



**Clean Water Indiana
Grant Modification**

Grantee	Warrick County SWCD
Project Contact	Susan King
Grant Administration	G-01081

Modification Information

<i>Activity to be Changed</i>
CWI Technician grant payroll funds transferred to cover crop cost share, if needed, as a contingency plan.
<i>Proposed Change</i>
As of payroll cycle ending July 29, 2022, we propose to transfer the balance of CWI payroll salary in the amount of \$18,490.23 to cover crop cost share (925 acres including maximum cost share of 75% of the total final cost of the practice, with 25% of the cost being the responsibility of the landowner and a maximum dollar cap of \$20/acre). The salary/cover crop funds would be prorated to the date of employees last payroll cycle.
<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>
The Warrick SWCD CWI grant technician has been actively seeking employment opportunities with partnering agencies and in related fields. Warrick SWCD is confident of fulfilling the CWI grant district cash/in-kind requirements of the grant, but we are seeking an answer for CWI funds that we may not be able to spend on salary due to a possible technician departure. This is ONLY a CONTINGENCY plan, as our expectation is the current technician will continue to work until 12/31/22. The SWCD is proactively requesting this change in the event the technician leaves employment. The August 1 payroll cycle was used as a reference only for the basis of this modification. If this modification is granted, the SWCD will notify the DSS if/when the payroll grant needs to convert to cover crop funds, and the requested change from payroll to cover crops will be reported on the 12/31/22 reporting cycle in GMS. The district realizes a CWI staffing grant is a 50/50 match requirement, and if the

modification is granted and cover crops are made available to producers, we will require a 25% applicant cost share match for the total final cost of the practice (staff will capture documentation from each cover crop applicant their portion of the cost share). The cover crop cost share will follow NRCS specifications. The district will update "Conservation Tracking Report" on a quarterly basis. Warrick SWCD has a long history of funding cover crop acres to interested producers, and additional acres will address two of our top three resource concerns on the district's current plan including soil degradation and water quality issues, which have been negatively impacted by increased economic development and mining activity. Additionally, the Warrick SWCD is working with the county commissioners and council to fund a technician position. SWCD supervisors and staff are hopeful this position will become a permanent county position as of January 1, 2023.

Submission Date: 2022-07-13



[Home \(/Grants/s/\)](#)

[My Grants \(/Grants/s/in-gov-grant/IN_gov_Grant_c/00Bt000001A5RbEAK\)](#)

[Account Details \(/Grants/s/account-details\)](#)

[Go to IN.gov \(hi](#)



Conservation Technician - Scope of Services Modification

Future verbiage

PROJECT INFORMATION

Grantee

Vermillion County SWCD

Project Title

Conservation Technician

Grant Amount

\$60,000.00

PROJECT CONTACT

Name

Nathan Stoelting

Phone

8123209873

Email

nstoelting@sda.in.gov

MODIFICATION INFORMATION

*** (required) Activity to be Changed**

The Parke and Vermillion 2020-2022 Clean Water Indiana grant originally provided funds for a Soil Health Consultant to work with producers in each county. This grant was supplemented with a National Association of Conservation Districts Technical Assistance grant in 2021. Due to COVID restrictions in 2020, our Soil Health Consultant's hours were drastically reduced. This has caused a projected excess in CWI grant funds at the end of 2022.

*** (required) Proposed Change**

Due to the proposed excess in funds for the Soil Health Consultant salary, Parke and Vermillion County SWCDs propose reallocating \$14,500 of the projected remaining salary funds to cost-share for cover crops and livestock conservation practices.

*** (required) 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.**

Due to the success of our Soil Health Consultant, we have increased producer interest in modifying their current management plans in order to incorporate more conservation practices. Because of a large influx of applications and insufficient funds, we currently have producers who have been denied Environmental Quality Improvement Project funds for livestock conservation practices. By providing alternate opportunities, those producers could benefit from a cost-share program administered by the SWCDs. These practices will include but are not limited to heavy use pads and livestock fencing. We also have producers who are ready to implement the increased use of cover crops on new acres in their operations and, in today's economic climate, would benefit from cost-share dollars as well. We are confident that these funds can be spent in their entirety and will increase the impact of our Soil Health consultant. Both Parke and Vermillion County SWCDs have administered CWI cost-share in the past and have the mechanisms in place to effectively promote and disseminate the funds.

SIGNATURE

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be "E. Schuler".

Save Clear

Submission Date

Jun 30, 2022 

Submit



State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA – DSC Director’s Report
September 20th, 2022

Budget

From 7/20/2021:

Note: We did not have a quorum for our 7/19/2022 meeting – this report remains largely the same.

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)
 - 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
- Maintain the traditional dollar amount for CWI Competitive Grants (about \$1,000,000)
- Continue to seek outside investments and monitor demand

Above Reference: <https://www.in.gov/isda/files/July-2021-Attachments.pdf>

Clean Water Indiana:

Clean Water Indiana	FY21	Carryover	FY22	Carryover	FY23
General Fund	\$970,000		\$970,000		\$970,000
Cigarette Tax	\$2,963,546	\$466,408	\$2,519,014	\$474,974	\$2,519,014
Total	\$3,933,546		\$3,489,014		\$3,489,014
Earmarked CWI FY22	\$0		\$0		\$130,000
Total + Carryover	\$3,933,546		\$3,955,422		\$3,833,988
Difference			-\$21,876		-\$121,434

- Carryover from FY22 to FY23 consists of DSC Dedicated, Remaining CWI, and an ISDA investment

Division of Soil Conservation:

DSC Dedicated Funds	FY21		FY22		FY23
Dedicated Funds	1,418,471		1,205,700		1,205,700
Total	1,418,471		1,205,700		1,205,700
Difference			\$212,771		\$0

Proposed FY23 Budget:

CWI FY23

- ISDA proposes continuing the \$660,000 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) annual investment.
 - Maintain stable funding source as outlined in CREP agreement
 - Maintain favorable match rates by keeping a larger state than outside investment
 - Continue seeking outside investment
- Maintain the traditional dollar amount for CWI Competitive Grants (about \$1,000,000)

DSC Dedicated FY23

- Continue holding vacancies (3 RSs, 1 PM) – see appended org chart
- Any additional staff would come through HTF Infrastructure dollars or RCPP dollars in a funded Kankakee RCPP scenario
 - An RS (technician) and PM (program manager)

CWI FY24

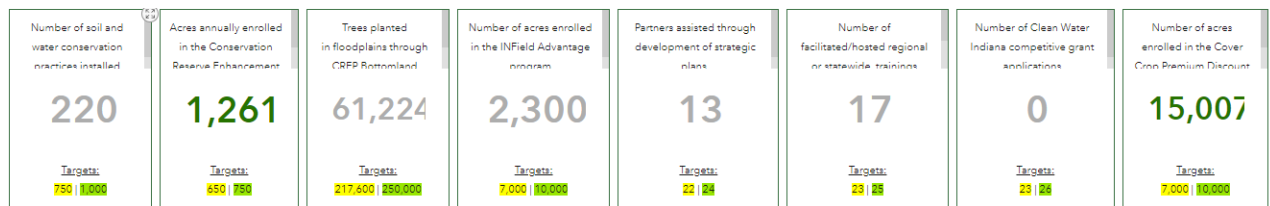
- Agency ask is to regain 2020 funding levels prior to the 15% loss during COVID
- Process:
 - Assemble transmittal letters, goes to LGs office, then to SBA, Governor’s Office, and ultimately compiled and presented to Legislature in Jan 2023.

SSCB Member Terms

- Reminder that three (3) board members terms are set to expire on 1/1/2023.
- 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.

Note: Up for reappointment 1/1/2023: Amy Burris, Ray Chattin, Bob Eddleman

Division of Soil Conservation Key Performance Indicator & Program Measures





INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

1 North Capital, Suite 600 • Indianapolis, IN 46204

*Chair
Kenny Cain*

*Members
Amy Burris
Ray Chattin
Larry Clemens
Gene Schmidt
Brad Dawson
Bob Eddleman*

To: SWCD Supervisors and Staff
From: Kenny Cain, Chairperson, State Soil Conservation Board
Subj: Memo: SSCB Board Term Limits
Date: September 20, 2022

Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and Staff,

Each year the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) members submit forward proposed resolutions to be considered and ultimately voted on at the IASWCD Annual Conference during the SWCD business meeting.

At the 2021 IASWCD Annual Conference a resolution submitted by the Kosciusko County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) titled "Term Limits for the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB)" was formally voted on and was approved unanimously.

The State Soil Conservation Board recognizes the role of term limits in maintaining a healthy and functional board. Members of the SSCB and IASWCD boards met alongside Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) representatives, and IASWCD leadership to discuss proposed term limits in May 2022.

Let this memorandum reflect that the SSCB wishes to provide a framework for any local SWCD to adopt their own policies if they so desire. Let this memorandum also serve as a reflection of a change in board culture in which current (non-retroactive) or future SSCB members agree to be subject to the following board term limits:

A State Soil Conservation Board member may serve:

- A Maximum of two (2) terms consecutively;
 - Wherein one may seek reappointment after four (4) years off the board
- Members will encourage interested parties and former SSCB members to;
 - Seek advisory status if applicable under IC 14-32-2-7; or attend in an associative manner

While this memorandum does not reflect a change in Indiana State Code it does represent an agreement of SSCB members to honor a measure to promote proactive appointments while maintaining valuable institutional knowledge.

Thank you,

Kenny Cain
Chairman
State Soil Conservation Board



Indiana District Employee Association
Training Fund Request
7/19/2022

The IDEA is developing a comprehensive employee training program to elevate the professional development of our over 200 SWCD employees across the state. This new training program will initially target newer employees, with 0-3 years of service, and provide a holistic view of an employee's job expectations. In order to provide a quality program, IDEA is requesting \$5000 of CWI training funds. This professional development program will be formatted similarly to Purdue University's Watershed Leadership Academy.

Benefits of Completion to Employees:

- Seeing and understanding the "BIG PICTURE" and the value of a well-rounded and developed SWCD Employee.
- Improving an employee's conservation knowledge
- Enhancing and employee's confidence both personally and professionally
- Learn to utilize and understand the importance of networking

Benefits of completion to supervisors:

- Provide the local SWCD with a confident and empowered employee that will possess the necessary skills to build the SWCD capacity and impact at the local level.
- Ability to capitalize on resources with partners within and outside of the Indiana Conservation Partnership

Proposed Program Structure:

Limit of 16 participants plus IDEA Directors

Directors to be at each one-day kick-off event

Opening a Module

1. Face-to-face meeting with professional training presenters
 1. 9:00 am EST (12-1 network lunch) 3:00 pm EST
2. Overview of module assignments and expectations

Closing out the Module

1. Quiz
2. Assignment

End of Program

1. Recognized at Annual Conference and Local Annual Meeting - Certificate
 1. Ribbon on name tag
2. Professional Certification Certificate
3. Local Press Release

Proposed 2023 TIMELINE

Promotion and Kick-Off – IDEA Fall Conference

ADMINISTRATIVE: Tuesday, Feb 14 (February - April)

EDUCATION: Tuesday, May 2 (May-June)

TECHNICAL: Tuesday, June 27 (July-August)

MARKETING: Tuesday, September, 5 (September-October)

PARTNERSHIPS: Thursday, November 2 (November)

WRAP UP: December (allows participants to finish up all module assignments)

REVIEW SESSION and “GRADUATION” AT 2024 IASWCD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Proposed Budget

(x 5 Events and approximately 25 participants and presenters)

Springhill Suites by Marriott Conference Room	\$1250.00
<i>*allows for easy parking and room availability for those that want to stay night before</i>	
Presenter Fees	\$1000.00
Meals and Refreshments	\$2000.00
Participant Materials	\$750.00
Total Funding Request	\$5000.00

This request represents a \$312.50 investment in each of the SWCD staff participants in this professional development program. Without your support and funding, Districts would have to be charged this fee in order to participate.

From: [Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate](#)
To: [Harmon, Leah](#); [Tyler, Geneva \(ISDA\)](#)
Subject: Update: Cass Temp/Vacant Appt
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 1:16:27 PM

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

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

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

SWCD
Cass
Appointment Type
Vacant_Appointed_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Brandon Shaffer
Term Expiration
2024
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Jessica Lauren Kranz
Address
3294 E CR 150 N
City, State, ZIP
Logansport, IN 46947
Qualifications
I have been a longtime supporter of 4-H and have served as a director, council member and leader for Cass County 4-H for more than 20 years. I am also a committed community member, having coached the high school speech team for 20 years. My husband and I are county landowners, stewards of the forest and nature, and appreciate making a difference among our corners of the community.
Occupation

English teacher, Speech Communication Instructor, Speech Team Coach

Conservation Interests

Protecting our natural environments and sharing the benefits, information, and necessity with others is an important task. I enjoy nature, learning about nature, and doing my part to preserve our natural environments. My family and I plant several trees annually, garden, collect roadside trash, plant flowers for pollinators, and appreciate the beauty of the outdoors.

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

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

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

Yes

Chairman Name

Cameron Mills

Date of Submission

09/12/2022

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

3-10-22

I Brandon Shaffer is stepping down as Supervisor
SWCD for Cass County Board.

Brandon Shaffer

From: [Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate](#)
To: [Tyler, Geneva \(ISDA\)](#); [Harmon, Leah](#)
Subject: Fayette Recommendation for Temporary/Vacant Appointment
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 10:57:52 AM

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

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

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

SWCD
Fayette
Appointment Type
Temporary_Elected_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Steve Wollyung
Term Expiration
2025
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Peyton Keaffaber
Address
1714 Vermont Avenue
City, State, ZIP
Connersville, IN 47331
Qualifications
Land Owner in county. Bachelor's in Business Administration. Good Standing Citizenship and Community Volunteer. 12 years in the Boys Scouts Club. Hobbies and Interest in Parks, Clean Water, Environmental Friendliness and Habitat Education.
Occupation

Practice Manager at the Connersville Vet Clinic.

Conservation Interests

Clean Water Pollinator Plants and Habitats Invasive Species No-Tillage/Earth Disturbances Forestry Education
Eliminating Pollution Waste

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

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

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

Yes

Chairman Name

David Caldwell

Date of Submission

1657728000000

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

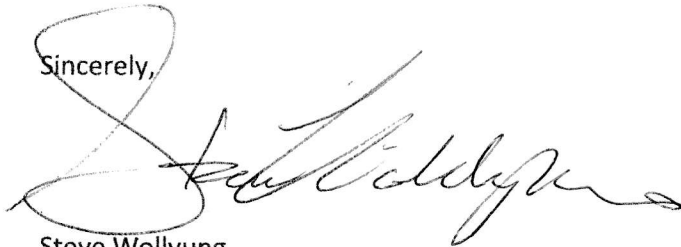
July 8th, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Steve Wollyung, am an elected Board Supervisor of the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District in Fayette County, IN. I have proudly served on the board for twelve years and have thoroughly enjoyed my time doing so.

Unfortunately, at the beginning of this year, I also became a board supervisor of the USDA Board of Supervisors in my local community. It came to my attention that I could not be a member on both boards earlier this year. Unfortunately, I must resign from my position on the Soil and Water Board at this time as a supervisor. I hope to return to this position in the future once I am done with my position on the USDA Board. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this organization of conservation within the state I live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Wollyung". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Steve Wollyung

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 8:46 PM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Ohio Temp/Vacant Appt

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

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

SWCD
Ohio
Appointment Type
Temporary_Elected_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Mark Manifold
Term Expiration
2025
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Holt Hoffman
Address
4483 SR 56 N
City, State, ZIP
Rising Sun, IN 47040
Qualifications
Landowner 25.6 acres just outside of Rising Sun. Holt has been on several boards and committee including Ohio County Community Foundation, Rising Sun Medical Center, Rising Sun Ohio County Public School Endowment Corporation along with helping serve on various positions with the Ohio County 4-H.
Occupation

Retired

Conservation Interests

Holt and his sons have operated a farm with many animals when the sons were younger . Their property borders Arnolds Creek and Red Wolf Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

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

Yes

Chairman Name

Eric Siekman

Date of Submission

06/21/2022

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

To: Ohio County Soil and Water,

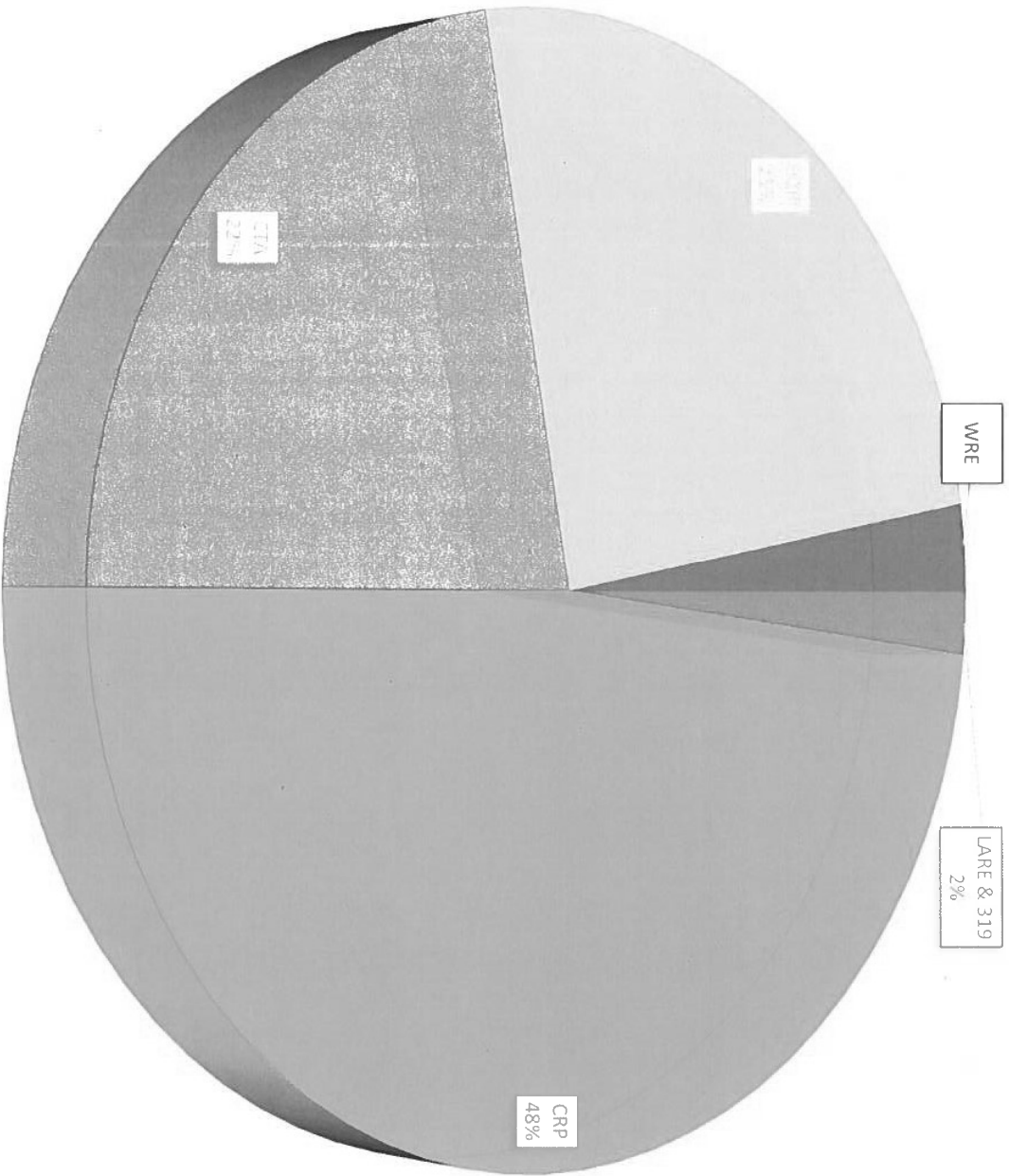
I would like to submit my resignation from the board. Due to some health issues, I feel that I am unable to fulfill my duties. Thank you for your consideration. I will gladly stay until you have a replacement for my position.

Thank You,

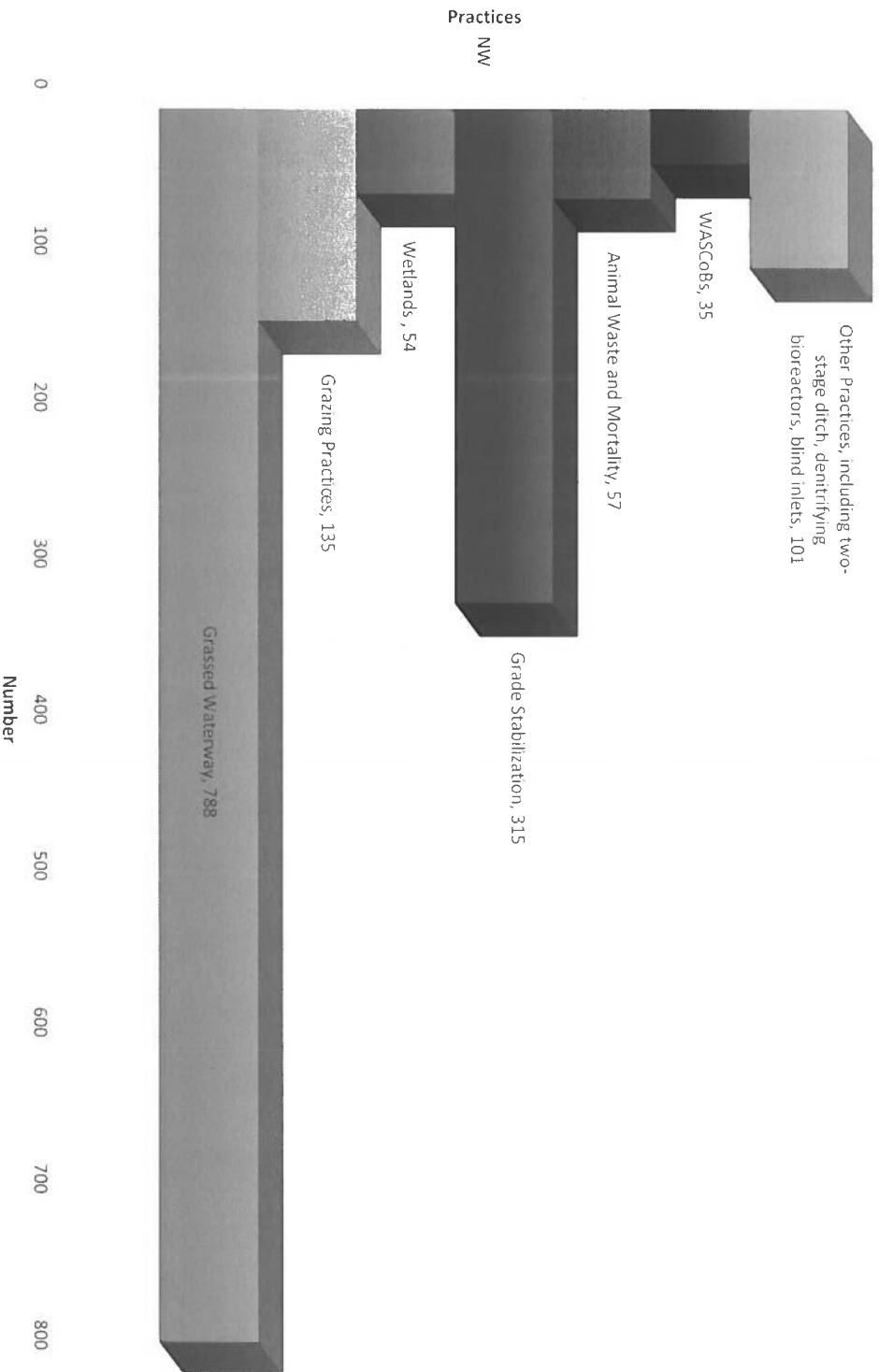
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Earl Ketenbrink".

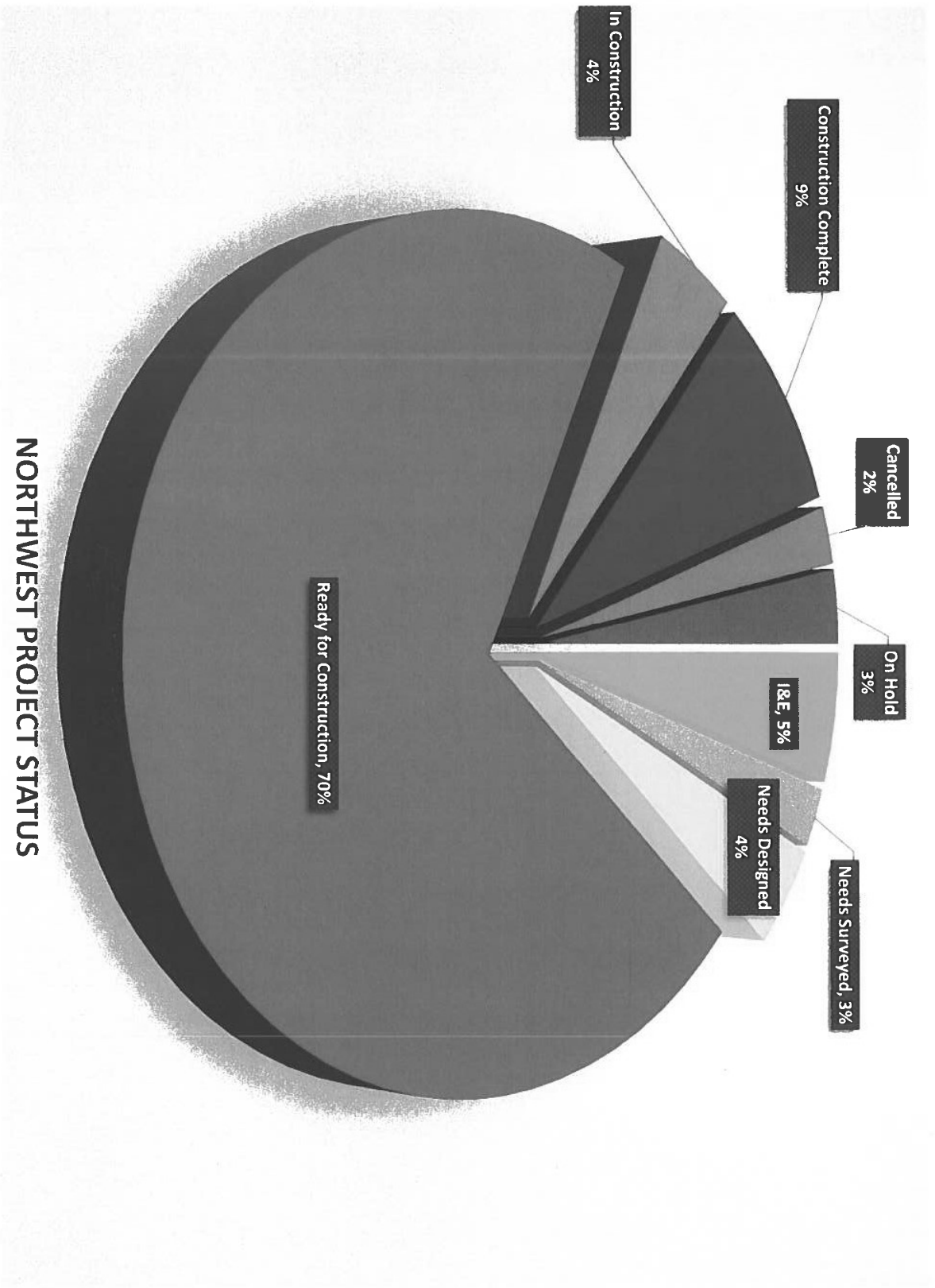
Earl Ketenbrink

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE IN THE NORTHWEST



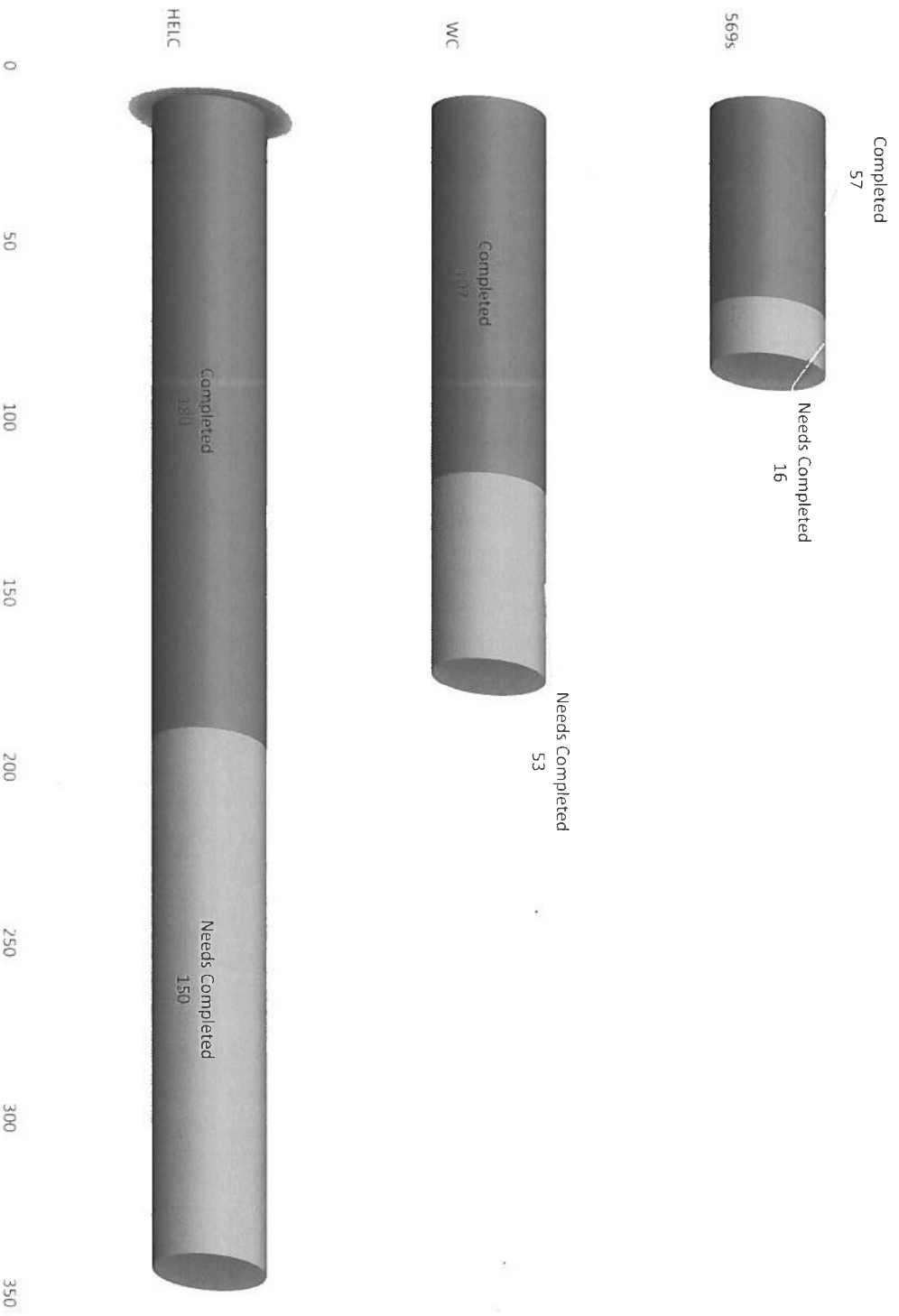
Conservation Practices in Northwest





NORTHWEST PROJECT STATUS

Northwest HEL and Wetland Compliance





State Soil Conservation Board
September 20, 2022
District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 7/5/22 to 8/29/22



Statewide or Regional Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff

- **Completed since last report:**
 - July 12 Grants Management Workshop. Approximately 35 were in attendance.
 - August 16: Laura hosted a SWCD regional staff meeting
 - August 23, August 25, and August 29 District Summer Meetings. Approximately 147 attended (41 in the NW, 53 in the SW, and 53 in the SE). Evaluations have been provided to attendees. DSSs and IASWCD will review feedback.
- **Upcoming:**
 - Summer District Meeting, August 31
- **Preventing Workplace and Sexual Harassment:** in March, a memo went to SWCDs requesting Supervisors complete the “Preventing Workplace and Sexual Harassment Training” <https://youtu.be/xDWaywaBiAY> by August 30 and document participation here <https://arcg.is/1ruyfP>.
 - *Update as of September 9: 254 supervisors have completed the training, 37 counties report all supervisors having completed the training, and 31 counties do not have any supervisors reporting they’ve taken the training. We encourage any Supervisor who hasn’t taken the training yet to do so.*
- ISDA and IASWCD continue work on compiling and/or creating online training/resources for SWCD Supervisors that can be found in one central location

Clean Water Indiana:

- CWI Grant Updates were due July 31 in the Grants Management System. In these reports, grantees document grant progress, practices installed, cash/in-kind match, and other deliverables. The next deadline for Grant Updates is January 31. ISDA DSSs and RSs continue to provide support to these active grants.
- 2023 Competitive CWI Grant applications are due September 8, 2022. The DSS team and RSs are assisting applicants and potential applicants.
- CWI Grant Reviews completed: Sullivan, Owen

Other:

- DSSs and IDEM 319 staff met virtually to discuss support and participation in the IDEM 319, 205j, and TMDL programs as it ties to SWCDs
- DSSs worked shifts at the Pathway to Water Quality
- DSSs have revisited the Leadership Institute budget currently held with the HHH RC&D.

DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period	Total
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	36
Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, CWI, etc.	119
Assistance With SWCD or Partner Strategic Planning	1

Highlights

Byron Seeds Dealer Training

July 26-27; 60 attendees. Held at the Beck Center at ACRE in West Lafayette and at DeSutter Family Farms, this training organized by Barry Fisher (NRCS, ret) was held for seed dealers. The group was *highly* engaged for the duration of the training. The next training will be held in October at Turkey Run SP.

CCSI-SARE-NWF Grow More (Conservation Communications) Training

September 8; 26 attendees

Developed in partnership with Indiana SARE, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Purdue Natural Resources Social Science Lab, this PILOT was attended by a mix of newer conservation staff, more tenured staff, and social science professionals. Day-of feedback was very positive re tools attendees would be using in their work. After de-briefing of attendees, the training will be evaluated and revised as needed for a wider rollout in CY23. Current plans are for 4 events to be held throughout the state.

CY 2023 Training Dates

The following training dates have been set for Calendar Year 2023:

- February 28 – Intro to Soil Health Training. Virtual or in-person TBD
- April 4, 11, 18, 25 – Core Soil Health Training; 4/4, 18, and 25 Virtual; 4/11 In-person with hand on in-field evaluations
- June 20-22 – Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-day Soil Health) Training, West Lafayette

The following training dates are TBD

- CCSI-SARE-NWF Grown More (Conservation Communications) Training
- Continuing Soil Health Training (formerly Advanced Soil Health Systems and Advanced Cover Crops). The topic for this training may be determined by in-season needs. In-person vs virtual TBD

Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic

A coalition of Purdue Extension Educators, including Hans Schmitz, CCSI Agronomist, is working on development of a “Soil Health” Regulatory Topic for PARP requirements.

Strategic Planning

Due to circumstances beyond CCSI’s control, the in-person Strategic Planning meeting was postponed. The meeting will likely be rescheduled for early December to accommodate harvest activities.

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1. 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.

- Samuel and Elon Fisher, Sam Eicher 7/26 – 27 (D, A)
- 08/16 Wenning Round Table (D, NPM, SPM)
- *Most events presented opportunities for discussions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers*

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)

- *Most events presented opportunities for discussions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers*

1. Farmer Influencers

Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)

- 07/26, 27 Byron Seed Dealer Training (D, A, NPM)
- 08/02 Indiana Climate Smart Ag (D)
- 08/24 Ray Ward, Ward Labs; Keith Berns, Green Cover Seed (D)

2. Presentations

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

- 07/13, Climate Intersection Conference, Duluth, MN, “A community planning approach to green infrastructure and hazard mitigation.” (35 attendees)
- 07/20, Pike County PARP, Petersburg, “Cover Crop Utilization and Economics”, (25 attendees)
- 07/26-27, Byron Seeds Field Day, West Lafayette, “Avoiding Common Problems” and “Cover Crop Termination”, (60 attendees)
- 08/04 – AgVenture University, Kentland, “Soil Health and More” (36 attendees)
- 08/23 – Davis PAC Field Day, Farmland, “Soil Health Diagnostics” (255 attendees)
- 08/29 – NC3 Webinar, Virtual, “Managing nutrients and water in a changing climate: Thoughts from an agronomist in the land of 10,000 lakes” feat. Greg Klinger (264 attendees)

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

- 07/07 Cass County Family Workshop; 20 attendees
- 07/07 Megan Winka “Red Barn Tour”; 30 attendees
- 07/20 Pike County PARP; 25 attendees
- 07/27 Agronomy Field Day, DeKalb Co; 25 est. attendees
- 08/02 Women’s Conservation Learning Circle – Miami/Wabash; 12 attendees

- 08/04 AgVenture University (Newton County); 43 attendees
- 08/09 Pinney Purdue Vegetable Field Day; 20 attendees
- 08/11 Scott Co Pasture Walk; 30 attendees. CRP on agenda; connected Jefferson w/ Scott County to help complete outreach deliverables for a 319 grant
- 08/11 SWCS Hoosier Chapter Summer Meeting; 30 attendees. Host farm CRP plots on agenda
- 08/16 Soil Health Expo; 110 attendees
- 08/16 Roger Wenning Round Table; 22 attendees
- 08/17 Wenning Field Day; 90 attendees
- 08/22 – Adams County Conservation Conversations w/ community leaders; 25 attendees
- 08/22 Adams County Conservation Symposium; 100 attendees
- 08/23 – Ward Labs workshop at Rulons; 55 attendees
- 08/23 – Davis PAC Field Day; 255 attendees
- 08/23 – Miami County Conservation Connection; 75 attendees
- 08/24 – Upper Wabash River Soil Health/Cover Crops Field Day; 67 attendees
- 08/29 – NC3 Webinar; 264 attendees
- 09/01 – Clay County Soil Health Field Day (attendee numbers TBD)
- 09/07 – Roemke Field Day (attendee numbers TBD)
- 09/07 – New Cover Crops and Old Equipment (attendee numbers TBD)

Workshops in Progress:

- 09/14 Eel River
- 09/28 Porter County
- 11/3-4 Sand County Tri-State Event, Ft. Wayne
- 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

- July 26-27 Byron Seed Dealers Training w/ Barry Fisher; 60 attendees
- 08/08-08/11 – Soil Health Training, Wauseca, MN, 7 Indiana attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- October Byron Seeds Dealer Training (with Barry Fisher)
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development
- Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic Development
- Intro to Soil Health (2/28/23)
- Core Soil Health (4/4, 11, 18, 25)

3. Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Completed Trainings:

09/08 Grow More Conservation (Conservation Communications) Training in partnership w/ SARE, NWF, and the Purdue Natural Resources Social Science Lab; 26 attendees

Trainings in Progress

- CY 2023 3-day Soil Health Training, June 20-22

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

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

- 07/19 SSCB (D)
- 08/03 ANR Monthly Update, Virtual
- 08/18 SW Soil Health Team (A, SPM)
- 08/19 Twin Creek-Lick Branch Watershed (SPM)
- 08/25 Area 3 ANR Team Meeting (A)
- 08/29 SW/SE Regional Teleconference (D, NPM, A)
- 08/29 NW/NE Regional Teleconference (D, NPM)
- 08/29 Agronomy Extension Meeting (A)

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.

- July 1 – Events Newsletter; 708 delivered, 402 opened, 92 follow through
- July 15 – Events Newsletter; 781 delivered, 382 opened, 86 follow through August 1 – Events Newsletter; 2423 delivered, 660 opened, 129 follow through
- August 15 – Events Newsletter; 2218 delivered, 724 opened, 130 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
 - June 6 - Hans Schmitz + Joe Rorick – INField Advantage, Climate Smart Ag, and CCSI Events
 - (Upcoming) Jon Lundgren Ecdysis + Pat Bittner (Vanderburgh Co Farmer) – Insect apocalypse; Positive effects of soil health systems on beneficial insects and upland gamebirds
 - (Upcoming) Denise and John Jamerson, Lyles Station – Historic Black Farming Communities; Efforts to promote soil health systems and urban farming to underserved communities/Black Loam Conference
- Social Media
 - Twitter

- July Tweets: 60 Tweets, 14.8K impressions; 9 mentions, 1648 profile visits, 8 new followers
 - August: 92 tweets, 2y.5 K impressions; 20 mentions, 2405 profile visits, 11 new followers.
 - Facebook :
 - July 1925 reach
 - August 84 posts, 10.6K reach
- Website
 - July 473 users/ 670 sessions
 - August 598 users/ 879 sessions
- WNIN Broadcast – Drought Resources and Mitigation (<https://video.wnin.org/video/newsmakers-rural-issues-fc9y8k/>)
- WFIE Interview - <https://www.14news.com/2022/08/22/tri-state-included-projected-extreme-heat-belt/>

Materials in Progress:

- State Climate Office – Autumn Seasonal Outlook
- Before You Sign: Seven Tips for Carbon Markets
- Adaptation of The Root Project to PowerPoint slides for download

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)
- Notre Dame – Indiana University – Purdue University collaboration

OTHER

07/28 ICP Partnership Meeting (A, D, SPM, NPM)

CCSI Strategic Plan Update: Survey Deployed to Partners, Working w/ Facilitators

Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

September 2022 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

GRAZING LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (GLCI)

NRCS is investing \$12 million nationwide in partnerships that expand access to conservation technical assistance for livestock producers and increase the use of conservation practices on grazing lands. Project proposals should identify and address barriers to accessing grazing assistance for producers. These partnerships are encouraged to include outreach and support for reaching historically underserved producers.

Projects must address one or more of the following priorities:

- Address local natural resource concerns.
- Use climate-smart agriculture practices and principles.
- Encourage existing and new partnerships through emphasizing equity in advancing the resource needs of underserved communities.
- Identify and implement strategies to quantify, monitor, report on and verify conservation benefits associated with grazing management systems.

Eligibility for this opportunity is limited to the following entities:

- Nonprofit organizations having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Farmer or rancher organizations
- State and local conservation governmental agencies
- Agricultural Extension Services
- Native American tribal governments and organizations
- Land grant universities

For more information and to apply, visit the funding opportunity on [grants.gov](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/people/partners/glci/), or <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/people/partners/glci/>. Applications are being accepted now through Sept. 22, 2022.

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS

Classic CIG

NRCS will invest \$15 million nationwide for the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Classic program. Through CIG, grantees work to address our nation's water quality, water quantity, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while supporting agricultural production. This year's funding priorities are climate-smart agriculture, addressing invasive species and conservation in urban agricultural systems.

For the fiscal 2022 award process, at least 10% of the total funds available are set aside for proposals that entirely benefit historically underserved (HU) producers. HU applicants can also waive the non-Federal match requirements.

Applications are being accepted now through Oct. 11, 2022. Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture, nongovernmental organizations with experience working with agricultural producers and non-federal government agencies are eligible to apply. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/> or [grants.gov](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/).

On Farm Trials

NRCS will invest \$25 million this year for the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials program. The On-Farm Trials component of CIG supports widespread adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. This year's funding priorities are climate-smart agricultural solutions, irrigation water management, nutrient management and soil health.

For FY 2022, to ensure that equity is incorporated in the planning and delivery of On-Farm Trials, at least 10% of the total funds available for On-Farm Trials are set aside for proposals that entirely benefit historically underserved (HU) producers. Additionally, applicants competing for the HU set-aside can waive non-federal match requirements.

Applications for On-Farm Trials are being accepted now through Sept. 22, 2022. Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture, nongovernmental organizations with experience working with agricultural producers, and non-federal government agencies are eligible to apply. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/grants.gov>.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP (WREP)

NRCS is investing up to \$20 million nationwide to help conservation partners protect and restore critical wetlands through WREP with a focus on efforts to mitigate climate change by restoring wetlands while also prioritizing assistance to underserved communities. The most sought-after lands for the WREP program are referred to as "marginal," meaning they do not produce to their full capacity due to repeat flooding or standing water.

Partners should target outreach and enrollment priorities supported by NRCS, including places impacted by natural disasters. WREP will continue to prioritize enrollment of historically underserved landowners in its ranking of proposals.

This includes proposals that:

- Target places with historically underserved producers.
- Focus outreach to historically underserved producers.
- Provide assistance with application materials and helping resolve heirs' property and title issues.

Eligible partners include Tribes, state and local governments, and non-government organizations. Partners are required to contribute a financial or technical assistance fund match. Partners interested in applying should contact Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships Jill Reinhart at jill.reinhart@usda.gov. More information is available at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/easements/acep/?cid=nrcseprd1459249>. Proposals are due by Sept. 23, 2022.

LOCAL WORKING GROUPS TO CONVENE

Local Working Groups in each county are an important part of implementing the FY23 Farm Bill programs. In each state, NRCS has established a State Technical Committee to assist in making recommendations regarding implementation of technical aspects of natural resource conservation

activities and programs. This is an advisory committee that may be utilized by any USDA agency with conservation obligations. The Farm Bill designates the Local Working Groups as a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee.

The Local Working Group's role is to provide similar recommendations and advice as the State Technical Committee, with a focus on the resource priorities of the local community. These priority resource concerns will be used to prioritize the rankings for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP.) The Local Working Groups should consist of representatives who are able to provide input on the wide range of natural resource and agricultural concerns for their county. The Local Working Groups provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs, within the scope of state outlined resource priorities. Local soil and water conservation districts should take the lead on these critical meetings to select the priority resource concerns for their counties.

The District Conservationist must compile and forward the Local Working Groups' recommendations, invitees, attendees, meeting minutes, and surveys to the Area Conservationist by October 12. The NRCS District Conservationist's responsibility is to serve as a resource and advisor to the committee on NRCS Program rules and regulations, and Field Office Technical Guides Standards.

AVIAN FLU UPDATE

On August 30, a poultry flock in Elkhart County tested presumptive-positive for the H5 avian influenza virus. This is the first confirmed HPAI incident in Indiana since June 2022. There's a 10 km quarantine zone around this site with five facilities affected. An additional 10 km surveillance area has been set up from the quarantine area. This incident indicates that HPAI is still in the environment and staff should continue to follow biosecurity protocol when visiting poultry sites: [Directives - AGN - Biosecurity Protocol Avian Influenza Employee Responsibilities \(IMPORTANT UPDATE\) February 202.pdf - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

CURRENT COVID PROTOCOL

CDC has made a fundamental shift from managing infection to managing severe disease. Agencies will stop routine testing programs that are based on vaccination status. This means that FPAC will not implement a screening testing program.

All safety protocols will be the same for employees/partners regardless of their vaccination status. Agencies will stop requiring proof of vaccination and collecting vaccine information of employees, contractors and visitors. Currently, vaccinated employees/partners who are exposed to COVID-19 need to monitor for symptoms but are not required to quarantine.

1. Please suspend asking employees, onsite contractor employees, visitors to Federal facilities, or in-person attendees at agency-hosted meetings, events, and conferences to provide information about their COVID-19 vaccination status, regardless of COVID-19 Community Levels.
2. Employees who are not fully vaccinated will follow the same guidance as fully vaccinated. There will no longer be any differentiation between vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Other safety protocols remain the same including, FPAC staffing requirement and masking requirements based on Community Levels. As a reminder, in counties where the COVID Community Level is HIGH, masks are required to be worn in facilities as well as in government vehicles with multiple occupants.

The biggest difference will be a change in quarantine rules for those who are exposed but not symptomatic. Those employees should now mask, but NOT quarantine. Regardless of vaccination status you are only required to quarantine if you have symptoms or have tested positive. If you were exposed but do not have symptoms or a positive test, instead of quarantining you should wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5. If you have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, you should stay home for at least 5 days

There is currently no change to how FPAC is handling staffing, travel or large events.