

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - On Tuesday June 16, 2021, at 7:05 pm a zoom meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor
Sam James, Supervisor

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

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

Present - EX-OFFICIO

PRESENT – Public

ABSENT – SWCD

Chuck Lehman
Dru Wrasse
Richard Schmidt
Randy Matthys
Dave Craft
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor
Chris Matthys, Supervisor
David Straughn

- II. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – n/a

III. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a. **Legislative Updates** – n/a
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – n/a
- c. **Minutes May 18, 2021 board meeting** – Board Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented with notation on legislative that the details were emailed the morning after the board meeting. (James/Vandewalle)
- d. **Treasurer’s Report: (5/18/2021-6/14/2021)** – A motion (James/Vandewalle) was made to approve the treasurer’s report as submitted. Motion carried.
- e. **Approval of Claims (5/18/2021-6/14/2021)** –A motion (James/Vandewalle) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11630-11634 for a total of \$2,049.08. 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)
 - ii. **NRCS Talking Points** – Knepp presented the NRCS talking points (attached).
- b. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Election** – Dooms reported that elected supervisor Mike Burkholder and appointed supervisor Dave Vandewalle terms are up at the end of the year. The election committee consists of John Dooms chairman and Chris Matthys and Sam James as members. Elected nominees are due December 1st and the appointed nominees are due November 1st.
- c. **CISMA Meet and greet hike** – Longenecker reported that the hike took place at Prairie Winds Nature farms. The two homeowners, 2 South Bend residents, a consultant forester were among the attendees. They took a walk around the property and talked about the invasive species that have been on the grounds and the invasives they are still combating. A doodle poll will be coming out to set up a zoom meeting for the next meeting. The next few meetings will be getting more people involved, coming up with a mission statement, deciding who will take the lead for the group, a logo, goals for the CISMA group and setting up events such as Weed Wrangles. Board member support and participation would be appreciated.
- d. **Urban Soil Health Program with IASWCD** – Longenecker went over the details of the statewide urban conservation agreement (attached). A motion (James/Vandewalle) was made to release \$1,700 per year for 5 years to support the Urban Soil Health Program. Motion carried.
- e. **Clean Water Indiana** (report attached)
 - i. **Approval of application** – a motion (James/Vandewalle) was made to approve 16 acres of cover crops totaling \$320. Motion carried.
 - ii. **MOU** – a motion (James/Vandewalle) was made to approve the attached proposed MOU with Marshall County for our 2021 CWI grant. Motion carried.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Schedules/ Upcoming Events / Any Related Claims** - calendars explaining upcoming special events & holiday schedules on the back of the agenda.
- b. **Field to Market and NRCS Farmer Conservation Data Pilot Project** – Knepp went over the pilot project (flyer attached). Indiana is part of the pilot project and a few counties will be chosen to work on this project. This project will include help from the district obtaining names of producers who might be interested in helping as well

as some computer data input work. There will be money available to the district for this work. With no objections, the board agrees to move forward with this project.

VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR – none

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The board meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm by motion (James/Vandewalle). Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hoffarth

Administrative Assistant

St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District

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www.stjosephswcd.org

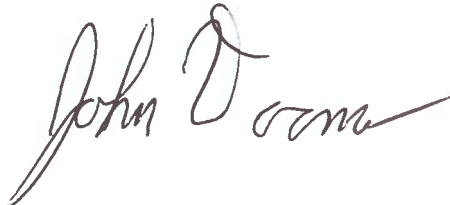
Approved by:

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor





Field Office Report
May 17 – June 11, 2021

<u>General/Miscellaneous</u>
Office Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Environmental Education Coordinator applications and conducted 3 interviews• Performed exit interview with Sam Buchanan and completed outboarding forms
Field Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field visit to discuss potential pollinator habitat• Field visit to discuss muck subsidence with landowner
<u>EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program</u>
Office Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop contracts/Job Sheets and collect signatures for 5 contracts• 2 additional contracts were funded (cover crops, tree planting and Invasive Species Control)– develop conservation plans and contract documents
Field Work
Check pollinator Habitat on 2 tracts. 2 on-site client visits to gather contract signatures, deliver and discuss job sheets and other program expectations/ answer questions Field verification for no-till on 4 tracts
<u>WRE- Wetland Reserve Program</u>
Office Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restoration contracts/Job Sheets completed for 2 properties• Finish enhancement packet to go to Pokagon Legal Department
Field Work
Site visit to 2 restoration sites to explain engineering and collect signatures
<u>CSP- Conservation Stewardship Program</u>
Office Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop resource inventory for application packet
Field Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct field verification for pre-approved application
<u>CRP-Conservation Reserve Program</u>
Field Work
Maintenance reviews of wetland, filter strips (4) and grass plantings (2)
<u>CWI- Clean Water Indiana</u>
Office Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Processed 1 application for cover crops
Field Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met on site with potential applicant to discuss cover crops
<u>Wetland Determinations / Highly Erodible Land Determinations</u>
Office Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wetland Determinations - 2• HEL determinations – 3• 569 (Report of Potential Violation) - 1

Rule 5/ Rule 13**Office/Field Work**

- 3 SWPPP reviews

Education

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

- Bertrand Farm monthly ag curriculum review and edit
- Gathering notes for new hire

Meetings & Trainings

NRCS Programs/Technology weekly mtg –3 Soil Health Team meeting	St. Joseph River Basin Commission quarterly meeting NA Area meeting via zoom
Webinars	Dates
PFSA in Ag Operations NACD's Winds, Waters, and Wildfires Summit Farming with Soil Life	May 28 – County Holiday (office open) May 29 – Memorial Day (Office Closed)

Comments from the Community

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DC Talking Points

June 2021

FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Indiana has a roughly 76% of our 2021 EQIP Classic funds allocated at this time. As application are obligated participants should be notified that they can begin work on their contracts.

Indiana has been notified that we will receive an additional \$3.5 million for EQIP Classic, \$1.1 million for NWQI and \$400,000 for MRBI applications. The funds should be received in the next few weeks so additional applications will be selected for funding.

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) and Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI)

Indiana NRCS is accepting applications until June 18 to be considered for NWQI and MRBI planning or implementation projects.

Watershed projects must first complete a watershed assessment plan (planning phase) meeting NRCS guidance (funding is available for a one-year agreement to complete this work). This planning phase will provide time for watershed-level assessment, on-farm planning, and outreach to support development of the multi-year implementation plan that will assist states with their nutrient loss reduction strategies or source water protection. MRBI watersheds must be located in a priority watershed listed in the Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Watersheds with an approved assessment plan can apply for targeted Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding for implementation of conservation practices over the course of several years. The approved assessment plan does not have to be a product of the NWQI or MRBI planning phase but does need to meet the NRCS assessment plan criteria.

Partners who are interested in being a part of an NWQI or MRBI planning phase or implementation phase should contact Jill Reinhart, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships. Application materials will be due no later than June 18 for funding in fiscal year 2022.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was recently selected for an RCPP project. Indiana NRCS is investing \$7.8 million in the Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Collaboration project. The Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Collaboration is a partnership which joins forces with more than 30 partners to help participating farmers improve soil health, reduce phosphorus and sediment loading and prevent harmful algal blooms in the Western Lake Erie basin by using a suite of conservation practices, working towards a 40% reduction of dissolved phosphorus. The partnership will use targeting tools, like the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), to work with producers and landowners operating near the Maumee headwaters, an area identified as a source of high levels of excess phosphorus, to further education, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil, water and wildlife on a watershed scale.

The next solicitation for RCPP projects is anticipated to be released later this summer.

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

CIG Classic

NRCS is seeking proposals through July 19 for Conservation Innovation Grants Classic projects that support the development of new tools, approaches, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands through the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program.

CIG Classic grantees must match each federal dollar invested at least one to one. NRCS intends to expend at least 10% of the total funding for CIG Classic on projects that are focused on providing conservation benefits to historically undeserved producers.

All U.S.-based non-Federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply. Proposals must be submitted through the NRCS Program Portal (<https://nracs-sites.secure.force.com>) by 11:59 p.m. ET on July 19. Please note you must have a level 2 eAuth account to access the portal. Details on how to apply for eAuth can be found at <https://www.eauth.usda.gov/eauth/b/usda/home>.

Complete funding announcement information can be accessed through the CIG webpage: <https://bit.ly/3ugSWkF>. A webinar for CIG Classic applicants is scheduled for June 8 at 3 p.m. Eastern Time. Information on how to participate in the webinar will also be posted to the CIG Applicant [website](#). Applicants are encouraged to visit the CIG website to learn more about the CIG program. Questions about this announcement can be directed to Jill Reinhart, ASTC Partnerships or contact nrcscig@usda.gov.

CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials

NRCS is seeking proposals through June 21 for CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials). On-Farm Trials feature collaboration between NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact. Incentive payments are provided to producers to offset the risk of implementing innovative approaches.

NRCS is seeking proposals that address at least one of the following four On-Farm Trial priorities:

- Climate-smart agricultural solutions
- Soil health demonstration trial
- Irrigation water management
- Management technologies and strategies

NRCS will accept proposals from the following eligible entities:

- Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture
- Non-government organizations with experience working with agricultural producers
- Non-federal government agencies

Proposals must be submitted through the NRCS Program Portal (<https://nracs-sites.secure.force.com>) by 11:59 p.m. ET on June 21. Please note you must have a level 2 eAuth account to access the portal.

An informational CIG On-Farm Trials webinar was held and a copy of the presentation is available at:

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/cig/?cid=nrcsep-
rd1459039](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/cig/?cid=nrcsep-rd1459039)

\ GRANTS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

Up to \$4 million in competitive grants is available nationally to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=333854>) for planning and implementation projects until midnight July 30.

Planning projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, urban agroforestry or food forests, and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

Implementation projects that accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers. Projects will improve local food access and collaborate with partner organizations and may support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, educational endeavors and urban farming policy implementation.

A pre-recorded webinar will provide an overview of the grants' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting an application. The webinar will be posted at farmers.gov/urban.

\ CONSERVATION AGRICULTURAL MENTORING PROGRAM (CAMP)

Through a mentee/mentor relationship, this NRCS program offers new employees and newly relocated employees an exciting opportunity to grow relationships with local producers and elevate their expertise of production agriculture in their local communities.

CAMP is designed for customer-facing employees who have fewer than 36 months of experience in the agency or who recently relocated to a different field office. District conservationists match volunteer producers with employees. Employees go out on the land with their producer mentors 6-12 times per year (at least once every other month) during regular business hours at times that are convenient for the producers. Producer mentors will provide a safe, low risk learning environment for employees to advance their knowledge of:

- Common agricultural practices, equipment, inputs and other topics;
- The types of daily challenges and decisions producers face;
- Local resource problems and concerns; and
- How producers use conservation practices to address resource problems.

Employees participate in the program for 12-18 months, based on the district conservationist's assessment of whether they will continue to benefit from the program after the 1-year mark. Indiana NRCS is currently in its planning stages of developing the in-state program and hopes to roll this out in late July/early August.

\ COVID OPERATIONAL STATUS

NRCS continues to operate under safety guidelines of FPAC and the CDC at all locations. Updated guidelines include:

- Field offices at 50% capacity
 - SWCD Boards can now meet in Service Centers for evening meeting following certain precautions (mask, social distancing and cleaning after meeting). Contact your Area Conservationist if you have any questions.

- State offices at 25% capacity
- Travel restricted to mission essential activities

GOVDELIVERY FIELD OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS

June articles and general NRCS articles can be found on SharePoint here: [Public Affairs - GovDelivery - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

Statewide Urban Conservation Agreement

A. The Recipient will:

1. Directly supervise 1 full-time Urban Technical Soil Health Program Coordinator, who possesses the social and administrative skills to perform the following:
 - a. Facilitate and lead local SWCD Boards to work with local partners to establish urban soil health working groups to promote an urban soil health program;
 - i. Discussions with all 92 SWCD Boards in Indiana (at least 15 each year) regarding the need and potential for an urban soil health program will take place by the end of the agreement.
 - ii. At least 15 new local urban soil health working groups will be established by the end of the agreement.
 - b. Assist local urban soil health working groups with financial planning to enable their programs to be self-sustaining.
 - c. Organize and facilitate an annual meeting for ICP staff and other partners to promote the effort, and discuss issues relating to urban soil health in Indiana;
 - d. Work with the NRCS program contact and qualified professionals to ensure the work identified in this agreement progresses as planned and meets technical standards and requirements;
 - e. Serve as the liaison for the agreement, responsible for reimbursements and publicize opportunities related to the agreement to SWCD's across the state.
2. Directly supervise 4 full-time Urban Soil Health Specialists, one stationed in each Indiana-NRCS administrative area office, that possess the technical and social skills to perform the following:
 - a. Assist local urban soil health working groups by providing training and technical direction and facilitating events;
 - b. Create training materials and provide a minimum of at least 1 training opportunity within each area per year for ICP staff (4 annually statewide);
 - c. Serve as a facilitator to other local working groups in the area to effectively implement deliverables 4, 5, 6, and 7;
 - d. Deliver an additional 15 of each deliverables 4 and 5 to urban farmers in their local area each year (60 annually statewide).
3. Directly supervise a part-time Urban Program Coordinator, who possesses the administrative skills to perform the following:
 - a. Administer federal reimbursements including payroll, publicize opportunities from the agreement with partners throughout Indiana, compile reports, etc.;
4. Encourage local urban soil health working groups to provide 500 (100 per year statewide) landowners with on-site soil health resource assessments that will include evaluations of resource concerns related to soil, water, plants, and animals, including soil assessments that analyze nutrient levels, pH, contaminants, organic matter, etc. in each Indiana NRCS area.
5. Encourage local urban soil health working groups to provide one-on-one technical assistance to 400 (80 per year) landowners to assist in the planning and implementation of urban soil health practices including, but not limited to, cover crop plantings, nutrient management plans, erosion and runoff control measures, and crop rotations across the state.
6. Encourage local urban soil health working groups to conduct 100 (20 per year statewide) soil

health education events to promote urban soil health to urban farmers and the general public.

7. Encourage local urban soil health working groups to develop/administer a minimum of 200 (40 per year statewide) educational programs or materials to the general public related to Urban Soil Health and Conservation in each Indiana NRCS area.

Personnel

- **Urban Technical Soil Health Program Coordinator** (60 months; 100% time; 1 FTE) will:
 - Facilitate and lead local SWCD Boards to work with local partners to establish urban soil health working groups to promote an urban soil health program;
 - Initiate discussions with all 92 SWCD Boards (at least 15 each year) regarding the need and potential for an urban soil health program by the end of the agreement;
 - Ensure that at least 15 new local urban soil health working groups are established by the end of the agreement;
 - Organize and facilitate an annual meeting for ICP staff and other partners to promote the effort, and discuss issues relating to urban soil health in Indiana;
 - Assist local urban soil health working groups with financial planning to enable their programs will be self-sustaining;
- **Urban Soil Health Program Coordinator** (60 months; 50% time; 0.5 FTE) will:
 - Be the liaison for the agreement, responsible for reimbursements and publicizing opportunities related to the agreement to SWCD's across the state;
- **Urban Soil Health Conservationists** (60 months; 100% of time; 4 FTE) will:
 - Assist local urban soil health working groups by providing training and technical direction and facilitating events;
 - Create training materials and provide a minimum of 4 training opportunities per year for Indiana Conservation Partnership staff;
 - Serve as a facilitator and trainer to other SWCD's and work groups to enable them to engage in urban landowner resource assessments, planning and implementation, educational events and materials;
 - Deliver 60 urban landowner resource assessments annually;
 - Develop and assist urban landowners implement 60 conservation plans with urban landowners annually.

Landowner Support

- **Resource Assessments** (100 resource assessments/year x 5 years = 500 instances) provided by local urban soil health working groups directly to landowners will consist of:
 - On-site soil health resource assessments that will include evaluations of resource concerns related to soil, water, plants, and animals, including soil assessments that analyze nutrient levels, pH, contaminants, organic matter, etc.
 - Product = documentation (resource assessment maps, notes, etc.) in NRCS client case file related to the resource assessment and follow up with the urban landowner.
- **Planning and Implementation** (80 landowner support instances/year x 5 years = 400 instances) provided by local urban soil health working groups directly to landowners will consist of:
 - On-site one-on-one technical assistance to urban landowners to assist in the planning and implementation of urban soil health practices including, but not limited to cover crop plantings, nutrient plans, erosion and runoff control measures, and crop rotation.

- Product = documentation (maps, notes, conservation plans, job sheets, implementation notes, etc.) in NRCS client case file related to the decisions and accomplishments of the urban landowner.

Education/Outreach

- **Urban Soil Health Education Events** (20 events/year x 5 years = 100 events) held by local urban soil health working groups to promote urban soil health to urban landowners, as well as resolve urban soil health issues:
 - Product = completed event.
- **Urban Soil Health Educational Materials** (20 materials/year x 5 years = 100 materials) – technical documents, news articles, handouts, etc. - delivered to urban landowners and the general public related to Urban Soil Health and Conservation:
 - Product = completed and issued material.

Clean Water Indiana 2019-2021

Applications needing approval:

Cover Crops	16 Acres	\$320
Total:	16 Acres	\$320

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

St Joseph County	\$24,719.49
Marshall County	\$31,767.04
Total	\$56,486.53
Grant Total	\$65,000.00
Remaining Amount	\$8,513.47

Marshall County Pending applications:

Pollinator Habitat	\$2,250
Pollinator Habitat	\$1,500
Pollinator Habitat	\$750
Pollinator Habitat	\$375
Cover Crops	\$1,894
Pollinator Habitat	\$750
Total	\$7,519

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN ST JOSEPH COUNTY SWCD
AND MARSHALL COUNTY SWCD**

1. **Parties.** This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") is made and entered into by and between the St Joseph County SWCD, whose address is 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563, and the Marshall County SWCD, whose address is 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563.

2. **Purpose.** The purpose of this MOU is to establish the terms and conditions of the Clean Water Indiana (CWI) 2021 Grant. See Exhibit A for Project Description details and Exhibit B for Budget details.

3. **Term of MOU.** This MOU is effective upon the day and date last signed and executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties to this MOU and the governing bodies of the parties' respective counties or municipalities and shall remain in full force and effect for not longer than December 31, 2023. This MOU may be terminated, without cause, by either party upon 90-day written notice, which notice shall be delivered by hand or by certified mail to the address listed above.

4. **Responsibilities of St Joseph County SWCD.**
 - Be the administrator of the grant.
 - The staff and board will create the application, promote practices to recruit applicants, and then track grant results. They will review and approve applications for their respective county.
 - A cash match of \$2,000 per year for 3 years for a total of \$6,000.
 - In-kind education assistance at \$25 per hour for 100 hours over 3 years, valued at \$2,500.
 - In-kind technical assistance at \$25 per hour for 200 hours over 3 years, valued at \$5,000.
 - In-kind support from board supervisors and staff promoting relevant events, workshops, and field days at \$25 per hour for 120 hours over 3 years, valued at \$3,000.
 - In-kind administration and reporting at \$25 per hour for 90 hours over 3 years, valued at \$2,250
 - We will also be welcoming other partners as the program grows. The lead district does not receive county appropriations aside from staff, so we rely on our annual donor program which consists of landowners, co-ops, local businesses, and other conservation groups. The donations total to about \$1000 per year and help to sponsor workshop speakers, food, and supplies to better educate producers and landowners.

6. Responsibilities of Marshall County SWCD.

- The staff and board will create the application, promote practices to recruit applicants, and then track grant results. They will review and approve applications for their respective county.
- A cash match of \$2,000 per year for 3 years for a total of \$6,000.
- In-kind education assistance at \$25 per hour for 50 hours over 3 years, valued at \$1,250.
- In-kind technical assistance at \$25 per hour for 150 hours over 3 years, valued at \$3,750.
- In-kind support from board supervisors and staff promoting relevant events, workshops, and field days and in-kind support and cooperation from our staff to communicate and work with our local landowners to install BMPs within critical areas of the Yellow River Watershed at \$25 per hour for 60 hours over 3 years, valued at \$1,500
- In-kind administration assistance at \$25 per hour for 30 hours over 3 years, valued at \$750.

7. General Provisions

A. Amendments. Either party may request changes to this MOU. Any changes, modifications, revisions or amendments to this MOU which are mutually agreed upon by and between the parties to this MOU shall be incorporated by written instrument, and effective when executed and signed by all parties to this MOU.

B. Applicable Law. The construction, interpretation and enforcement of this MOU shall be governed by the laws of the State of Indiana. The courts of the State of Indiana shall have jurisdiction over any action arising out of this MOU and over the parties.

D. Entirety of Agreement. This MOU, consisting of 4, pages, represents the entire and integrated agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations and agreements, whether written or oral.

E. Severability. Should any portion of this MOU be judicially determined to be illegal or unenforceable, the remainder of the MOU shall continue in full force and effect, and either party may renegotiate the terms affected by the severance.

F. Third Party Beneficiary Rights. The parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of a third party beneficiary, and this MOU shall not be construed so as to create such status. The rights, duties and obligations contained in this MOU shall operate only between the parties to this MOU, and shall inure solely to the benefit of the parties to this MOU. The provisions of this MOU are intended only to assist the parties in determining and performing their obligations under this MOU. The parties

Exhibit A Project Description

Funds will be utilized for cost share incentives for agricultural best management practices that improve the counties' water quality.

The program will offer cost share incentives for six best management practices that improve water quality. Practice lifespans will mirror the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) standards; 1 year for cover crops, 1 year for no-till, 5 years for filter strips, 5 years for pollinator habitats.

- For no till or strip till we will provide \$15/acre cost-share* (payment based on approx. 75% of NRCS no-till payment, see exhibit C) with a maximum of 200 acres per producer.
- For cover crops we will provide \$20/acre cost-share* with a maximum of 200 acres per producer.
- For filter strips we will provide \$350/acre cost-share* on a maximum of 6 acres per producer.
- For pollinator habitat we will offer up to \$750/acre cost-share* with a minimum of .5 acre to a maximum of 10 acres.

Priority for all listed practices will go to producers who have not used the practice in the past and those who are working to implement a system of BMPs.

**For cost-share practices, CWI funds may be used to pay up to a maximum of 75% of the total conservation practice cost, capped as stated above. At least 25% of the cost must be provided by the landowner/producer as match.*

Exhibit B Budget Description

	Grant Funds	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Total
St Joseph County SWCD	\$32,500	\$6,000	\$12,750	\$51,250
Marshall County SWCD	\$32,500	\$6,000	\$7,250	\$45,750
Total Grant Funds	\$65,000			
Total Cash Match		\$12,000		
Total In-Kind Match			\$20,000	
Total Project Budget				\$97,000

Exhibit C

Practice: 329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No Till

Scenario: #1 - No-Till/Strip-Till

Scenario Description:

This practice typically involves conversion from a clean-tilled (conventional tilled) system to no-till or strip-till system on 100 acres of cropland. This involves managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting soil-disturbing activities used to establish and harvest crops. The practice is used to reduce sheet and rill erosion, reduce wind erosion, improve soil quality, reduce CO2 losses from the soil, reduce energy use, increase plant available moisture and provide food and escape cover for wildlife. The no-till/strip-till system includes non-tillage types of weed control and may also include a period of no till fallow. System is applicable in both irrigated and non-irrigated fields of organic and non-organic operations

Before Situation:

Row crops or small grains are grown and harvested. Full width tillage is performed prior to planting and weed control during crop production is typically cultivation and chemical application. Fields are disked immediately following harvest, with additional operations in some fields to facilitate drainage, seedbed preparation or additional weed control. Residue amounts after tillage operations average 10% or less, resulting in bare soil being exposed to wind erosion and/or intense rainfall. Any crop residue that is present degrades and sediment/nutrient runoff from fields increases during rainfall events. Sheet and rill erosion occurs with visible rills by spring. Soil health (soil organic matter) declines over time as a result of tillage practices, low residue, and long periods of bare soil. This system will typically have a negative Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) and a high Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR).

After Situation:

The Implementation Requirements for 329 Residue Management, No Till is prepared and installed. Managing crop residue on the surface of a field (typical 100 acre) year around according to the 329 practice plan while limiting soil disturbing activities to those which place nutrients, and plant crops that meet the minimum criteria in the 329 practice standard. All crops are seeded/planted with a no-till drill or no-till/strip-till planter, which minimizes soil disturbance while establishing good seed-soil contact. All residues are to be maintained on the soil surface in a uniform distribution over the entire field and not burned or removed. Crop residues provide soil surface cover throughout the year. Runoff and erosion are reduced and no rills are visible on the soil surface. Wind erosion is reduced by standing residues and surface cover. Over time, soil health is improved due to the additional biomass (crop residues), ground cover, and soil infiltration. Crop residues and/or cover crop residues left on the soil surface may maximize weed control by increasing allelopathic and mulching effect, and provides cover for wildlife. The practice would require reducing soil disturbance and erosion and increasing biomass returned to the soil in sufficient amounts to achieve increased SCI and decreased STIR.

Feature Measure: Area planted

Scenario Unit: Acres

Scenario Typical Size: 100.0

Scenario Total Cost: \$2,160.00

Scenario Cost/Unit:

Cost Details:

Component Name	ID	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
Equipment Installation						
Seeding Operation, No Till/Grass Drill	960	No Till drill or grass drill for seeding. Includes equipment, power unit and labor costs	Acres	\$21.60	100	\$2,160.00

Field to Market and NRCS Farmer Conservation Data Pilot Project

Field to Market®

Streamline your conservation planning process by participating in a new pilot project from Field to Market and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Field to Market®: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture brings together a diverse group of grower organizations; agribusinesses; food, beverage, restaurant and retail companies; conservation groups; universities and public sector partners to focus on defining, measuring and advancing the sustainability of food, fiber and fuel production.

Field to Market's **Fieldprint® Platform** is a useful tool available for growers, providing a free, confidential pathway to measure the environmental impacts of your operation and identify opportunities for continuous improvement. Many Field to Market members work directly with growers to support them in using this tool and adopting new conservation practices through locally-led **Continuous Improvement Projects**.

In order to scale the impact of these projects and provide growers with streamlined conservation planning tools, Field to Market has partnered with USDA to develop data interoperability between the Fieldprint Platform and NRCS's Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (**CART**), a tool which assists NRCS conservation planners as they work with growers on areas for continuous improvement.

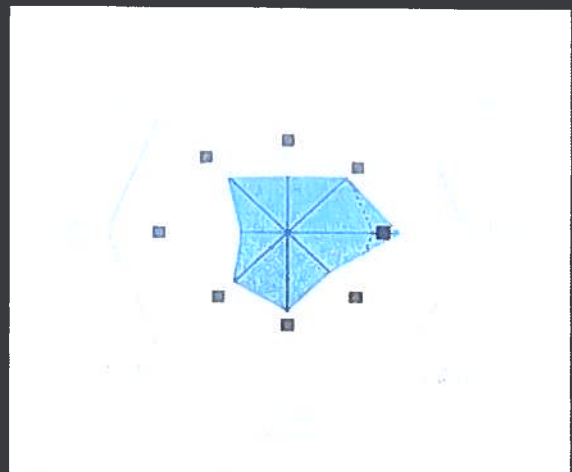
This collaboration will allow greater data mobility between these tools, enabling farmers who already use the Fieldprint Platform streamlined access to NRCS programs and services. It will also offer farmers enrolled in federal programs with an opportunity to connect to supply chain sustainability efforts.

Use this three-page factsheet to learn more about opportunities to streamline your conservation planning by participating in a new pilot project designed to increase the interoperability of these important conservation tools.

What is the Fieldprint Platform?

The Fieldprint Platform estimates your field-level performance on the following environmental metrics:

- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Energy Use
- ✓ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ✓ Irrigated Water Use
- ✓ Land Use
- ✓ Soil Carbon
- ✓ Soil Conservation
- ✓ Water Quality





Field to Market and NRCS Farmer Conservation Data Pilot Project

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Why Should I Participate in this Project?

As a grower interested in conservation, your participation in this Field to Market and NRCS pilot project will help us to develop streamlined conservation planning tools for you and other farmers. By passing your data through both tools in one process, you will gain key insights into the sustainability performance of your operation without the burden of duplicative data entry. After completing the process, you will be able to access increased opportunities to engage with public and private sector sustainability programs.

What is Required to Participate?

Participating farmers will receive support from project partners and an NRCS Conservation Planner to successfully enter your data into the Fieldprint Platform and export relevant data for entry into CART in order to access technical and financial assistance. Growers will need to complete a few simple steps, including:



Enter Your Field Information in the Fieldprint Calculator

Entering field-level information into the free, online [Fieldprint Calculator](#) allows you to securely analyze how your management choices impact natural resources and operational efficiency. This process takes about 45 minutes for your first data entry, with support available from the project partners.



Export Data Package from Fieldprint Calculator

Project partners will help you export your data from the Fieldprint Calculator. This reports your field data and metric results alongside a reference spreadsheet which identifies how the Fieldprint Platform data can be used for the CART tool. It also includes shapefiles of the relevant field boundaries that will be imported directly into CART.



Deliver Data Package to Conservation Planner

Supporting project partners will work with you to send your data package to the applicable USDA Field Office or upload the file to Farmers.gov for the Conservation Planner to reference.



Meet with your Conservation Planner

Once received, the Conservation Planner will reach out to review the relevant information with you and populate CART. The remaining information will be collected based on follow-up field visits or requested from the Grower, as needed.

How much time will I need to commit?



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Each grower should plan for 3-4 hours total spread across the steps above. The amount of time needed depends on the accessibility of your farm information and how your data is stored.

What do I get in return? At the end of the process, you will be able to assess the environmental performance of your management practices against local, state, and national benchmarks for key sustainability indicators via the Fieldprint Analysis. Growers interested in further collaborating with Field to Market through a member-led project can view [ongoing initiatives](#) in their region to explore opportunities to get involved.

Through one streamlined data entry process, you will also kick-start the conservation planning process, which is required for accessing NRCS funds for conservation practice implementation.

What support will I receive?

The project lead will provide growers support in accessing the Fieldprint Platform, answer questions about data requirements, identify the appropriate NRCS office and staff member, and, in some cases, accompany you to your conservation planning visit.

Can I access my data after the Project?

Yes, the data that is generated is yours to keep, and you can add to it in future years to map your progress.

Resources

The Fieldprint Calculator can be accessed at <https://calculator.fieldtomarket.org>

More information on CART can be found at

<https://the-conservation-assessment-ranking-tool-nrcs.hub.arcgis.com/>

Your Project Lead can be contacted at XXXXXXXX

Your participation in this pilot will help Field to Market and NRCS identify ways for more farmers to access assistance and funding for conservation planning in the future!