

## MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**I. CALL TO ORDER - On Tuesday December 20, 2016, at 7:03 pm a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD at the Plymouth USDA Service Center was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.**

**PRESENT – SWCD**

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor  
Jeremy Cooper, Vice-Chair/Supervisor  
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor  
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor  
Randy Matthys

**PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS**

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

**Present - EX-OFFICIO**

n/a

**PRESENT – Public**

**ABSENT – SWCD**

Stacey Silvers, Supervisor  
Dale Stoner  
Carole Riewe  
Jan Ivkovich  
Dave Craft  
Arlene Schuchman  
Richard Schmidt  
Chuck Lehman  
Joe Long  
Jim LaFree  
Dru Wrasse

**II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - n/a**

**III. REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a. **Legislative Updates** –n/a
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – n/a
- c. **Minutes: November 15, 2016 board meeting**– The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.
- d. **Treasurer’s Report: (11/16/2016-12/20/2016)** – The treasurer’s reports were both reviewed and approved as submitted.
- e. **Approval of Claims (11/16/2016-12/20/2016)** –A recommendation (Cooper, Vandewalle) & motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11174-11187 for a total of \$24,794.52 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 & reviewed. (Attached). Debbie Knepp discussed the NRCS talking points (attached).
- b. **Committee Reports**
  - i. **Annual Meeting** –The committee reminded the board of the date (February 10, 2017). Hoffarth will mail tickets and silent auction forms to those not in attendance tonight. She also reminded the board to start gathering items for the silent auction from places all across St. Joseph County. Items and ticket sale deadline is February 3, 2017. Hoffarth will contact John Glenn after they return from their winter break to go over the details with them.
- c. **2017 Budget** – No comments were presented to Hoffarth since the November board meeting. Hoffarth did update the CWI2016 numbers to reflect the remaining education and cost share money from 2016 to roll over to 2017. Hoffarth will update current numbers after the first of the year to reflect the 2016 totals. A motion (Vandewalle, Cooper) was made to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.
- d. **2017 Annual Work Plan** – No comments were presented to Hoffarth since the November board meeting. A motion (Burkholder, Vandewalle) was made to approve the AWP as presented. Motion carried. Dooms asked the board to keep a copy of this handy to refer to throughout the year to make sure we are completing the tasks listed.
- e. **Tri County Farming for the Future Workshop** – Longenecker informed the board that Marshall is the host county for the 2017 workshop. The staff of all 3 counties met on December 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the plans. (see attached).
- f. **Headwaters of the Yellow River Steering Committee** – Hoffarth updated the board on the Marshall county grant. The draft Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is 90 pages and can be found on the Marshall County website: [www.marshallcountyswcd.org/upper-headwaters-yellow-river-wmp](http://www.marshallcountyswcd.org/upper-headwaters-yellow-river-wmp). They are open for questions or comments regarding the WMP. Contact the office if you’d like to submit comments. Hoffarth also included the critical area prioritization map (attached) which shows areas of St. Joseph county in the highest critical area. JF New has contacted several potential producers for demonstration areas.

**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. **Statehouse visit during legislative session** – Hoffarth turned in the 3 early dates in March and received word that all 3 dates were available. It was decided to attend on March 7. Cooper, Dooms, Longenecker & Hoffarth will attend. Burkholder and Vandewalle will check their calendars to see if they are available.

b. **2014 Resolution "Economic impact of cover crops, no till & improved soil health"** - Longenecker explained the resolution (attached). The CCSI is looking for a voluntary contribution of \$500 per year for a period of 3 consecutive years. A motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to release \$500 for three years totaling \$1,500. Motion carried.

**VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR** – Cooper is asking for assistance to look at the 2018-2022 business plan and meet sometime in early January to start getting a draft together. Anyone interested please contact the office. Hoffarth will send an e-mail with the current business plan to the entire board. Dooms gave a 2016 wrap up and gave Christmas cards to the staff. The board will be sending a card of thanks and appreciation to both Jane & Kimberly for Debbie Knepp.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** – The board meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Sandra Hoffarth**

**Administrative Assistant**

**St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District**

2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563

Email: [Sandra.hoffarth@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:Sandra.hoffarth@in.nacdnet.net)

[www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org)

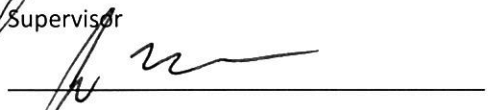
**Approved by:**



Supervisor



Supervisor



Supervisor

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Supervisor

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Supervisor

**Field Office Report**  
**November 14 – December 16, 2016**

Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- Contract modifications – 2
- 2 new Applications – intensive Grazing, Invasive Species Control
- Payments – 3 (2 Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, Invasive Species Control)
- Status reviews - 14

Conservation Stewardship Program

- 6 contracts – Field verifications, process payments
  - Modifications - 2
  - Status reviews – 4
- New application - 1

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program

- Information on restoration activities to Easement program Specialist
- 4 applications – 3 processed and sent to Easement Program Specialist

Clean Water Indiana Grant

- Field work (slope shots, cover crop verification) – 3
- Finalizing Conservation Planning – 5 contracts

Rule 5/13

- SWPP review – 3
- Notice of Termination – 1

Highly Erodible Land Determinations - 3

- Wetlands – 5
  - Converted wetland – 1 new potential violation
    - Review plan for converted wetland site
  - Re-issue 12 previous determinations to the Farm Service Agency
- Onsite visit – Landowner wanted us to review the practices on his HEL field
  - Assist landowners on best soils to place a pond

Cover Crop/Tillage Transect

Provide Drainage Law information for homeowners on Layton Road

Newsletter articles/layout

Annual Report

Meetings:

- Staff Meetings – 4
- MSP (Sarah)
- NRCS Area Meeting
- Webinar – Pathways (Intern) program
  - Cover Crop Management in Vegetables
  - PLANTS Database
  - Managing Cover Crops for Nutrient Management
- AgLearn – Protecting Personal Information
- Supervisors Meeting
- CWI planning for Producers Workshop

Office Closed – November 24, 25

## Education Report

November 14 - December 16, 2016

1 Project WET workshop at Bethel College – 19 participants

Work on EEC's supervisors report

Work on Annual Conference presentation

15 in-school program days for 12 different schools, visited two schools multiple times.

<b>Program</b>	<b># of presentations</b>
Jethro	4
Spirit of America	2
Wildlife Dynamics	6
Hollow tree	2
Earthworms	2
Invasive Species	2
Insects	3
Mammals of IN	1
Nature Games	7
Legends/Folktales	3
Soils	3
Endangered Species	2
Owls of IN	2
Bats of IN	2
Wetlands	5
Water and You	1
Soil Health	2
Birds of IN	1
Nature Games	3

# DC Talking Points

December, 2016

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FARM BILL UPDATES

*EQIP Deadline Jan 20<sup>th</sup>*

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** – The sign up for CSP has been announced and applications will be accepted at local field offices through February 3, 2017. The new CSP will help producers better evaluate their conservation options and the benefits to their operations and natural resources. New methods and software for evaluating applications will help producers see up front why they are or are not meeting stewardship thresholds, and allow them to pick practices and enhancements that work for their conservation objectives. These new tools also allow producers to see potential payment scenarios for conservation early in the process.

Changes that producers can expect to see include nearly double the enhancements and conservation practices offered and better reporting tools to tell producers the results of their conservation efforts on their land. Also, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator habitat – all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land.

CSP also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and new management techniques, such as precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rate, and new soil health practices to improve water quality.

Using input from producers and stakeholders, CSP was redesigned to provide more flexibility in helping to address local resource concerns. Producers will be better prepared to apply because they will know these local ranking priorities and targeted resource concerns in advance.

CSP is for producers who are already established conservation stewards and who want to add more conservation benefits on their land. Information about CSP, including national and state ranking questions and enhancement descriptions, is available at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp).

**Wetland Reserve Easement Program (WRE)** - *Jan 13<sup>th</sup>* Indiana NRCS will receive nearly \$13 million for the Wetland Reserve Easement program this year. This is almost three times last year's allocation. Please promote this to anyone who might have interest. Contact Beth Clarizia at [Beth.clarizia@in.usda.gov](mailto:Beth.clarizia@in.usda.gov) or 317-295-5821.

**Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** - Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative has announced their sign up for financial assistance for producers that want to improve water quality and soil health by installing practices such as cover crops, nutrient management plans, grassed waterways, drainage water management, filter strips and residue management. This RCPP project is a partnership between NRCS and public, private and non-profit organizations to protect water quality in the basin that includes portions of Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. The portion of the WLEB in Indiana includes parts of Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Noble, Steuben and Wells counties. The application deadline is January 20<sup>th</sup> to be considered for 2017 funding. Farmers are encouraged to begin the application process as soon as possible. To learn more about this project or RCPP in Indiana, visit this websites: <http://wleb.org/> or <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/in/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=stelprdb1248173>.



### **INFORMATION SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING**

All USDA employees, partners, TSPs, volunteers and contractors who have access to a CCE compliant computer must complete the mandatory annual information security awareness (ISA) training. This training is required by law and is an essential part of keeping the information systems secure. The FY17 ISA course will be assigned to AgLearn user accounts on October 1, 2016. The NRCS deadline for completing this training is February 1, 2017. Those who do not complete the training by this deadline will have their access to USDA computer systems suspended until the training is complete.

### **CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP) - REDUCTION IN ANNUAL FUEL USE FROM CONSERVATION TILLAGE**

Conservation tillage is one of the most widely adopted conservation practices in the United States. The CEAP-1 survey of farmers from 2003 through 2006 indicates that nearly 86 percent of the Nation's cultivated cropland acres use some form of conservation tillage for at least one crop in the crop rotation. In addition to the more commonly recognized environmental benefit of reduced soil disturbance, conservation tillage significantly reduces fuel consumption and therefore emissions from operations. CEAP recently published an article on this topic titled: "Conservation Insight on Fuel Savings and Emissions Reductions from Conservation Tillage Adoption." To read the full article please visit: [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcseprd1258255.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcseprd1258255.pdf)

### **SECOND YEAR CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP) SURVEY**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will launch the second year of its Natural Resources Inventory – Conservation Effects Assessment Project (NRI-CEAP-2) national cropland survey this fall. NASS is in the second year of the two-year survey. The second official survey period will cover November 2016 – February 2017.

The enumerators will survey about 23,500 farmers in 2,150 counties across the U.S. for NRI-CEAP-2. This data collection is critical because the quality of the information gathered from farmers provides conservation leaders and policymakers with valuable data to measure the success and impact of our conservation programs. The survey results also can be used to determine what farmers need to more effectively implement conservation practices on their agricultural land and identify natural resource issues that need to be addressed.

You can visit [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Conservation Effects Assessment Project/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Conservation_Effects_Assessment_Project/index.php) for additional information about the NRI-CEAP survey process.



## Summary 2017 Annual Work Plan

January	February	March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annual Financial Report (due 3/1) internal audit</li> <li>-IASWCD Annual Conference Legislative notebook</li> <li>-SJC SWCD Annual Meeting Order awards, Confirm count Supervisors election, Approve AFR</li> <li>--Bi-monthly Newsletter</li> <li>-Board meeting – Designation of Depository</li> <li>-Producers Mtg –Advertise, confirm speaker(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Recruit new board members Focus on diversity of residents</li> <li>-Board meeting Election of officers Committee review</li> <li>- Science Alive</li> <li>- Field Day Planning</li> <li>- District Audit by SWCD Supervisors</li> <li>- Contact Non-Active Supervisors</li> <li>- Enter into Gateway by 3/1 AFR, 100R, Debt Management</li> <li>- Tri-county producers meeting (CWI)</li> <li>- Quarterly Supervisors Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Schedule Landfill inspection</li> <li><b>-Review current Business Plan (2013-2017)</b></li> <li>-Compost meeting (2017)</li> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> </ul>
April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compost Seminars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-IASWCD Success Story (due in June)</li> <li>-River friendly farmer award (due early June)</li> <li>- Quarterly Supervisors Meeting / Staff Performance Reviews</li> <li>-Rain Garden Workshop/demo garden (CWI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-SJC SWCD Annual Meeting Location &amp; start looking for speaker/entertainment</li> <li>-SJC Board Meeting – review AWP</li> <li>- Soil Health Field Day</li> <li><del>Big Tree of SJC (2019)</del></li> </ul>
July	August	September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Locally led meeting</li> <li>-Field tours - Urban/producers</li> <li>-2018 CWI grant</li> <li>-District showcase award application</li> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-Donor program – revise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NRCS MOU review</li> <li><del>Big Tree (2019) – Measure trees</del></li> <li>- Approval of annual report style (calendar or other) at board meeting.</li> <li>-Quarterly Supervisors Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schedule Landfill inspection</li> <li>-IASWCD annual conference Resolutions</li> <li>-Awards Friends of Conservation Conservation Farmer of the year Supervisor of the year</li> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-Forestry Field day</li> <li>-Compost seminar (2017)</li> </ul>
October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-SJC SWCD Annual Meeting Supervisors Election Appointed due 11/1 Elected due 12/1</li> <li>-2018 Budget</li> <li>-Producers meeting Location Topics/speakers</li> <li>- Confirm Annual Mtg Speaker</li> <li>- Christmas Party planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Develop 2017 Annual Work Plan</li> <li>-Donor Program Mail letters</li> <li>-SJC SWCD Annual Report</li> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>-Board Meeting Present budget &amp; AWP</li> <li>-SJC SWCD Annual Meeting - Confirm other award winners, Silent auction</li> <li>-Quarterly Sup. Mtg/Staff Reviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Donor Program</li> <li>-IASWCD Annual conference Registration, Confirm delegates Prepare legislative notebook</li> <li>- SJC Annual Meeting Distribute tickets/silent auction</li> <li>- Board meeting Confirm budget &amp; AWP</li> <li>- Bond oath of office – Sandra &amp; Sarah</li> </ul>

## Ongoing

-Implement 2014 Farm Bill -Recruit New Board Members -Implement Rule 5/13 and MSP -Focus – Volunteer programs -Implement SBOA/District Ops -Provide Administrative duties to program -Legislator relations -Focus – Urban Conservation Practices -Youth & Adult EE programs	-Donor Program -Pursue Conservation Grants -Displays for special events -Update Website/social media -CC – obtain Indiana Certified Conservation Planner -Provide Guidance as requested from County -Provide Quality Conservation Planning -Focus – Minority and/or underserved public - NRCS Program Support Contribution Agreement
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## Standing Committees

### **ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE:**

Plans and oversees the Annual Meeting

### **AWARDS COMMITTEE: Combine with Annual Meeting Committee**

Selects Award Recipients for Annual Meeting & IASWCD Awards

### **EDUCATION PLANNING:**

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

### **ELECTION:**

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

### **FORESTRY:**

Develops and implements forestry programs, including tree sales and educational workshops/seminars

### **GRANTS: Combine with Marketing & Special Initiatives**

In charge of researching, writing & administrative paperwork for available grants. Also assist other committees to carry out projects that will spend the grant monies.

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

Undertakes activities such as developing marketing strategies, brainstorming/developing new fundraising ideas and programs for the District. Emphasis on legislative - developing activities related to local, state & national legislators, including IASWCD breakfast and developing/distributing legislative notebooks.

### **RURAL CONSERVATION:**

Develops and implements rural conservation projects, including education and fundraising

### **URBAN CONSERVATION:**

Develops and implements urban conservation projects, including education and fundraising



**Summary 2016 Annual Work Plan - Staff**

January	February	March
<p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1099 for any cost-share payouts</li> <li>- submit withholding taxes on IN &amp; federal sites (even if \$0)</li> <li>- Mail Practice Reminder Letters for NRCS – PSS</li> <li>- Annual Financial Report (due 2/28)</li> <li>- 100R</li> <li>- Debt Management on Gateway</li> <li>- SJC SWCD Annual Meeting Order awards, Confirm count, flowers/other table decorations, Supervisors election, program, placemats, slideshow, silent auction, order tablecloths, submit to DSS election results</li> <li>- PSS QA</li> <li>- Bi-monthly Newsletter – due 2/5</li> </ul> <p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Producers Mtg. –Advertise, confirm speaker(s)</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>All Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IASWCD Annual Conference Legislative notebook</li> <li>- Board meeting – Designation of Depository</li> </ul>	<p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- District Audit by SWCD Supervisors</li> <li>- Contact Non-Active Supervisors</li> <li>- Enter into Gateway by 2/28 AFR, 100R, Debt Management</li> </ul> <p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Field Day Planning</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Science Alive</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Recruit new board members Focus on diversity of residents</li> <li>-Board meeting Election of officers Committee review</li> <li>-Quarterly Supervisors Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Tri-county producers meeting (CWI)</li> <li>-Landfill inspection (schedule)</li> </ul> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Compost meeting (2017)</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review current Business Plan (2013-2017)</li> </ul> <p><b>NRCS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easement Monitoring</li> </ul>
April	May	June
<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PSS QA</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compost Seminars</li> <li>- Project Wild Workshop</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff</b></p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Urban/Raingarden workshop/demo (CWI)</li> <li>-IASWCD Success Story (due in June)</li> <li>-River friendly farmer award (due early June)</li> </ul> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bi-monthly newsletter</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quarterly Supervisors Meeting / Staff Performance Reviews</li> </ul>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Soil Health Field Day</li> </ul> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-SJC SWCD Annual Meeting Location &amp; start looking for speaker</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PLT Workshop</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-SJC Board Meeting – review AWP</li> <li>-Big Tree of SJC (2019)</li> </ul>

July	August	September
<p><b>County Conservationist</b> -Field tours - Urban/producers -Awards     Friends of Conservation     Conservation Farmer of the year     Supervisor of the year</p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> -2018 CWI grant -Bi-monthly newsletter -Donor program – revise - PSS QA</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Staff</b> -Locally led meeting -District showcase award application</p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> - Approval of annual report style (calendar or other) at board meeting.</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b> - <del>School Schedules</del></p> <p><b>Staff</b> -NRCS MOU review -<del>Big Tree (2019) – Measure trees</del> -Quarterly Supervisors Meeting</p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b> -Forestry Field day -Landfill inspection (schedule)</p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> - set up library reservation for next years’ board meetings - post SJC annual mtg. &amp; election committee info on SharePoint</p> <p>-IASWCD annual conference Resolutions -Bi-monthly newsletter</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b> - Compost seminar (2017)</p> <p><b>Staff</b></p> <p><b>NRCS</b> Complete program status reviews</p>
October	November	December
<p><b>County Conservationist</b> -Producers meeting     Location     Topics/speakers</p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> -SJC SWCD Annual Meeting     Supervisors Election     Appointed due 11/1     Elected due 12/1 -2018 Budget - Confirm Annual Mtg. Speaker - PSS QA - Christmas Party planning</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Staff</b></p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b></p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> -Donor Program     Mail letters -Start SJC SWCD Annual Report -Bi-monthly newsletter -Board Meeting     Present budget &amp; AWP -SJC SWCD Annual Meeting - Confirm other award winners, Silent auction</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Staff</b> -Develop 2018 Annual Work Plan -Quarterly Sup. Mtg./Staff Reviews</p>	<p><b>County Conservationist</b> - Bond oath of office</p> <p><b>Admin Assistant</b> - Bond oath of office - Send legal notice letter to SB Tribune - E - mail/snail mail invitations to legislatures for annual conference and annual mtg. -Donor Program -IASWCD Annual conference Registration, Confirm delegates - SJC Annual Meeting     Distribute tickets/silent auction -Board meeting     Confirm budget &amp; AWP</p> <p><b>Education Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Staff</b> - Prepare legislative notebook</p>
Ongoing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Implement current Farm Bill</li> <li>-Recruit New Board Members</li> <li>-Implement Rule 5/13 and MSP</li> <li>-Focus – Volunteer programs</li> <li>-Implement SBOA/District Ops</li> <li>-Provide Administrative duties to program</li> <li>-Legislator relations</li> <li>-Focus – Urban Conservation Practices</li> <li>-Youth &amp; Adult EE programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Donor Program</li> <li>-Pursue Conservation Grants</li> <li>-Displays for special events</li> <li>-Update Website/social media</li> <li>-CC – obtain Indiana Certified Conservation Planner</li> <li>-Provide Guidance as requested from County</li> <li>-Provide Quality Conservation Planning</li> <li>-Focus – Minority and/or underserved public</li> <li>- NRCS Program Support Contribution Agreement</li> </ul>	



Save The Date

# 2017 Farming for the Future

## A Tri-County Producers Conference

**When:** Tuesday February 28, 2017 10am-2pm

**Where:** Christos Banquet Center, 830 Lincolnway E, Plymouth, IN 46563

**Cost:** FREE!!

### Workshop Schedule & Speakers

9:30 Registration, Visit Vendors – Coffee & Donuts

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome/General Housekeeping/Short Introductions

10:10 – 10:50 General Session – Brad Clayton, Clayton’s Greenhouse

10:50 – 11:00 – Break

11:00 – 12:00 – 3 Breakout sessions – Choose 1

Option 1 – Cover Crops – Tom Moneyhoffer from Nutritional Blending

Option 2 – Nutrient Management – Jim Camberato from Purdue University

- Nate Mrozinski:LaPorte County Super/INField Advantage

12 - 12:45 - Lunch  
Option 3 – Tillage – Derek Thompson & Scot Haley from NRCS

12:45 – 1:00 – County Highlights

1:00 – 2:00 – Farmer Panel QA

To register or receive more information, call our office 574-936-2024 Ext. 4, email us at [info@stjosephswcd.org](mailto:info@stjosephswcd.org) or visit our website [www.stjosephswcd.org](http://www.stjosephswcd.org).



# Draft Headwaters Yellow River Watershed Management Plan

ARN: 305-5-9



**This can be found on the Marshall County  
SWCD website:**

<http://www.marshallcountyswcd.org/upper-headwaters-yellow-river-wmp>

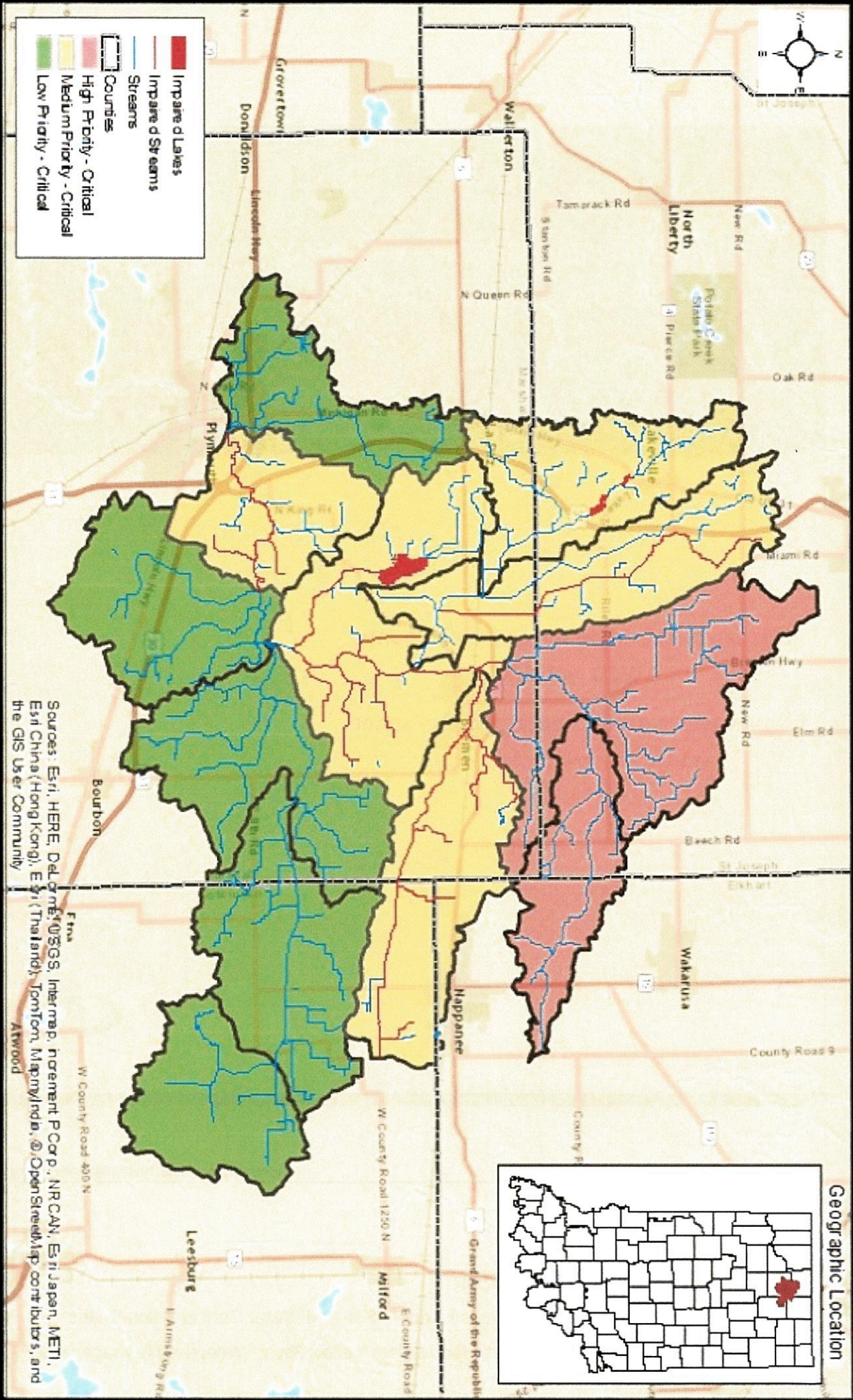


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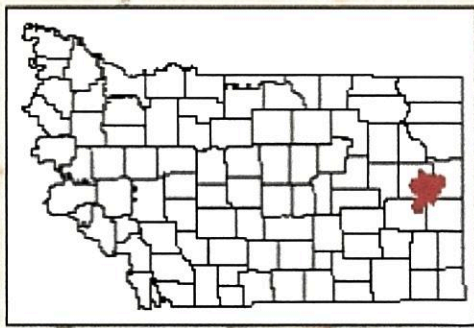
Draft Headwaters Yellow River Watershed Management Plan

## Document Information

Prepared for	Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District
Project Name	Draft Headwaters Yellow River Watershed Management Plan



- █ Impaired Ditches
- █ Impaired Streams
- █ Streams
- Counties
- █ High Priority - Critical
- █ Medium Priority - Critical
- █ Low Priority - Critical



Geographic Location

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, ©OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

## Headwaters Yellow River Critical Area Prioritization

Headwaters Yellow River WMP  
 Marshall County SWCD  
 Marshall County, Indiana



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# Headwaters Yellow River Watershed Planning Project

Winter 2016

## Conservation Opportunities

### Upcoming Events

#### **Steering Committee Meeting**

Date: December 19th, 2016  
Time: 1:00pm EST  
Location: Plymouth Public Library (201 N Center St, Plymouth, IN 46563)

#### **SWCD Annual Meeting**

Date: January 17, 2017  
Location: Pretty Lake Trinity United Methodist Church  
\*Reservations Required

The Draft Headwaters Yellow River Watershed Management Plan is currently available for review. Please visit the [Marshall County SWCD](#) webpage to download a copy of the document.

For more information on the Headwaters Yellow River Project feel free to contact:

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#### **Marshall County SWCD**

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contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

### Clean Water Indiana Funds

Rain gardens are depressional areas landscaped with perennial flowers and native vegetation that soak up rainwater. They are strategically located to capture runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and streets. Rain gardens fill with a few inches of water after a storm and then water filters into the ground, rather than running off to a storm drain. The Marshall County SWCD has Clean Water Indiana (CWI) funds available to help pay the costs of installing rain gardens. The Marshall County SWCD is also working to improve water quality by promoting and providing cost-share for practices in the conservation cropping system (no till, nutrient management, cover crops 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. This program is being funded through a grant from CWI funds. If you would like more information on either of these opportunities please contact the Marshall County SWCD office.

### Conservation Cropping System

Conservation cropping systems are a systematic approach to production agriculture that protects natural resources, while simultaneously improving soils. This system allows producers to efficiently produce food, feed, and fiber in an environmentally sound manner. Conservation cropping systems accomplish these feats through the implementation of long-term continuous no-till, cover crops, nutrient and pest management, precision farming technology, and conservation buffers. As part of the Headwaters Yellow River Watershed project there are now funds available to assist producers with the implementation of conservation cropping systems practices. Anyone interested in participating please contact the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District or Matthew Linn with Cardno at (574) 586-3400.

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices

that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on that land may apply to participate in EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands. Financial assistance payments through EQIP are made to eligible producers, to implement approved conservation practices on eligible land or to help producers develop Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) to address specific land use issues.

### Wetland Reserve Easements

Through this program the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. Wetland Reserve Easements provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity and provide opportunities for limited recreational activities. Land eligible for wetland reserve easements include farmed or prior converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. To enroll land through wetland reserve easements, the NRCS enters into purchase agreements with eligible private landowners that include the right for the NRCS to develop and implement a wetland reserve restoration easement plan.

Voluntary participation in these programs and many others like them will play a key role in the restoration of the Headwaters Yellow River Watershed. If you think you may be interested in any of these programs please contact your local USDA Office to obtain additional information.

[USDA Service Center Locator Webpage](#)







**Indiana Association of  
Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts**

Protecting and enhancing Indiana's soil  
and water resources for all Hoosiers

November 11, 2016

To: SWCD Supervisors and Staff  
Re: Resolution

In 2014, a resolution entitled "Economic Impact of Cover Crops, No-Till and Improved Soil Health" was submitted by the Parke, Fountain, Warren, and Vermillion Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The resolution passed by a majority. Therefore, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) is directed to implement the resolution.

The thrust of the resolution was to give Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts an opportunity and a mechanism by which to provide financial support for the development of economic data that would support the adoption of soil health systems by Indiana farmers. The resolution was referred to the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) Oversight Committee for action.

On the surface, the resolution appeared to direct any collected funds to collection and analysis of economic data – returns on investment in soil health practices – a complex undertaking that CCSI was not in a position to develop and oversee. Based upon cooperative work with Dr. Wally Tyner of Purdue University on cover crops alone, the complexity of this research was not unfounded (Dr. Tyner's group is now into its second model to investigate economic returns of cover crops).

As CCSI staffing infrastructure was more fully developed, and positions filled, this resolution was presented for investigation and closure. Newly appointed as CCSI Director, Lisa Holscher met with each of the sponsoring SWCDs to fully determine their intent and chart a path forward.

In meeting with each of the sponsoring SWCDs Boards of Directors, it became clear that their intent was to provide useful, useable information that could be *tied* to farm-level economics. For example, changes in soil organic matter could be tied to the economic value of organic matter.

Their intent was to support the *collection* of data, including field sampling and lab analysis; *analysis* of sampling results; and *interpretation* of that analysis into *publications* useful to farmers.

As of this writing,

- The Indiana Corn Marketing Council and Indiana Soybean Alliance have provided funding to sample and analyze a core group of farmer sites and Purdue Ag Centers
- The USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division has provided support to continue collection of soil health tests on CCSI sites as part of an effort to calibrate those tests to Midwestern soils.

**IASWCD**

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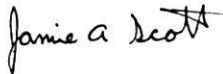
- The SHD is also supporting the addition of a Post-Doc position to provide deep analysis of data collected thus far.
- The combination of the above-mentioned Post-Doc, along with the CCSI Agronomist and Communications Manager will provide the ability to convert results into publications useful to farmers.

In short, CCSI is now in a position to effectively use any funds contributed as part of this resolution and meet the *intent* of the sponsoring SWCDs.

The IASWCD has set up an account to receive and disperse funds and we encourage districts to consider supporting this effort by making a “voluntary contribution of \$500 per year for a period of three (3) years”. The CCSI Oversight Committee will provide direction and approval of projects which meet the resolution’s intent. The CCSI Director will provide oversight for use and distribution of funds.

We encourage districts to consider supporting this effort.

Respectfully,



Jamie Scott  
Interim President, IASWCD



Lisa Holscher  
Director, Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative