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

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 report was 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:

[Signatures]

[Signatures]

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

  o **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.

  o **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 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.]

Helping People Help the Land
NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
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 – 75
- 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
  - 10 vendors - $2500
  - Direct sponsorships - $2500
  - Registrations so far - $375
  - CWI money available - $1000
  - CCSI speaker funds - $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, Gypsum
  - 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
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<td>9124 Hickory Road</td>
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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.
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
      2. NRCS Talking Points
      3. Office Manager Report
         • IASWCD Annual Conference, Storage Shed, Trailblazer, INDOT Relocation Forms
      4. Environmental Education Coordinator Report
         • School Programs, Science Alive, Ag Days
      5. County Conservationist Report
         • Tree Sales, Producers Meeting, Cover Crop Field Day, WSGD, MSP
      6. Administrative Assistant's Report
   B. Committee Reports
      1. Annual Meeting Committee
         • Ticket Sales, Silent Auction, Supervisor Election & Appointment, Budget, etc.
      2. Legislative Committee
         • Legislative Notebook Distribution: State and Local Levels
      3. Party Planning Committee
         • Office Warming Party
   C. Northwest Territory RC&D Updates
   D. 2012 Budget

V. NEW BUSINESS
   A. Supervisors as SWCD Employees & Payroll Implications
   B. Review of Current SWCD Committees
   C. Schedules
   D. Upcoming Trainings/Conferences /Events / Meetings
      • 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
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.**
NAME__________________________________________________________

ADDRESS________________________________________________________

CITY_________________________TOWNSHIP_____________________________

ZIP_______________________________________________________________

PHONE___________________________________________________________

SOCIAL SECURITY # OR TAX ID for 1099 purposes ___________________________

OWNER_________OPERATOR_________PARTNERSHIP___________(choose one)

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_______
**SPECIFIED CONSERVATION PRACTICES PERFORMED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tract #</th>
<th>Practice Name</th>
<th>Number of Acres Devoted to Practice</th>
<th>Date Practice Completed</th>
<th>Actual Cost per Acre</th>
<th>SWCD Cost Share Rate per Acre</th>
<th>Total SWCD Payment Amount</th>
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**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.**

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant's Name and Address:</th>
<th>Applicant's Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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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.

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<tr>
<th>Approving Official's Printed Name:</th>
<th>Approving Official's Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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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 (FoSJR) 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,

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