production agriculture in their local communities.

CAMP is designed for customer-facing employees who have fewer than 36 months of experience in the agency or who recently relocated to a different field office. District conservationists match volunteer producers with employees. Employees go out on the land with their producer mentors 6-12 times per year (at least once every other month) during regular business hours at times that are convenient for the producers. Producer mentors will provide a safe, low-risk learning environment for employees to advance their knowledge of:

- Common agricultural practices, equipment, inputs and other topics;
- The types of daily challenges and decisions producers face;
- Local resource problems and concerns; and
- How producers use conservation practices to address resource problems.

Employees participate in the program for 12-18 months, based on the district conservationist's assessment of whether they will continue to benefit from the program after the 1-year mark. Indiana NRCS is currently in its planning stages of developing the in-state program and hopes to roll this out in late July/early August.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE**

With 70 percent of lands in the contiguous U.S. privately owned, agricultural producers play a critical role in fostering a healthy environment through climate-smart management practices that conserve natural resources, build healthier soils, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). In the months ahead, USDA will serve as a leader on using the best science, research, and conservation tools to support producers in building resiliency across their operations and mitigating the impacts of flooding, drought, wildfire, and other climate-related disaster events while supporting clean air, water, and communities. We will do this through voluntary conservation programs – supported by one-on-one technical assistance – to deliver climate-smart agriculture solutions to working lands across the nation. Areas of focus for climate-smart agriculture include, but are not limited to:

- soil health,
- nitrogen stewardship,
- livestock partnerships,
- conservation of sensitive lands,
- grazing and pasture lands,
- private forest growth and retention,
- urban forests, and
- energy generation and efficiency.

NRCS offers conservation programs with a suite of voluntary practices to help producers build healthier soils, improve nutrient stewardship, sustainably manage livestock, increase energy efficiency, or pursue private forest growth and retention, among other conservation outcomes. USDA is committed to building upon these efforts to support climate-smart agriculture now and into the future. The benefits are two-fold: producers improve the health, productivity, resiliency, and profitability of their operations while mitigating the impacts of climate change for our entire nation.



**Indiana Association of  
Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts**

Protecting and enhancing Indiana's soil  
and water resources for all Hoosiers



**IASWCD**

225 S. East Street  
Suite 142  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317.692.7325

Web: [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org)

**PRESIDENT:**

Bobby Hettmansperger  
Wabash County

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Jeff Baker  
Warrick County

**TREASURER:**

Sarah Delbecq  
DeKalb County

**SECRETARY:**

Marc Roberts  
Montgomery County

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Joe Schmees  
[joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org](mailto:joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org)

**To:** State Soil Conservation Board  
**From:** Bobby Hettmansperger, President, IASWCD  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021

**Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)**

- CCSI currently offering financial assistance for districts, please refer to the CCSI report.

**Urban Soil Health Program**

- New staff began 3/1 and spent first month training. Program held meet-and-greet virtual meetings regionally with Districts in April. Program staff are working to make connections with Districts and other partners. New webpage and needs survey available on IASWCD Statewide Initiatives tab.

**Pathway to Water Quality**

- The announcement went out that the State Fair will be held this year, and the PWQ committee has been working hard on getting the exhibit ready, along with closely monitoring a reduced budget from the State Fair to procure the supplies needed. A new sign and benches are being created for the adjacent area that will be new this year (former Boy Scout area).

**Legislative Issues**

- CWI dedicated funding (Cigarette Tax Fund) reversions were not returned in the final budget. However, the final budget did restore the CWI general fund appropriation to the amount from last budget cycle.
- As part of the passage of SEA 389 (wetlands bill), a Wetlands Taskforce will be created, and per the act, IASWCD will have a seat on that committee. IASWCD has to submit a nomination to the Governor by June 1.
- A summer study committee is assigned to review proposed Watershed Development Commissions from the original HB 1055.
- IASWCD met with many legislators this session working behind the scenes, and took part in several virtual calls with leadership throughout session.
- A session wrap-up webinar was held for districts and partners at the end of April and the recording available on the "for districts" IASWCD webpage.

**Other**

- NACD TA Grant applications are due to IASWCD by May 28. IASWCD will work with ISDA and NRCS to provide a priority ranking to NACD by June 6.
- Applications for River Friendly Farmer Awards are currently open on the IASWCD website, and are due by June 10. IASWCD is still discussing with the State Fair how we might carry out the ceremony this year.
- ISDA and IASWCD have been working together to plan virtual summer regional and training meetings for Districts. Virtual regional meetings with partner updates are 6/8, 6/10, 6/15 and 6/17. Evening virtual trainings for Districts are scheduled 7/20, 8/24, 9/21, and 10/19.
- 2022 SWCD Conference Planning committee met on April 30 to pick topics and speakers for next year. As a reminder, Annual Conference is scheduled for January 23-25 at the downtown Westin in Indianapolis.

**THE IASWCD MISSION** *is to enable the conservation of natural resources of Indiana.*

# Indiana District Region Meetings

*Statewide Partner Updates and Project Highlights  
for District Staff and Supervisors*



***Space is Limited!***

*Register now to reserve your spot  
and receive the Zoom link for each Region Meeting.*

## Northwest

**June 8**

12 noon (EDT)

*Highlighting Project:*

**Pollinators/GLRI  
(Porter County)**

<http://bit.ly/June8-Northwest>

## Northeast

**June 17**

7:00 pm (EDT)

*Highlighting Project:*

**Rallying Support  
(Grant County)**

<http://bit.ly/June17-Northeast>

## Southwest

**June 15**

12 noon (EDT)

*Highlighting Project:*

**Tree Program  
(Clay County)**

<http://bit.ly/June15-Southwest>

## Southeast

**June 10**

7:00 pm (EDT)

*Highlighting Project:*

**Transformation &  
Partnerships  
(Floyd County)**

<http://bit.ly/June10-Southeast>

# June Region Meetings for Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**Northwest**

June 8  
@ 12 noon

**Northeast**

June 17  
@ 7 pm

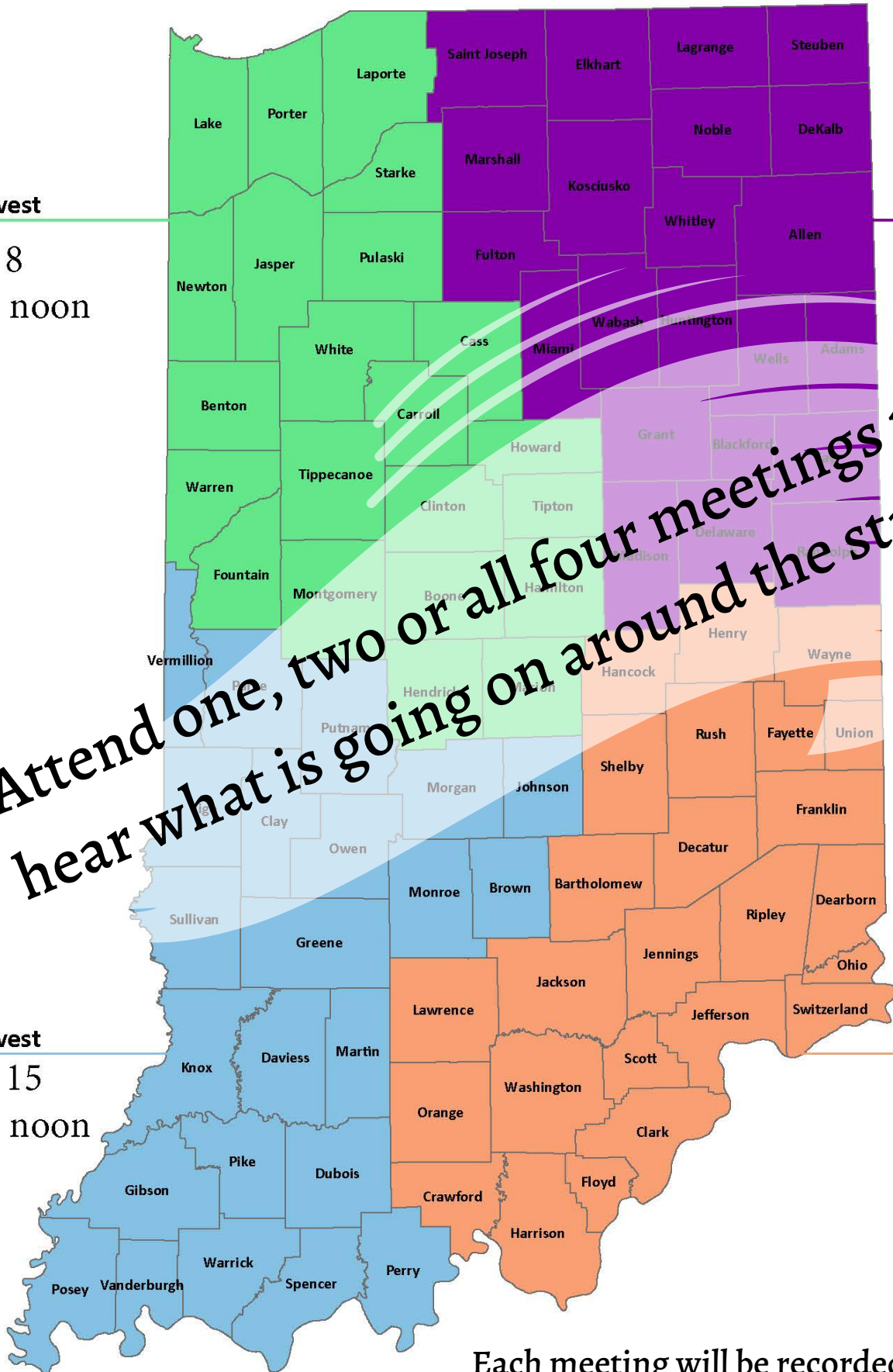
**Southwest**

June 15  
@ 12 noon

**Southeast**

June 10  
@ 7 pm

Attend one, two or all four meetings to hear what is going on around the state!



Each meeting will be recorded and posted on **IASWCD.org** for later viewing.

## Highlights

### CCSI Statewide Webinar “Strategies Moving Forward”

- Zoom Webinar hosted by CCSI with Lisa Holscher, CCSI Director, and Shannon Zezula, IN NRCS State Resource Conservationist
- Presentation included overviews of:
  - NRCS Agreements and Deliverables
  - CCSI ‘traditional resources’ – trainings, event support
  - CCSI Website and Social Media Resources
  - Skills and resources acquired over the last 12+ months and visions for adaptation with partners
  - Overview of financial impacts of COVID\*\*
- 193 in-person participants; 108 Video Views; *Substantial* uptick of website and social media traffic
- Viewable link: [https://ccsin.info/0429\\_Webinar](https://ccsin.info/0429_Webinar)

\*\*Please see attached Funding Request Sample Form and Information on use of funds.

*Note: projects must target improved soil health on Indiana cropland with an emphasis on farmers new(er) to these systems, and be supported by an established local soil health partnership. Projects may include edge-of-field practices of soil health system – such as buffers, pollinator habitat, etc.*

## 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.*

- Tech Tests / Planning for Virtual Visits with Steve Groff and David Brandt (All)
- April 19 – David Brandt (D)
- April 20 – Ray McCormick (D)
- April 21 – Mark Anson (D)
- April 23 – Friday Morning Coffee Club, facilitated by Loran Steinlage (D)
- April 30 – Barry Fisher (A)

### • 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)*

- March 6 – Knox County Farmer (D)
- April 20 – Knox County Farmer (D)



- **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.*

- March 16 – Mike Bredesen, Ecdysis (D)
- March 22 Purdue Agronomy Extension Group Meeting CCSI Update (A)
- April 22 – Demo plot discussions with PAC supervisors (D, A)
- April 27 – Soil Health Leadership Lab (D)

- **Presentations**

*Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)*

- March 5 (Virtual) Indiana Small Farms Conference “In-Field Soil Health Diagnostics)
- March 10 (Virtual) WREC “Soil Health Indicators”; 16 attendees
- March 11 (Virtual) CCSI-SARE Core Cover Crops and Soil Health – “Sustainable and Regenerative Soil Health Systems”; 77 attendees
- April 7 – AGRY 105 “In-field Soil Health Assessments”; 4 rotations totaling 40 students

## **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

- 2021 CCSI Webinar and Virtual Shop/Field Visit Series
  - March 16 (Virtual Farm Visit) John Pike, Pike Ag “Precision Cover Cropping for Biostrip-till”; 70 live attendees
  - April 6 – Steve Groff: Soil Health in Vegetable Production; 39 Live Attendees; 30 views
  - April 20 – Steve Groff and David Brandt: Soil Health, Plant Health, and Nutrition. Broadcast live from their respective farms; 51 Live Attendees
- March 13 IN PERSON Orange Co Beginning Farmer Breakfast
- March 24 (Hybrid) Boone County Cover Crop Field Day; 5 in-person, 3 virtual
- April 6 – (Virtual) Upper Wabash Drainage Water Management Workshop; 46 participants
- April 13 – (Virtual) Live from Avila with Derek Thompson; 14 participants
- April 15 and 20 (Virtual) – Job Spark with Posey County SWCD – Soil Health Demonstrations; Provided Virtual Field Day kit

#### Workshops in Progress:

- 2021 CCSI Webinar and Virtual Shop/Field Visit Series
  - May/June – In Field Soil Health Diagnostics
  - May/June – Beneficial Insects and Game/Song Bird Populations – Mike Bredesen, Ecdysis
  - June/July – Relay Cropping – Loran Steinlage, IA
- July 15 – Cover Crop Cookout; SW SWCDs; Vanderburg Co Fairgrounds
- July 21-22 – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training
- July/August – Posey/Gibson County – Top Farmer Round Table
- July/August – Decatur Co Field Day (Roger Wenning)
- Late August – Rush/Shelby Co Cover Crop Field Day

- September 15-16 – TNC Advanced Soil Health Training
- 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day (tentative)
- November 6 – Regional Ag Forum; Posey County.
- November 2021 – Spencer/Perry Workshop with Rick Clark and Wayne Fredericks
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021
- Vigo Co Small Farm Program – TBD
- December 10, 2021 Howard-Tipton County SWCD with Dr. Kris Nichols

## 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*

- March 11, 18, 25 – (Virtual) CCSI-SARE Core Soil Health Training Series; 54-77 attendees/session

Trainings in Progress:

- August 31-Sept 2 – “3-Day Soil Health Training”
- September 2021 Soil Health Nexus In-Service (A)
- Soil Health Nexus website development and review (A)
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual (A)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program Development (D)

## 3. Professional Development Opportunities

*Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.*

*Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills*

Trainings in Progress:

- 2021 Soil Health Training Curriculum / Adaptation Planning
- 2021 SARE PDP – Cover Crop in Vegetable Production – PAC Demonstrations
- Date / Topic TBD: Advanced CCSI-SARE Trainings
- Date(s) TBD: CCSI-SARE Livestock Integration Trainings (A)
- Small Diversified Farm Extension Soil Health Pilot Program (A)
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program (A)

## 4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- March 2 – (Virtual) Blue River Grazing Group
- March 10 – (Virtual) SE NRCS Area Meeting (SPM)
- March 10 – (Virtual) Jennifer Thum, ISDA – ICP Meeting and ISDA trainings (NPM)
- March 16 – (Virtual) SSCB Board Meeting (D)
- March 19 – (Virtual) IASWCD Board Meeting (D)
- March 22 - (Virtual) Purdue Agronomy Extension Group (A)
- March 24 – (Virtual) WLEB Partners Meeting (D)
- March 24 –(Virtual) NE ICP Meeting (NPM)
- March 29 – SW and SE CCSI Regional Teleconferences (NPM, A, D)
- March 31 – NW and NE CCSI Regional Teleconferences (NPM, A, D)April 3 – Rush SWCD
- April 19 (Virtual) Purdue Agronomy Extension Group (A)

- April 20 – Kevin Allison, Urban Soil Health Programs (D)
- April 20 – Elli Blain, Urban Soil Health Programs (D)
- April 26 – SW and SE CCSI Regional Teleconferences (All)
- April 26 – Adams Co SWCD (D)
- April 28 – NW and NE CCSI Regional Teleconferences (All)
- April 29 – Blue River Grazing Group (SPM)
- April 29 – CCSI Statewide Webinar (All); **Numbers**
- April 30 – IASWCD Annual Conference Planning (NPM, SPM)
- April 30 – Allen Co SWCD (NPM)
- May 11 – ICP Leadership (D)

### **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.*

- March 4 and 9 – CCSI Communications Strategic Planning Subcommittee Meetings
- March 1 - Soil Health News and Events Newsletter; 881 delivered, 383 opened (43%), 88 click rate (10%)
- March 11 – Upcoming CCSI Virtual Farm Visit; 1141 delivered, 569 opened (50%), 118 click rate (10%)
- March 15 - Soil Health News and Events Newsletter; 877 delivered, 360 opened (41%), 91 click rate (10%)
- March 25 – Recording Available; 84 delivered, 47 opened (56%), 11 click rate (13%)
- March 26 - Soil Health News and Events Newsletter; 876 delivered, 360 opened (41%), 78 click rate (9%)
- April 5 – Upcoming Virtual Farm Visit, 879 delivered, 418 opened (48%), 76 clicked (9%)
- April 9 – Soil Health News and Events; 869 delivered, 423 opened (49%), 94 clicked (11%)
- April 19 – Recording Available; 85 delivered, 38 opened (45%), 14 clicked (16%)
- April 19 – Recording Available; 45 delivered, 25 opened (60%), 8 clicked (19%)

#### **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:*

- Videos:
  - Virtual Shop Visit – Carter Morgan, Vermillion/Parke SWCD “Plan A (B, C, and D) for Planting Green”; 80 views
  - TNC Advanced Soil Health Training Series (4 videos); 7 views (Virtual Farm Visit) John Pike, Pike Ag LLC “Precision Cover Crops / Bio Strip-till”, 58 views
  - (Virtual Farm, Visit) Steve Groff, Lancaster Co PA “Soil Health in Vegetable Production”, 30 views
  - April 2 – Huntington Co SWCD Virtual Soil Health Workshop; 34 views
  - April 6 – Farm Drainage Virtual Workshop recording; 25 views
- Podcasts:

- So... You want me to change how I farm? – Rodney Rulon, Rulon Enterprises and Jerry Raynor, Indiana NRCS State Conservationist
- Last Minute Planter Adjustments – Barry Fisher, NRCS (ret) and AJ Adkins, NTM Ag/Dawn
- Blogs
  - March 20 – Op-Ed: Celebrating Hoosier Farms Who Feed and Clothe the World (Jerry Raynor, IN NRCS)
  - March 24 – No-till Sweet Corn, Pumpkin, and Winter Squash after Winter Rye (Liz Maynard, Purdue Extension and NPM)
  - March 30 - The Root Project (NPM)4/22 – Earth Day 2021 (NPM, SPM)
- Social Media
  - March Twitter:
    - 48 Tweets, 30.5K impressions, 24 mentions, 1,121 profile visits, 9 new followers.
    - Webinar Ads: 7,952 impressions; 481 engagements (6.05% rate)
  - April Twitter:
    - 70 Tweets, 44.7K impressions, 12 mentions, 2,391 profile visits, 17 new followers.
    - Webinar Ads: 6,197 impressions; 825 engagements (13.31% rate)
  - March Facebook:
    - 16,001 reach, 1,424 viral reach, 19,323 impressions, 526 engaged users
  - Webinar Ads: 14201 reach; 127 responses April Facebook:
    - 28,336 reach, 870 viral reach 33,040 impressions, 1055 engaged users
    - Webinar Ads: 21,104 reach; 145 responses
- Website
  - March 779 Users / 997 sessions
  - April 635 Users / 768 sessions

Materials completed:

- April 2021, Issue 19 - NRCS Agronomy Crib Notes edits “Spring Management of Cover Crops”

Materials in Progress:

- Adaptation of graphics to yard signs for download
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download
- Urban Soil Health Program – Small Scale Nutrient Management
- Soil Health Nexus – Soil Health Matrix

#### **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)

#### **G5. Funding**

- Corporate sponsorship in Virtual Shop Visit / Webinar and Podcasts

**OTHER**

- March 1 (Virtual) EPLP – Plant Food Chain and Indiana State Chemist (A)
- March 5 – AgData Pilot Project Advisory Committee (D)
- March 24 – REGAIN Virtual Office Hours with Jonathan Lundgren (SPM, NPM)
- May 5 (In-Person) EPLP – Feedstocks (A)
- Purdue Extension Organic Specialist Search Committee (A)



# Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

225 S East Street, Suite 740 - Indianapolis, IN 46202

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To all ICP employees and other valued partners,

The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) recently celebrated our 10-year anniversary, and we're set up for improved changes and new opportunities to take Indiana's soil health partnership efforts to new levels. Please join us for a statewide Zoom meeting to learn about all of the new and exciting opportunities to increase soil health adoption in your local area:

**What:** CCSI Statewide Virtual Meeting

**When:** April 29, 2021 (2:00 – 3:30 eastern)

**How:** Zoom (link) – <https://ccsin.info/3gkblUO>

**Agenda:**

- CCSI funding – present and future
- CCSI in a virtual world – lessons learned
- CCSI of the future
- 2021 Request for Proposals - Soil Health Efforts

Additional information and background about the agenda items:

**CCSI in a Virtual World:**

- Like other conservation partners across Indiana, activities of the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. In other years, CCSI would have materially participated in 50-60 events, reaching 4,000 – 6,000 attendees. Even though the CCSI team only participated in a single true in-person event between March 11 and December 31, 2020, a quick pivot to virtual technology enabled the program to continue outreach efforts. By utilizing technology at hand, we were able to reach approximately 4,650 attendees through virtual platforms in 2020.
- During winter 2021, CCSI additionally launched a series of Virtual Farm Visits and Soil Health Webinars that have been very successful: In the first quarter alone, over 550 individuals attended live broadcasts and videos from the events have been viewed over 500 times – so far.
- CCSI used “Event Support” funds from the 2018 USDA-NRCS cooperative agreement to make these virtual outreach events possible. These funds have included “Virtual Field Day Kits” for partner use and are available to any local partnership for the continued demand for hybrid events.

**2021 Request for Proposals - Soil Health Efforts**

- Although CCSI has exceeded the NRCS/IASWCD cooperative agreement deliverables, expenditures have been far lower due to COVID.

- Therefore, we are accepting proposals from local partnerships for outreach / education projects, especially those that target farmers who have not adopted soil health systems or are beginning soil health practitioners.
  - Proposals will be accepted continually up through July 1, 2021.
  - Eligible proposals will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis (i.e. – non-competitive).
    - Projects must target improved soil health (including edge-of-field practices of a soil health system - such as buffers, pollinator habitat, etc.) on Indiana *cropland* with an emphasis on farmers new(er) to these systems, and be supported by an established local soil health partnership.
      - Eligible examples include:
        - County Self-guided Conservation Tours;
        - Interseeding demonstrations;
        - Speaker support;
        - Meeting logistics (venues, support materials – including virtual materials support);
        - One-on-one or small group expert technical assistance;
      - Funding may not be used for cost-share, the purchase of food, farm equipment or supplies, etc.
    - Funds must be obligated/spent prior to September 30, 2021.
    - To submit a proposal, email the attached *Request for Proposals - CCSI Soil Health Events* to CCSI – [info@ccsin.org](mailto:info@ccsin.org) .



# Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

225 S East Street, Suite 740 - Indianapolis, IN 46202

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## Request for CCSI Funds Proposal – Due by July 1, 2021

Email completed for to: [info@ccsin.org](mailto:info@ccsin.org)

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Date of Submission:

Local Partnership Requesting funds:

Primary Contact:

Primary Contact email:

Primary Contact Cell phone:

Office Phone:

Amount of CCSI Funding Assistance Requested:

List other funding Groups:

Total Cost of this project (including CCSI funding):

Description of Event or Project:

Location of Event or Project work:

Partners on Event or Project:

How many people will be impacted by this project?

---

If funds are approved for this project the following must be followed:

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand no CCSI funds can be used for influencing government policy or lobbying.

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A written proposal must be attached to this cover sheet and should include the items listed below:

**Project Title**

**Project Description:**

**Project Goal(s):**

**Project Benefits to Soil Health on Indiana Cropland:**

**Target Audience:**

**Project activities using the funds:**

**Project Timeline, including when funds will be expended:**

**Project evaluation and measurements of success:**

**CCSI and USDA Acknowledgment:**

**Budget:**

**Project Title:** Cover crop self-guided tour

**Project Description:** A self-guided tour of 8-10 fields of established cover crops. Attendees can download a pdf of the sites or use map from the ABC Partnership website. A numbered sign will be located on each site that corresponds to the .pdf and webpage. The .pdf and webpage information about each site will include cover crop mix, date seeded, method of seeding, reason the species/mixes were selected, and hoped for results.

**Project Goal(s):** Increase interest and readiness of farmers to adopt cover crops or 'up their game' in cover crop adoption.

**Project Benefits to Soil Health on Indiana Cropland:** Increased number of acres of cover crop adoption

**Target Audience:** Farmers, landowners, and agronomists who live and/or work in XYZ County.

**Project activities using the funds:** Signage costs. Staff time to collect information, create maps and update webpage.

**Project Timeline:** Order signs by August 1. Locate fields by Nov 1 – depending on crop season. Self-guided tour: December 6-12.

**Project evaluation and measurements of success:** Number of map downloads and webpage hits. Observation of individuals on the tour. Number of individuals asking about cover crops.

**CCSI and USDA Acknowledgment:** Signage, .pdf, and webpage will note CCSI support with link to the CCSIN.org website; USDA acknowledgment of funding and EEO statement included on all handouts and web page.

**Budget:** \$500.00

**Project Title:** Cover Crop Grow Tubes

**Project Description:** Purchase cover crop grow tubes to use at education events.

**Project Goal(s):** Show cover crop roots of different species at events, especially those targeting non-traditional communities, such as Amish and Mennonite communities.

**Project Benefits to Soil Health on Indiana Cropland:** Increased number of acres of cover crop adoption

**Target Audience:** Farmers, landowners, and agronomists who live and/or work in XYZ County, especially those from Amish and Mennonite communities.

**Project activities using the funds:** Purchase of 2 grow-tube kits (see attachment)

**Project Timeline:** Order grow tubes by May 30<sup>th</sup>. Start cover crop seeds by June 30<sup>th</sup> for use at July county fair. Grow tubes will then be housed at the Purdue Extension offices with growing cover crops. They will also be used in fall and winter Extension education events.

**Project evaluation and measurements of success:** Number of events where the grow tubes are used. Attendee interest in the grow tubes.

**CCSI and USDA Acknowledgment:** Signage on Grow Tubes; USDA acknowledgment of funding and EEO statement included on all handouts and web page.

**Budget:** \$1,400.00

- Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy has gone well in the fully virtual format with 30 participants meeting for 3 hours every 2 weeks. In 2022 we will return to a hybrid format with in-person workshops along with virtual meetings.
- The Conservation Drainage Network is a new regional network Dr. Jane Frankenberger has been helping to organize, to promote drainage practices that improve water quality. We had 200 people from around the U.S. at the 2021 Annual Meeting held virtually in April. Next year's meeting will be in Fort Wayne.
- We are starting the Science Assessment to support the Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy, supported by Indiana State Department of Agriculture. This will provide a standardized method for estimating nutrient load reductions from conservation practices, and a prioritized list of practices to meet nutrient reduction goals (in 2023).