

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER - On Tuesday April 18, 2017, at 7:11 pm a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD at the Centre Township Branch of the St. Joseph County Public Library was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor
Jeremy Cooper, Vice-Chair/Supervisor
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

Rick Glassman, SWCD EEC
Sarah Longenecker, SWCD CC
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD AA
Debbie Knepp, NRCS DC

Present - EX-OFFICIO

Jennifer Thum – ISDA DSS
PRESENT – Public
David Straughn

ABSENT – SWCD

Stacey Silvers, Supervisor
Dave Craft
Jan Ivkovich
Dru Wrasse
Richard Schmidt
Randy Matthys
Dale Stoner
Arlene Schuchman
Chuck Lehman
Jim LaFree
Carole Riewe

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - Old Business Item C. Headwaters Yellow River Steering Committee Mtg.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. **Legislative Updates** – Dooms shared a template support letter (attached) to be sent to the 3 federal legislators in support of Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) funding for USDA NRCS. Unanimously the board agreed to send this letter.
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – Dooms presented a letter from IASWCD explaining the 2017 membership dues as well as their 2016 Annual Report (attached). He also shared the 2017 delegate notebook since we didn't have a representative attend the meeting during the annual conference. He also explained the new MOU between Purdue University College of Agriculture & the IASWCD (attached).
- c. **Minutes: March 21, 2017 board meeting** – Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.
- d. **Treasurer's Report: (3/22/17-4/18/17)** – The treasurer's reports were both reviewed and approved as submitted.
- e. **Approval of Claims (3/22/17-4/18/17)** – A motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11221-11225 for a total of \$2,577.21 as presented. Motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **St. Joseph Co. Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff Written Reports** – The field office & Education reports were presented to the board & reviewed. (Attached). Debbie Knepp went over the NRCS Talking Points (attached)
- b. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Education** – Glassman informed the board 2 posters were received for the poster contest. He was able to get free trees from Hensler's Nursery and delivered them to the participants. The invasive species workshop that was scheduled for May 10th had to be canceled due to AP classes testing. He was able to schedule a Hoosier River Watch program for that date instead with some of the non AP classes. It is getting close to the Swamp Stomp field trips and with Glassman retiring in September he is having the schools preorder the size of t-shirts they need with a deadline of April 28th. Glassman will then only order what he needs so there are not leftovers. Glassman reminded the board that we actually make about \$1.50 in profit per t-shirt. After some discussion, a motion was made by Cooper & Vandewalle to release up to \$2,000 to order Swamp Stomp t-shirts. Motion carried. On April 10th the Elkhart County SWCD brought their Augmented Reality Sandbox to our office for a demonstration for the 5 supervisors. After some discussion a motion by Cooper & Burkholder was made for Glassman to do more research and get line items for the projector and computer costs. Glassman will then e-mail the 5 supervisors where at least 3 need to agree and approve the amount of funds to be released to build our own AR Sandbox in collaboration with the Marshall County SWCD. Motion carried.
 - ii. **Urban Conservation & Grants – Raingarden Workshop** – Longenecker visited the Zion United Church of Christ in South Bend last week. This will be the location for our demo garden in conjunction with our CWI Rainscaping grant. She and Hoffarth are in communications with Purdue who would be our speakers for the workshop portion to set a date that works for everyone. As soon as they have that set they will let everyone know. The site was designed by an engineer and is excavated. All that is needed compost, plants & mulch. The plan is to have the workshop in the morning and the plant installation, hands on portion be in the afternoon. We will also have signage installed explaining the raingarden and the

benefits. This area gets a lot of foot traffic which will receive a lot of attention. A motion was made by Cooper & Vandewalle to release funds needed for lunch at the workshop since raingardens directly furthers the mission of our district. Motion carried.

- c. **Headwaters of the Yellow River Steering Committee Mtg.** – Hoffarth informed the board that the final draft of the Watershed Management Plant (WMP) is due to IDEM April 30th. A link can be found on the Marshall Co SWCD website for those who would like to view the WMP. They are starting to work on a drone video of the watershed which will be posted to YouTube upon completion. They are starting to think about applying for another 319 grant which would be used to implement best management practices (BMP's). More information to come on that later from Marshall County SWCD. The next meeting will be held in June.

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 in Change Workshop – June 9th, Jasper, IN** – Hoffarth informed the board of this upcoming workshop. Cooper, Ivkovich, Schuchman, Silvers & Wrasse have already completed this workshop. Any staff, supervisor or associate supervisor who would like attend needs to be registered by June 1st.

VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR – Straughn gave an exemplary compliment to Longenecker for her “Urban Mashup” talk she did on the 13th for the Mishawaka Lions Club. It was well received and participants had questions up to the end of time. He is hoping she can come back to discuss this topic further at a later meeting this year or next year. Thum gave the board some updates from ISDA. 1. It’s time for the spring tillage transect. We should expect our forms to be sent to us the coming weeks. 2. During the 1st week of August they are planning a Senator tour while they are in Indiana. 3. Notice of Intent for 319 grants are due June 1st. 4. Palmer amaranth was not listed as an invasive species. ISDA has requested to have it listed as a noxious weed by the state chemist office.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The board meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hoffarth

Administrative Assistant

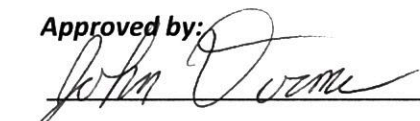
St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District

2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563

Email: Sandra.hoffarth@in.nacdnet.net

www.stjosephswcd.org

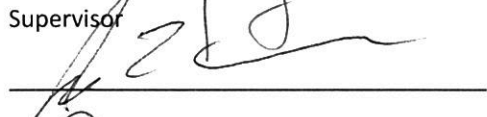
Approved by:



Supervisor



Supervisor



Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Representative Jackie Walorski
202 Lincolnway East
Suite 101
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Re: Support for Conservation Technical Assistance Funding

Dear Representative Walorski,

We are writing today to offer our support for Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) funding. CTA helps landowners become better stewards of their natural resources by assisting them with resource assessment, practical designs, planning and monitoring of conservation practices. Conservation plans give landowners the confidence and know-how to implement conservation practices on their land and in many instances, also help landowners apply for Farm Bill conservation financial assistance.

Our district was dismayed to see the proposed cuts to the USDA and agricultural conservation spending in the President's Budget for fiscal year 2018. The budget calls for a 21% cut to USDA's discretionary budget. A cut of this magnitude would be devastating to the USDA in general and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in particular. Farmers and other landowners rely on NRCS staff to provide the technical or scientific expertise to evaluate their land's unique resource needs and help address these needs.

The President's budget also calls for a concerning reduction in the number of USDA Service Centers employees and the privatization of conservation planning. Conservation districts work hand-in-hand with NRCS to implement federal conservation programs. We have seen first-hand the contraction in the NRCS workforce in recent years and the impact this has had on conservation delivery. Additional dramatic staff cuts would severely limit the ability of landowners to get the technical and financial assistance that they need.

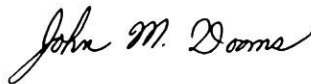
Our district was established on April 9, 1959. Since then we have partnered with USDA and other conservation agencies to achieve conservation through St Joseph County. The funds leveraged by the St. Joseph County SWCD, as well as the conservation practices that we help to put on the land through the conservation programs administered through the Farm Bill, NRCS, and the SWCD, have a positive impact to the residents and businesses in your district. The St. Joseph County SWCD is also deeply committed to providing quality conservation education and outreach programs to St. Joseph County's youth and adults, with the goal of inspiring the residents of our County to make choices that directly affect the soil health, water quality, and wildlife conservation in our community and beyond. **We are including with this letter our 2016 Conservation Partnership information. This includes how the state and federal funds have been spent throughout St. Joseph County.**

While we commend the growing interest in conservation delivery in the private sector, this should complement not supplant traditional conservation technical assistance. Although private companies

can cater to the needs of a specific client's operation, they cannot replace the current conservation delivery system that meets individual landowners' needs as well as addresses the needs of the community at large. NRCS and conservation districts play a crucial role ensuring locally-led, producer-driven stewardship of all land and natural resources, not just promoting the conservation practices which can increase crop yield.

With President Trump's proposed cuts to USDA and presumed suggestions of reducing or eliminating conservation technical assistance, it's important that we don't lose sight: the conservation delivery model works. USDA and soil and water conservation districts play a critical, irreplaceable role in conservation delivery; a role that must be protected through the appropriations process. **We respectfully request that Congress continue funding for USDA's Conservation Operations, including CTA, at \$865 million in fiscal year 2018.** This level of funding will allow for the delivery of critical conservation programs; help ensure the best technical and scientific knowledge is available when designing and implementing conservation plans with landowners; and most importantly, provide for the continues availability for the conservation practices that ensure clean water, healthy soils and other vital benefits on which the public relies each day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Dooms".

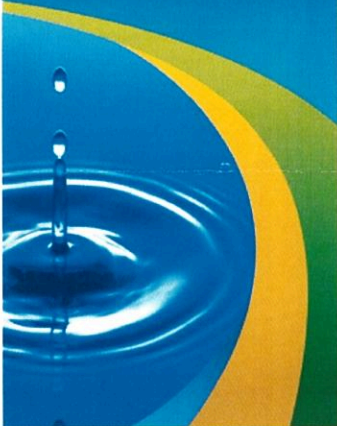
John Dooms
Chairman
St. Joseph County SWCD Board

www.iaswcd.org



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

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



IASWCD

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Suite 740
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317.692.7325
Web: www.iaswcd.org

PRESIDENT:

Jamie Scott
Kosciusko County

VICE PRESIDENT:

Roger Wenning
Decatur County

TREASURER:

Jeff Baker
Warrick County

SECRETARY:

Kerry Ames
Putnam County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Jennifer Boyle Warner
Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org

April 10, 2017

To: Indiana SWCDs

Re: 2017 Membership Dues

Dear SWCDs:

Enclosed you will find an invoice for your 2017 membership dues to the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) and a copy of the "2016 Year in Review Summary" which details how your membership dues were utilized during 2016. We are asking each SWCD to review this information at their next monthly board meeting. Invoices are due *before* September 30, 2017 in order to be in good standing for the next annual business meeting, which will be January 9, 2018. We will be celebrating the 75th annual SWCD conference and the 50th anniversary of the IASWCD in 2018.

The IASWCD and its Board of Directors continues to be **your** statewide voice for Indiana's 92 local conservation districts. We provide SWCD representation at both the state and national levels and with various organizations. We are still actively working the long budget session at the Statehouse. This year we are advocating for a \$1 million increase in general fund appropriation for the Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program. New this year, we offered an opportunity for Districts to schedule a day to visit the Statehouse. Ten Districts took advantage of this opportunity and it was a great way to have our voices heard at the Statehouse. A Fulton County SWCD Supervisor even got the opportunity to testify before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of CWI. An outstanding effort on everyone's part this year!

Just this past month, two IASWCD Board members, a SWCD Supervisor, and a past IASWCD Board member represented the SWCDs in Washington, DC. They visited with all our congressional offices and discussed important issues pertaining to the Farm Bill and potential funding cuts. We encourage each District to continue to invite national and state Legislators and Legislative staff to your SWCD field days and events. This helps significantly when we visit their offices and talk about soil and water natural resource issues. The IASWCD staff, officers and region directors are proud to serve you, our members, in these roles. We thank you for your continued commitment to promoting the wise use and management of our natural resources in the state.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have issues or concerns you would like to discuss. Thank you for supporting **your** Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Sincerely,

Jamie Scott
President

Jeff Baker
Treasurer

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

2016 IASWCD Annual Report Summary

Advocacy

To Legislators, the Public, and to Partners

The IASWCD's key advocacy initiatives for 2016 included:

- District Code successfully amended to include language from a member voted resolution to allow Districts to match the CWI \$10,000 grant they receive with funds from any source (not restricted to just municipality).
- Held a legislative training day for staff and supervisor including a trip to the Statehouse.
- Worked with the SBOA to clarify language specifying District use of funds for food, workshops, and field days.
- Advocated for Indiana's conservation issues in Washington, DC during the NACD annual fly-in.
- Actively participated on the Indiana Conservation Alliance and represented SWCDs at the 2016 Conservation Congress event.

Communications

Informing & Educating

The IASWCD uses various tools to inform our members and the public about soil and water conservation issues. In 2016, the IASWCD:

- Delivered 24 "Conservation Update" eNewsletters.
- Communicated District successes and accomplishments through social media and news releases.
- Promoted outstanding conservation efforts through various statewide recognitions including River Friendly Farmer, Friend of Conservation, Conservation Farmer of the Year, District Showcase, and Supervisor of the Year.
- Collaborated with Farm Credit Services to provide "Conservation Farmer of the Year" signs for local award programs.

2016 River Friendly Farmer winners



Leadership

Providing Conservation Leadership for SWCDs

The IASWCD Board of Directors and its staff strive to provide consistent and quality leadership for Districts. In 2016, the IASWCD:

- Along with NRCS and ISDA leadership, a commitment to visit every SWCD Board. Thirty visits were completed by the end of 2016.
- Represented SWCDs on the Leadership Institute committee, the State Technical committee, the Indiana Conservation Partnership Leaders meetings; State Soil Conservation Board meetings; and other state level committees.
- Represented SWCDs at the National level on various NACD committees.



A new greater stand with a green roof installed at Pathway to Water Quality exhibit.

Capacity Building

Strengthening Districts

Key efforts in 2016 included:

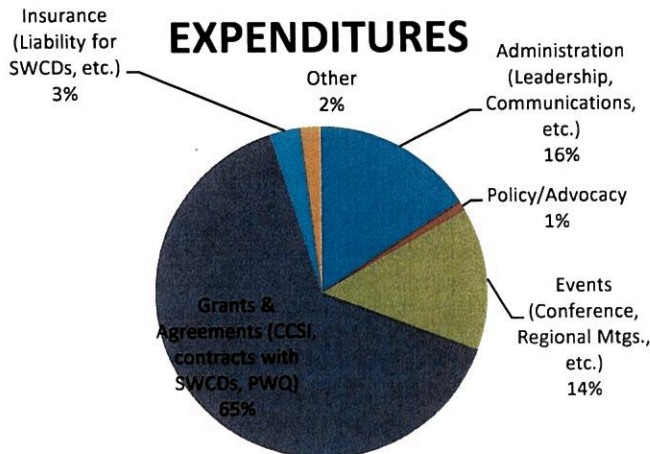
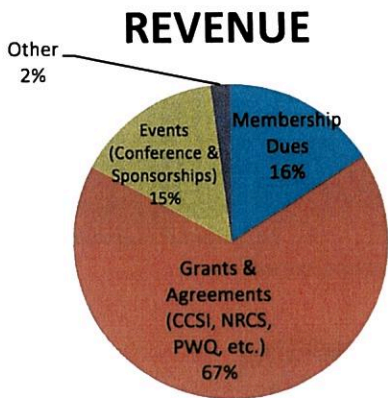
- Successfully secured a NRCS contribution agreement that provided over \$200,000 to SWCDs for technical assistance with CRP.
- Successfully secured a NRCS contribution agreement that provided over \$200,000 to SWCDs to provide administrative assistance on Farm Bill programs. An extension of this agreement was secured by the end of 2016.
- Secured \$44,250 in sponsorships for the 2016 SWCD Annual Conference that reduces the cost of conference for attendees.
- Provided a Supervisor scholarship program, worth over \$7,000, assisting supervisors to attend the 2016 SWCD Annual Conference.

- Assisted in setting up technical training opportunities for field staff. Three SWCD staff attended the national NRCS Boot Camp.
- Collaborated with ISDA and NRCS to provide information and training at regional meetings.
- Provided liability insurance coverage for Districts.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

- 2016 marked the 7th year of the project. Highlights included the addition of Lisa Holscher as Director, Taylor Lord as Communications Manager, Ashley Brucker as Program Manager, and Joe Rorick as Conservation Agronomist.
- Please visit www.ccsin.org for a 2016 report and the CIG report.

IASWCD Financial Summary for 2016



2017 IASWCD Board of Directors

Officers

President:	Jamie Scott
Vice-President:	Roger Wenning
Treasurer:	Jeff Baker
Secretary:	Kerry Ames

Region Directors

N-NW:	Kim Peterson
N-NE:	Tom Crowe
S-NW:	Mark Lawson
S-NE:	Bobby Hettmansperger
N-SW:	Josh Bishop
N-SE:	Brad Dawson
S-SW:	Ray Chattin
S-SE:	Brad Ponsler

IASWCD Staff

- Jennifer Boyle Warner, *Executive Director*
- Amy Work, *Communications & Member Programs Manager*
- Lisa Holscher, *CCSI Director*
- Ashley Brucker, *CCSI Program Manager*
- Taylor Lord, *CCSI Communications Manager*

Please contact us

225 S. East St., Ste. 740
 Indianapolis, IN 46202
 Ph: 317-692-7519
info@iaswcd.org
www.iaswcd.org
www.ccsin.org



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
Purdue University College of Agriculture
and
Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
Effective March 31, 2017 to January 31, 2022

1. Purpose

In Indiana, there has been a longstanding tradition of cooperation between Purdue University's College of Agriculture and the 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Indiana, most of which are members of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Importantly, both organizations are members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership, whose efforts have been recognized nationally as a model of collaboration.

Recognizing the unique roles of Purdue, the state's Land Grant University, in agricultural research and Extension and of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in providing technical assistance, Indiana, like many other states, adopted the following code:

IC 14-32-5-5

Prohibited actions

Sec. 5 A district may not do any of the following:

(1-5) ...

(6) Engage in agricultural research or agricultural Extension teaching except in cooperation with Purdue University.

(7-8) ...

At the time this code was adopted, the vast majority of agricultural research was directly funded by USDA and conducted by Land Grant Universities. Over time, research needs have become more multidisciplinary with solutions demanding broader approaches. Simultaneously, more research funding in areas of water quality, soil health, and conservation has become competitive; and more opportunities for non-land grant research institutions to obtain grants from USDA and other funding agencies have evolved. More and more, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are asked to participate and support projects led by other institutions and communicate results to audiences in those districts. Both parties recognize and embrace these changes but also acknowledge the importance of continued cooperation in agricultural research and Extension at Purdue. Therefore, the purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to clarify "agricultural research or agricultural Extension teaching" and to define "cooperation" between Purdue University's College of Agriculture and Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Because of its direct role in funding of Soil and Water Conservation District projects through its Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee, the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board, within the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, is included as a signatory to this memorandum of understanding.

2. Definition of Agricultural Research and Extension

The definition of agricultural research and Extension is not all-encompassing. Monitoring or enhancing soil health and conservation and water quality in rivers, streams, or other *waters of the state* is not necessarily agricultural or exclusively agricultural. We recognize that many water quality and conservation projects proposed to SWCDs may involve monitoring of water quality, impact of conservation areas, discovery of management practices, and other topics not directly pertaining to

agriculture. However, Purdue's expertise in planning research specifically related to cropping and farming practices, forestry, and natural resources can be beneficial in proper experimental design. Similarly, Purdue University's statewide Extension network and expertise in educational program planning, delivery, and evaluation can lead to heightened program success.

3. Cooperation

Definition

Merriam-Webster simply defines *cooperation* as "associations of persons for common benefit." Associations of persons can take many forms. Purdue University's College of Agriculture does not interpret "cooperation" to require that SWCDs must include Purdue University personnel in order to engage in research or Extension teaching activities with other institutions or agencies.

Purdue University College of Agriculture respects the right of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to work with other institutions and organizations. Under IC 14-32-5-5, we hold that "Cooperation" is not interpreted to mean that Soil and Water Conservation Districts must work exclusively with Purdue University on agricultural research or Extension teaching. However, we do recognize the importance of communication between Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Purdue University. Key reasons for the importance of communication are to prevent alternative interpretations of research results and misalignment of the educational message, eliminate unnecessary duplication of efforts, and avoid time conflicts in scheduling educational programs. Fostering communication is the role of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Purdue University College of Agriculture.

Actions


Soil and Water Conservation Districts and county Extension personnel shall communicate regularly and keep one another informed of completed, ongoing, and planned projects and educational events.

- Recognizing recent turnovers in staffing, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Purdue Extension shall renew efforts to encourage improved local interaction and partnering.
- The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Purdue Extension shall cooperate in tracking ongoing research projects in soil health, conservation, and water quality.
- The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Purdue Extension shall encourage working together to facilitate workshops and training.
- The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Purdue University Extension shall work together to share and discuss results of funded research from our organizations and other universities, organizations, and agencies.

**For the Purdue University
College of Agriculture**

Name: Dr. Jay Akridge

Title: Dean of Agriculture

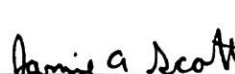
Signature: 

Date: 3/11/17

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

Name: Jamie Scott

Title: President

Signature: 

Date: 3/17/17

**For Indiana State Soil
Conservation Board:**

Name: Robert Woodling

Title: Chairman

Signature: 

Date: 3/21/17

Field Office Report
March 20 – April 14, 2017

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (19 applications)

- Ranking – 4 applications (2 cover crops, no-till, nutrient management, irrigation management, 2 Invasive Species removal, Forage planting)
- Conservation Activity Plan application for Nutrient management – ranked and funded
- Quality Assurance items for each application
- 2 Forestry Management Plan checklists
- Process payment for Seasonal High Tunnel and Invasive Species Control

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (5 applications)

- 1 application funded

Wetland Reserve program (WRP)

- Monitoring – 3 sites
- Engineering plans delivered to landowner
- Site visit with new landowner to explain the program

Conservation Stewardship program (12 applications)

- Renewal letter mailed – 1
- Interview landowner/rank – 1 Agriculture; 4 Forestry
- Update rankings per National headquarters changes

Wetlands – 8 wetland determinations

- Potential Violation Requests - 2
- Highly Erodible Determinations - 4
- NRCS mid-year review
- Field visit for planning – wildlife area
- Sandscape Watershed demonstration
- Raingraden site visit

Meetings:

Staff Meetings – 4

- IASWCD Regional meeting
- Marshall Co 319 Grant
- SWCD Business Plan Teleconference
- Yellow River Headwaters Grant
- MSP
- Webinar – Buffer Restorations
- Plant ID

- Rain Garden Workshop
- PSS QA Meeting
- Cover Crop Training
- Supervisors meeting
- Mishawaka Lions Club - Sarah
- AgLearn – Individual Development Plan
- Freedom of Information
- Performance management

Office Closed – April 14

Education Report
March 20 – April 14, 2017

12 School days for 13 schools.

Bittersweet, Boston (LaPorte), Elm Rd., Culver (Marshal), North Liberty, Jackson,
Corpus Christi, Madison PHM, Olive, Meadow's Edge, Stanley Clark, Moran, and Nuner.

Wildlife Dynamics - 4
Soils of IN - 2
Hollow tree - 3
Spirit of America - 4
Nature games - 7
Am/Rep - 5
Earthworms - 6
Insects of IN - 2
Environmental Concerns - 4
Animals of IN - 1
Backyard Wildlife - 3
Invasive Species - 3
Legends/Folktales - 6
Endangered Species - 1
Owls of IN - 1
Water and You - 2
Recycling - 2
Wetlands - 1

Vacation April 3 through 7

Scheduled Project WILD/Growing Up WILD workshop for June 6th
Scheduled Project Learning Tree Workshop for June 16th.

DC Talking Points

April, 2017

FARM BILL UPDATES

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Evaluation and ranking of applications is underway. Indiana plans to begin preapproving applications after April 14. After this date, applications selected for preapproval will be notified and NRCS will then conduct field verification to ensure the evaluation is accurate based on field conditions.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - 2017 EQIP ranking is also underway. NRCS originally to begin approving applications after April 21. This has been extended to May 5 to accommodate the CSP workload.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - USDA is now accepting proposals for new Fiscal Year 2018 RCPP projects. Pre-proposals are due April 21. For more information on applying, visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd1309629 and contact Jill Reinhart, ASTC Partnerships, at jill.reinhart@in.usda.gov

Indiana Watershed Initiative/University of Notre Dame
EQIP second sign up deadline of April 21.

Soil Health on Reclaimed Mine Lands
Currently assessing if a second sign up is needed.

The Southern Indiana Young Forest Initiative
Partnership agreement between Department of Natural Resources and NRCS is being drafted - Hope to have a late spring sign up.

LIVESTOCK SAFETY ISSUES

With several states reporting cases of low- and/or high-pathogenic avian influenza this season, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) is receiving inquiries about the status of the disease. No illness or mortalities in domestic poultry in the U.S. have been reported. It appears to be one of the strains seen during the outbreak in 2014 and 2015 and serves as a reminder that there is still HPAI circulating in wild birds, and producers need to continue to be vigilant about biosecurity to protect domestic poultry. NRCS employees have been reminded of the need to continue to follow biosecurity protocols regarding visits to livestock farms.

- Until further notice, Level 2 Biosecurity measures must be implemented on all poultry production facilities and fields where litter has been applied within the last six months. NRCS employees will call ahead to confirm if there are any specific biosecurity instructions at that farm, wear boots, and disinfect equipment after field visits to sites associated with poultry.
- NRCS employees will call and ask producers prior to field visits if they have poultry, litter onsite, or if litter applications have been made if not readily known (e.g., backyard flock or poultry litter spread or stored on-site), and adhere to the producer's decision of whether or not to allow access to NRCS employees.
- The Indiana Board of Animal Health recently announced that a case of Bovine Tuberculosis has been linked to an Indiana farm. Policy requires NRCS employees to implement Level 1 Biosecurity measures during all



livestock farm visits – it is anticipated that adhering to this policy will suffice to limit the potential spread of this recent threat.

Here are some additional reminders and updates from BOAH:

- Indiana has had NO CASES of avian influenza to date this year.
- BOAH continues to maintain the HPAI webpage with current information about the disease in Indiana. That may be found online at: www.in.gov/boah/2390.htm
- To help poultry owners stay up-to-date with what is happening nationally, BOAH has added a section to that page that lists links to other states with reported cases this year. That may be found online at: www.in.gov/boah/2815.htm
- BOAH continues to offer a poultry-focused Facebook page to provide updates: www.facebook.com/INAvianHealth/
- Poultry owners are encouraged to practice good biosecurity and report ill or dead poultry to the Healthy Birds Hotline at: 866-536-7593

SECOND YEAR CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP) SURVEY

Data collection by the field staff continues and is to be completed by May 12, 2017. If anyone has questions regarding the CEAP data collection, they should contact Rick Neilson at rick.neilson@in.usda.gov or at 317-295-5875. You can visit https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Conservation_Effects_Assessment_Project/index.php for additional information about the NRI-CEAP survey process.

