

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
May 19, 2020
Conference call

- I. 9:30 am.: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of April 2020**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants report- Geneva Tyler
 - b. 2018 Clean Water Indiana Grants- Geneva Tyler
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
 - a. Business Plan: Fall Plan of Work meeting- Geneva Tyler
 - b. Training- Jennifer Thum
 - c. FY2020 Budget Review- Jordan Seger
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Newton County- Geneva Tyler
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**
2020 Meeting Dates
 - July 21, NRCS State Office
 - September 15, NRCS State Office
 - October 27, TBD
- XI. Adjourn**

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.



State Soil Conservation Board

May 19th, 2020

Clean Water Indiana Grants



Program Updates

Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

2020

- As of 5/14/20, all first 50% claims for the new 2020 grants had been processed except Montgomery, and it was in process.
- Financial reports are due 7/31.

2019

- Financial reports are due 7/31.

2018

- Projects Expire 12/31/20 (except Hamilton)
- Financial reports are due 7/31.

Non-SWCD Led Projects

IASWCD

Expires: 12/31/21

Grant Agreement A337-19-CWI-001

- Total amount of grant agreement \$64,450.00
- Claims:
 - \$12,385.27
 - \$15,538.73
 - \$33,163.95
- Remaining funds: \$8,362.05

Expires: 12/31/2022

Grant Number 37-20-CWI-013

- Claims: One claim for \$22,250.00
- Remaining funds: \$22,250.00

SICIM

Expires 12/31/2022

- Grant number: A337-20-CWI-014
- Claims: One claim for \$27,000.00
- Remaining funds: \$27,000.00

Grant Reviews

- Similar to year's past, 10 grants will be reviewed in 2020.
- Selections have been made and will be communicated per the CWI communication policy for both marginal and routine grants.

AFR

- All 92 Districts qualified for at least a portion of the AFR \$10,000 match.
- Total ISDA funds dispersed: \$907,412.70.

Scope of Services Modification

Date:	5/18/2020		
Grantee:	Grant County SWCD	Grant Number:	29871
Project:	Critical Area Implementation	Approved Grant Amount:	\$71,000
Contact Person:	Belinda Hussong	Phone/Email:	765-668-8983 ext. 3

Activity to be Changed (Exhibit A Description Original Grant Agreement):	Proposed Change:
Wetland Restoration (wetland planting and invasive species control)	Allow controlling invasive species in upland habitat and planting a native prairie.

Justification for Modification/Change of Grant Activities

Provide the justification for each change of activity requested. Clearly describe the new activity, how project beneficiaries will benefit as a result of the changes and the overall impact on the program. Attach additional pages if necessary.

The site for which the wetland restoration was planned has undergone drastic natural changes in the past two years. Beavers have moved into the area and dammed the stream at the site of a failed man-made impoundment, flooding the area and creating a shallow water wetland. With the higher water level and beaver and muskrat herbivory, most of the invasive species have been naturally controlled. Native willow has started growing in shallower areas, and several native species are now thriving along the margin of the wetland. Grant County SWCD has helped to educate the landowners about the benefits provided by the beavers' activities and has also helped the landowners grow to appreciate the beavers. No farmland or personal property is impacted by the beaver impoundment. Water quality benefits provided by the dam/wetland are 1) nutrient runoff uptake by wetland, 2) sediment settling, and 3) stabilization of headcut erosion. Downstream of the impoundment is approximately 2 acres of mostly upland habitat, dominated by invasive species. The trees in this area were recently clear cut by the Marion Co. Airport and the area is to be maintained tree-free according to airport easement. The landowners would like to 1) remove invasive species and 2) plant a prairie in this area. This project will complement the adjacent wetland, creating a high quality natural area that the landowners would like to make publicly accessible one day. A prairie burn contractor has been consulted about the site and confirmed that the prairie can be maintained through burning when the wind is coming from a suitable direction. The airport may be willing to help with installation and maintenance costs. (Continued in attachment)

Belinda Hussong / Coordinator

 Signature/Title of Person Submitting Request

5/18/20

 Date:

Office Use Only

Revision Approved By:	Date:
Revision Denied:	Date:
If Denied Indicate Reason:	

Attachment

Grant County SWCD Scope of Services Modification

NRCS standards will be followed in the prairie establishment. Both USFWS and DNR wildlife biologists have been consulted and visited this site, and will continue to be consulted as the practice is implemented. We feel that this change is still in alignment with the original grant request's primary goal of preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat.



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

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



IASWCD

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To: State Soil Conservation Board

From: Roger Wenning, President, IASWCD

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

- We are currently working with NRCS to begin a new agreement to help with funding over the next 5 years. Purdue is partnering with us on this agreement, as they will be supporting half of the agronomist position over the duration.

Pathway to Water Quality

- Due to the corona virus, the State Fair has begun discussions with the committee about sanitization stations and visitor contact points at the exhibit. The PWQ Committee has been meeting virtually at the beginning of each month, along with individuals completing on site work as needed, including mowing.

Legislative Issues

- State Budget session – We've been keeping an eye on budget impacts from the virus (April revenue report was down approximately \$1 billion from projections). The legislative committee will be meeting this month to discuss strategy.
- As of the writing of this report, IASWCD and partners were still working to get an invasive species summer study committee assigned.

Other

- IASWCD sent out a District survey to determine impacts of the corona virus on their individual work situations. As of the writing of this report, we had responses from 64 Districts.
- We've been working with NRCS to develop District priorities for the 2020 NACD technical assistance grants. We have reached out to the priority Districts, and they will have until June 1 to submit applications.
- Applications for River Friendly Farmer Awards are currently open on the IASWCD website, and are due by June 12. The River Friendly Farmer ceremony will be on Farmer's Day at the State Fair. All partners are encouraged to attend to honor the recipients.
- ISDA and IASWCD have been working together to plan summer training meetings for Districts. With the issues surrounding the virus, we have decided to change these to a consecutive series of 3 different web trainings. Current dates are slated for August 25, September 1, and September 8.
- 2020 SWCD Conference Planning committee was postponed until Monday, May 18, and held virtually. IASWCD is currently discussing potential issues surrounding the virus with their conference planner.

THE IASWCD MISSION *is to enable the conservation of natural resources of Indiana.*



Highlights

- Following guidelines set by Gov. Holcomb, Purdue University, and USDA – CCSI staff began social distancing COB on March 13th. Based upon information from partners, in-person meetings are expected to resume in July with size restrictions.
 - **Alternative Outreach Delivery**
 - *Core Cover Crops and Core Soil Health Systems*
Due to Stay-at-Home orders, these trainings were redesigned into a virtual learning platform virtual platform. A series of 2-hour Zoom meetings will be held on May 21, May 28, and June 4.
 - *Soil Health Training for Ag Retailers w/ IANA and TNC*
These trainings are being restructured into a series of smaller modules and videos that can be readily adapted to a specific groups' needs. Even after stay-at-home orders are lifted, shorter virtual trainings appear to be a better fit for this group.
 - **Soil Health Demo Kits**

An inventory of existing soil health demo kits was conducted by NRCS. In consultation with NRCS, funds from an existing agreement with the agency have been allocated to the purchase of supplies to ensure all 92 counties are equipped with demonstration kits. ICP partners and farmer-mentors can have access to their use. CCSI and the Soil Health Teams will conduct training in their use to ensure a consistent soil health message is maintained. Orders are being shipped to Vincennes University where they will be assembled for distribution. Kits will include:

 - Table-top rainfall simulators
 - Table-top infiltration demos
 - Slump demos
 - Slake demos
 - In-field infiltration kits
 - Pit fall trap kits
 - 5-gallon buckets with lids
 - 40-gallon tote to store and transport items
 - **Specialty Crop Podcasts**

A second line of podcasts has been added to the CCSI-Hoosier Ag Today Soil Health Podcasts. Liz Maynard, Purdue University, is leading the effort to identify experts to speak on a variety of topics related to specialty crop production in Indiana. The first podcast has been aired (No-Till Pumpkins) and a second has been recorded (Effects of Neonicotinoids in Melon Production).
-

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.

- 03/03 Blue-Sinking/Pasture Project Meeting – Explanation of how and why the Blue River watershed was chosen and discussion on past/current/future grazing of watershed.
- 03/06-07 – Small Farm Conference growers discussion
- 03/09 – Werling phone (D)
- 04/20 – DeSutter phone (A, D)
- 04/23 – Brandt phone (D)
- 05/07 – Jeff Smiley phone (D)
- 05/11 – Brocksmith phone (D)
- 05/11 – Upton phone (D)

2. Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.

Quarterly Targets: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

- 03/09 – Childs phone (A)
- White River Co-op – Agronomist Plot discussions (A)

3. Farmer Influencers

Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)

Continued work with W4tL, IANA, and other influencer groups.

- Soil Health Careers discussions w/ Clinton/Carroll county farmer. (A)
- Explore potential cooperative project with ZeroFootprint (zerofootprint.org) for the Ft. Wayne area.

4. Presentations

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)

- 03/07 – “Soil Fertility Testing” at Small Farm Conference, 50 attendees (A)
- 03/18 – Clinton County Radio Ag Day “Cover Crop Panel” (A)

G2. Local Level Partnership Support

1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership’s Outreach and Education

Quarterly Target: CCSI as a group materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts groups (CCSI Team Goal)

Workshops Cancelled or Postponed:

- 3/17 Growing Green, Ft. Wayne Area, Cancelled
- 4/1 Upper Wabash River Field Day, Postponed
- 4/17 Morgan/Johnson FFA/Ag Youth Field Day, Trafalgar, Postponed
- 04/24 Soil Health for Legislators, Pike County, Postponed

- 5/1 Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council Workshop
- 6/5 Big Pine Field Day, Williamsport, Postponed to 8/28
- 6/13 Landowner Field Day, Tippecanoe County, Postponed
- June 2020 SWCS Summer Field Day, Postponed
- June Advanced Soil Health Trainings w/ TNC, Postponed
- 2020 Soil Health Sustainability Workshop - cancelled

Workshops in Progress:

- 7/9 – Posey County Soil Health Breakfast
- July 2020 – Advanced Soil Health Trainings for Ag Retail w/ TNC
- July 2020 – Ag 101
- Summer 2020 – Virtual Soil Health Trainings for Ag Retail w/ IANA and TNC
- 2020 SWCS Summer Field Day
- 8/27 Soil Health Expo, Princeton Princeton.
- 8/28 - SE Area Event TBD with Adam Daugherty
- 11/17 – Spencer/Perry Workshop
- December 2020 – VUJC Field Day
- Vigo Co Small Farm Program – TBD
- Soil Sampling 2.0
- March 2021 Clay Co Soil Health Field Day
- Daviess Co – Soil Health Field Day, TBD 2021
- SARE Livestock Integration Training

Other

- Have secured/made available for partner meetings and communications:
 - Second Teleconference line
 - WebEx
 - Licensed Zoom accounts
- 04/24 NW SWCD WebEx (set-up, attend)
- 04/28 Huntington SWCD Board Meeting Teleconference
- 04/11, 04/12 – Pasture Project REGAIN virtual platform review (D, SPM)
- Purchase of demonstration kits/supplies to supplement existing kits so that all 92 Counties' ICP partners and farmer-mentors have access to a kit.

2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health
Completed Trainings

- 03/11 Soil Health Trailer and Soil Health Buckets training (A – Assisted)

Trainings in Progress:

- 05/21, 05/28, 06/04 – Core Cover Crops and Soil Health Systems Virtual Trainings
- July (tent) Ag 101
- July Intro to Soil Health
- 08/25-27 3-Day Soil Health Training
- Purdue Extension Soil Health Signature Program

- Soil Health Nexus website development and review
- Soil Health Nexus 3-Day Soil Health Training / In-service
- TNC/NRCS/CCSI Soil Health Lab Manual

3. Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: *Outlined in fall with training team.*

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Completed Trainings:

- 2/13 CCSI/SARE Conservation in Hemp, Indianapolis, 15 attendees

Trainings in Progress:

- Date TBD - Summer 2020 SWCS Summer Mtg
- Week of Sept 21 Advance Cover Crops (4 trainings, 1 in each region)

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

Monthly Targets: *2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NPM, SPM)*

- 03/02 Adams Co SWCD (A)
- 03/10 Monroe County SWCD (SPM)
- 03/10 WLEB Partnership (D)
- 03/13 IASWCD Board Meeting (D)
- 03/25 CCSI NE Regional Teleconference (D, A, NPM)
- 03/25 CCSI NW Regional Teleconference (D, A, NPM)
- 03/30 CCSI SE Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM)
- 03/30 CCSI SW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM)
- 04/24 Indiana SARE Professional Development Advisory Council (D, A)
- 04/27 CCSI SE Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)
- 04/27 CCSI SW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)
- 04/29 CCSI NE Regional Teleconference (D, A, NPM)
- 04/29 CCSI NW Regional Teleconference (D, A, SPM, NPM)

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

1. Marketing

Quarterly Targets: *3-4 "formal" CCSI Updates (CCSI Team Goal)*

Annual Target: *1-2 New External Partners*

Ensure LLPs understand CCSI resources available to them; Ensure external partners are aware of CCSI strengths, tools, and opportunities.

- 04/18 SWCD Staff Teleconference (SPM)
- 04/24 SWCD Staff WebEx (NPM)
- 04/28 NE SWCD MSTeams (NPM)
- 04/29 SWCD Staff Teleconference (SPM)
- 04/30 SWCD Staff Teleconference (SPM)

2. Soil Health Messaging

Quarterly Targets: *3 Podcasts; 3-6 Blog Posts; 6 Newsletters;*

Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.

Completed Materials:

- Blogs
 - Resiliency in a time of Pandemic
 - March Updates from CCSI & Partners
 - Planting 2020 Has Commenced
 - Protecting Earth's Skin – Earth Day 2020
 - Women4theLand
- Podcasts:
 - Indiana Couple Honored by American Soybean Association (Mike and Susan Brocksmith)
 - Spring Herbicide Considerations (Jamie Scott and Cameron Mills)
 - *Inaugural Specialty Crop Track - No-Till Pumpkins* (Amanda Baird, Nathan Johanning, Rod Johnson)
- Other
 - Connected Progressive Farmer writer with contact for bison in Indiana article.

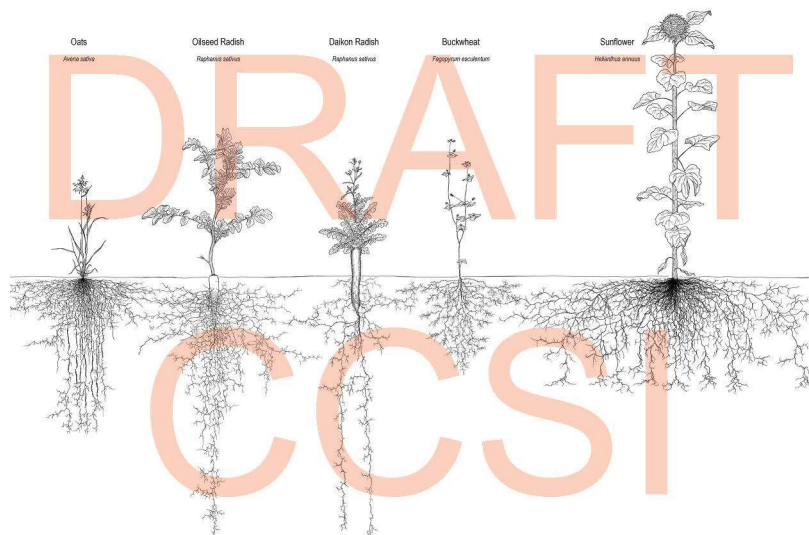
Materials in Progress:

- Billboards – A series of 4 different billboard designs featuring the hashtag #LOVINSOIL will begin deployment in May. A social media campaign will accompany their deployment.

Support the Soil That Supports Indiana.

Healthy Soil Impacts Us All.
Learn more at CCSIN.org #LOVINSOIL

- Cover crop root diagrams – A series of cover crop root diagrams is near completion. They will be scalable to use in a variety of media from print to full-sized banners.



G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.

- Palatability of common cover crops to voles (*Microtus*) published in El Sevier (Prieur and Swihart)
- Yoder et. al. (IU SPEA/Ostrom Lab) - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss: Using Farm-Scale Data to Improve Nutrient Management and Water Quality Norms (SARE)
- Armstrong et. al. – Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (SARE Proposal)
- Soil Health Institute – Soil Health Systems and Economics, multiple projects
- Prokopy et. al. – (Natural Resources Science Lab) Effectiveness of Outreach Events on Conservation Adoption (NWF)

OTHER

Professional Development

- 03/04 – Southern Indiana Grazing Conference (SPM)
- 03/11 – Soil Health Trailer and Bucket Training (SPM, NPM)
- 04/21, 04/28 – Cover Crop Leadership Lab – Virtual Training Meeting Development and Messaging (D)
- 05/04, 05/06, 05/11, 05/13 – Purdue Agronomy Extension Corn Specialist interviews (D, A)
- Zoom, WebEx platform / virtual meeting moderation practice (A, D, NPM, SPM)