

## MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - On Tuesday November 21, 2017, at 6:39 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  
Jeremy Cooper, Vice-Chair/Supervisor  
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor  
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor  
Jim LaFree

**PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS**

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

**Present - EX-OFFICIO**

N/a  
**PRESENT – Public**  
n/a

**ABSENT – SWCD**

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

- II. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – Yellow River Steering Committee Meeting add to Old Business item i.

III. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a. **Legislative Updates** – n/a
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – Dooms let the board know we have received 4 resolutions from IASWCD that has been submitted for consideration at the January 9 IASWCD Business Meeting at which Dooms will be our delegate. If anyone has comments on these please let Dooms or one of the staff know. These will be voted on as a board at our December board meeting. A letter from the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board was also included in the board packet (attached) which discussed supervisor & staff training sponsorships and reimbursements.
- c. **Minutes: October 17, 2017 board meeting** – Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.
- d. **Treasurer’s Report: (10/18/2017-11/21/2017)** – The treasurer’s reports was reviewed and approved as submitted.
- e. **Approval of Claims (10/18/2017-11/21/2017)** –A motion (Cooper, Vandewalle) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11267-11281 for a total of \$26,313.99 as presented. Motion carried.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **St. Joseph Co. Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff Written Reports**
  - i. **Field Office Report**– The field office report was presented to the board & reviewed. (Attached).
  - ii. **NRCS Talking Points** - Knepp went over the NRCS DC talking points (attached). She also announced that Kimberly Neumann, NRCS Area Conservationist, will be retiring December 22, 2017 and Jane Hardisty, Indiana State Conservationist, will be retiring January 3, 2018.
- b. **Committee Reports**
  - i. **Annual Meeting – Entertainment** – Vandewalle updated the board that the committee has been in contact with Larry Wirtz who does close up magic and is a motivational speaker. He was the entertainment for Lake County SWCD last year. For a 30 minute show, transportation, etc. his charge is \$800. The committee recommends him as our entertainment for this year. A motion (Vandewalle, Cooper) was made to approve the committee’s recommendation. Motion passed. Vandewalle also explained the silent auction forms which were included in the meeting packets (attached). Please think of items you would want to bid on and start collecting. Items are due to Hoffarth January 19, 2018. You can start to bring them at the December or January board meetings or coordinate with Hoffarth for pick up/drop off.
- c. **Christmas Party Planning** – Dooms informed the board that The Landing has been contacted as a possible location for this year’s Christmas party. Cooper volunteered to contact all the supervisors, associate supervisors & guests.
- d. **Landfill Inspection** – Cooper attended the latest inspection which was a first for him. He felt it was very informative and encourages anyone who hasn’t been to attend one in the future. He stated the landfill is doing well, reseeding in areas that are needed and following up with any other needs of the landfill. He also stated there were 3 other inspections the same week they were there.
- e. **Conservation Fund – WRE Mtg** – Knepp informed the board that the staff has been in communications with Peg Kohring with the Conservation Fund. She is asking for a written letter (attached) of support from our board. A motion (Cooper, Vandewalle) was made to send the letter of support. Motion passed.
- f. **2018 Budget** – Hoffarth explained the updates made to the budget. The class for adult education and youth education were combined under a new class titled education. This class will have 3 subcategories; Adult Education



& Outreach, Staff & Board Training & Development, and Youth Education. The budget for youth education is an estimate with the addition of Sablich who will be creating new programs and is unsure of actual budget needs. CWI 2016 grants reflect remaining money in both grants which expire at the end of 2018. District operations; income – NRCS contribution was increased to reflect this year’s estimate. Donor program was added since this is the class most of the donor funds are used. Expenses - Supervisors’ salary was increased to \$2,100 which would be if all 5 supervisors attend all 12 board meetings. Webhost fees increased \$25. Indiana Woodland Stewardship was added. CWI10K, MS4, & Vehicle funds had no changes. If anyone has questions or comments please let Hoffarth know. Budget will be approved at the December board meeting.

- g. **2018 Annual Plan of Work** – Burkholder explained the draft of the APW (attached). Addition of planned committee meetings is the main change for the 2018 APW. If anyone has questions or comments please let Hoffarth know. APW will be approved at the December board meeting.
- h. **2018-2022 Business Plan** – Dooms reminded the board that if anyone has questions or comments on the draft (attached) to let the staff know. Business plan will be approved at the December board meeting.
- i. **Yellow River Steering Committee Meeting** – Longenecker informed the board of the final meetings for the steering committee covered where they were on the watershed management plan (WMP) which has been sent to IDEM and should be finalized in January or February of 2018. Goals for the implementation of the WMP is establish a management group to continue to do testing to measure practice results and identify problem areas, decrease e-coli levels in waters through education and outreach, reduce phosphorus levels, reduce nitrogen levels, reduce sediment load, improve in-stream habitat and other education with 1 event per year. Filter strips were discussed as one specific best management practice that would significantly help meet many of these goals. The final steering committee meeting will be held on December 19 at 2 pm at the Plymouth Public Library.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Schedules/ Upcoming Events / Any Related Claims** - calendars were handed out explaining upcoming special events & holiday schedules on the back of the agenda.
  - i. **Leadership Institute – Board Development** – Hoffarth let the board know the upcoming training will be held on Friday December 8 in Albion. After some discussion no one is available to attend.
  - ii. **Watershed Leadership Academy** – Sablich explained the academy which is led through Purdue Extension is a training that includes three face-to-face group sessions and distance learning, online (approximately 3-4 hrs./week), which is held from January to May. Participants who complete all requirements earn a Purdue University Professional Certificate in Watershed Management. The cost is \$700 which includes lodging and food for overnight and one-day workshops, plus all course materials. A motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to release \$700 to cover the cost for Sablich to attend the academy. Motion passed.
- b. **PNC Credit Card for Jane** – a motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to approve Sablich be added to the PNC credit card. Sablich has received and signed the SWCD policy which cover credit card usage. Motion passed.
- c. **2018 Board Meeting Schedule** – (attached) Hoffarth went over the schedule and confirmed with the board that the Jan, Feb & Dec board meetings will be held at Farm Credit Services board room and the remainder of the year will be at the Centre Township Library. See attached for details. Hoffarth will confirm with Farm Credit to use their space.

**VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR** – Dooms asked about the relocation of the Plymouth USDA Service Center as was discussed in previous board meetings. Knepp explained we are in the process with measurements turned in to the state office. Our hope is the layout will be more accessible for clients and set up like other service. We will be located in the same Plymouth zip code but we don’t have an exact location or timeframe yet. Staff will keep the board informed of any updates as they arise.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** – The board meeting adjourned at 7:44 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](http://www.stjosephswcd.org)

Approved by:



Supervisor



Supervisor



Supervisor



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

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Title of Resolution: Clean Water Indiana Funding Limitation Expansion

Submitted by: Knox County

Contact Person: Ray Chattin

Explanation of Problem(s) or Need(s) District Law Section IC 14-32-8-5 states that “ the purpose of the CWI program is to provide financial assistance to:

- (1) soil and water conservation districts;
- (2) land occupiers; and
- (3) conservation groups;

To implement conservation practices to reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training and cost share programs.

Currently CWI funds are being spent on conservation programs that address legitimate resource concerns that have nothing to do with nonpoint source pollution. This represents a direct violation of Indiana Code.

Proposed Solution: Revise district law to allow CWI funding to address all natural resource priorities recognized by the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board.

Benefits Expected: This will provide full transparency on the part of the State Soil Conservation Board, the Indiana Division of Soil Conservation and local districts. It will also serve notice of the expanded range of natural resource concerns now being addressed by SWCDs at the local level.

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. sponsor legislation to revise Indiana District Law to allow Clean Water Indiana funding to be allocated in accordance with the natural resource priorities of the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board.

Supervisor Signatures (Recommend a majority of Supervisors signed): On copy at IASWCD office

Date Signed: 6-21-17

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

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Title of Resolution: SWCD Title Change

Submitted by: Knox Co. SWCD

Contact Person: Ray Chattin

Explanation of Problem(s) or Need(s): Over the past 70 years SWCDs have expanded the scope of their resource concerns far beyond the conservation of soil and water. Like the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Districts are now addressing natural resource issues as diverse as pollinator habitat, invasive species, forest health, septic systems, wildlife habitat, air quality and more. Our title does not reflect who we now are and the importance of our overall mission.

Proposed Solution: Replace the title of Soil and Water Conservation District to Natural Resource Conservation District.

Benefits Expected: Becoming Natural Resource Conservation Districts will put us in sync with our partners at NRCS and will provide an opportunity for educating the public and our elected officials, particularly state legislators, that Districts are using our delivery system, our relationship with our customer base and our credibility to achieve a much broader range of stewardship than was ever imagined even 25 years ago.

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. change the title, Soil and Water Conservation District, to Natural Resource Conservation District.

Supervisor Signatures (Recommend a majority of Supervisors signed): On file at IASWCD office

Date Signed: 6-21-17



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

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Title of Resolution: Feral Swine Eradication

Submitted by: Natural Resources Policy Committee

Contact Person: Kenny Cain and Marc Roberts

Explanation of Problem(s) or Need(s): Feral swine cause multiple negative impacts on natural resources in the state through rooting and wallowing. Both soil and water are affected by the presence of this invasive species. They affect landowners in the form of economic loss in pasture, crop, and forestland. They also provide the potential to spread bacterial, viral, and parasitic diseases to domestic swine and cattle. It is feared that, without proper control measures, the feral swine population could drastically increase.

Proposed Solution: Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Inc. should partner with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services' Feral Swine task force to keep abreast of the spread and control efforts that are in place. We should continue to provide education to districts about existing laws regarding harboring and hunting feral swine for sport and coordinate eradication efforts with neighboring districts be they local or across state lines.

Benefits Expected: Through the dissemination of educational and informational materials we could expect to see the control and decline of the feral hog herds in the state.

Action Requested: Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. partner with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services and other agencies to work towards the total eradication of feral swine, and that IASWCD Regional Directors with the cooperation of local supervisors create a task force to coordinate partnership. Be it resolved that IASWCD Natural Resource Policy Committee review US statutes that regulate hunting and harboring feral swine and lobby thru NACD to fortify and or update statutes as needed.

Supervisor Signatures (Recommend a majority of Supervisors signed):

This Resolution was supported unanimously at the August 10, 2017 IASWCD Natural Resources Policy Meeting and is reflected in the minutes.

Date Signed:

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

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**Title of Resolution:** Seeking additional annual funding avenues for SWCD's

**Submitted by:** Pike County SWCD

**Contact Person:** Norman Dillon, Pike County SWCD Chairman

**Explanation of Problem(s) or Need(s):**

Over the past decade, it has been documented that the Indiana Cigarette Tax fund has been declining in revenue. This is the funding pool that supports SWCD's on an annual basis. In order for SWCD's to continue to operate at the level of productivity that most are functioning on, a new source of annual funding must be found immediately.

**Proposed Solution:**

It is requested that the IASWCD look into annual funding for the SWCD's by assisting to establish a container tax that can be implemented on all plastic containers manufactured to hold chemical, agricultural and food grade liquid products.

**Benefits Expected:**

By implementing a container tax, funding is created to help fund SWCD's annually along with other water, waste water and storm water infrastructure projects across the state. This funding can then in turn help SWCD's on the local level with staffing, district operations, local conservation projects, etc to improve soil health and water quality.

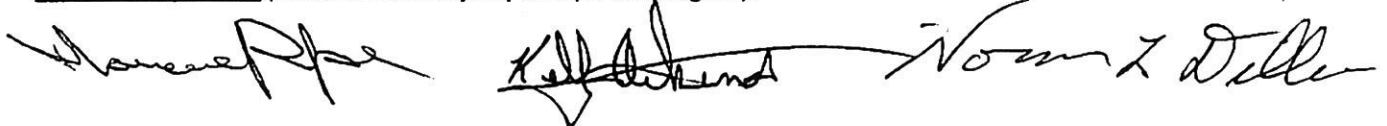
Plastic bottles of a wide variety are often found in waterways and streambanks as a result of littering and pollution. Creating a container tax can assist SWCD's with developing programs and educating the public to help promote proper recycling of plastic products and potentially curb the eye sore seen around the state in our public's drinking water before it is pulled in from the streams for processing.

**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.

The Pike County SWCD requests that the IASWCD focus on working with legislator to create a plastic liquid container tax that would become the supporting funding pool for Indiana SWCD's by 2020. While several agencies can benefit from this tax funded pool, it should be determined that a certain percentage of revenue be dedicated to the SWCD's and split equally between all 92 Districts.

It is encouraged to see what other taxes and laws other states have in regards to a container tax or beverage container deposit laws to see if a similar tax can be mimicked in Indiana.

**Supervisor Signatures** (Recommend a majority of Supervisors signed):



**Date Signed:** 9/5/2017





# INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

1 North Capitol, Suite 600 • Indianapolis, IN 46204 • 317.232.8770 Phone • 317.232.1362 Fax

Chair  
Robert Woodling

Members  
Nola Gentry  
Warren Baird  
Larry Clemens  
Bob Eddleman  
Ray Chattin

To: All SWCD Staff and Supervisors  
Date: November 6, 2017  
Re: Supervisor and Staff Training Sponsorships and Reimbursements

The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is pleased to again offer SWCD supervisor and staff training funds for 2017 and 2018. This year the funds will be available in the form of sponsored district capacity building trainings and reimbursements.

A portion of these funds will directly sponsor established trainings. This will reduce registration fees and increase availability to high quality speakers. Support will be directed to trainings such as the Supervisor Summit and Leadership Institute.

The other portion of these funds will be reserved for training registration fee reimbursements. Each district is eligible to apply for supervisor and/or staff training reimbursements through March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Actual amounts of training reimbursements will depend on the number and amount of requests submitted, and will be capped at \$1,000 per district. Funds will be prioritized to supervisors and those districts demonstrating financial need. Eligible trainings take place between July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Reimbursement requests are due **December 15<sup>th</sup>** and **March 15<sup>th</sup>** and will be reviewed thereafter, and applicants will be notified immediately after the review is complete. If awarded, registration fees will be reimbursed to districts pending confirmed attendance with 2017 AFR grant payments. Please note that AFR eligibility is not required to apply for training funds.

The SSCB recognizes that grant writing is a skill that the Soil and Water Conservation Districts should have, as many districts rely on grants for supplemental funding. To encourage districts to attend a grant-writing workshop this year, districts submitting reimbursement applications for grant writing trainings are eligible an additional \$1000, for an overall cap of \$2000. If you are unsure if there is a workshop in your region, please contact your DSS and they will help you find one. The grants training reimbursements will follow the same process as general training reimbursements.

The form to be used to request reimbursements can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isda/3371.htm>. Submit the form as needed **through March 15, 2018**.

Please contact the grants program manager or your district support specialist with any questions on the program.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Woodling".

Robert Woodling  
Chairman  
State Soil Conservation Board



**Hoffarth, Sandra E. - NRCS, Plymouth, IN**

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**From:** Jennifer Boyle Warner <jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Boyle Warner  
**Subject:** Fwd: News from your State Conservationist

Passing along message from Jane Hardisty:

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Board Members,

Times-they are a changing and word sure travels fast. With texts and emails I wanted you to hear the news from me that I have decided to retire. My last day as your State Conservationist will be January 3, 2018. I guess I thought I would work forever and then I got a notice to sign up for Medicare and realized after hitting that milestone and 43 years of federal service, I had better get busy enjoying the other side of the journey of life.

NRCS has been my love and life, and I am happy to say it is going strong. My parents are now 91 and 88 years of age and they are doing good, I have a beautiful home and a 200 acre farm to take care of, my health is good, I have lots of family and friends to catch up with, and I plan to do some traveling. It has been an honor working with you and seeing the many accomplishments we have made together for Indiana conservation.

**Jane E. Hardisty**

**Indiana State Conservationist**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**United States Department of Agriculture**

**Phone: 317-295-5801 Cell: 317-401-0888**



# Field Office Report

## October 16 – November 17, 2017

### Field Work:

- Multiple farm visits for construction of Grassed Waterway and Grade Stabilization Structure (CRP)
- 3 Field visits – 2 Bat Habitats, 1 Pheasant Habitat (CRP)
- 22 Field verifications for 2018 CSP re-enroll application (CSP)
- Field check cover crop acres for 2 contracts
- Field check 12 cover crop fields (EQIP)
- Field visits on 3 sites for ranking applications (WRE)
- Final site visit before sending paperwork for closing (WRE)
- Resource inventory for pollinator habitat (CWI)
- Check 5 fields for cover crop plantings (CWI)
- 4 field visits to process Notice of Terminations (Rule 5/Rule13)

### Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- Payments processed – 2 sets of Roof Runoff structures
- Eligibility paperwork – 6 participants
- 1 non-compliance contract developed

### Conservation Stewardship program

- Complete documentation and conservation plan for the 2018 re-enroll
- Payment letters sent to 6 participants
- Work with NRCS State Resource Specialist, and Area program Specialist to resolve issues with 1 contract's enhancement
- Review Forest Stand Improvement Plan

### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- 4 new contracts – documents, maps, job sheets

### Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WRE)

- Eligibility paperwork processed for 3 applicants

### Rule 5/Rule 13

- 3 SWPPP reviews

### Yellow River Cover Crop Tour

- Transfer of vehicle to Purdue University
- Annual Report
- Annual Plan of Work
- Budget
- Landfill Inspection
- Assist Lego Robotics Team – River Pollution

### Meetings:

Staff Meetings – 5	Farm Bill Rollout
CCSI teleconference	Elkhart County SWCD staff
Yellow River Steering Committee	
Webinars: Weed Control in Organic	AgLearn: Windows 10
Restoring Native Plants	Security Awareness
Heifers and Soil Health	
Office Closed – November 10	

# DC Talking Points

November, 2017

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## FARM BILL

**ACEP – WRE:** The easement offer values (Geographic Area Rate Caps, GARC) are out for FY2018 and are the same as 2017. Interested landowners should call their local DC and provide the property deed and idea of offered acreage. Now is the time to submit so that titles can be verified. Application deadlines will be set soon and are likely to be mid-January. *Jan 12<sup>th</sup>*

**EQIP Application Deadline:** Producers interested in EQIP should submit a signed application by **December 15<sup>th</sup>** to the local NRCS field office. A new requirement for FY18 is that participants in EQIP must meet eligibility requirements by January 26. The eligibility deadline is new for EQIP for FY18. Participants should be ready to complete all eligibility forms at the time of application or soon after to allow FSA and NRCS to process the information. NRCS staff will work with producers to determine eligibility and complete necessary worksheets and rankings in order for the applicant to compete for funding. Included in this sign up are several state and national initiatives including:

- National Organic Initiative: Statewide
- National On-Farm Energy Initiative: Statewide
- NRCS Western Lake Erie Basin Initiative (WLEB): Western Lake Erie basin.
- Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Initiative: Statewide
- Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Initiative: Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Orange, Owen, Perry, Putnam, Washington.
- Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative: available statewide on land which overlaps one of the Indiana DNR C.O.R.R.I.D.O.R.S. priority areas.
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI): Great Lakes Region
- Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
  - Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative (Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Noble, Steuben and Wells Counties)
  - Southern Indiana Young Forest Initiative
  - Big Pine Watershed Partnership (Benton, White, Warren, and Tippecanoe Counties)
  - The Michigan/Indiana St. Joseph River Conservation Partnership (Elkhart, LaGrange, Steuben, Noble, Kosciusko, DeKalb and St. Joseph Counties)
  - Indiana Watershed Initiative: The University Of Notre Dame (Kosciusko, Newton, Jasper and Benton Counties)
  - Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies Partnership (statewide)
- Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)
  - Little Wea Watershed (Tippecanoe County)
  - Big Pine Creek Watershed – Headwaters (Benton and White Counties)
  - Big Pine Creek Watershed - Brumm and Darby (Benton County)
  - Big Cicero Creek Watershed (Boone, Clinton, Hamilton and Tipton Counties)
  - Busseron Creek Watershed (Sullivan and Vigo Counties)
  - Fish Creek Watershed (Greene, Monroe and Owen Counties)
  - Plummer Creek Watershed (Green County)

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program:** Indiana NRCS has entered into a new RCPP memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DNR Division of Forestry called the Southern Indiana Young Forest Initiative





(SIYFI). This project will last from 2017 until 2021. SIYFI addresses a lack of early successional habitat and corresponding declines in at-risk wildlife species in 43 counties in southern Indiana that contain the majority of forested land.

### NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING PARTNERSHIP WEBINARS

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) is continuing its peer-to-peer web conference series to support conservation planning staff and partners. Each month, a new state is hosting a conversation focused on hot topics and creative solutions surrounding nationwide efforts to put conservation planning first. The series features district conservationists, conservation districts, resource conservationists, and others in various geographical areas that are doing a good job or have wisdom to share. The workshops are being recorded for those that cannot attend the live workshop. Below are links to the past workshops and the schedule for upcoming online interactive workshops. All workshops are held at 1:00 p.m. (eastern)

- July 25, 2017: Returning to Conservation Planning in Louisiana <http://nracs.adobeconnect.com/p3xy85jyii07/>
- August 22, 2017: Indiana's "Planning First" Policy <http://nracs.adobeconnect.com/pgpgwlwwkth7/>
- September 26, 2017: South Dakota – Putting Planning First <http://nracs.adobeconnect.com/pocs8hszkn3r/>
- October 24, 2017: Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation – Strategic investment, the value of partnership and planning before contracting <http://nracs.adobeconnect.com/pmwo26eda03j/>
- November 28, 2017: Partnership Efforts in Delaware with Debbie Absher, District Lead for Programs and David Baird, District Coordinator
- December 19, 2017: Maine - with GIS Specialist Tara King and Soil Conservationist Jaime Sandoval

### NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

The latest NRI data collection cycle will begin on July 10th and will run through November. Field offices could receive questions from the NRI Data collectors during that time period. Any assistance the field office staffs can provide to the collectors would be greatly appreciated. Questions from the field should be directed to Rick Neilson, Assistant State Soil Scientist at [rick.neilson@in.usda.gov](mailto:rick.neilson@in.usda.gov) or at 317-295-5875.

### 2018 FFA CONVENTION

Special thanks to the partnership staff assisting with this year's judging events and tradeshow. Over 65,000 students and advisors attended this year's event. The conservation partnership helped with the Natural Resources and Environment field practicum where students had hands-on experiences with GPS mapping, water quality testing, soil science and more.

### EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEER SUMMARY

Congratulations to all of our field offices for successfully meeting the national goal of 100% of offices utilizing at least one Earth Team Volunteer during fiscal year 2017! Below is a breakdown of hours by area.

#### Northeast

Volunteers: 189  
Hours: 1,191.5

#### Northwest

Volunteers: 334  
Hours: 2,477.25

#### State Office

Volunteers: 4  
Hours: 186

#### Southeast

Volunteers: 603  
Hours: 3,205.25

#### Southwest

Volunteers: 459  
Hours: 4,000

**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: 1,592**

**TOTAL HOURS: 11,060**



Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

## 2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is only a few weeks from mailing the 2017 Census of Agriculture to approximately 3 million U.S. producers. These mailings will run from mid-November through late December. As the weeks progress, NASS will continue to provide updates and additional promotion tools to raise awareness about and encourage response to the census. We appreciate your support of NASS data and hope you will find the promotional tools useful in your communications with your members, constituents and stakeholders.

New materials on the Partner Tools webpage ([www.agcensus.usda.gov/Partners](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Partners)) for your use:

- USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's second [video public service announcement \(PSA\)](#)
- Two sample [PSA scripts](#) for radio or video
- Use and/or share [promotion tips](#)

Check the Partner Tools webpage (<https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Partners/index.php>) each month for new/updated tools. A census preparation checklist for producers will be made available on the site in October. 'Respond Now' tools will be uploaded on/around November 20.



# January 26, 2018 Annual Meeting

Dinner, Entertainment, Supervisor Election, & Silent Auction



Dear Conservation Supporter,

Our 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be here before we know it, and with that, our fourth annual Silent Auction fundraiser.

St. Joseph County SWCD is asking for **tax-deductible donations** of the items that we will be auctioning. Each item being auctioned will be displayed along with the name of the donating individual, business, or organization. You may provide a business card to attach to each item if you wish.

We ask that each auction item have a retail value of at least \$10. Perhaps this list will give you some ideas for possible donations:



Please make sure you **attach a copy of this form to each donated item**. You may either **submit** your donation(s) to the **St. Joseph County SWCD Board Member** who gave you this form, or you can hand-deliver/ mail them to the SWCD by **January 19, 2018**. If you wish to provide a business card to attach to each item, we would be happy to do so.

**Mail/Hand-Deliver Donations:**

St. Joseph County SWCD  
 Attn: Silent Auction  
 2903 Gary Drive  
 Plymouth, IN 46563  
 Fax: 855-496-7861  
 Phone: 574.936-2024, ext. 4

stjosephswcd.org      info@stjosephswcd.org

## Silent Auction Donation Form

- ❖ Use ONE Form per ITEM Donated
- ❖ Fax: 855-496-7861
- ❖ Item(s) Submission Deadline: 1/19/2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Company/Organization Name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Short Description of Item or Service: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Retail Value \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended Minimum Bid \$: \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, a contribution is deductible when made to a qualified political subdivision of the State.

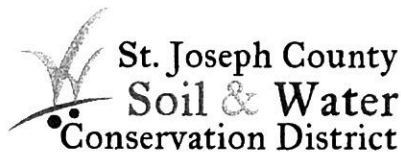
This includes the St. Joseph County SWCD. The St. Joseph County SWCD office staff will provide you with a Donation Receipt following your submission of the donated item(s), no later than Feb. 16, 2018.

If you have questions about the Silent Auction or would like more information, call the St. Joseph County SWCD Office Staff at 574.936.2024 x4 or the SWCD Board Member who gave you this form.

Board Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Member Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_





USDA Service Center • 2903 Gary Dr. • Plymouth, IN 46563  
Phone: 574-936-2024 Ext. 4 • Fax: 855-496-7861  
Email: [info@stjosephswcd.org](mailto:info@stjosephswcd.org) • Website: [www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org)

November 21, 2017

Peg Kohring  
The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 506  
Sawyer, MI 49125

Dear Peg,

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District is willing to invite landowners along the Kankakee River to hear a presentation on the Wetland Reserve Easement Program between January and March, 2018. We estimate that it will cost \$1000 for our time to identify key landowners, publicize the meeting, arrange for a meal and a place to meet, the speakers, decide on appropriate displays and provide any needed follow-up with landowners.

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District has a successful history of working with landowners in the Kankakee River Watershed interested in conservation of their land.

Sincerely,

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

John Dooms  
Chairman  
St. Joseph County SWCD Board

## Summary 2018 Annual Work Plan - Staff

January	February	March
<p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1099 for any cost-share payouts</li> <li>- submit withholding taxes on IN &amp; federal sites (even if \$0)</li> <li>- Mail Practice Reminder Letters for NRCS – PSS</li> <li>- Annual Financial Report (due 2/28)</li> <li>- 100R</li> <li>- Debt Management on Gateway</li> <li>- Annual Meeting                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order awards, Confirm count, flowers/other table decorations, Supervisors election, program, placemats, slideshow, silent auction, order tablecloths, submit to DSS election results</li> </ul> </li> <li>- PSS QA</li> <li>- Bi-monthly Newsletter – due 2/5</li> </ul> <p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Producers Mtg. –Advertise, confirm speaker(s)</li> <li>-Education Committee Mtg</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Education Committee Mtg</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff/Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IASWCD Annual Conference</li> <li>- Board meeting – Designation of Depository</li> </ul>	<p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- District Audit by SWCD Supervisors</li> <li>- Contact Non-Active Supervisors</li> <li>- Enter into Gateway by 2/28 AFR, 100R, Debt Management</li> </ul> <p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Field Day Planning</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Science Alive</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff/Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Recruit new board members                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on diversity of residents while still maintaining farmer focus</li> </ul> </li> <li>-Board meeting                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election of officers</li> <li>Committee review</li> </ul> </li> <li>-Quarterly Supervisors Meeting/staff reviews</li> <li>- Statehouse visit with Supervisors – deliver Legislative “Notebooks”</li> </ul>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Tri-county producers meeting (CWI)</li> <li>-Landfill inspection (schedule)</li> </ul> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Growing Summit/Compost Seminar</li> <li>- Grant/Marketing Committee Mtg</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff/Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<del>Review current Business Plan (2018-2023)</del></li> </ul> <p><b>NRCS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easement Monitoring</li> </ul>
April	May	June
<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Education Committee Mtg</li> <li>-Urban Conservation Committee Mtg</li> </ul> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PSS QA</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Project Wild Workshop</b></li> <li>- Education Committee Mtg</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff/Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- discuss budget mtg to decide focus topics</li> </ul>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Urban/Raingarden workshop (CWI)</li> <li>-IASWCD Success Story (due in June)</li> </ul> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-River friendly farmer award (due early June)</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Staff/Board</b></p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Soil Health Field Day</li> </ul> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Meeting Committee Mtg                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location &amp; start looking for speaker</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Election Committee Mtg (make sure 1 supervisor &amp; 2 members, remind who is up for election)</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>PLT Workshop</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Staff/Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-SJC Board Meeting – review AWP</li> <li>-<del>Big Tree of SJC (2019)</del></li> <li>- Quarterly Supervisors Meeting / county budget mtg prep</li> </ul>

## Summary 2018 Annual Work Plan - Staff

July	August	September
<p><b>County Conservationist</b> -Field tours - Urban/producers -Education Committee Mtg</p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> -Awards     Friends of Conservation     Conservation Farmer of the year     Supervisor of the year -2019 CWI grant application -Bi-monthly newsletter - PSS QA</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b> -Education Committee Mtg</p> <p><b>Staff/Board</b> -Locally led meeting -District showcase award application Utilize ETV to get pollinator habitat, etc photos for end of year report</p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b> - School Schedules</p> <p><b>Staff/Board</b> -NRCS MOU review -Big Tree (2019) – Measure trees -Quarterly Supervisors Meeting/Staff Reviews</p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b> -Forestry Field day -Landfill inspection (schedule)</p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> - set up library reservation for next years’ board meetings - post SJC annual mtg. &amp; election committee info on SharePoint -IASWCD annual conference Resolutions -Bi-monthly newsletter -Donor program – revise</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b> -</p> <p><b>Staff/Board</b> <b>NRCS</b> Complete program status reviews</p>
October	November	December
<p><b>County Conservationist</b> -Producers meeting     Location     Topics/speakers -Education Committee Mtg</p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> - Annual Meeting Committee Mtg     Confirm Annual Mtg. Speaker -Election Committee Mtg     Appointed due 11/1     Elected due 12/1 -2019 Budget - PSS QA - Christmas Party planning</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b> -Education Committee Mtg</p> <p><b>Staff/Board</b></p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> -Donor Program     Mail letters -Start SJC SWCD Annual Report -Bi-monthly newsletter -Board Meeting     Present budget &amp; AWP - Annual Meeting Committee- Confirm other award winners, Silent auction</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Staff/Board</b> -Develop 2019 Annual Work Plan -Quarterly Sup. Mtg./Staff Reviews</p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b> - Rural Conservation Committee Mtg</p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> - Send legal notice letter to SB Tribune - E - mail/snail mail invitations to legislatures for annual conference and annual mtg. -Donor Program -IASWCD Annual conference Registration, Confirm delegates - Annual Meeting Committee Mtg Distribute tickets/silent auction -Board meeting     Confirm budget &amp; AWP</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Staff/Board</b> - Prepare legislative notebook</p>

### Ongoing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Implement current Farm Bill</li> <li>-Recruit New Board Members</li> <li>-Implement Rule 5/13 and MSP</li> <li>-Focus – Volunteer programs</li> <li>-Implement SBOA/District Ops</li> <li>-Provide Administrative duties to program</li> <li>-Legislator relations</li> <li>-Focus – Urban Conservation Practices</li> <li>-Youth &amp; Adult EE programs</li> <li>-Education reach new markets/clients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Donor Program</li> <li>-Pursue Conservation Grants</li> <li>-Displays for special events</li> <li>-Update Website/social media</li> <li>-CC – obtain Indiana Certified Conservation Planner</li> <li>-Provide Guidance as requested from County</li> <li>-Provide Quality Conservation Planning</li> <li>-Focus – Minority and/or underserved public</li> <li>- NRCS Contribution Agreement (PSS/CRP)</li> <li>-Photos of practices installed – utilize Earth Team Volunteer</li> </ul>
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## Summary 2018 Annual Work Plan

January	February	March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annual Financial Report (due 3/1) internal audit</li> <li>-IASWCD Annual Conference</li> <li>-SJC SWCD Annual Meeting Order awards, Confirm count Supervisors election, Approve AFR</li> <li>--Bi-monthly Newsletter</li> <li>-Board meeting – Designation of Depository</li> <li>-Producers Mtg –Advertise, confirm speaker(s)</li> <li>- Education Committee Mtg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Recruit new board members Focus on diversity of residents while still maintaining farmer focus</li> <li>-Board meeting Election of officers Committee review</li> <li>- Science Alive</li> <li>- Field Day Planning</li> <li>- District Audit by SWCD Supervisors</li> <li>- Contact Non-Active Supervisors</li> <li>- Enter into Gateway by 3/1 AFR, 100R, Debt Management</li> <li>- Tri-county producers meeting (CWI)</li> <li>- Quarterly Supervisors Meeting/staff reviews</li> <li>- Statehouse visit – deliver Legislative “Notebooks”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Schedule Landfill inspection</li> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-Grant/Marketing Committee Mtg</li> <li>-Growing Summit/ Compost Seminars</li> </ul>
April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education Committee Mtg</li> <li>- Urban Conservation Committee Mtg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-IASWCD Success Story (due in June)</li> <li>-River friendly farmer award (due early June)</li> <li>-Rain Garden Workshop (CWI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annual Meeting Committee mtg Location &amp; start looking for speaker/entertainment</li> <li>-SJC Board Meeting – review AWP</li> <li>- Soil Health Field Day</li> <li>-<del>Big Tree of SJC (2019)</del></li> <li>-Election Committee Mtg (form committee, reminder of who is up for election)</li> <li>- Quarterly Supervisors Meeting, county budget mtg prep</li> </ul>
July	August	September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Locally led meeting</li> <li>-Field tours - Urban/producers</li> <li>-2019 CWI grant application</li> <li>-District showcase award application</li> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-Education Committee Mtg</li> <li>-Awards Friends of Conservation Conservation Farmer of the year Supervisor of the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NRCS MOU review</li> <li>-<del>Big Tree (2019) – Measure trees</del></li> <li>-Quarterly Supervisors Meeting, staff reviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schedule Landfill inspection</li> <li>-IASWCD annual conference Resolutions</li> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-Forestry Field day</li> <li>-Donor program – revise</li> </ul>
October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Meeting Committee Mtg Confirm Speaker/Entertainment</li> <li>-Election Committee Mtg Appointed due 11/1 Elected due 12/1</li> <li>-2019 Budget</li> <li>-Producers meeting Location Topics/speakers</li> <li>- Christmas Party planning</li> <li>-Education Committee Mtg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Develop 2019 Annual Work Plan</li> <li>-Donor Program Mail letters</li> <li>-SJC SWCD Annual Report</li> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-Board Meeting Present budget &amp; AWP</li> <li>- Annual Meeting Committee - Confirm other award winners, Silent auction</li> <li>-Quarterly Sup. Mtg/Staff Reviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Donor Program</li> <li>-IASWCD Annual conference Registration, Confirm delegates Prepare legislative notebook</li> <li>- Annual Meeting Committee Mtg Distribute tickets/silent auction</li> <li>- Board meeting Confirm budget &amp; AWP</li> <li>Rural Conservation Committee Mtg</li> </ul>

## Ongoing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Implement 2018 Farm Bill</li><li>-Recruit New Board Members</li><li>-Implement Rule 5/13 and MSP</li><li>-Focus – Volunteer programs</li><li>-Implement SBOA/District Ops</li><li>-Provide Administrative duties to program</li><li>-Legislator relations</li><li>-Focus – Urban Conservation Practices</li><li>-Youth &amp; Adult EE programs</li><li>-Education reach new markets/clients</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Donor Program</li><li>-Pursue Conservation Grants</li><li>-Displays for special events</li><li>-Update Website/social media</li><li>-CC – obtain Indiana Certified Conservation Planner</li><li>-Provide Guidance as requested from County</li><li>-Provide Quality Conservation Planning</li><li>-Focus – Minority and/or underserved public</li><li>- NRCS Contribution Agreement (PSS/CRP)</li><li>-Photos of practices installed – utilize Earth Team Volunteer</li></ul>
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## Standing Committees

### **ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS COMMITTEE:**

Plans and oversees the Annual Meeting & Selects Award Recipients for Annual Meeting & IASWCD Awards

### **EDUCATION PLANNING:**

Develops adult & youth programs and water testing programs, displays for Science Alive and other public festivals, and assist other committees on their educational projects

### **ELECTION:**

Selects new Supervisor candidates, oversees election at Annual Meeting/election of new Chair/Vice Chair

### **GRANTS & MARKETING & SPECIAL INITIATIVES:**

In charge of researching, writing & administrative paperwork for available grants. Also assist other committees to carry out projects that will spend the grant monies. Undertakes activities such as developing marketing strategies, brainstorming/developing new fundraising ideas and programs for the District. Emphasis on legislative - developing activities related to local, state& national legislators, including IASWCD breakfast and developing/distributing legislative notebooks.

### **RURAL CONSERVATION:**

Develops and implements rural conservation projects, including education and fundraising

### **URBAN CONSERVATION:**

Develops and implements urban conservation projects, including education and fundraising

## 2018-2022 Business Plan

### ORGANIZATION:

The **St. Joseph County SWCD** was organized by public referendum on April 9, 1959 as a legal subdivision of the state of Indiana. We receive our statutory authority from the Indiana Soil and Water Conservation District Law (Indiana Code I.C. 14-32-5-1). We are a public body which exercises public authority. We are governed by a Board of five Supervisors, each a resident of St. Joseph County, Indiana (three elected and two appointed). We also have a number of volunteer Associate Supervisors who assist the Board in carrying out our vision, mission and values.

### VISION: The VISION of the St. Joseph County SWCD is to:

- be viewed as a leader in soil and water conservation efforts
- be known in urban and rural areas
- demonstrate accountability with the funds it receives
- have an active and informed Board and a well-managed staff
- have a track record of measurable and demonstrated results

**MISSION:** Helping St Joseph county residents improve their natural resources through conservation and education.

### In carrying out the SWCD's MISSION, we work, coordinate and cooperate with:

- Property owners and operators
- Public and private conservation organizations
- Public agencies
- Agricultural groups
- Citizens
- Legislators
- Tribal Government

### VALUES: The following VALUES will guide the daily activities and development of St. Joseph County SWCD:

- We believe in a voluntary approach to addressing soil, water and related natural resource concerns rather than regulation whenever possible.
- We believe that education, outreach, and technical assistance are vital tools for addressing resource concerns.
- We will strive to provide high quality service and promote strong partnerships.
- We will embrace learning and change in order to meet the challenges of the future, and will develop a diverse, innovative, and well-trained Board and Staff Team to achieve our goals.
- We value our role in providing locally-led public outreach, education, and technical assistance to the community, focusing on environmental concerns in a manner that encourages appreciation and stewardship of natural resources for the benefit of future generations.



# Critical Natural Resource Issues

St. Joseph County SWCD's goals provide a long-term visioning platform which includes current and future-looking statements to develop our SWCD annual work plans and staff managed programs.

## Agricultural Natural Resource Issues

Agriculture is a significant land use in St. Joseph County. Our goals are to see an increase the number of farms implementing soil health practices by ~~10%~~<sup>30%</sup>, the number of conservation plans with practices addressing soil health and soil erosion by ~~10%~~<sup>20%</sup>, and the number of citizens informed about the importance of maintaining soil health and decreasing soil erosion. These goals will be based on the conservation needs of the producer to increase soil health and water quality which is created through the promotion of conservation planning. Areas of focus will be but not limited to:

- a. Excessive Sediment
  - i. Increase conservation tillage.
  - ii. Increase cover crop acres planted.
- b. <sup>Improve?</sup> Improper livestock management (e.g. pasturing)
  - i. Work with producers to implement livestock management practices at access sites.
  - ii. Work with producers to implement rotational grazing practices
  - iii. Work with producers to implement vegetative buffering practices and manure management planning and implementation.
  - iv. Increase more efficient storage and use of manure by promoting information about manure and soil sampling. Continue to promote Farm Bill programs for manure storage buildings.
  - v. Continue to identify sites where water quality is impacted by livestock and offer assistance by making direct contact.
- c. Improve nutrient and pesticide management
  - i. Continue to promote Nutrient Management Plans
  - ii. Explore the option of organizing an IN Field Advantage (INFA) group for our producers. Could partner with Marshall.
  - iii. Work with the non-traditional landowners in the North and South regions of county.
- d. Improve Irrigation Management
  - i. Encourage water conservation by emphasizing low volume emitter irrigation systems for our producers.
  - ii. Encourage producers to have a uniform test done on their irrigation system.
  - iii. Partner with our neighboring SWCD's on an irrigation workshop. Seek assistance from ISDA.

## Urban Natural Resource Issues

The need is growing for urban conservation education and technical assistance in St. Joseph County. The concentration of human population and the development that accompanies it have an impact on natural areas. This impact affects natural resources within the urban growth boundary just as other activities affect resource concerns in rural, agriculture and forested areas. Areas of focus will be but not limited to:

- a. Pollutants from hard surfaces (e.g. lawn fertilizer, pet waste, oil, grease, litter from parking lots, sidewalks, streets, etc.) running into local waterways
  - i. Develop and carry out strategies to minimize pollutants into surface and ground water. Work with our partners to develop education programs for our residents.
- b. Excessive stormwater runoff
  - i. Identify and develop and implement alternative stormwater management projects such as rain gardens and bio swales.
  - ii. Provide information and assistance to municipalities and local government concerning storm water runoff.
  - iii. Educate residents, homeowners, youth, business owners, and teachers about urban conservation practices.
  - iv. Promote landscaping with native plants and enhancing residential wildlife habitat.
  - v. Work with landowners to improve wetland habitat, upland habitat such as oak woodlands and forests, and pollinator habitat.
  - vi. Encourage the development of community gardens and/or urban agriculture in St. Joseph County.
- c. Continue to review of Rule 5 site plans and site inspections.
- d. Continue to review SWPP for MS4 municipalities
  - i. Work with County Planning and Building department to hold a contractor meeting to inform contractors of rules regarding pre-construction meeting, site inspections and follow-up.

## Land Use/Sustainability Resource Issue

The land farmers use to grow products is under constant pressure to be converted to residential or commercial uses. Once this land is converted to non-farm use, it will likely never return to farm production again. The loss of farmland is an extremely important issue globally, but at the local level as well. Our goal is below.

- a. The loss of Prime Farmland:
  - i. Continue to support the county with the prime farmland ordinance.

## Forestry and Wildlife Resource Issue

Forests contribute to recreational and aesthetic values, enhance the appearance of developed areas, provide shade and valuable wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion, cleanse the air, and help preserve valuable watersheds.

- a. The decrease in the number of wooded areas:
  - i. Educate private woodland owners about the economic and environmental value of forests and promote the various incentive programs through NRCS and IDNR.
  - ii. Continue to partner with neighboring SWCD's with forestry related education such as workshops, field days and/or breakfast with a forester.
  - iii. Assist NRCS with implementation of EQIP funding pools available to private forestland owners, which may include developing conservation plans for individual forest properties

## Key Strategies:

### 1. Information and Outreach

- Customer Service – promoting various conservation programs.
- Newsletters and other publications
- Website/Social Media
- 1 on 1 office contact with public
- Annual Meeting
- Partnership Contacts
- Public Presentations
- News Releases to local Media
- Website
- Legislative Leveraging Bulletin
- Offsite displays

### 2. Education

- Workshops
- Field Days
- Youth Education Events
- Presentations / Displays
- Office contacts (providing soil surveys, planning specs, tree planting info, etc.)

### 3. Technical Assistance

- One on one conservation planning and application assistance by field office staff
- Biannual landfill inspections
- Survey, design and installation assistance by regional tech team
- Assistance to county & tribal government

### 4. Financial Assistance

- Federal Conservation Programs (Farm Bill)
- State Conservation cost share/incentive programs (IDNR Lake and River Enhancement)
- Partnership Programs
- State Grants (Clean Water IN)
- IDEM 319 grants
- Other grants, foundations, etc.
- Affiliate Memberships
- NRCS (PSS/CRP Contribution Agreement, phones, computer, copier, printers, and networking)

### 5. Accountability – Measuring success

- Tally Sheet – Customer Service
- Annual Report
- NRCS progress report
- Reports to County Officials
- Annual meeting questionnaire
- Spring and Fall Tillage Transect
- Evaluations – annual review of Staff and Supervisors

Note: A yearly Annual Plan of Work which further defines the Business Plan is developed each year and identifies key action items from the goals and key strategies listed in the Business Plan.



The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Butterfly Room  
\* Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, March 20, 2018  
5:30 PM-8:00 PM  
Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Alligator Room  
Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, April 17, 2018  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Butterfly Room  
\* Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, May 15, 2018  
5:30 PM-8:00 PM  
Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Alligator Room  
Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, June 19, 2018  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Alligator Room  
Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, July 17, 2018  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Alligator Room  
Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, August 21, 2018  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Alligator Room  
Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, September 18, 2018  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Alligator Room  
Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, October 16, 2018  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

The following request was ACCEPTED:  
Group: St Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Room: Centre Township Branch--Alligator Room  
Location: Centre Township Branch Library  
Date(s): Tuesday, November 20, 2018  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Please note the status of the request is: Room is Reserved

\* January, February, & December at Farm Credit 9am?