

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER - On Tuesday September 18, 2018, at 6:51 pm a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD at the Centre Township Library, South Bend, IN was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor
David Straughn

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

Debbie Knepp, NRCS DC
Sarah Longenecker, SWCD CC
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD AA
Jane Sablich, SWCD EEC

Present - EX-OFFICIO

PRESENT – Public
n/a

ABSENT – SWCD

Jeremy Cooper, Vice-Chair/Supervisor
Stacey Silvers, Supervisor
Dave Craft
Jim LaFree
Dru Wrasse
Richard Schmidt
Randy Matthys
Chuck Lehman

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – n/a

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. **Legislative Updates** – n/a
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – n/a
- c. **Minutes: August 21, 2018 board meeting** – Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented by motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle).
- d. **Treasurer's Report: (8/22/2018-9/18/2018)** – The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved as submitted by motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle).
- e. **Approval of Claims (8/22/2018-9/18/2018)** – A motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11371-11379 for a total of \$5,750.47 as presented. Motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **St. Joseph Co. Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff Reports**
 - i. **Field Office Report** – The field office report was presented to the board & reviewed. (Attached)
 - ii. **NRCS Talking Points** - Knepp went over the NRCS DC talking points (attached)
- b. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Annual Meeting** – Vandewalle reported to the board that Stephanie McLain with NRCS is available to be our speaker. No charge is associated with her as a speaker. A motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to book McLain as our speaker. Motion passed.
 - ii. **Election** – Dooms informed the board that Vandewalle and Burkholder's terms as supervisors are expiring at the end of the year. Both have agreed to run for another term. A motion (Dooms/Burkholder) was made to nominate Dave Vandewalle for another 3-year appointment as supervisor. Motion passed. Burkholder will be voted on at the annual meeting held in January 2019.
- c. **CW12016 Raingarden** – Longenecker informed the board that we have received interest from Success Academy to install a demo raingarden. After discussing with Marshall County and going over the funds it was found that we have \$4,356.00 remaining in the 2016 CWI raingarden grant. A motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve a demo garden for Success Academy not to exceed the remaining \$4,356.00. Motion passed. Hoffarth brought 3 quotes (attached) to the board for residential garden yard signs. After some discussion on style and graphics a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to order 10-yard signs from Vanadco Signs for \$20 each for a total of \$200. Motion passed.
- d. **St Joseph River Basin Commission Quarterly Meeting** – Longenecker reported to the board after attending this first meeting as the proxy for the board that they function similarly to ours with mostly housekeeping items such as minutes and financial reports. They discussed Smart Alternative for a Greener Environment (SAGE) in connection with the City of South Bend and their long-term control plan (LTCP). The commission board has sent a letter of support for the SAGE plan. The commission board also discussed having another scholarship for the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy for 2019. It was also discussed that 2019 is a state budget and with the added responsibilities to the commission, they will be seeking money to be appropriated towards the St Joseph River Basin Commission to fulfil these new duties. The next board meeting will be on December 6th.
- e. **Christmas Party** – After some discussion it was agreed the lunch at Logan's Roadhouse with the December board meeting right before worked well last year. Hoffarth will call to book the side room for December 18th.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Schedules/ Upcoming Events / Any Related Claims** - calendars were handed out explaining upcoming special events & holiday schedules on the back of the agenda.
 - i. **Leadership Institute – Impacting Community** - the importance of one of the 5 supervisors, an associate or a staff member graduating from the Leadership Institute is for the CWI grant process. We are asked if anyone (who is currently active) has completed this and right now we can say yes because of one of our associate supervisors. This is open to Staff, Supervisors and Associate Supervisors. November 30th from 9:30am-3:30 pm in Albion is the Impacting Community. Silvers and Hoffarth have already taken this portion. Please check your calendars to see if you can attend this class and get 1 of the 4 courses completed. This is tabled to our October board meeting. We will hopefully have more information then as far as cost.
- b. **Landfill Inspection** – Longenecker asked for a volunteer to go along on the fall inspection. Burkholder is available most Wednesday's early morning. Longenecker will check with the landfill for early October and get back with Burkholder on a date and time.
- c. **Rain Barrel Workshop** – Sablich would like to hold another workshop on October 2nd from about 6-7:30pm in Lakeville since the supplier for the rain barrels has 40 barrels currently available. Sablich would like to keep this workshop at a maximum of 20 participants. The first workshop was free with the barrels costing just under \$30/barrel to make. A motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to release \$600 for the cost of the barrels and supplies and to charge the participants \$20/each. Motion passed. If the demand is still there with the charge for the participants, Sablich would like to hold a second workshop in late October. She will get with the supervisors if this is needed.
- d. **2019 Donor Program** – Hoffarth presented the proposed 2019 Donor Program form (attached). After some discussion on previous donor years and amounts the board decided to table this until October's board meeting where Hoffarth will present the mailing list with the previous donors indicated for the board to be able to personally talk to them.

VI. **PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR** – Dooms read a thank you card (attached) from Dorothy Stoner for the wind chimes the supervisors purchased for Dale Stoner's passing.


VII. **ADJOURNMENT** – The board meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hoffarth
 Administrative Assistant
 St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District
 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563
 Email: Sandra.hoffarth@in.nacdnet.net
www.stjosephswcd.org

Approved by:



Supervisor



Supervisor



Supervisor



Field Office Report

August 20 – September 14

General/Miscellaneous

Office Work

- Engineering Design of Heavy Use Area
- Performance Review write-up
- Preparation for Diversity Day

Field Work

- Evaluate 2 sites for pollinator habitat panting

EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Office Work

- Modification of 2 contracts
- Process payments for Irrigation Management, Prescribed Grazing

Field Work

- Field check pollinator habitat, prescribed grazing

WRP/WRE- Wetland Reserve Program

Office Work

- Process payment documents for tile reroute
- Meet with landowners to complete the application packet – 3 applications
- Process Compatible Use Request for Phragmites Control

Field Work

-

CSP- Conservation Stewardship Program

Office Work

- 2 funded contracts – develop documents, job sheets, meet with producers

Field Work

-

CRP-Conservation Reserve Program

Office Work

- 2 funded CRP Grassland applications. Working on contracts
- Conservation planning – 5 contracts (Marshall Co)

Field Work

- Field Inspection of Grassed Waterway
- Field work – 2 contracts (Marshall Co)

CWI- Clean Water Indiana

Office Work

- Finish and Submit 2019 Application

Field Work

- Visual verification, 1 residential rain garden
- Delivered demonstration garden sign (Good Shepherd Montessori)

Wetland/HEL Determinations
Office Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 1 wetland determination • Complete 1 Potential Wetland Violation determination
Field Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Rule 5/ Rule 13
Office Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) reviews

Education		
Age	Total # Programs	Total # People
Youth Education		
Adult Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with County Parks and IUSB on partner program opportunities • Assisting County Public Works on Adopt-a-Roundabout • Shadowed County Park's Pond Program 		

Meetings & Trainings	Webinars
Staff – 4 Ancilla College Grazing Tour Soil Health Training (Jane) NAI Regional Committee Meeting Pollinator Champion Online Development Course St Joseph River Basin Commission CRP Conference Call Prescribed Burn Training	Nutrient Management Conservation Desktop <p style="text-align: center;">Dates</p> Office Closed Sept 3

Comments from the Community
<p>Zion UCC – “I have been meaning to send you a message to tell you how great the rain garden sign is. Very nicely designed and informative. I have been surprised that things have matured so quickly, the garden looks full. We have not had a big problem with weeds, but the quack grass at the edges is always a challenge! Thanks for the beautiful sign and your partnership on this project.”</p>



EASTERN CRANE BULLETIN

September 2018

The Eastern Crane E-bulletin is distributed to those interested in cranes in general, and specifically, the Eastern Populations of Sandhill and Whooping Cranes, as well as the continuing work for the protection of these birds and their habitats.

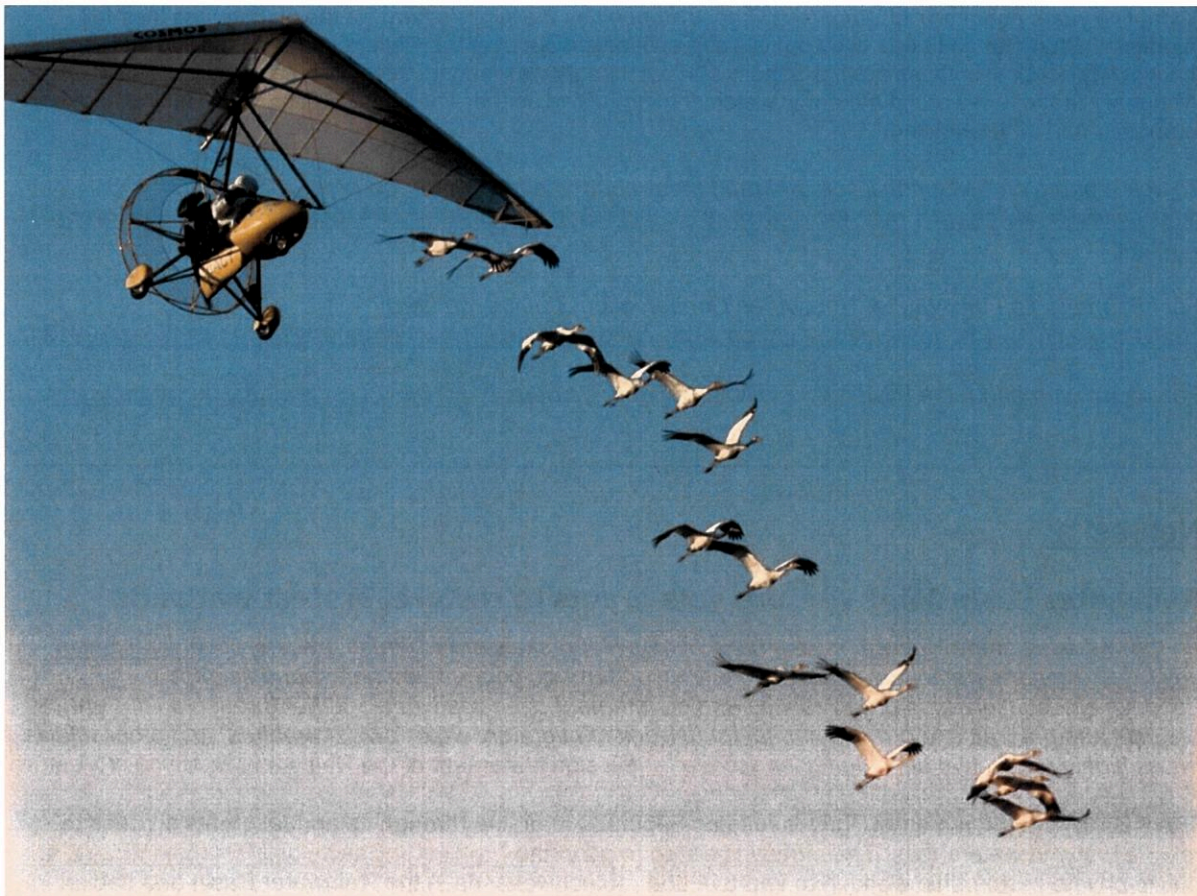


Photo courtesy of H. Ray, Operation Migration

Editor: *I know I speak for many others when I thank Operation Migration, its staff and volunteers for their dedication for the past 25 years working towards bringing Whooping Cranes back to the eastern United States. While acknowledging this was a joint effort, along with other members of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, Operation Migration dramatically heightened public interest in Whooping Cranes. What better way to capture the imagination and hearts of thousands than with an ultralight wending its way southward, followed closely by a group of young birds from an endangered species, on their first*

Indiana:

Sandhill Crane Chick born on NRCS restored wetland

In June 2018, Robert Wolfe reported seeing a Sandhill Crane colt on their [Prairie Winds Nature Farm](#) property. About a week after photographing the colt, he and his wife Charlotte stopped seeing the adults or the colt in the vicinity. Did the family move off to a neighbor's property? Was the colt killed by predators? They probably will never know. And, while the Wolfes continue to have adult Sandhills periodically visit their Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) wetland, they have not seen a juvenile. They are hopeful that the same pair or another will try again at their wetland and prairie restoration next year.

With the help of NRCS programs, the Wolfes were able to restore over 50-acres of wetlands and prairie on their farm. When they moved to the property about 25 years ago there were no summer resident Sandhills in the Lakeville area (11 miles of South Bend, IN). Now the Wolfes hear them all summer long, not just during the spring and fall migrations. They have also had an increase in Blanding's Turtle sightings on the farm. "I like to think that restorations like ours are part of the reason for their recovery. The NRCS habitat restoration programs do work and deserve our support."

About five years ago a pair of Whooping Cranes stopped by the Wolfe's farm for the night during their fall migration. "Charlotte and I had been out walking and looked out over the wetland and saw the two birds and thought 'My goodness, those are big Sandhills!' That thought was immediately followed by 'Wow! Those are Whooping Cranes!' We stood there and watched them in awe as they lifted off 50 feet from us and drifted over to another part of the wetland."

To see a photo of the Sandhill colt and read more about the encounter, go here:

<https://www.stjosephswcd.org/single-post/2018/06/14/Sandhill-Crane-Chick-born-on-NRCS-Restored-Wetland>

For information on the Natural Resources Conservation Service, go here:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/water/wetlands/restore/?cid=nrcs143_010912

For information about the Prairie Winds Nature Farm, go here: <http://www.prairiewindsnaturefarm.com/>

Nebraska:

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture gets grants to restore, protect wetlands

"In the wetlands of the Rainwater Basin and across Nebraska's mixed-grass prairies, [Rainwater Basin Joint Venture](#) partners achieve habitat conservation through cooperation and sound science. Landowners, conservation organizations and government agencies work together through Joint Venture projects and programs to provide habitat for millions of migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife in this highly productive agricultural landscape." - Mission statement of the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture

The [Nebraska Environmental Trust](#) is funding \$950,920 in grants through its annual grants process to restore wetland watersheds. The money is slated to go to the [Rainwater Basin Joint Venture \(RBJV\)](#), a public-private partnership working to improve and protect wetlands in the Rainwater Basin and habitat in Nebraska's mixed-grass prairies, to help migratory bird habitat.

One of the grant-funded projects will transition 1,200 acres of flood-prone cropland to wetlands or grassland buffers. Andy Bishop, RBJV coordinator, says that while these are habitat projects RBJV tries to find a balance for both the habitat and the agriculture side – a win-win situation – where the wetlands are just part of the operation.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is also granting nearly \$210,000 in support of the [Little Blue Natural Resources District's Puddles under the Pivots](#) project. As part of this program, the landowner retains the

DC Talking Points

September 2018

STATE FAIR WRAP UP

The Indiana State Fair wrapped up on August 19th with an attendance of over 860,000. This was a slight decrease from last year's numbers, however \$2 Tuesday sat an all time, one-day attendance record of 91,000 people. Special thanks to those that helped make the Indiana Conservation Partnership's Pathway to Water Quality exhibit a huge success. We had 210 staff and volunteers that worked 160 shifts, along with 34 day shift coordinators. In addition, we had 21 interpreters/conservation professionals who gave 53 live demonstrations on everything from soil health, to invasive plants, to tree planting, septic system maintenance, living with wildlife, improving fish habitat, water quality permits, well testing, and water history. Pathway showed off new signs this year, a giant inflatable soil health tunnel, a streambank stabilization practice (gabion baskets), and a new grassed waterway and spillway. The Indiana Conservation Partnership and Pathway were featured on the Recipe Trail with Chocolate Walnut Brownie Cake (resembling healthy soil) and also Pathway was included on the Wonder Trail. The steering committee is already planning for Pathway's 27th year.

FARM BILL

EQIP And CSP Local Workgroups

The Local Workgroups have begun meetings to identify local resource concerns for EQIP and CSP. Please continue to promote this opportunity. Counties have a due date of November 2, 2018 to prioritize and submit their ten highest resource concerns. Indiana Bulletin 300-18-24 provides additional guidance.

MRBI/NWQI Information Sessions

NRCS is rolling out a new phase of the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI) and National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). Projects will be required to have a watershed management plan in place with critical areas identified at the 12-digit watershed scale. Projects should have a strong tie to implementing the state nutrient reduction plan and ensure that there will be adequate interest from producers.

Partners can apply for a one-year planning project to create or upgrade watershed management plans to meet the NRCS MRBI/NWQI watershed assessment criteria. After the planning phase, implementation dollars through Farm Bill Programs (EQIP, CSP) will be available in the project area for up to five years. Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) funds will be available to partners through an agreement for planning work over the next year. Partner contributions to the project through cash or in-kind services are encouraged. Applications were due by the end of August, and three Soil and Water Conservation Districts are submitting proposals (Carroll, Jackson and Knox). It is anticipated that this opportunity will be available again next summer.

NRCS STAFFING

The Department has authorized the NRCS to begin hiring again, after being under a hiring freeze since January 2017. Numerous vacancy announcements are being posted for NRCS across the country. Each state has a targeted hiring plan and has received a certain number of positions to advertise through the end of October. In FY19, we have been told we will be able to backfill as positions become vacant but adding new positions will still have to receive agency and/or departmental approval.



NRCS AND FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEW AGREEMENT

Through a new agreement between NRCS and FSA, partners and contractors working with NRCS programs will soon have access to print and generate producer farm data reports and subsidiary records for NRCS program purposes. Partners and contractors will be notified when access has been granted.

COOPERATIVE WORKING AGREEMENTS

The current partnership Cooperative Working Agreements expire on December 31, 2018. The Indiana Conservation Partnership leaders have reviewed the agreement and final edits are being made. SWCDs will receive the new agreements in the fall.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

NRI is an important statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection has begun and runs through until the end of the calendar year. Field offices may be contacted to gather producer specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plan and cropping history to name a few. Contact Rick Nielsen with questions. Any field offices that have hard copies of NRI files or folders should contact Ken Streett at: kenny.streett@in.usda.gov to be archived.

INDIANA SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT LOAD REDUCTION TOOL

The Indiana Conservation Partnership just released a new tool to help determine sediment and nutrient load reductions from implemented conservation practices. The Indiana Sediment and Nutrient Load Reduction tool is designed to provide aggregated conservation information to interested parties such as researcher, conservation professionals, students and the public.

Sediment and nutrient load reduction numbers are calculated using the EPA's Region 5 Model for Estimating Load Reductions and only reflect sediment bound nitrogen and phosphorus. Reductions in dissolved nutrients, such as dissolved reactive phosphorus and nitrate are not accounted for by the Region 5 Model. Practices do not include the many unassisted practices designed and implemented by private landowners without ICP assistance.

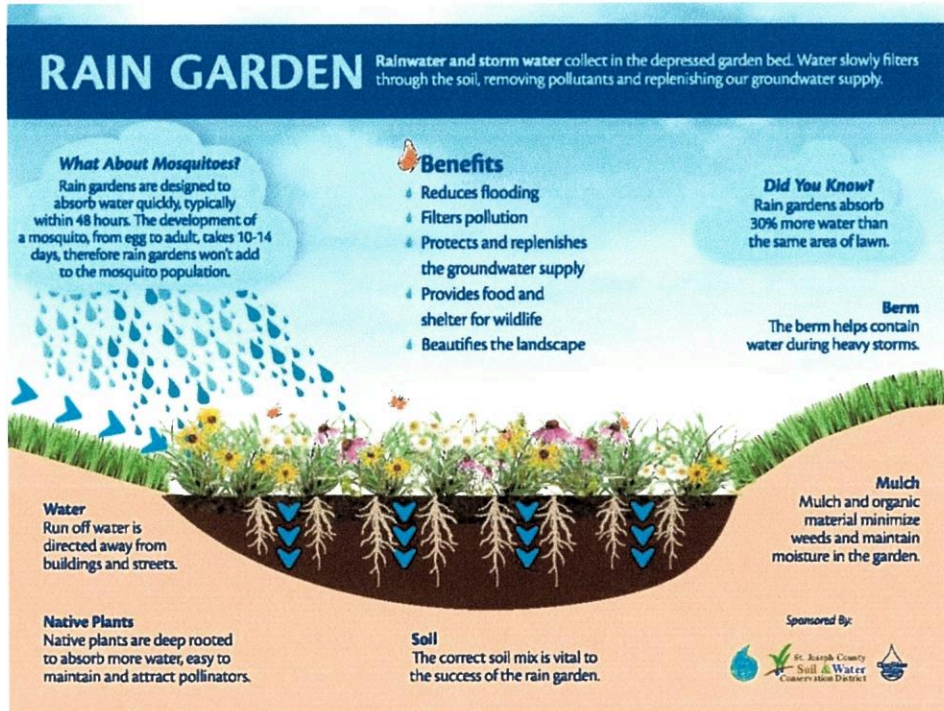
You can find the tool at: <http://arcg.is/1XGiK1>. For more information on Indiana's Nutrient Reduction Strategy, please contact ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov.



Residential Raingarden Signs

Vanadco Signs	\$20	Quantity of 10
Staples	\$13.49	
Eco Owl Press	\$110	

Vanadco Sign



Staples Signs



Raingarden Sign 3

MSJ-1-1011



Raingarden Sign 2

MSJ-1-1011



Raingarden Sign 1

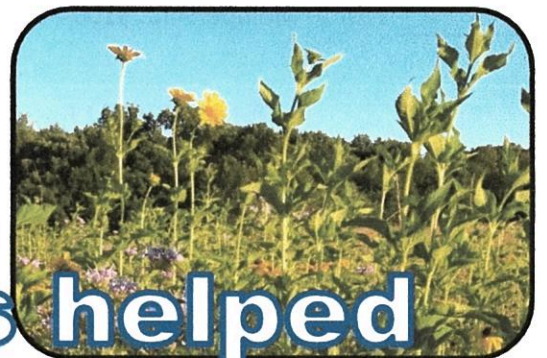
MSJ-1-1011

Since April 9, 1959, the St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District has been helping to preserve, improve, and protect soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources for future generations. In cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) we are able to provide a wider array of free technical assistance as well as cost share opportunities throughout St Joseph County.

The St Joseph County SWCD fills a unique and crucial role in conservation and stewardship: that of providing soil and water conservation expertise and services to private landowners. Ninety-six percent of Indiana's land is privately owned. Land use varies from agriculture, productive forests, bodies of water, and urban or industrial use. Regardless of ownership, all lands are interconnected. Responsible and wise management of these private lands is key to Hoosiers' quality of life.



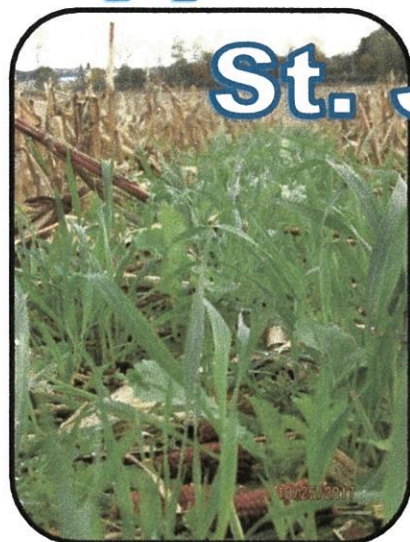
2016 Pollinator
Habitat



Your donations helped

**with these cost share
opportunities throughout**

St. Joseph County!



With the added help from our Clean Water Indiana Grant (2016-2018) we were able to plant 769.70 acres of cover crops, 270.7 acres of no-till, and installed 3 demonstration and 1 residential raingardens in St Joseph County!



St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District 2019 Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Please Confirm Your Giving Level

_____ Affiliate Membership: \$25-\$99

_____ Silver Membership: \$250-\$499 *

_____ Bronze Membership: \$100-\$249 *

_____ Gold Membership: \$500 & above **

THANK YOU for your support! The many outreach and education projects we provide would not be possible without the help of community members like YOU!

All donors will receive a tax-deductible donation receipt, subscription to the SWCD newsletter, and recognition in our 2019 Annual Report & website.

*Bronze & Silver Memberships will include everything above PLUS a certificate of recognition, and recognition on the SWCD website will include address, phone number & website.

** Gold Memberships will include everything above PLUS 4 Complementary VIP Tickets to SWCD's Annual Meeting Dinner Banquet (if donation submitted by 1/15/2019).

_____ **I would prefer to make my donation anonymous.**

If you would like to donate to a specific outreach or project/event, please indicate below:

_____ **General Education and Outreach**

_____ **Youth Environmental Education Supporter**

_____ **Annual Meeting Banquet and Supervisors Election** (Donation must be submitted by 1-15-2019)

_____ **Conservation Cost Share** (Help install conservation practices such as cover crops, no-till, pollinator habitat, raingardens, filter strips, etc.)

_____ **Other** (Please Specify) _____

Please make checks payable to "**St Joseph County SWCD**" and mail along with this form to:

St Joseph County SWCD
2903 Gary Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563



Want to donate with your Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal account? Visit our website at www.stjosephswcd.org and click on the "Donate" button.

Scan me to donate now!

_____ **Yes, I would like to receive the St Joseph County SWCD's bimonthly newsletter the Conservation Kaleidoscope!**
Please deliver it via: _____ email listed above _____ Mailing address listed above

Your comforting expression
of sympathy
will always be remembered
with deep gratitude

Soil & Water Conservation District of St. Joe,
What a perfect gift in Dale's memory
you sent to the viewing. The wind
chimes are a wonderful way to
remember Dale when we hear
them chime. They are beautiful.
Dale loved being a member and
involved in soil and water.
He was dedicated to conservation.
Dale also loved his soil and
water family.
With appreciation, The Dale Stoner
Family