MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER - On Tuesday, August 2021, at 7:05 pm a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Old business f. field to market update, g. county budget, new business e. annual report style

III. REGULAR BUSINESS
   a. Legislative Updates – n/a
   b. Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates – Rachel Rawls, Purdue Ag & Natural Resources Educator sent flyer (attached) for their Pinney Purdue Field Day and announced her focus for her upcoming program year will be on crops, diversified farming and food systems as well as urban soil health.
   c. Minutes June 16, 2021 board meeting – Board Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. (Matthys/Burkholder)
   d. Treasurer’s Report: (6/15/2021 - 8/16/2021) – A motion (Matthys/Vandewalle) was made to approve the treasurer’s report as submitted. Motion carried.
   e. Approval of Claims (6/15/2021 - 8/16/2021) – A motion (Matthys/Burkholder) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11635-11646 for a total of $5,406.56. 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 & discussed. (Attached) Pudlo requested guidance for programs. After some discussion, the board requested programs to be outdoors if possible. If a program must be indoors, Pudlo will follow NRCS guidance.
      ii. NRCS Talking Points – Knepp presented the NRCS talking points (attached).
   b. CISMA meeting July 13th & Aug 13th – Knepp reported that both meetings focus has been on establishing the mission statement. Several ideas were created, and a doodle poll has been sent out to determine the favorite one. The group is still looking for someone to step up in the leadership role and take minutes.
   c. Clean Water Indiana – Longenecker gave an updated report (attached). A motion (Vandewalle/Burkholder) was made to approve the 3 pending applications for cover crops: 6.2 acres $124, 189.1 acres $3,782, and 200 acres $4,000. Motion carried.
   d. NRCS MOU – Knepp went over the NRCS MOU for the annual review. The signed copy is held in the office if anyone would like to see it, contact the office staff.
   e. Office Chairs – a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve the purchase of 3 office chairs for staff not to exceed $750.00. Motion carried.
   f. Field to Market update – Longenecker updated the board that this agreement would require reaching out and completing 10 commodity farmer surveys. There is $17,000 to be split among the participating counties to complete these surveys. Board approved moving forward with exploring this program. A contract with more details will come later.
   g. County Budget – Burkholder, Matthys and James attended the county budget hearing. They requested staff raises and feel with the information the staff provided it went over well. County budgets will be approved in later months and reported to the board after approval.

V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Schedules/ Upcoming Events / Any Related Claims / Staff Comp Time Requests - calendars explaining upcoming special events & holiday schedules on the back of the agenda. Pudlo requested comp time for educational program on August 28, Sarah requested comp time for soil health team at the state fair on August 20. All board approved.
i. **Upcoming board meeting locations** – discussion was held to handle month by month watching current Covid restrictions.

ii. **Locally led meeting** – board decided to hold this year’s meeting at 6pm on September 21 at the North Liberty Park before the September board meeting.

b. **Kankakee River Basin RCPP** – after a lot of discussion the board decided to table signing a letter of support until they can get more clarity on the details of this grant.

c. **Clothing for staff & supervisors** – Staff and new supervisors need new polos and other SWCD apparel. A motion (Matthys/Burkholder) was made to purchase SWCD apparel not to exceed $275.

d. **Mileage** – Dooms reminded the board the staff has had a waiver for mileage reimbursement regardless of van availability during Covid to receive $0.45/mile. Board now revokes this waiver and mileage is back to the $0.45/mile if the van is not available and $0.17 if the van is available and staff choose to use their own vehicle.

e. **Annual Report Style** – Hoffarth brought samples of the past annual report styles (newsletter, calendar, and newspaper). After some discussion a motion (Dooms/Burkholder) was made to do the newspaper style for the 2021 annual report. Motion carried.

VI. **PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR** – none

VII. **ADJOURNMENT** – The board meeting adjourned at 7:58 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:

[Signature]
John M. Dooms

[Signature]
Sue B. Johnson
Supervisor
Pinney Purdue Field Day  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021  
Pinney Purdue Ag Center, 11402 S. County Line Road, Wanatah, IN 46390  
(All times are Central Daylight Savings Time)

7:30 – 8:15 am CDT  Registration, PARP Sign-up, Exhibits

Register at the new machine shed on east side of County Line Road

8:15 – 9:15 am CDT  Welcome, Introductions & Keynote Speaker

- Dr. Michael Langemeier – Agriculture Economy Outlook
- 9:20 am – 12:00 pm CDT  Tours and Program Presentations
- Darcy Telenko – Managing Diseases in Corn & Soybean
- Dan Quinn – Corn Management
- Fred Whitford – Using Straps and Chains to Tie Down Loads
- Brian MacGowan – Wildlife Damage
- Bill Johnson – Weed Management

Choose one session

12:00 pm CDT  Sponsored Pork Chop Lunch

- Darcy Telenko – Field Crop Pathology Research Plot Tour
- Visit exhibits, sponsors & visit with your neighbors
- Pinney Purdue Field Day sponsored in part by:

Pinney Purdue Field Day - Twilight Program

5:30 – 6:00 pm CDT  Registration, PARP Sign-up, Exhibits

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm CDT  Program Presentations

- Jim Camberato – Nutrient Management
- Phil Woolery – Minibulk Regulations

⇒ Exhibits from local agribusinesses, dealers, and ag services companies
⇒ Certified Crop Adviser CEUs and Commercial Applicator CCHs credits
⇒ Private Applicator Recertification Program (PARP) Credit - This is an opportunity to fulfill 1/3 of your Private Applicator Permit requirements (bring permit). The normal fee is being sponsored by Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Alliance.
⇒ More information and directions at www.agriculture.purdue.edu/pac/ppac/

If you have a disability that requires assistance for your participation in this event, please contact Purdue Extension-La Porte County at 219-324-9407 or Pinney PAC at 219-733-2379 at least 3 days prior to the event.

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution
# Field Office Report

**June 14 – August 13, 2021**

## General/Miscellaneous

**Office Work**
- NRCS Vehicle Inspection
- Mid-Year review (Deb)
- NRCS supply order
- Information sheet for ISDA’s Kankakee Watershed Legislative Tour
- SWCD Newsletter – article, lay-out
- Federal Vehicle Oil Change

**Field Work**
- Visit landowners for potential native grass/pollinator habitat establishment

## EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program

**Office Work**
- Process 6 landowner/producer payments for Pollinator monitoring (2), no-till, windbreak, native grass planting, pollinator habitat planting, Invasive Species Control and Tree Planting.
- Verify seed mix for completed pollinator planting
- Contact participants who’s practice completion deadline is approaching - 5

**Field Work**
- Check pollinator Habitat for proper establishment (seeded 2 years ago)
- Check pollinator habitat planting that has just been established

## WRE- Wetland Reserve Program

**Office Work**
- Update and deliver conservation plans, job sheets and contract for Invasive Species Control
- Answer landowner questions on Invasive Species Control contract
- Complete 5 ownership verifications
- Complete Resource Inventory (052) on new application
- Discuss engineering plans and seeding of buffer with contractor

**Field Work**
- Field monitor 2 WRE sites
- Construction checks on 2 wetland restorations (18 ac and 36 ac)

## CSP- Conservation Stewardship Program

**Office Work**
- Finalize conservation plans, contract and obligate new contract
- Review enhancement completions
- Re-enroll applications – complete 6 Control of Land Reviews

**Field Work**
- Conduct Soil health Assessments on 4 tracts

## CRP- Conservation Reserve Program

**Office Work**
- Review bills for wetland restoration/ buffer
- Review seed mixes with contractor
- Review and update documents for 2 filter strip Re-enroll applications
- Train Elkhart Co District Conservationist
- Develop resource assessment, job sheets and contract for filter strip
- Completed planning, got signatures, and returned 6 new and 2 re-enrolled applications
### Field Work
- Maintenance status review – filter strip
- Establishment status review – Grassland
- Field check filter strips and native grass planting per 2 landowners request
- Wetland buffer seeding for FSA for payment

### CWI- Clean Water Indiana
#### Office Work
- Entered application info for 3 new applications, got “remote” approval, completed conservation planning on 2 and emailed to applicants
- CWI reporting to state site

#### Field Work
- Site visit with landowner to discuss potential pollinator habitat and deliver application

### Wetland Determinations / Highly Erodible Land Determinations
#### Office Work
- Wetland Determinations - 4
- HEL determinations – 3

### Rule 5/ Rule 13
#### Office/Field Work
- Completed 2 SWPPPs
- Addressed and assisted in resolving complaint in subdivision

### Education
- Learned SWCD History
- Outreach and networking with area organizations and schools
- Scheduled upcoming programs and events

- Completed trainings and registered for conferences
- Wrote letter of support for Unity Gardens grant
- Created and posted social media posts

### Meetings & Trainings
- NRCS Programs/Technology weekly mtg –6
- CISMA – 1 In-person; 1 zoom
- RCPP Overview
- Urban Specialist Update
- Transect Update
- CRP Update – Signup 55
- Urban Specialist Update
- Soil Health Team Meeting
- Soil Health Trailer Training

- In-person staff meetings - 7
- Security Awareness and Situational Training for the Field
- Water Quality Overview, P,N (Planner cert)
- Fundamentals of HEL/W (Planner cert)
- USDA Information Security
- RCPP – 2 stage Ditch Tour
- Master Gardener meeting for pollinator habitat tour and talk
- Hoosier Riverwatch Basic Training
- Project Wingspan Seed Collector Training

### Webinars
- Update on Emerald Ash Borer
- Hydrology, Geology, Biology of Springs
- Tree ID/Plant ID
- COMET Tool
- Pollinator Response to Programs
- Cover crops after silage podcast
- Tree ID
- Sustainable Agronomy Conference
- Soil Health Institute Annual Conference

### Dates
- Federal Holiday – June 18
- County Holiday – July 2
- Holiday, Office Closed – July 5
DC Talking Points
August 2021

**WETLAND MITIGATION BANKING PROGRAM (WMBP)**

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service is investing up to $5 million nationally in the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (WMBP), a grant program that supports the development of mitigation banks for use by agricultural producers seeking to maintain eligibility for USDA programs. Funds are available to Tribes, government entities, nonprofits and other organizations.

To participate in most USDA programs, agricultural producers agree to comply with the wetland conservation provisions, which means producers will not farm converted wetlands or convert wetlands to enable agricultural production. In situations where avoidance or on-site mitigation is challenging, the Farm Bill allows for off-site mitigation through the purchase of mitigation banking credits.

Awardees may use WMBP funding to support mitigation bank site identification, development of a mitigation banking instrument, site restoration, land surveys, permitting and title searches, and market research. WMBP funding cannot be used to purchase land or a conservation easement.


**LOCAL WORK GROUPS**

Local Work Groups focus on identifying agricultural and natural resource issues existing in their communities and provide information and feedback to direct NRCS farm bill programs, such as EQIP and CSP. Participants can be farmers, private woodland owners, representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations; and agencies carrying out environmental, agricultural, or conservation programs and activities. The LWG is a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee that meets annually to discuss their local natural resource issues and provide recommendations on their top priority concerns to the STC. The deadline for this action is October 15, 2021.

**UPDATED COVID REQUIREMENTS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) revised indoor masking guidance – issued earlier this week – remains in effect. As a reminder, our employees, on-site contractors, partners, volunteers, customers and visitors in areas of “substantial” or “high” community COVID-19 transmission are required to wear a mask in Federal buildings and government owned or leased vehicles regardless of vaccination status. The CDC guidance also urges vaccinated people to wear masks indoors if they live with vulnerable family members.

**NEW FARMERS.GOV WEBPAGES FEATURE RESOURCES FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

It is vital that all of our producers have equal access to USDA’s programs and services, including those with limited English proficiency. The FPA/C team has been working hard to provide translations on our web pages, and we have several new pages and publications on farmers.gov that provide
Information in a variety of languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese. FPCA also provides free interpretation services for all of our USDA service centers. To learn more about translations and interpretation services, visit myFPAC.

GOVDELIVERY FIELD OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS
General NRCS articles can be found on SharePoint here: Public Affairs - GovDelivery - All Documents (sharepoint.com).
Clean Water Indiana 2019-2021

Applications needing official approval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>$124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
<td>189.1</td>
<td>$3,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>395.3 Acres</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,906</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Paid out 1-1-2019 to present without the above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Joseph County</td>
<td>$24,719.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall County</td>
<td>$31,767.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$56,486.53</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$65,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remaining Amount</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,513.47</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St Joseph County Pending approved applications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marshall County Pending approved applications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollinator Habitat</td>
<td>$2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollinator Habitat</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollinator Habitat</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollinator Habitat</td>
<td>$375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover Crops</td>
<td>$1,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollinator Habitat</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,519</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kankakee River Basin

RCPP PROPOSAL 2021

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Kankakee River Basin has a watershed area of 5,165 square miles, 2,989 square miles of which is in Indiana, and is one of the most extensively modified watersheds in Indiana and the United States. Agriculture is the dominant land use in the sub-basin. In 2006 approximately 1,171 mi² (73%) of the sub-basin was devoted to agriculture. Cultivated land accounted for 93% of agricultural use (CCAP, 2006) with corn and soybeans being the predominant crops (USDA Agricultural Census, 2007). In agricultural areas, adoption of soil health practices has been found to have a noticeable impact on runoff amounts. More organic material in the soil equates to an increase in soil moisture potential, or the ability of the soil to store water.*

The Kankakee landscape stretches across two States, Indiana, and Illinois. This RCPP is an effort to take the current success and motivation and work with the farmers, universities, NGO's, and to offer a cost-share program through the NRCS Farm Bill, RCPP dollars.

Effective communication and educational tools will be the key to motivate farmers to make voluntary changes in their practices to improve their soils’ health and the overall health of the Kankakee.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The approach designed to deliver financial assistance to producers interested in participating in conservation practices in the Kankakee RCPP initiative should include two prongs:

1) Land easement;
   a. This will consist of permanent conservation easements, called "US Held Easements, which may be similar to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) program.
2) Land Management/Incentive-Based Approach
   b. This will consist of an innovative approach like that of (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)-Incentives (This approach will provide an opportunity for producers to receive traditional cost-share) payments based on program dollars for conservation efforts in Kankakee/RCPP focal regions. In addition, the "incentives" approach will also allow farmers to receive payments as incentives for the same conservation efforts.

WHAT WE NEED

- Partnership
- Positivity about this project
- Letters of Support
- Education and Outreach

INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Kankakee River Basin Nutrient and Sediment Load Reductions
Accomplished By Private Landowners and the Indiana Conservation Partnership

Comparison of Landuse Across Basin

Land use calculated using the 2020 NASS Cropland Data Layer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sediment Reduced: 94,079,950 lbs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enough to fill 470 freight cars!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phosphorus Reduced: 49,660 lbs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enough to fill 50 truck beds (8' bed)!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nitrogen Reduced: 99,375 lbs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enough to fill 99 truck beds (8' bed)!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practices do not include the many unassisted practices designed and installed by private landowners without ICP assistance.

Nutrient estimates only consider sediment-bound N and P, not dissolved components.

Load reductions are calculated using the EPA’s Region 5 Load Reduction Model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>Practices Installed</th>
<th>Active Practices</th>
<th>Sediment Reduction (lbs)</th>
<th>Phosphorus Reduction (lbs)</th>
<th>Nitrogen Reduction (lbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>44,834,130</td>
<td>23,300</td>
<td>46,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>42,316,785</td>
<td>21,355</td>
<td>42,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>52,827,810</td>
<td>21,610</td>
<td>57,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>36,598,570</td>
<td>21,605</td>
<td>41,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>88,784,375</td>
<td>46,475</td>
<td>92,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,258</td>
<td>1,759</td>
<td>94,079,950</td>
<td>49,660</td>
<td>99,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13-20</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,198</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>454,252,780</strong></td>
<td><strong>243,880</strong></td>
<td><strong>488,120</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The “practices installed” column indicates the number of newly installed best management practices within a given calendar year, while the “active practices” column indicates the number of best management practices that are actively reducing sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus loading regardless of the year of installation. Load reduction calculations have been rounded to the multiple of 5. Please Note: Calendar year 2013 and 2014 metrics are excluded from the table due to space limitations, but are present in the “13-20” summations.

For more information visit: http://www.in.gov/rd/index.htm or contact ISDA/NutrientReduction@isda.in.gov
Last updated: 4/6/2021

Data provided by: Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.