

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - On Tuesday January 21, 2020, at 9:08 am 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, South Bend, IN 46614 was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor
Jeremy Cooper, Vice-Chair/Supervisor
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor
Dave Craft, Supervisor
David Straughn

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

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

Present - EX-OFFICIO

PRESENT – Public
Gene Matzat
Evelyn Teske

ABSENT – SWCD

Mike Burkholder, Supervisor
Jim LaFree
Dru Wrasse
Richard Schmidt
Randy Matthys
Chuck Lehman

- II. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – n/a

III. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a. **Legislative Updates** – Joe Schmees, Executive Director of IASWCD is e-mailing the bill tracking updates. If you are not receiving them, but would like to, let the office staff know.
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates**
 - i. **State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan 2020-2024** – (attached) SSCB is seeking comments for their business plan. The items in the plan are what CWI grants must be based on.
- c. **Minutes: December 17, 2019 board meeting** – Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented (Vandewalle/Cooper).
- d. **Treasurer's Report: (12/17/2019-1/21/2020)** – The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved as submitted by motion (Cooper/Craft). Motion carried.
- e. **Approval of Claims (12/17/2019-1/21/2020)** – A motion (Cooper/Vandewalle) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11521-11532 for a total of \$2,328.98. 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 presented the NRCS talking points (attached).
- b. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Annual Meeting** – Hoffarth informed the board that there are about 89 tickets sold so far, not counting what the supervisors have sold. More tickets are available with the deadline being January 24th. Hoffarth asked the board to be at St Hedwig before the doors open at 5:45pm. She will contact each member to assign a task as needed.
 - ii. **Rural Conservation** – Dooms informed the board that the 2020 Producers' Workshop will be held on February 19 at Christo's Banquet Center in Plymouth from 9am-2pm. Theme is recovering from 2019 and preparing for 2020. The committee is asking for a press release to go to the Farmer's Exchange and other local newspapers. A motion (Cooper/Craft) was made to release up to \$1,000 to cover breakfast and lunch expenses for the workshop as this workshop furthers the mission of our district by educating producers about conservation practices. All expenses will be split 50/50 with Marshall County SWCD. Motion passed.
 - iii. **Audit & Finance** – Cooper informed the board that the audit and finance committee has been looking at the monthly financial reports and audits throughout 2019 and found zero errors. The financial statements have balanced each month and therefore the 2019 financial year ended balanced. A motion (Cooper/Craft) was made to approve the 2019 Annual Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.
- c. **Designation of Depository** – a motion (Cooper/Vandewalle) was made to keep our checking and savings account at PNC Bank. Motion passed.
- d. **2020 Food Policy** – a motion (Cooper/Craft) was made to keep the food policy as presented. Motion passed.
- e. **IASWCD Annual Conference** – Dooms updated the board on the resolutions (attached) that were presented at the annual business meeting. All 3 resolutions passed. St Joseph County had Representative Ross Deal attend the legislator breakfast. Dooms was able to visit the statehouse and see Senator David Niezgodski and Senator Ryan Mishler. Next years' annual conference will be January 11-12, 2021 and it will be held at the Westin Hotel.

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.
- b. **New Projector & Screen** – Hoffarth presented 3 options for a new projector (attached) that was recommended by Chuck Lehman. After some discussion, a motion (Cooper/Vandewalle) was made to purchase a ViewSonic 1080p projector, a 40-inch screen and a 100-inch screen not to exceed \$700. Motion passed.

VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR – Matzat gave us updates from the Friends of Potato Creek Association. Their meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the Nature Center at Potato Creek State Park. Matzat also informed the board that the Shirley Hinze Trust will be having work days at the Lydick Bog. They also have a grant for ag land along the Kankakee River for ag land protection and education. Straughn informed the board that Mishawaka Parks is having educational trainings each Saturday at the Battell Center with topics focusing on urban gardening. Doms presented Longenecker with a Christmas card since she was sick and missed the Christmas lunch last month.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The board meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hoffarth

Administrative Assistant

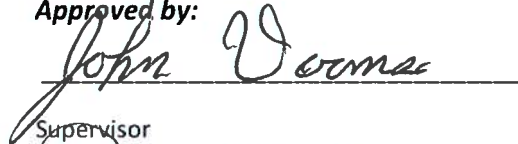
St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District

2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563

Email: Sandra.hoffarth@in.nacdnet.net

www.stjosephswcd.org

Approved by:



Supervisor

Supervisor



Supervisor

Supervisor



Supervisor

Supervisor

Field Office Report
December 16, 2019 – January 17, 2020

General/Miscellaneous

Office Work

- Review applications for Education Coordinator position
- Conservation Desktop – Lesson Plan 8
- Conservation Desk Top Training Assignment
- Environmental Education Coordinator Interviews
- Annual Meeting preparation
- Newsletter mailing

Field Work

EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Office Work

- Process payments for 7 producers – monitoring of pollinator habitat; cover crops; pollinator habitat establishment
- Process new application – 1
- Contract reviews – 2
- Coordinate eligibility forms needed for applicants
- Meet with cover crop producer to identify which fields were planted to cover crops
- Work with state office to develop a variance for cover crops that were not planted this fall

Field Work

Verify cover crops were planted in fields
Walked 3 farms to gather resource inventory data for planning

WRE- Wetland Reserve Program

Office Work

Field Work

Walked survey boundary to check for accuracy

CSP- Conservation Stewardship Program

Office Work

Verify seed mixes, rates and fields planted to cover crops for enhancement

Field Work

CRP-Conservation Reserve Program

Office Work

Field Work

- Verify if a prairie strip is needed and feasible

CWI- Clean Water Indiana

Office Work

-

Field Work

-

Wetland Determinations / Highly Erodible Land Determinations

Office Work

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Highly Erodible Determinations • 4 Potential Violation request • 1 potential violation request
Field Work
•

Rule 5/ Rule 13
Office/Field Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 SWPPP reviews

Education		
Age	Total # Programs/ Hours	Total # People
Youth Education		
Adult Education		
•		

Meetings & Trainings	
Staff Meetings – 4 Conservation Desktop Training – 2 days Ft Wayne Farm Show – NRCS Booth	Rural Conservation Committee IASWCD Annual Conference
Webinars	Dates
Jewels of the Night – Fireflies Bioreactor video Can Cover Crops Regenerate Our Climate? No-Till Organic with Cover Crops 5 Reasons to Plant Pollinator Plots Cover Crop Strategies After Small Grains	SWCD Holiday – Dec 23 Office Closed – Dec 24, 25 and Jan 1

Comments from the Community

DC Talking Points

November 2019

STAFFING UPDATE

- Selections have been made for 6 of the 8 supervisory district conservationists (Planning Team Leader) positions.
- Eight Farm Bill assistants (for program contract support) positions advertised, closed and selections are being made.

FARM BILL

Conservation Stewardship Program – Grassland Conservation Initiative (CSP-GCI)

Indiana NRCS is extending the deadline to November 8, 2019, for eligible agriculture producers to enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Grassland Conservation Initiative. The original deadline was October 25, 2019. Enrollment is limited to those producers who FSA has determined as having base acres that qualify as eligible land for the program. Eligible land consists of cropland for which base acres have been maintained and documented as grass, idle, or fallow from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2017. Participants who believe that their FSA records are incorrect or incomplete, must contact their County FSA Office by November 8th to have their records updated.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)

NRCS is accepting applications through November 27 for the VPA-HIP program that encourages landowners and land managers to allow public access to their land for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent recreation. Only state governments and tribes are eligible, however other partners may be interested in joining this public-private partnership effort that delivers long-term conservation benefits. For more information contact Beth Clarizia, Easement Program Manager at 317-295-5821, beth.clarizia@usda.gov or Jerry Roach, ASTC Programs for more information at 317-295-5820, jerry.roach@usda.gov.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conserves and improves soil, water and wildlife resources and addresses issues raised by State, regional and national conservation initiatives. Because of its proven success, the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorizes CRP, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP). A CRP general signup is expected in December 2019 with CRP Grasslands Signup to follow in the Spring. Continuous CRP Signup is also expected to be announced in the near future.

Indiana USDA CRP Leaders attended national training on CRP, with the requirement for state level training to FSA and NRCS employees by late November. Information and details about CRP will be shared with partners as soon as authorized by USDA.

CART TOOL INFORMATION COMING SOON

Indiana NRCS is currently working on information about the new CART tool and will send out specific talking points to district conservationists to help communicate the changes that are being made.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

NRI is the National Resources Inventory, a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection will begin in early September and run through until the end of January 2020. The soils staff at the state office will collect data. Conservation partnership staff

may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plan, cropping history, etc. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Rick Neilson State Soil Scientist at rick.neilson@usda.gov.

UPDATED WEB SOIL SURVEY

The FY20 SSURGO data refresh has been completed and the new soils data is now available on Web Soil Survey. The GIS staff is in the process of downloading and processing the data so it can be pushed out to field office servers. Field staff will not need to download this data. Users may notice some differences in the two datasets until Indiana's servers are updated. A detailed list of changes will be released with the data. The soils spatial data is all new and staff who keep geodata on their hard drives and do not work off servers will need to redownload the data. If you have any questions, contact Rick Neilson at rick.neilson@usda.gov or 317-295-5875.

DC Talking Points

January 2020

FARM BILL

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

NRCS seeks public comments through [February 18, 2020](#) on its interim rule for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The rule – now available on the Federal Register – takes effect upon publication and includes changes to the program prescribed by the 2018 Farm Bill. NRCS will make available \$1.2 billion for interested producers in fiscal 2020. NRCS state offices will announce signup periods for EQIP in the coming weeks.

Changes to EQIP include:

- Creating incentive contracts and payments for incentive practices to better support locally led conservation needs.
- Requiring NRCS to offer an advance payment option for historically underserved producers.
- Raising the payment cap for producers participating in the Organic Initiative to \$140,000 for contracts entered into between fiscal 2019 through 2023.
- Expanding the Conservation Innovation Grant program, which is funded through EQIP, to include opportunities for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trails and Soil Health Demonstration Trials.
- The 2018 Farm Bill created incentive contracts, which address up to three priority resource concerns within targeted watersheds and other high priority landscapes. While typical EQIP contracts last five years, these contracts last five to 10 years.
- The Farm Bill also enabled increased payments for priority practices, through which NRCS can designate up to 10 practices in each state to receive the higher rates.

Applying for EQIP

- EQIP is a flagship program that helps producers plan and implement 150-plus conservation practices on working lands.
- NRCS provides producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement conservation practices through EQIP. Popular EQIP practices include cover crops, forest stand improvement, prescribed grazing and irrigation.
- EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis.
- If a producer's application is funded, NRCS will offer an EQIP contract for financial assistance for the cost of implementing the practices.
- Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year.

NRCS CONSERVATION COLLABORATION GRANTS OR AGREEMENTS

NRCS is soliciting proposals to leverage NRCS resources either through outreach to assist historically underserved groups, or through collaboration on strategic natural resources issues. Proposals for Conservation Technical Assistance funding are [due by February 7](#) and must include a letter of support from the State Conservationist(s). Thirty-five million dollars will be made available nationwide. Eligible applicants are nonprofit 501c3 organizations, institutions of higher education or an individual. More information can be found on www.grants.gov, key word search NRCS.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

NRI is the National Resources Inventory, a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection will begin in early September and run through

until the end of January 2020. The soils staff at the state office will collect data. Conservation partnership staff may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plan, cropping history, etc. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Rick Neilson State Soil Scientist at rick.neilson@usda.gov.

DC Talking Points

December 2019

FARM BILL

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conserves and improves soil, water and wildlife resources and addresses issues raised by State, regional and national conservation initiatives. Because of its proven success, the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorizes CRP, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP). A CRP general signup is expected in December 2019 with CRP Grasslands Signup to follow in the Spring. Continuous CRP Signup is also expected to be announced in the near future.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

NRI is the National Resources Inventory, a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection will begin in early September and run through until the end of January 2020. The soils staff at the state office will collect data. Conservation partnership staff may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plan, cropping history, etc. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Rick Neilson State Soil Scientist at rick.neilson@usda.gov.

CART AND LOCAL WORKING GROUPS INFORMATION

What is CART?

CART stands for **Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool**. CART is a new NRCS developed tool that will be used to document and support conservation planning and integrate this information into conservation program ranking. The CART is one part of a larger effort to update all NRCS business tools to streamline customer service and deliver conservation assistance more efficiently. It is anticipated to be released in fiscal year 2020.

What are Local Working Groups?

The Farm Bill designates local working groups as a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee. The role of local working groups is to provide recommendations and advice to the State Conservationist focusing on natural resource concerns in the local community. While local working groups convene to make specific recommendations for program ranking each year, the purpose is not limited to focusing on program priorities.

How have local working group priorities been used for program ranking?

- For the last several Farm Bills, Indiana NRCS asked local working groups to make specific recommendations that have been used directly in the ranking process for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Recommendations were gathered by asking each local working group to select 10 priority resource concerns, then rank those concerns in order of greatest concern.
- Each local working group's concerns are displayed in the local priorities section of the ranking tool for EQIP & CSP. For some EQIP, an application in one county competes with applications in all the counties within one of Indiana's four administrative area.
- The previous ranking system consisted of four parts: 1) National 2) State and 3) Local priorities plus 4) an efficiency factor as directed by the Farm Bill. The local portion of ranking was limited by national policy to being no more than 25% of the total possible points.

- For a producer who applied for EQIP or CSP in a specific county, the more local concerns the application addressed, the more points they received for the local portion of the ranking.

How will the ranking portion of CART differ from the current system?

The CART will implement an entirely new, streamlined ranking system that evaluates an application based four different categories:

1. Vulnerability: Points awarded based on the current resource concern conditions compared to planned future conditions. The larger the gap between current and future conditions, the more points would be awarded.
2. Resource Concerns: Points awarded based on whether specific priority resource concerns are being addressed. Certain resource concerns can be weighted to a greater degree than others.
3. Program Priorities: Specific questions used to award points for programs such as additional points for veteran farmers or for enrolling land within a targeted watershed.
4. Efficiency: Evaluates the cost of a practice versus the lifespan and the amount of conservation benefit provided.

What other ways does NRCS ensure that local concerns are represented in the ranking and selection of applications?

- Indiana NRCS creates “ranking pools” to ensure applications are compared to other applications that have similar land uses/resource concerns and in geographic areas.
- Ranking pools are based on geographic area and land use.
- Indiana has four primary agriculture land uses:
 - Cropland
 - Pastureland
 - Forestland
 - Animal Feeding Operations
- Indiana has four administrative areas that also are a good representation of the different landscapes in the state (NW, NE, SE, SW).
- Indiana also uses a formula to determine the portion of program funding that will go toward each land use/geographic area based on how much that land use represents in the landscape.
- For example, the southern half of Indiana is more heavily forested which means more program funds to support these resources are made available in the southern portion of the state.

How will Indiana NRCS ensure local priorities are represented in program ranking (CART) moving forward?

- There is no specific national policy requiring that local working group input be used in a particular way in the new ranking.
- Indiana NRCS feels strongly that local working group input should continue to have significant influence on setting ranking priority to the degree possible. Indiana’s strategy for accomplishing this is to aggregate local priorities by about a 12 county area (i.e. IN NRCS conservation delivery team areas) and use the results to establish the second category listed above (resource concerns) and prioritize those concerns according to the aggregated local recommendations. This will allow NRCS to streamline the ranking process so funding can be evenly distributed, and contracts can be approved more quickly.
- Initial analysis of the aggregated data is showing very consistent priorities across counties.
- Indiana NRCS also plans to continue using ag land use/geographic areas to target program funding based on the landscape.

Will the new CART ranking change the number of applications approved in any county?

Historically, Indiana is able to approve about 80% of the applications received each year. This percentage represents the number of applications we receive with the program allocation. Under the new ranking system, we do not expect this to change and expect that the new way to use local priorities will have an even greater influence on the ranking system than in previous years.

There are always variations in the number of funded applications in any county depending on overall interest and available funds.

Will the aggregated local priorities be available for review?

Yes. The method and results of aggregating local working group data will be published on Indiana NRCSs website so partners can review and evaluate the results. There will still be a critical need for local working groups to convene annually. The new process encourages collaboration between counties when identifying priorities. Where a county may have specific resource concerns that are not reflected in the aggregated priorities, this may indicate opportunity for one or more partners to pursue a special initiative through an NRCS program such as the Regional Cooperative Conservation Program (RCCP). Since local working groups are not limited to identifying priorities for NRCS programs, the meeting may be an opportunity for the group to explore different types of resource concerns or other federal, state or local sources of support for those priorities.

It is important to note that NRCS plans to evaluate the new process and make necessary adjustments after we have completed a sign-up cycle with CART. This will be a similar process when the previous ranking system was established over a decade ago. Minor adjustments were made along the way to improve funding distribution and better representation of local priorities. Any future adjustments will be presented to the Indiana State Technical Committee for comment.

Have the changes to the ranking system and local working groups been communicated to the public?

Over a year ago, NRCS made a national announcement about the development of the CART as a result of changes in the 2018 Farm Bill. To prepare locally, Indiana NRCS released a notice for local working groups to convene in July 2019 which included limited information about how local working group information would be used. The information was limited because few details were known about CART at the time. In the summer of 2019, the proposed new ranking process was presented to the Indiana State Technical Committee, Ranking Sub-Committee and later at the State Technical Committee meeting in September.

passed

INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS, INC.
RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM (PLEASE TYPE)

Title of Resolution: State and County Soil and Nutrient Loss Estimates

Submitted by: Knox Co. SWCD

Contact Person: Ray Chattin

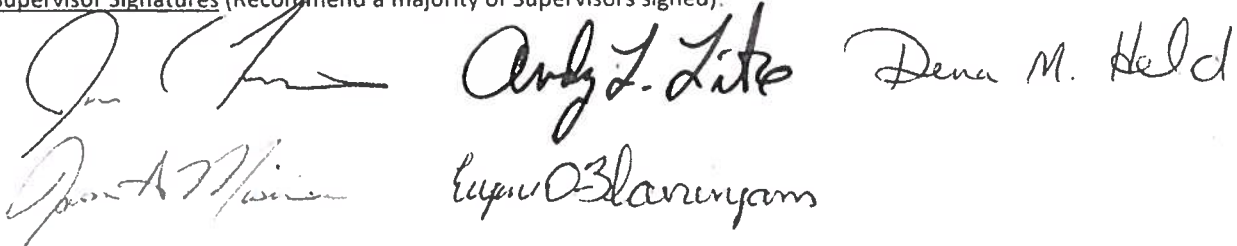
Explanation of Problem(s) or Need(s): Soil loss is a critical resource concern in Indiana. Although several metrics are being developed and utilized to report soil and nutrient savings, nothing is being done to report what is being lost on an annual basis at the county or state level. Such information is critically relevant in providing the kind of context that will make existing data truly meaningful.

Proposed Solution: ICP partners work cooperatively to formulate combined soil loss estimates that occur as a result of agricultural, urban and streambank erosion at the state and county levels.

Benefits Expected: Public awareness of the magnitude of the problem soil loss would be raised. This data could be used to extrapolate monetary consequences. Justification for CWI funding and local county funding for SWCDs would be validated.

Action Requested (Please specify the action you would like the association to take if this resolution passes): Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. request the ICP (NRCS, ISDA, IDEM and USGS to work cooperatively to formulate annual soil and nutrient loss estimates at the state and county level.

Supervisor Signatures (Recommend a majority of Supervisors signed):



Date Signed: 8-27-19

Note: Please email this form to joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org
Due on Friday, September 6, 2019

**INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS, INC.
RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM (PLEASE TYPE)**

Long Explanation: Soil loss in Indiana continues to be a paramount natural resource priority that has been magnified by the unprecedented rainfall totals and numerous disastrous rainfall events that occurred in 2019. Significant emphasis has been placed on documenting soil and nutrient savings in recent years, particularly on the part of ISDA. Although this data is useful in demonstrating the efficacy of conservation programs and practices, the overall relevance of this data is limited when not considered within the context of total annual soil and nutrient loss. If streambank erosion estimates were to be included, the numbers would be multiplied to great effect.

The rationale for this resolution is that if the technology exists to estimate soil and nutrient savings, it also should permit the formulation of a reasonable estimate for soil **and nutrient** loss.

It is a given that this resolution will place an additional burden of our partners, but given the fact that capital is already being expended toward the gathering of data documenting soil and nutrient savings, it does not seem unreasonable to attempt to provide the proper context for such information.

It is also understood that estimating streambank erosion is a "black box" in that technology and existing data are relatively limited, however, few soil scientists or others who have studied the problem would deny that streambank erosion is by far the leading cause of soil loss in Indiana.

Efforts to gain meaningful conservation funding in Indiana at the state and county level have historically met with minimal success. A large reason for that failure can be attributed to the fact that those making those funding decisions have no clue as to the quantity or value of soil and nutrients currently being lost on an annual basis.

Any soil **or nutrient** loss estimate should not be intended to be precise, but it can be informative, rational and above all credible given the technology now available and the history and integrity of the Indiana Conservation Partnership. There is also the pervasive and indisputable physical evidence for all to see.

**Note: Please email this form to joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org
Due on Friday, September 6, 2019**

passed

IASWCD Resolution Submission Form - 2020

Resolutions must be submitted by Friday, September 6, 2019. The IASWCD business meeting will take place January 14, 2020. A SWCD Delegate must be present at the business meeting if submitting a resolution for consideration.

Email address *

charles.ring@in.nacdnet.net

Title of Resolution *

Establishment of legislative task force to consider state's role in addressing invasive plants on private land.

Submitted by (SWCD name) *

Knox Co.

Contact Person and email *

Ray Chattin chattin2265@gmail.com

Explanation of Problem(s) or Need *

Invasive plants represent a catastrophic threat to the biodiversity of Indiana's native plant communities. Private landowners are tremendously underserved by DNR and Purdue Extension when it comes to education, technical assistance and training. Apart from the Indiana Invasives Initiative there is very little help available. NRCS funding support for the III will end in 2022. SWCDs continue to be key strategic partners in the establishment of new CISMAs statewide. Long term sustainability of the III staff and support system will be crucial. Additionally, the Indiana Invasive Species Council has never received any state funding. It is imperative that the legislature determine what their role will be.

Proposed Solution *

Create a task force to assess the role of the legislature in the fight against invasive plants in Indiana, particularly on private lands.

Benefits Expected *

The Indiana Invasives Initiative will not have to rely on grants and private donations to maintain its staff and programs. SWCDs will be recognized as key partners. The Indiana Invasive Species Council will be provided with an executive director to facilitate its role.

Action Requested (Please specify the action you would like the IASWCD to take if this resolution passes). Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc..... *

Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. will assume leadership in establishing the formation of a Legislative task force to determine the legislature's role in addressing invasive plant species, particularly on private land.

Below please provide a detailed explanation of this resolution: *

Invasive plants are degrading Indiana's forests, wetlands and natural areas as well as threatening the biodiversity of native plant communities. In 2017, SICIM entered into a 5-year contribution agreement with NRCS with \$917,000 being provided. With financial support from the State Soil Conservation Board, the IASWCD, grants and individual donors, SICIM has been able to generate over \$1.5 million to create the Indiana Invasives Initiative. The main goals of the III are to establish 60 sustainable CISMAs at the county level as well as providing education and technical assistance to private landowners and training for ICP staff.

SWCDs are recognized as key partners in this process due to the credibility and history with local landowners and the fact that their local staff and infrastructure can help support the creation and sustainability of local CISMAs.

SICIM now employs 5 full time regional specialists and a part time state coordinator carry out the goals of the III.

This is filling a tremendous void in addressing the resource needs of private landowners in both urban and rural communities.

With the exception of State Soil Board funding, the legislature has very little invested in the effort to address invasive plants. DNR Division of Forestry Staff have been cut. District foresters have major backlogs with traditional forestry programs and policy forbids them to assist landowners with 10 acres or less.

The role of the Indiana Invasive Species Council in assessing the status of existing invasive plants and monitoring the introduction and proliferation of new species is critically important. They have had to perform these duties without any staff, which is unacceptable.

Invasive plants are a problem that cannot heal itself and is rapidly getting worse. Without help from the state, the progress that has been made will be in jeopardy. Passage of this resolution will provide a teachable moment for legislators and will enhance the visibility and importance of local conservation delivery systems.

Supervisor Signatures (By typing in names, signifies Supervisors approval of submission) *

Jim Farris, Gene Flaningam, Andy Like, Dena Held, Jason Misiniec

Date signed *

MM DD YYYY

09 / 05 / 2019

This form was created inside of Indiana Association of Soil and Water Districts.

Google Forms

Passed

IASWCD Resolution Submission Form - 2020

Resolutions must be submitted by Friday, September 6, 2019. The IASWCD business meeting will take place January 14, 2020. A SWCD Delegate must be present at the business meeting if submitting a resolution for consideration.

Email address *

lois.mann@in.nacdnet.net

Title of Resolution *

Conservation Plan Requirement to Receive USDA Subsidizes

Submitted by (SWCD name) *

Fulton County SWCD

Contact Person and email *

Lois Mann lois.mann@in.nacdnet.net

Explanation of Problem(s) or Need *

Each county in the United States is served by a Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) whose primary purpose is to promote the wise use of our soil & water resources: and

The USDA, through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has as part of its mission the conservation of our natural resources, including our soil and water; and

The USDA subsidizes agricultural producers through such programs as PLC (Price Loss Coverage), ARC (Agriculture Risk Coverage), and Crop Insurance Premium Reductions (CIPR) with no current requirement for a conservation plan. Nitrogen and phosphorus have contributed to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico and harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. Sediment Pollution in excess amounts has decreased water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Conservation plans are needed to protect the future of farming and to preserve soil health and to address nutrient pollution. The proposed requirement would change federal contracts with producers to encourage the implementation of additional conservation practices.

Proposed Solution *

Short term solution: The Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the State Soil Conservation Board shall establish a task force to evaluate the procedures necessary for Indiana to adopt proposed changes to USDA subsidized agricultural payments which would require proof of a current conservation plan to receive PLC, ARC and CIPR. Long term solution: Receipt of PLC, ARC and Crop Insurance Premium Reduction Subsidies shall be dependent upon proof that the acreage covered by those subsidies has in place a current conservation plan. This proposed solution could eventually change USDA programming regarding such payments.

Benefits Expected *

By following an approved conservation plan, the producer will make progress towards reducing soil and water degradation, thereby promoting soil health. Additional benefits of implementing a well written conservation plan include increase water quality and quantity, reduced sediments which can cloud water and harm underwater grasses, fish and other aquatic life, reduce nutrients which cause harmful algal blooms, protect topsoil from erosion, and increase habitat for wildlife. Numerous conservation practices, programs and plans are available through NRCS with technical assistance and funding opportunities.

Action Requested (Please specify the action you would like the IASWCD to take if this resolution passes). Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc..... *

Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. advocate for a requirement in the State of Indiana that all agricultural producers requesting PLC, ARC and Crop Insurance Premium Reduction Subsidies meet with their local NRCS District Conservationist and Soil and Water Conservation District to establish a conservation plan. A task force shall be created to determine the feasibility of implementing a conservation plan requirement for the aforementioned subsidies, similar to the current requirements to participate in Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) programs.

Below please provide a detailed explanation of this resolution: *

Government is a big part of American agriculture, providing billions in financial assistance. Smart public policy can empower farmers to preserve our natural resources for future generations. Establishing conservation plans for agricultural land can increase a farmer's bottom line by creating healthier soils, reducing erosion, and conserving critical natural resources.

A conservation plan requirement would utilize NRCS conservation programs already in place to establish a conservation plan for each farm/field to which subsidies are paid. Producers requesting PLC, ARC and crop insurance premium reduction subsidies would meet with their local NRCS District Conservationist and Soil and Water Conservation District to establish a conservation plan for the farm. Many conservation programs come with additional funding for implementation of practices/structures and no-cost technical assistance. Even in least productive years like the wet spring of 2019, producers can store carbon by establishing a pollinator habitat or planting cover crops. Covered soils will further benefit soil microbes while protecting the soil from erosion.

Requiring a conservation plan for PLC, ARC and Crop Insurance Premium Reduction subsidies will conserve soil and water resources. NRCS technical teams and programs already exist and are tried and true environmental services. We advocate their use through a Conservation Plan for all PLC, ARC and Crop Insurance Premium Reduction subsidies.

Supervisor Signatures (By typing in names, signifies Supervisors approval of submission) *

Matt Harsh - Chairman, Dustin Zellers - Vice-Chairman, Ross Burdge - Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Norman - Supervisor, and Austin White - Supervisor

Date signed *

MM DD YYYY

08 / 27 / 2019

This form was created inside of Indiana Association of Soil and Water Districts.

Google Forms

	Lumens	Resolution	Connections	Sound	Cost
Epson VS355	3,300	WXGA 1280x800	HDMI, S-video, USB, iOS or Android with app usage	yes	\$429.34
ViewSonic 1080p	3,500	HD 1920x1080	HDMI, USB, mini USB, mobile devices using appropriate cords	yes	499.99
ViewSonic 4K	3,500	HD 3840x2160	HDMI, USB, mini USB, mobile devices using appropriate cords	yes	999.99

Projector Screen

40 inch portable	\$	49.99
100 inch portable	\$	83.99

Agenda
60th Annual Meeting of the
St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District

In Celebration of our projects and accomplishments throughout 2019!

Friday, January 31, 2020 - Doors opened at 5:45 pm
Hedwig Memorial Center, South Bend, Indiana

5:45 Doors Opened

6:39 Call to Order/ Introduce Guests-----John Dooms, Chairman

Followed by:

Supervisor Election-----Jeremy Cooper

No further nominations from the floor. Dave Vandewalle & Dave Craft motioned to close the nominations from the floor. Motioned passed. John Dooms was elected as supervisor by majority vote. Commissioner Dave Thomas issued the Oath of Office for John Dooms.

Invocation----- Dave Craft

7:00 Family Style Polish Dinner-----Hedwig Memorial Center

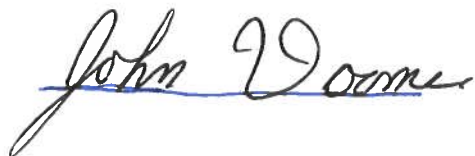
8:00 Reflections & Awards----- Jeremy Cooper

Followed by:

Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker-----Chad Pregracke

Followed by:

Adjournment-----John Dooms adjourned at 9:10 pm.







6-16-2020