

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - On Tuesday March 15, 2016, at 6:30 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
Randy Matthys
Jan Ivkovich
Richard Schmidt
Carole Riewe
Jim LaFree

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

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

Present - EX-OFFICIO

n/a
PRESENT – Public
David Straughn

ABSENT – SWCD

James Rodriguez, NRCS SC
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD AA
Stacey Silvers, Supervisor
Dale Stoner
Dru Wrasse
Arlene Schuchman
Chuck Lehman
Dave Craft
Joe Long

II. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA -**

III. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a. **Legislative Updates –**
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates – N/A**
- c. **Minutes: January 19, 2015 board meeting–** The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.
- d. **Treasurer’s Report: (2/17/16-3/15/16) –** The treasurer’s reports were both reviewed and approved as submitted.
- e. **Approval of Claims (2/17/16-3/15/16) -** A recommendation (Ivkovich, Riewe) & motion (Vandewalle, Cooper) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11103-11108 for a total of \$1,150.99 as presented. Both carried

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**


- a. **St. Joseph Co. Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff Written Reports –** The field office & Education reports were presented to the board and reviewed. (Attached). Knepp went over the NRCS talking points (attached).
- b. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Rural Conservation –** (Attached) Recommendation (Vandewalle, Ivkovich) & motion (Burkholder, Cooper) was made to release \$4,900 for expenses. Both carried.
 - ii. **Education –** committee met March 1st to review current programs (Attached). Committee wants Glassman to continue to reach out to local college students and increase Project Wild/Wet/Learning Tree & Hoosier River Watch. Glassman will be sending an e-mail to all high school science teachers to get more environmental education in the schools & clubs. Committee suggests having follow up phone calls. It is the recommendation of the committee (Ivkovich, Riewe) & motion (Cooper, Burkholder) to increase the charge per student to \$0.60 for any out of county school program. Both carried.
 - iii. **Grants – CWI – Cost Share Application** A recommendation (Schmidt, Ivkovich) & motion (Burkholder, Cooper) was made to approve the application after some discussion. Both carried. Longenecker also gave a recap of the Growing Summit Workshop where she gave a presentation to 12 participants including a church and the city of South Bend who are potential partners for installing rain gardens in the near future.
 - iv. **Marketing – New Website –** Cooper let the board know that the conversion from Khimira to Wix has been completed and looks great! Hoffarth worked about 3 full weeks (120 hours) on the redesign/conversion. By doing all the work in house, it saved the district \$1,400-\$3,000 based on quotes we received early last fall.
- c. **Landfill Inspection –** Dooms volunteered, Longenecker will set date for early April. If anyone else is interested contact Longenecker.


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. **Ginger Valley Spring Show – April 2-3 –** Longenecker will be sending out sign up schedules for volunteers for both days.
- b. **Friends of St Joseph River Grant –** Dooms, Cooper, Burkholder gave prior approval (deadline was March 11). Board gave verbal ok to proceed and agreed with the 3 supervisors to send the support letter. (attached)


- VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR** – Cooper recapped a presentation he attended regarding the perception of MI SWCD’s. Straughn commented he enjoyed the Growing Summit presentation by Longenecker and learned a lot, asked Glassman what River Watch was, and asked Knepp about joint chief’s landscape restoration project and Knepp clarified. Dooms read a thank you card from Hoffarth for the flowers she received for the passing of her dad.
- VII. ADJOURNMENT** – The board meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Longenecker
County Conservationist
St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District
2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563
Email: sarah.longenecker@in.nacdnet.net
www.stjosephswcd.org

Approved by:


Supervisor


Supervisor


Supervisor


Supervisor

Supervisor

Field Office Report
February 15 – March 11, 2016

Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- Develop plans/rank – 9 applicants
- Update Environmental Evaluation forms – 8
- Planning site visit for prescribed Grazing application
- Field evaluation for manure storage facility

Wetland Reserve Program/Wetland Reserve Easement program

- Meeting with new applicant (71 ac site)
- On-site meeting with land surveyor (70 ac site)

Conservation Reserve program

- Final signatures on 2 filter strip contracts
- Field review of mid-contract management practice
- Site visit for 18 ac wetland site

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Field visit for conservation planning of cover crops

RULE 5/13

- 4 SWPPP review

Wetlands – 8 wetland determinations (St Joseph)

- 1 wetland determination (Marshall)
- 1 Potential wetland violation investigated
- 3 potential wetland certified determinations delivered to FSA

Highly Erodible land – 15 determinations

Investigation and Evaluation – Feasibility of restoring a 1 acre wetland

Newsletters – mailed

Area office planning review (James)

Develop trip report for Rodgers Ditch Association regarding landowner erosion concerns

NASS survey

Producer Workshop planning

Website Conversion to Wix.com

Meetings

Staff Meetings – 3

Rural Conservation Committee

CCSI Hub teleconference

Farm Bureau Presentation (James)

Grant meeting w/J Thum

Webinars – Wetlands

Wetland Mitigation

Categorical Exclusions

NRCS Area Meeting

Education Committee

Pheasants Forever Biologist

NRCS mid-year reviews

Growing Summit (Sarah)

Holiday – February 15

**James
asked about?*

Education Report

PLT facilitator workshop

Project WILD facilitator workshop

IUSB – River watch short course

Office and file cleaning

9 Schools, programs provided for Boston (LaPorte), Moran, St. Matthews, Montessori at Edison Lakes, St. Anthony, Harrison, IUSB, St. Pius, and Walt Disney

Programs presented:

- (3) - Spirit of America- 4th, 2nd-5th grade
- (3) - Earthworms –1st, 2nd, 3rd grade
- (12) - Amphibians/Reptiles – 7-K, pre, 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th grade
- (2) - Endangered Species – 3rd grade, afterschool program
- (2) -Animals of Indiana – 1st, 2nd grade
- (4) - Who's in the Hollowtree? – K, 3-2nd grade
- (1) - Water and you – 6th grade
- (5) - Wildlife Dynamics – 3rd, 2-4th, 2-5th grade
- (1) - Jethro the Scarecrow – 1st grade
- (1) -Insect of Indiana – 2st grade
- (1) -Bats of Indiana – 1nd grade
- (1)-Invasive Species – 6th grade
- (1) – Recycling – 3rd grade
- (1) – Owl – 4th grade
- (1) – Tree I.D. – 3rd grade
- (1) – Wetlands – 5th grade
- (1) – Soil Health – 7th grade

DC Talking Points
March 2016

FARM BILL PROGRAM UPDATES

→ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

[While NRCS accepts applications for CSP throughout the year, farmers should submit applications by March 31 to their NRCS service centers to ensure they are considered for enrollment in 2016. Participants with existing CSP contracts that will expire on December 31, 2016 have the option to renew their contracts for an additional five years if they agree to adopt additional activities to achieve higher levels of conservation on their lands. Applications to renew are also due by March 31.] All documents used for the 16-1 general sign up are available on the Indiana Website for interested applicants.

→ **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Conservation Application Funding**

[All applications for RCPP funding consideration in the Western Lake Erie Basin and St. Joseph River watersheds must be received by March 18, 2016.]

→ **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – New Projects**

The second round of funding for RCPP has been announced. The following projects were approved in Indiana.

- The Big Pine Watershed Partnership will further conservation in Indiana's Big Pine watershed through the targeted implementation of nutrient and sediment reducing practices to achieve watershed water quality objectives. The partnership's goal is to deliver an additional 8,000 acres of cover crops, 10,100 acres of nutrient management and 4,850 acres of Conservation Stewardship Program enhancements.
- The Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies Partnership will restore, manage and conserve wildlife habitat for monarch butterflies on agricultural and tribal lands using four main strategies: conservation planning and assessment; habitat improvement and best management practices; building an adequate seed supply for milkweed and nectar plants; and, enhancing organizational coordination and capacity.
- Soil Health on Reclaimed Mine Lands Partnership will work with farmers, landowners and mine operators to implement a suite of soil health practices on reclaimed mine lands in order to improve the health of the soil, reduce the amount of sediment laden runoff reaching streams and rivers and improve wildlife habitat. The project will focus on the roughly 175,000 acres of reclaimed mine lands that are cropped in the Indiana counties of Vigo, Clay, Sullivan, Greene, Knox, Daviess, Gibson, Pike, Dubois, Warrick and Spencer.

→ **Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Project**

[Indiana will receive \$1 million as a federal investment to restore forests, reduce wildfire threats, protect water supplies, improve wildlife habitat and support rural economies through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and NRCS.] The Hoosier Hills and Highlands Oak Community Restoration Partnership project area is located within 18 counties of the most heavily forested and biologically diverse forest systems in the Central Hardwoods Region including the counties of: Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Orange, Owen, Perry, Putnam and Washington. Project activities will help improve water quality, reduce wildfire risk, and enhance at-risk habitat on public and private lands. The project will also promote improved conservation and restoration practices on private lands, ensure consistent education and outreach, and enable implementation of preferred practices. This is a three year project with the potential to bring additional funds for its implementation in each of the next two years.

INDIANA NRCS DUNS/SAM EQUITABLE RELIEF

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (the Transparency Act) includes a government-wide requirement that entities meet two basic conditions in order to receive any award of Federal financial assistance, including NRCS conservation program assistance. [The SAM registration must be renewed at least once every 12 months to remain valid and for the entity to be eligible to receive a program payment.]

In the summer of 2015, internal controls were put in place in the NRCS contract management system, ProTracts, to validate both DUNS number and current SAM registration and prevent contract obligation, modification, or payment if DUNS/SAM information is not validated. Participants that incorrectly self-certified DUNS and SAM requirements prior to the implementation of recent internal controls may now be experiencing withheld payments due to an invalid DUNS number and/or an expired SAM registration.

[NRCS has implemented a streamlined process through which these affected participants can obtain equitable relief if NRCS determines that they had attempted to comply in good faith. NRCS estimates it could take a few months before a decision is made, but we are aware that it is a top priority at headquarters and the requests are being processed as quickly as possible.]

→ HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

In mid-January, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) announced ten commercial turkey farms in Dubois County tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza. Over 400,000 birds confirmed to have the HPAI H7N8 virus have been destroyed. Note this is a different strain than what caused the 2015 outbreak. [As of February 24, 2016, the Board of Animal Health and Indiana State Poultry Association announced the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza incident in Dubois County, Indiana was successfully contained.]

[Effective immediately, NRCS employees may once again access poultry farms in Indiana, however Level 2 Biosecurity measures must be implemented on all poultry production facilities and fields where litter has been applied within the last 6 months. NRCS employees must call and ask producers prior to field visits if they have poultry, litter onsite, or if litter applications have been made] if not readily known (e.g., backyard flock or poultry litter spread or stored on-site), and adhere to the producer's decision of whether or not to allow access to NRCS employees.

Please continue to encourage all poultry producers of any size, who experience any mortality issues or other unusual symptoms to report it to the USDA Veterinary Service office at 866-536-7593. For five or more dead wild birds report to IDNR 812-334-1137. For updates and more information, <http://www.in.gov/boah/2390.htm>

→ USDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS) CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP) SURVEY

As part of a national CEAP study, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is contacting farmers to provide input on conservation practices on cultivated and non-cultivated agricultural lands to help NRCS and partners determine the efficiency and effectiveness of current conservation techniques and help identify best practices.

[NASS is continuing to contact producers to conduct detailed surveys and to gather information on field level management on behalf of NRCS.] NASS representatives visit selected farms to collect information, such as on-farm practices; chemical, fertilizer and manure applications; integrated pest management; and installed conservation practices. As with all NASS surveys, respondents are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code, and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347) that their individual information will be kept confidential. No one representing NASS will ask a producer for personal information, such as social security number. NRCS field staff is responsible for completing a supplemental survey by mid-April. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Neilson, NRCS Soil Scientist and State Resources Inventory Coordinator (SRIC) at 317-295-5875 or rick.neilson@in.usda.gov.

Producers' Workshop Update

3/15/2016

- Speakers all set – (agendas are in packets)
- Registered participants – 35-
- Binders for meeting – repurposed/recycled
- Recommend releasing \$4900
 - Approx. \$2300 for lunch (estimated 85)
 - Approx. \$800 for light refreshments for morning (estimated 75)
 - \$1050 for conference center
 - Approx. \$750 for speakers and travel
- Money in for workshop - ~~\$4550~~ 5550
 - 10 vendors - \$2500
 - Direct sponsorships - ~~\$425~~ 925
 - Registrations so far - \$375
 - CWI money available - \$1000
 - CCSI speaker funds - ? approx. \$250

Producers' Conference Agenda

Farming for the Future – Combining Productivity, Profitability, and Conservation

March 22, 2016 – 9:00am-3:00pm

Swan Lake Conference Center, Plymouth, IN

- 8:15-9:00 - registration and trade show
- 9:00-9:15 – Welcome and introductions
- 9:15-10:00 – Keynote opening speaker – Dan Towery – “Understanding the Journey for Soil Health”
- 10:15-10:45 – breakout sessions (3)
 - Gypsum use in Ag – Ron Chamberlain, Gypsoil
 - Cover Crops 101 – Jamie Scott
 - Manure use with Cover Crops – Gene Matzat
- 11:00-11:30 – breakout sessions (3)
 - Nutrient Management — Bob Yoder
 - Bees & Pollinators/ Integrated Pest Management – Phil Sutton
 - Cover Crop Termination - Travis Legleiter
- 11:30-12:30 – Lunch
- 12:45-1:15 – breakout sessions (3)
 - Advanced cover crops – Jamie Scott
 - New tech/equipment for conservation farming – Jim Boak, Salford
 - No-till – Dan Towery
- 1:30-2:00 – breakout sessions by county or Extension PARP topic
 - Marshall County
 - Starke County
 - St. Joseph County
 - Extension – Bob Yoder
- 2:15-3:00 – Keynote closing speaker – Otto Doering – “Conservation & Economics – No Simple Answers”

Business	Contact	address	city	state	zip code	phone number
Farm Bureau Insurance	Don Schultz	1600 N Oak Road	Plymouth	IN	46563	
Farm Fertilizers & Seeds Inc	Andy Awald	PO Box 88	Hamlet	IN	46532	574-867-2441
Farmers' Drainage	Craig Hawley	9124 Hickory Road	Plymouth	IN	46563	574-952-9818
First Farmers Bank & Trust	Susan McCormack	302 Keller Ave	North Judson	IN	46366	574-241-5695
Goechenour Ag Service Inc	Tim & Stacha Goechenour	2390 13th Trail	Bourbon	IN	46504	
Gypsoil	Jason Harker	14427 Windward Ct	Granger	IN	46530	574-309-4885
Helena Chemical	Todd Skoglund	54300 Walnut Rd	New Carlisle	IN		574-220-5514
Irrigation Solutions	Brian					
Lineback Realty	Keith	Lineback				
Norris Equipment, LLC	Roger Norris	15129 4 B Road	Plymouth	IN	46563	574-952-4030
Lake City Bank	Rance Glingie	202 E Center St	Warsaw	IN	46580	574-371-9211
Northern Electric						
St. Joseph County Farm Bureau Inc						
Starke Farm Bureau						

<u>Invoice sent?</u>	<u>Paid?</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>County</u>
yes	\$ 250.00	yes	Marshall
yes	\$ 250.00	yes	Starke
yes	\$ 250.00	yes	Marshall
yes	\$ 250.00	yes	Starke
yes	\$ 250.00	yes	Marshall
yes	\$ 250.00	yes	St Joseph
yes		yes	St. Joseph
yes	\$ 250.00	yes	Marshall
yes	\$ 250.00	yes	St Joseph
yes		yes	Marshall
yes	\$ 125.00		
n/a	\$ 100.00		St Joseph
yes	\$ 100.00		St Joseph
n/a	\$ 100.00		Starke

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

3/1/2016

Carole Riewe, Jeremy Cooper, Jan Ivkovich, and Rick Glassman at German Township Library

We reviewed all of Rick's programs – wide range of topics, mostly elementary, in school, after school Owl Prowls, and Swamp Stomps. Some are way more popular than others.

Recommendations:

1. Rates of 50 cents per student should stay the same for in county schools. Rate for the few out of county schools should increase to 60 cents per student. The max cost will stay the same for both in and out of county schools. This will help cover the extra gas mileage. It was noted that Rick brings in more money with his programs than expenses.
2. Rick should continue assisting at other districts at the amount he is doing now. Other District Educations Specialists help him when he needs it. We are part of larger partnerships.
3. Rick should continue reaching out to College students via Project Wild, Project Wet, and Project Learning Tree. He should explore doing more of Intro to Hoosier Riverwatch. It was suggested that he contact Holy Cross College.
4. Rick is sending an e-mail to all High School Science Teachers to get more environmental education into the high schools both in classes and in clubs. We suggested contacting the charter schools such as Success Academy. We suggested he follow up with phone calls.

Rick would like a long-range projector for large presentations.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 ~ 7:00 PM EST
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

2042 E. Ireland Rd., South Bend, IN 46614

574/291-7444, ext. 3

Prior to Board Meeting: Supervisors Meeting: 6:15 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. Legislative Updates
- B. Minutes from December 19, 2011 Board Meeting
- C. Treasurer's Report - Approval of Claims (December 20, 2011-January 17, 2012)

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Staff Written Reports

- 1. Field Office Report Amanda Kautz/Andy Fox
- 2. NRCS Talking Points Amanda Kautz
- 3. Office Manager Report Rick Glassman
 - IASWCD Annual Conference, Storage Shed, Trailblazer, INDOT Relocation Forms
- 4. Environmental Education Coordinator Report Rick Glassman
 - School Programs, Science Alive, Ag Days
- 5. County Conservationist Report Andy Fox
 - Tree Sales, Producers Meeting, Cover Crop Field Day, WSGD, MSP
- 6. Administrative Assistant's Report Lisa Wynn
 - Investments, 2012 Fundraising Updates, 2011 Annual Financial Report, Kaleidoscope Order, Records Management

B. Committee Reports

- 1. Annual Meeting Committee John Dooms/Lisa Wynn
 - Ticket Sales, Silent Auction, Supervisor Election & Appointment, Budget, etc.
- 2. Legislative Committee Stacey Silvers/Rick Glassman
 - Legislative Notebook Distribution: State and Local Levels
- 3. Party Planning Committee Carole Riewe/Lisa Wynn
 - Office Warming Party

C. Northwest Territory RC&D Updates

D. 2012 Budget

Carole Riewe
John Dooms/Lisa Wynn

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Supervisors as SWCD Employees & Payroll Implications Rick Glassman/Lisa Wynn
- B. Review of Current SWCD Committees John Dooms/Andy Fox
- C. Schedules Lisa Wynn
- D. Upcoming Trainings/Conferences /Events / Meetings Andy Fox
 - Feb. 2 Health Soil Workshop, Feb. 12 Leadership Institute

VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Next Board Meeting: Tues., Feb. 21, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. @ NEW SWCD Office @ 2042 E. Ireland Rd., South Bend

2016 Conservation Cropping Systems to Improve Soil Health Application

St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District
2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563
574-936-2024 x4

The St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District is working to improve water quality by promoting and providing cost share for practices in the conservation cropping system (no-till, cover crops, nutrient management, and filter strips). The goal of this program is to encourage producers to utilize all aspects of the cropping system which will increase soil health and improve water quality. The SWCD will cost share practice acres as follows:

- No-till - \$15.00/ acre (max 100 acres per producer/1 year practice lifespan)
- Cover crops - \$20.00/ acre (max 100 acres per producer/1 year practice lifespan)
- Nutrient management - \$20.00/ acre (max 100 acres per producer/1 year practice lifespan)
- Filter strips - \$350.00/ acre (5 year practice lifespan)

Requirements and Limitations

- The Tract#/Farm# must be physically located within St. Joseph County, IN
- We will accept applications at any time however, the deadline to be considered for funding in 2016 is **April 30, 2016**.
- Instructions in the form of a "Job Sheet" will be issued and the producer will be required to follow the Job Sheet. The producer will also be required to sign a Practice Completion Certification Form, attesting to having followed the Job Sheet. The Job Sheet will be based upon the NRCS FOTG (Field Office Technical Guide).
- Cost share is subject to funding availability and based upon a competitive point system. Funding will be awarded based upon point rankings. Bills for expenses must be turned in to the St. Joseph County SWCD by **December 1, 2016**.
- Funding on wheat and permanent hay cover crops are not eligible.
- There is no cost share for existing practices.
- Application must be approved by the St. Joseph County SWCD Board of Supervisors.
- Practice must be inspected by St. Joseph County SWCD or Designated Representative.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to be aware of adverse effects to cropping history requirements for future Farm Bill Program enrollment.

Implementation checklist

- Read and complete this application, which includes providing the Tract # / Farm # for the location.
- Return the application and attachments to the St. Joseph County SWCD, 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563 (by April 30, 2016 if you would like to be eligible for funding in 2016).
- The St. Joseph County SWCD Board of Supervisors will act on/rank your application.
- Following approval by the St. Joseph County SWCD Board of Supervisors, you may implement the practice per the Job Sheet provided to you.
- Report completion to St. Joseph County SWCD per Practice Completion Certification Form by returning this form to the St. Joseph County SWCD by **December 1, 2016**.
- Payment will be made after bills/expenses have been turned in to the St. Joseph County SWCD, and after the practice has been inspected in accordance with this agreement. Bills must be provided by **December 1, 2016**. Payment will be made by **December 31, 2016**.

Conservation Cropping Systems to
Improve Soil Health Application
2016

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ TOWNSHIP _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SOCIAL SECURITY # OR TAX ID for 1099 purposes _____

OWNER _____ OPERATOR _____ PARTNERSHIP _____ (choose one)

Farm # _____

Tract# _____

(For office use only)

Contract 2016- _____

1. Is Applicant receiving other funding sources for any conservation cropping system (CCS) practices on this same tract _____ yes _____ no
2. If yes, which practice/ practices? _____
3. What is the normal crop rotation for this tract? _____
4. What is the normal farming operation for this tract (for example: no-till, spring plow, etc.)? _____
5. Which CCS practice(s) are you applying for? (please list all) _____
6. Does the Applicant have control of land for the duration of the program? _____ yes _____ no

I have read and understand all components of the "Conservation Cropping Systems to Improve Soil Health" application.

Signatures of both the applicant and the St. Joseph County SWCD constitute a contract. I hereby waive all provisions of the law forbidding disclosure of any information which is relevant to this application and I hereby consent that such information be disclosed. I understand that failure to comply with this contract may subject me to repayment of grant funds received. Furthermore, I accept full responsibility for any adverse effects to crop insurability, crop bases, or contract duplication.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

*** FOR OFFICE USE ONLY ***

Allocated \$ _____ per acre x _____ = \$ _____

Approved _____ Yes _____ No

St. Joseph County SWCD Board Supervisor

Date

St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District PRACTICE COMPLETION CERTIFICATION FORM

Contract # 2016-_____
Payment Participant Name and Address:

2016 Conservation Cropping Systems
to Improve Soil Health

SPECIFIED CONSERVATION PRACTICES PERFORMED

Tract #	Practice Name	Number of Acres Devoted to Practice	Date Practice Completed	Actual Cost per Acre	SWCD Cost -Share Rate per Acre	Total SWCD Payment Amount

<p>YES or NO: Practice(s) performed to the extent shown in "Number Acres Devoted to Practice" above, and meets program requirements. If the practice does not meet practice specifications or if additional work is required, see explanation in "Performance Report" below.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>St. Joseph County SWCD Approving Official Signature:</p>	<p>Date:</p>
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Performance Report:

CERTIFICATION BY PARTICIPANT(S): I certify that the above information is true and correct. I further certify that the entries in the "Number Acres Devoted to Practice" column above show that the practice was performed in accordance with the practice specifications and other program requirements. I hereby apply for payment to the extent that the St. Joseph County SWCD Approving Official has determined that the practice(s) has (have) been performed and further certify that this payment does not exceed 100% of the actual cost to implement the practice. I agree to maintain this (these) practice(s) for the lifespan beginning with the date the practice(s) was (were) completed. I agree to refund all or part of the cost-share/incentive assistance paid to me, as determined by the SWCD Approving Official, if before the expiration date of the practice lifespan, I (a) destroy the practice installed, or (b) voluntarily relinquish control of the land on which the installed practice has been established and the new owner and/or operator does not agree in writing to properly maintain the practice for the remainder of its specified lifespan.

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE OF PAYMENT APPLICANT

Applicant's Name and Address:	Applicant's Signature:	Date:
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CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE OF SWCD APPROVING OFFICIAL

Pursuant to authority vested in me, I certify that the items listed herein are correct and hereby approved for payment from the fund designated on the supporting records.

Approving Official's Printed Name:	Approving Official's Signature:	Date:
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USDA Service Center • 2903 Gary Dr. • Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574-936-2024 Ext. 4 • Fax: 855-496-7861
Email: info@stjosephswcd.org • Website: www.stjosephswcd.org

March 10, 2016

Friends of the St. Joe River Association
P.O. Box 1794
South Bend, Indiana 46634

RE: Support for the *Encouraging Conservation Through Drain Assessments in the St. Joseph River Basin Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant Application*

Dear Mr. Meersman:

The St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to collaborate with the Friends of the St. Joe River Association (FotSJR) on their Healthy Watershed Consortium grant. As a member of the St. Joseph River Watershed Council we support their mission to unite stakeholders throughout the basin in a collaborative effort to protect and restore rivers, lakes and streams in the watershed.

Over 40% of St. Joseph County drains to the St. Joseph River and significant portion of that land does so through public drains. Reducing erosion and runoff within these watersheds reduces maintenance needs and has a positive impact on water quality throughout our county. We are interested in learning more about how our organization can assist the St. Joseph County Surveyor's office in implementing the new drain assessment method proposed in this project. In order to support this effort the St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District will commit \$4,500 in in-kind services as follows:

- Staff time to attend project and public meetings; participate in Sediment Calculator, GIS data analysis, and Conservation Practice Certification training; and implementation of the new assessment method and promotion of the opportunity for landowners to have their conservation practices certified via mailings, meetings, website and/or social media if the St. Joseph County Surveyor's office chooses to participate. Estimated match: \$4,500

The St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District looks forward to testing the feasibility of the new assessment method for providing equitable assessments and promoting the health of our local waterways. We believe these efforts could provide a foundation that will guide future drain assessment practices, reduce long-term maintenance costs and increase the protection of waterways in St. Joseph County and the larger St. Joseph River system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Dooms". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Dooms, Chairman
St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District

John M. Dooms

