

## **Project Overview:**

Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have entered into a contribution agreement for the purpose of developing local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) throughout Indiana. CWI funds will be used as match for this agreement. Under the five-year contribution agreement, NRCS will provide partial funding for SICIM to hire staff who will work with SWCDs and other natural resource organizations to develop CISMAs. SICIM will help these new CISMAs develop their organizational infrastructure and find the human and financial resources needed to begin effectively combating invasive plants in their communities. SICIM expects to hire two Regional Specialists and a Project Coordinator by the end of 2017. These Regional Specialists, under the tutelage of the Project Coordinator and the members of SICIM's Steering Committee, will immediately begin the work of developing the local CISMAs. SICIM expects to hire the two remaining Regional Specialists in 2018.

## **Program Overview:**

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program (IC 14-32-8) was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. Through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs, the program supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution.

## **Program Administration:**

The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB). The fund is derived from a portion of cigarette tax funds. (IC 6-7-1-29.3) The cigarette tax fund is 4.22 percent of total cigarette tax revenue, and the CWI fund receives one sixth of this amount. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects.

Lead Organization: Southern Indiana Cooperative

**Invasives Management** 

Project Dates: 11/1/2017-10/31/2018
Project Name: The Local CISMA Initiative

Project Amount: \$60,000

For more information about CWI, please visit: in.gov/isda/2379.htm. For more information about the SSCB, please visit: in.gov/isda/2361.htm. Email questions or comments to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov. To find your local SWCD: please visit: in.gov/isda/2370.htm.

