

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
September 17, 2019
Natural Resources Conservation Service

- I. 9:30 am: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of July 2019**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon
 - b. Non-SWCD CWI 2020 Grant Proposals
 - 1. CCSI
 - 2. SICIM
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
 - a. Chairman’s Report
 - b. SSCB Business Plan
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Clark SWCD- Laura Fribley
 - b. Fayette SWCD – Tara Wesseler-Henry
- VI. ISDA Updates**
 - a. Director’s Report- Jordan Seger
 - b. Technical Report- George Reger
 - c. Soil Health- Annette Manusevich
 - d. Accountability and Technology- Jordan Seger
 - e. District Support- Laura Fribley
 - f. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold
- VIII. Conservation Partner Reports**
 - a. IASWCD Report
 - b. IDEM Report
 - c. DNR Report
 - d. Purdue Report
 - e. FSA Report
 - f. NRCS Report
 - g. CCSI Report
 - h. IDEA Report
 - i. IANA Report
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**
2019 Meeting Dates
October 29: TBD District Showcase
- 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

September 17th, 2019
Clean Water Indiana Grants



Program Updates

2020 Clean Water Indiana Competitive Grants

Clean Water Indiana Grants		
	2019	2020
SWCD Led Applications		
Number of Applications	32	23
Total Funding Requested	\$1,726,935	\$2,106,921.50
Districts Represented	48	50
Non-SWCD Led Applications		
Number of Applications	3	2
Total Funding Requested	\$273,950	\$104,500
CWI 2020 Overall		
Number of Applications	35	25
Total Funding Requested	\$2,000,885	\$2,211,421.50

- Today, we will hear presentations from the 2 Non-SWCD led recipients. After the presentations, you will be decided to which applications to move forward to score and rank alongside the SWCD led proposals.
- This will help to ensure that we are spending CWI funds in the way that is most effective for the State.

Clean Water Indiana SWCD Led Grants

2017-2019 Grants

- Financial and Status reports were due at the end of July. Conservation Project tracking was also due at this time.
- 13 SWCDs did not submit a financial/status report by the July 31 deadline. Per CWI grant guidance, this could result in ineligibility from the 2020 CWI round that was due September 6th.
- I am working on finalizing the quality control for conservation project tracking at this time.

Non-SWCD Led Projects

IASWCD (CCSI)

- Expires: 12/31/21
- All reimbursement so no claims yet.

SICIM

- Total Amount Claimed: \$91,131.56 of \$120,000

- Expires: 12/31/19
- We processed this as an amendment to their original agreement to get them on the same schedule as other CWI grants.

Reporting

- Neither the IASWCD nor SICIM submitted a report by the July 31 deadline. The CWI guidance for Non-SWCD led projects is slightly different than that of SWCD led projects. The ineligibility language does not appear.

Grant Reviews

- No grant reviews were completed since the last meeting.
- I am working to schedule the final review of the year soon.

Grants Management System

- The Lieutenant Governor's Family of Business has officially launched an online grants management system. ISDA started with the livestock grants program.
- Clean Water Indiana grants will be migrated to the new system in a future phase.
- Once CWI grants are migrated to the new system, ISDA will provide several trainings to make the process as smooth as possible.

My Position

- I have moved to a new position within the Division of Soil Conservation. I am now the Director of Information Systems and will focus on administering our Salesforce platform, SharePoint and Microsoft collaboration software, and graphic design.
- My current responsibilities are being divided amongst the DSSs and the ISDA grants program manager.
- I will continue to serve CWI grants until the end of this cycle at the October SSCB meeting. Following that meeting Karrie Cashdollar the ISDA grants program manager will take over the contracting process.
- It has been my pleasure to serve as your coordinator for the past 5 years.



State Soil Conservation Board



September 10, 2019

ISDA – DSC Director's Report

Jordan Seger

ISDA DSC Director

- Due to the challenges of her geographical location, Jennifer Thum has made the decision to no longer server as the acting director of the Division of Soil Conservation. We will be moving forward with external applicants, and proceeding with further interviews.

SE Resource Specialist Position

- Due to a Resource Specialist retirement this summer, we have a vacancy in the SE Fayette, Union, Wayne, Hancock, and Henry. Interviews will take place tomorrow (9/18). We received several applications, and we will conduct interviews until we find a good fit.

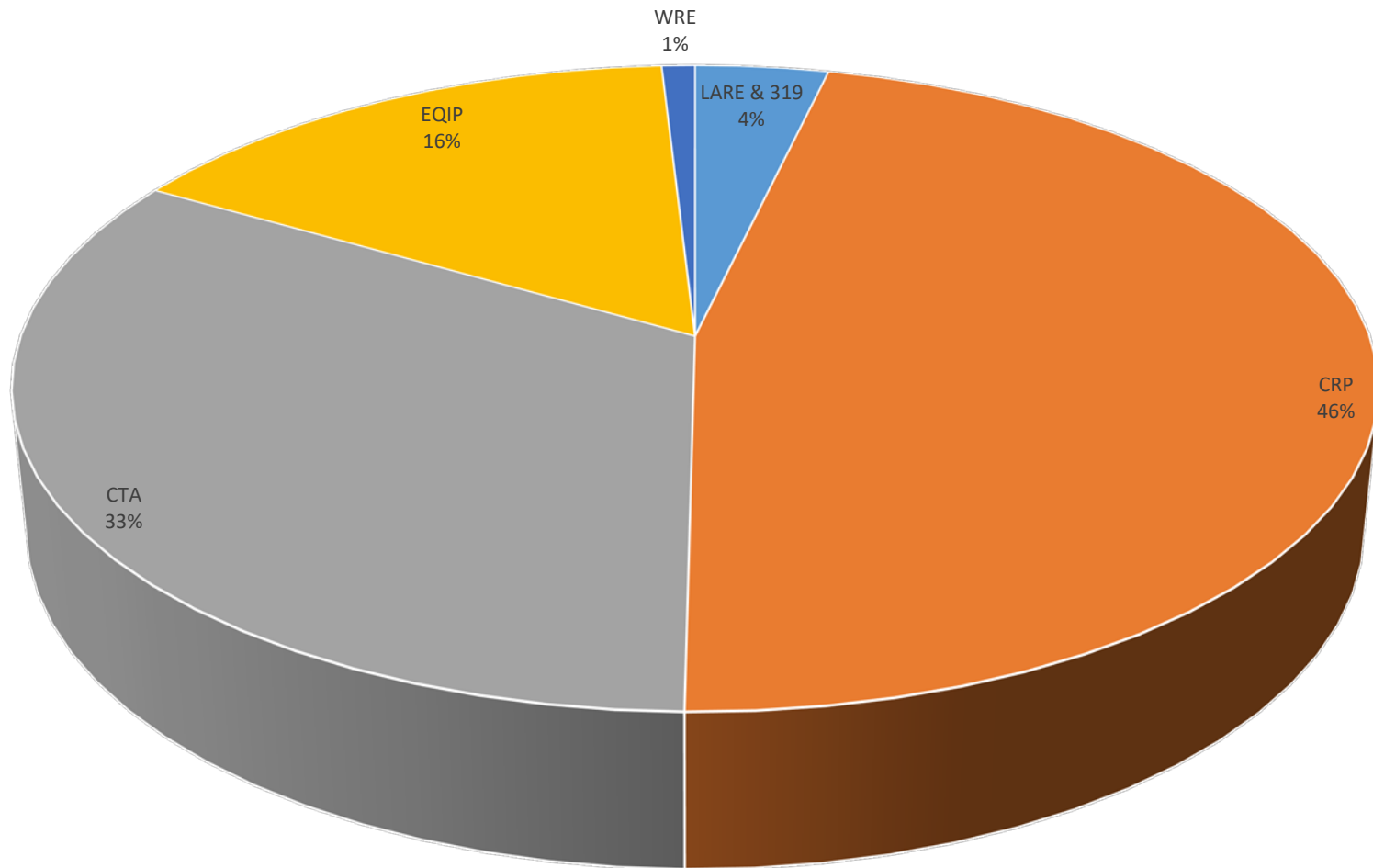
Tillage Transect

- We have received over 90% of the Spring transect spreadsheets. The attached map displays those counties which have not yet submitted their spring information. We cannot do a statewide analysis until all spring tillage transects have been submitted.
- Fall 2019 transect spreadsheets are ready to be sent to the DSS Team for distribution.
- The map shows the living cover from 2018, by HUC 8 Watershed. Geographically, the transect results have always been focused within county boundaries. Through some geo-referencing exercise we can now do analysis on tillage and living cover info within watershed boundaries.

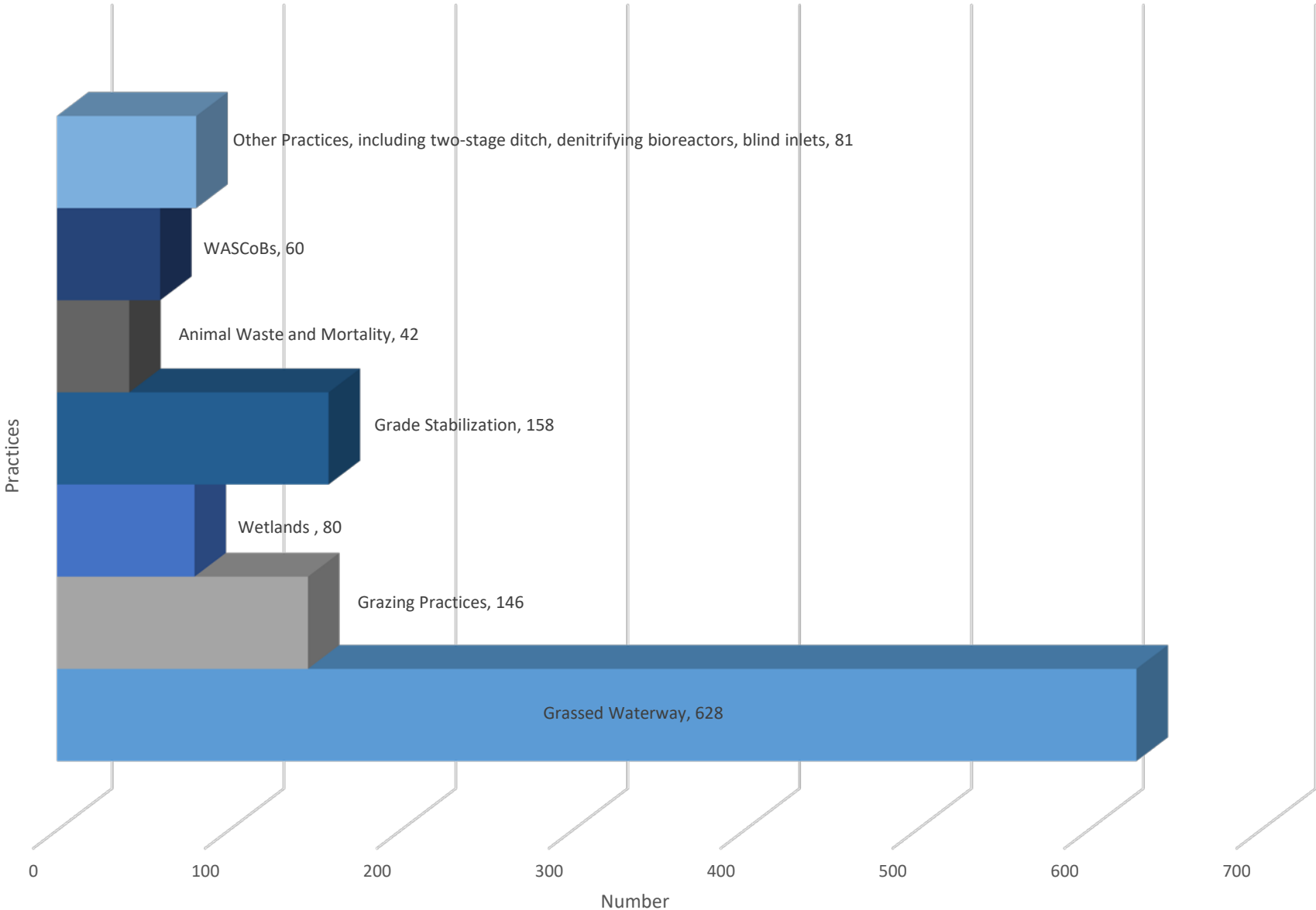
ISDA DSC Interns

- This past summer our department had six interns, there were three within our Division. One intern assisted with Data Analysis and GIS, one with the DSS Team, and one in the Western Lake Erie Basin helping with the various grants.
- We plan to continue to seek out additional interns for our Division.

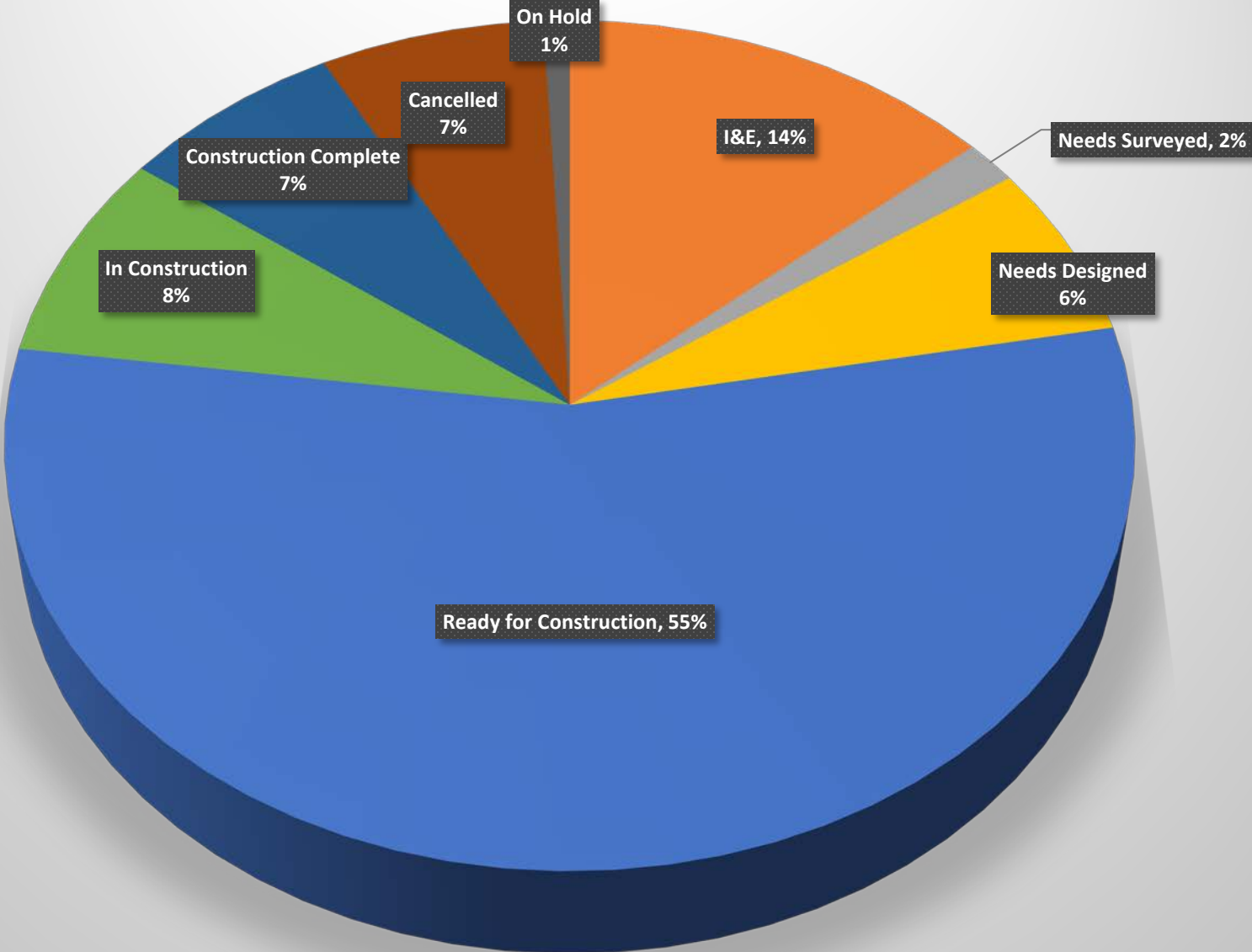
Program Assistance in the Northwest



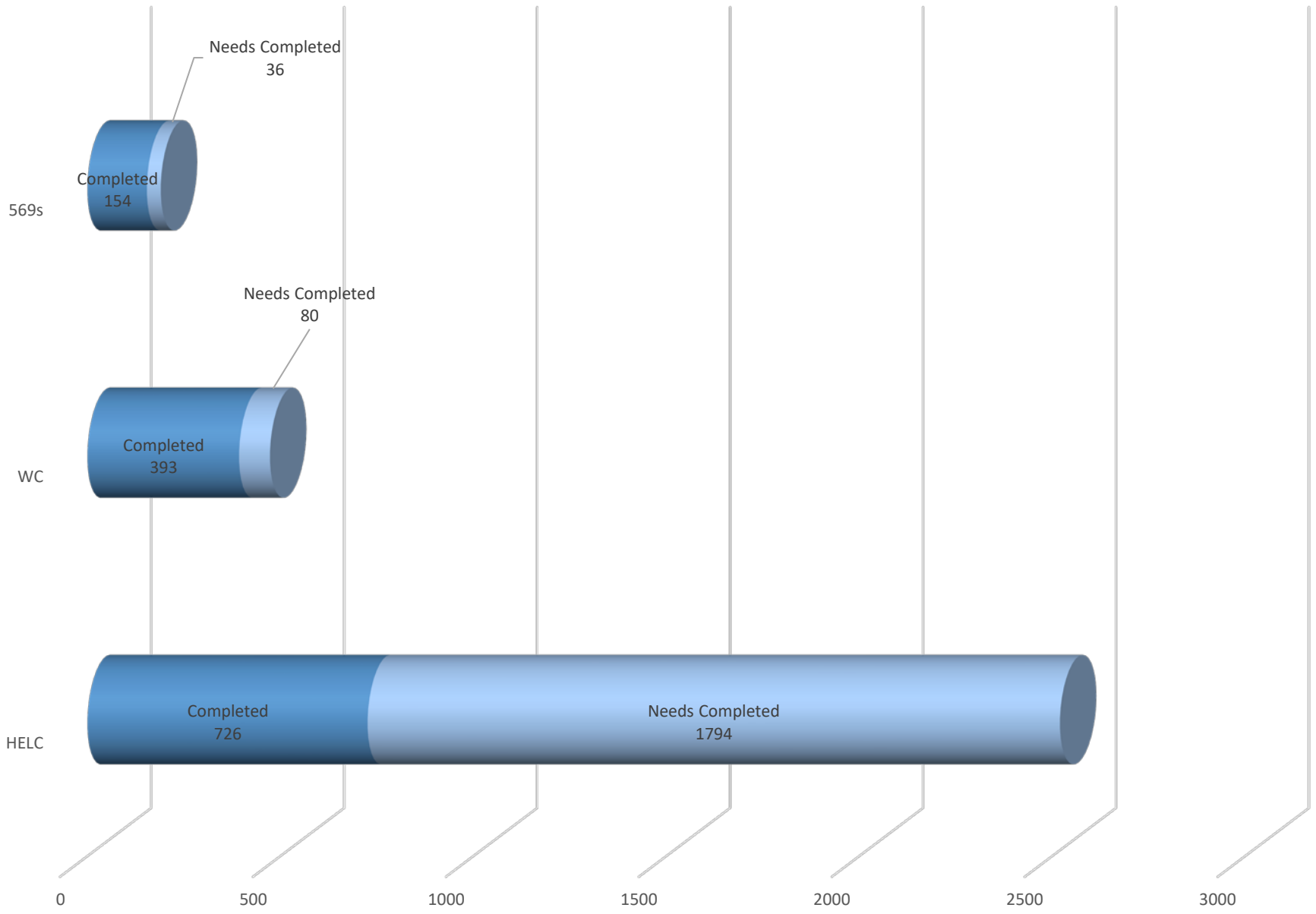
Conservation Practices in Northwest



NORTHWEST PROJECT STATUS



Northwest HEL and Wetland Compliance





State Soil Conservation Board

September 17, 2019



Soil Health Program Manager

Program Updates

➤ INfield Advantage

- Providing two flight options, the first being a late season imagery flight. This option will show growers crop variability and how highly correlated their late season fields are with their yield map and allow for the potential to discuss this during winter meetings. We will be able to show early images from other fields in the area demonstrating just how early in the season imagery can match up with the yield map. These flights have already been completed and we are looking over the results. We will provide them to growers shortly.
- As for the second flight, this will occur after harvest. The bare soil flights will provide an accurate representation of soil variability. Ceres will be able to use those images to create a zone map that growers can use to monitor variability in the next growing season and possibly adjust input rate if desired. We believe that with both of these flights, growers will be able to obtain valuable data and potentially implement some changes into the next growing season.
- Currently in the process of planning INFA changes for 2020, and working on scheduling winter meetings as well as outreach events.

➤ Red Gold Tomato Conservation Stewardship Award

- Presented award at field day event on Aug, 9th. First place winners were Niese & Maag that won a \$1000 scholarship and an extra load during harvest, and second place was Schulte's that won a \$500 scholarship and an extra ½ load during harvest. Overall great event with great turnout and important promotion of soil health practices.
- Want to work on more partnerships like this in the future and continue to reward great soil health management practices.



State Soil Conservation Board
September 17, 2019
District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 6/26/19 to 8/25/19



Grant Writing Trainings

Clean Water Indiana Funds along with the planning from the DSS team hosted two Grant Writing Workshops in July at Columbus and Marion, Indiana. The presenter, Amy Shankland, owner of Grants Avenue, LLC did a super job. She presented on grant readiness and how to find grants and helped the attendees start a needs statement for a future grant. Amy is a great resource for all districts if they are struggling with the grant process. In the afternoon, Leah Harmon, CWI Grants Coordinator, talked about the 2020 CWI Grants and answered many thoughtful, good questions from the attendees. A majority of the 32 attendees were glad they attended the workshop. We wish to thank the SSCB for their support and funding of the grant trainings.

Summer SWCD Supervisor and Staff Trainings

On August 20, 2019, 54 Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors and staff and 12 ICP Partners gathered in Rochester, Indiana for an evening of networking and training. The Geneva Center hosted the training and attendees came from both the NW and NE quadrants of the state. Joe Schmees, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, gave a great overview of the organization and conservation partners also had an opportunity to give updates. Finally, supervisors and staff had an opportunity to participate in one of three additional break-out sessions: Developing and Tracking Cost-Share Programs, Speaking with Local Leaders, and Developing Websites.

In Paoli, 56 supervisors, staff and partners attended the training. Highlights mentioned on the evaluations included the IASWCD presentation, networking/discussion, and the breakout sessions. The new location also brought a blend of different people together. Thank you to the presenters, those that set up and helped clean up the venue, and those involved in getting all the pieces ready along the way. We have a great village!

NW Staff training

In August, 24 NW SWCD and ISDA-DSC staff gathered at the DNR office located just outside of Prophetstown for a late summer staff training. Representatives from Army Corps of Engineers, DNR and IDEM presented on the various facets of permitting and their respective jurisdictions. Also, Hamilton County SWCD spoke about how the District has played an integral role in various projects, assisting landowners through the permitting process. Porter County SWCD gave an overview of Region 5 modeling, and NRCS led attendees in some Grass ID training, looking at identification features of native grasses. Finally, because staff gathered in Tippecanoe County, the local SWCD shared their local initiatives and projects. A big thank you to the NW IDEA representatives for partnering in the planning of this day!

Clean Water Indiana Grants

District Support Specialists reviewed draft CWI grant applications and provided feedback in preparation for the September 6 deadline.

DSS Intern

DSS Intern Kenna Porter completed her internship with ISDA. A highlight of her summer’s work included surveying SWCDs about DSS assistance. DSSs will utilize this helpful information when developing their annual plan of work in November. As well, Kenna developed infographics showing how FFA and SWCDs can work together. The thought is this will help strengthen or develop relationships between the two groups around the state.

DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period	Total
Assistance With SWCD Business Plans/Annual Plans of Work/Other Planning Tools	4
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	17
Visits With SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, Input, etc.	13



State Soil Conservation Board

September 17th, 2019

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- CREP has been very busy for the last month due to the late sign-up period starting back up in June and due to nearing the end of the federal fiscal year.
- Since the sign-up began again in June, we have had 1,362.54 acres signed-up. And since mid-March, we have paid out more than \$344,000 to landowners.
- Amended contracts with the SWCD CREP Administrators to move more money into the watershed accounts are currently being worked on and these districts should see the amendments in the next week or two.
- Attached to this report is the current status of acres and dollars in CREP including total completed acres (16,059.68) and total enrolled acres (19,205.81) since the beginning of the program, and total dollars paid out through the CREP program. To date, the state has paid out more than \$6.7 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$4-\$13 for every state dollar, which is currently between \$25 million and \$81 million of federal dollars depending on the practice.

IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)

- Next Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force meeting will be in Northwest Arkansas probably in late fall this year.
- The current version of the Strategy can be found on the ISDA webpage at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>.
- Comments on the SNRS can be sent to ISDANutrientReduction@isda.in.gov.
- Marylou Renshaw and I are currently working on the 'further prioritization' plan for the subwatersheds in the state. More to come on this at a later date.
- **Indiana Science Assessment:** The strategy for the development of the Indiana Science Assessment is completed. There are two main components within the Science Assessment
 - **Component 1:** Determine historic and ongoing nutrient loads leaving the State, and also by watershed basins used in the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
 - **Component 2:** Improve method to quantify nutrient reductions from conservation practices, including dissolved nutrients, and determine efficiency of practices in reducing loads.
- We will be receiving funds from the EPA Office of Water for support toward the development of the Indiana Science Assessment. These funds will be used toward Component 2, and a Work Plan has been submitted. Funds will run through ISDA, which will be used to hire a research associate who will work at Purdue University under Dr. Jane Frankenberger.
- Goal to complete Component 1 is end of calendar year 2020, and goal to complete Component 2 is end of calendar year 2021.

Western Lake Erie Basin

- To view the Indiana WLEB Domestic Action Plan (DAP) and other information, visit the following webpage, <http://www.in.gov/isda/3432.htm>.
- To view the National Lake Erie DAP, visit <https://www.epa.gov/glwqa/us-action-plan-lake-erie>

SSCB Meeting - September 17th, 2019 - CREP Summary

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total		
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Goal	Percentage of Goal
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 9/10/2019	214.58	14.00	4,842.44	34.43	625.52	6,683.14	1076.71	2,538.86	16,029.68	26,250.00	61.07%
Total CREP Enrollment	238.68	76.76	5,366.13	51.43	703.55	7,534.61	1791.79	3,442.86	19,205.81	26,250.00	73.16%
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90		

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fee	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total CREP Dollars	\$ 21,458.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 483,474.00	\$ 14,018.00	\$ 262,037.00	\$ 2,756,860.00	\$ 934,141.00	\$ 1,808,972.50	\$ 6,282,360.50	\$ 486,773.55	\$ 6,769,134.05

Federal Match of \$4-\$13 is between \$ 25,129,442.00
 \$ 81,670,686.50

SSCB Meeting - September 17th, 2019 - CREP Acres (broken down by watershed)

Post-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	0.00	0.00	11.08	0.00	3.10	114.73	0.00	0.00	128.91
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	9.88	0.00	0.00	530.24	0.00	0.00	540.12
Lower East Fork White	38.50	7.00	58.17	13.10	46.50	706.04	0.00	0.00	869.31
Lower White	10.70	0.00	5.00	0.00	72.28	1,746.17	31.00	0.00	1,865.15
Middle Wabash-Busseron	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.00	13.50	1,283.83	426.14	29.81	1,754.08
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	75.52	0.00	0.00	67.89	24.60	14.62	189.23
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	56.38	6.97	19.60	567.04	317.38	167.70	1,139.57
Tippecanoe River	93.84	0.00	378.73	0.00	3.41	21.40	73.30	1,248.70	1,819.38
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	141.17	0.00	31.40	106.50	0.00	0.00	279.07
Upper Wabash	21.25	7.00	450.37	2.56	12.23	220.61	82.59	66.85	863.46
Upper White	35.09	0.00	110.84	0.00	282.80	260.79	0.00	71.18	760.70
Reported Completed as of 9/10/2019	210.48	14.00	1,297.94	22.63	484.82	5,625.24	955.01	1,598.86	10,208.98
Enrolled as of 9/10/2019	234.58	76.76	1,821.63	39.63	562.85	6,476.71	1,670.09	2,502.86	13,385.11

Pre-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.50	0.00	215.00	10.80	16.40	109.20	0.00	0.00	353.90
Tippecanoe River	0.00	0.00	2,916.80	0.00	7.80	20.40	121.70	924.00	3,990.70
Upper White	1.60	0.00	412.70	1.00	116.50	928.30	0.00	16.00	1476.10
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	4.10	0.00	3,544.50	11.80	140.70	1,057.90	121.70	940.00	5,820.70

	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total Extension Acres
Extension Acres -Tippecanoe			14.80	121.70		136.50
Extension Acres -Upper White		1.00	53.70	413.70	6.00	474.40
Total Extension Acres		1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	610.90

SSCB Meeting - September 17th, 2019 - CREP Dollars (broken down by watershed)

Post-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total	SWCD Administrative Fees	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A			
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,108.00	\$ -	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 45,892.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,240.00	\$ 4,824.00	\$ 53,064.00
Lower Wabash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 988.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 212,096.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 213,084.00	\$ 21,308.40	\$ 234,392.40
Lower East Fork White	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 5,047.00	\$ 5,240.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 265,776.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 297,613.00	\$ 29,761.30	\$ 327,374.30
Lower White	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 28,912.00	\$ 698,467.00	\$ 29,450.00	\$ -	\$ 758,399.00	\$ 75,839.90	\$ 834,238.90
Middle Wabash-Busseron	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 513,532.00	\$ 366,139.50	\$ 28,319.50	\$ 913,471.00	\$ 91,347.10	\$ 1,004,818.10
Middle Wabash-Deer	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 7,552.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,156.00	\$ 9,840.00	\$ 5,848.00	\$ 51,056.00	\$ 5,105.60	\$ 56,161.60
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 5,638.00	\$ 2,788.00	\$ 7,840.00	\$ 226,816.00	\$ 301,511.00	\$ 159,315.00	\$ 704,358.00	\$ 70,435.80	\$ 774,793.80
Tippecanoe River	\$ 9,384.00	\$ -	\$ 37,873.00	\$ -	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 8,560.00	\$ 69,635.00	\$ 1,115,139.00	\$ 1,241,955.00	\$ 124,195.50	\$ 1,366,150.50
Upper East Fork White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,117.00	\$ -	\$ 12,560.00	\$ 42,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,277.00	\$ 6,927.70	\$ 76,204.70
Upper Wabash	\$ 2,125.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 45,037.00	\$ 1,024.00	\$ 4,892.00	\$ 88,244.00	\$ 78,460.50	\$ 55,230.00	\$ 275,712.50	\$ 27,571.25	\$ 303,283.75
Upper White	\$ 3,509.00	\$ -	\$ 11,084.00	\$ -	\$ 113,120.00	\$ 97,436.00	\$ -	\$ 67,621.00	\$ 292,770.00	\$ 29,277.00	\$ 322,047.00
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,980.00
Reported Paid as of 9/10/2019	\$ 21,048.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 129,024.00	\$ 9,052.00	\$ 194,128.00	\$ 2,226,575.00	\$ 855,036.00	\$ 1,431,472.50	\$ 4,867,735.50	\$ 486,773.55	\$ 5,354,509.05

Pre-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 4,316.00	\$ 6,564.00	\$ 43,680.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,310.00
Tippecanoe River	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 291,680.00	\$ -	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 8,160.00	\$ 48,680.00	\$ 369,600.00	\$ 721,240.00
Tippecanoe River Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 30,425.00	\$ -	\$ 34,125.00
Upper White	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 41,270.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 46,600.00	\$ 371,320.00	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 466,150.00
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 11,625.00	\$ 103,425.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 116,800.00
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	\$ 410.00	\$ -	\$ 354,450.00	\$ 4,966.00	\$ 67,909.00	\$ 530,285.00	\$ 79,105.00	\$ 377,500.00	\$ 1,414,625.00



Indiana Department of Environmental Management Report

*To The State Soil Conservation Board
September 17, 2019*

Office of Water Quality Updates:

- Despite all the spring rainfall, each of the 2019 surface water monitoring projects is on target to be completed with quality-assured, usable data. This includes the 6 performance measures monitoring projects to determine if the conservation practices installed using cost-share money from the ICP agencies have resulted in water quality improvements
 - Watersheds are: Flat Creek (Patoka); Big Creek (Muscatatuck); Hogan Creek (Middle Ohio-Laughery); Swamp Creek, Shanty Creek-Kilmore Creek, Stump Ditch-Kilmore Creek (Wildcat); Little Deer Creek (Middle Wabash-Deer)
- There will be a monitoring field day for the Laughery Creek watershed characterization project (watershed planning and TMDL development) at Versailles State Park in October with the date TBD.
- Sampling will begin for the Maria Creek (Sullivan Co.) project in November 2019.
- 18 applications were received for the §319 FFY 2020; 14 are from SWCDs. Decisions should be out by mid-November. Program staff is re-examining how it reviews and ranks applications for funding and has asked external reviewers familiar with the program, but with no perceived conflict of interest, to provide feedback. If changes are made, they will be implemented during the next grant cycle.
- Preparing to public notice the Lower East Fork White River TMDL that includes Davies, Dubois, and Martin Counties.
- Staffing:
 - Northwest watershed Specialist position is vacant and we are seeking approval to post it
 - Sam Ennett has been hired as a Nonpoint Source Specialist

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia A. Wickard
*Office of Program Support
Assistant Commissioner and Agricultural Liaison
Indiana Department of Environmental Management*

Save the Date

Friday, November 22, 2019

Soil, Water, and Cropping Systems Forum: How Purdue is Moving Ag Forward in Sustainable Ways

This program is designed to inform our partners of the work being done at Purdue in Soil Health, Ag Water Management, Cropping Systems and Nutrient Management.

Please join us for a day of interactive programming involving Extension educators, campus specialists, and Extension partners from throughout the state. Lunch will be provided.

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM EST

Hendricks County Fairgrounds and Conference Center
1900 Main Street
Danville, IN 46122

Registration information will be available soon.

For more information contact:

[Walt Sell](#)

Assistant Program Leader, Soil Health Purdue Extension
(765) 494-8490

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PURDUE
EXTENSION

Purdue Extension | Agricultural Administration Building
615 W State Street | West Lafayette | IN | 47907

2020 application for the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy is now available

Learn to be a Leader in Watershed Management

Enroll now to improve your watershed management skills

If you're interested in water quality and watersheds, consider applying for the 2020 Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. The Academy, organized by Purdue University with support from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and other Indiana conservation agencies and organizations, gives participants the chance to:

Engage in basic and advanced level watershed topics covering leadership principles, watershed science, organization and communication, technology and GIS, stakeholder involvement techniques and policy skills

- Meet, learn from, and build a network of peers
- Interact with topic experts
- Gain strategies, skills, and resources for successful watershed management
- Earn a Professional Certificate in Watershed Management

Enrollment deadline: November 8, 2019

Web site: for the online application and information about the Academy, visit <https://engineering.purdue.edu/watersheds/academy.html>

Academy Fee: Includes lodging and food for overnight and one-day workshops, plus all course materials. Payment due by December 6, 2019 for accepted applicants.

- Full cost: \$1,250
- Soil and Water Conservation District & nonprofit staff and board members, self-funded participants: \$750
- Additional scholarships may be available for applicants upon request: \$375

Format: Training includes three face-to-face group sessions and distance learning, online (approximately 3-4 hrs/week). The Academy runs from January to May, 2020. Specific workshop dates are January 8-9, March 31-April 1, and May 20, 2020.

For more information and to fill out the application, please contact Sara Peel, speel@purdue.edu, or see **the Academy Web Page** <http://engineering.purdue.edu/watersheds>

Sara Peel, CLM
IWLA Coordinator
speel@purdue.edu
765-337-9100

State Conservationist's Report

September 2019

STAFFING

- Eight supervisory district conservationists (Planning Team Leader) positions advertised, closed, and selections are being made. If vacancies are created, we will fill those position.
- Eight Farm Bill assistants (for program contract support) positions advertised and closed. We are awaiting panels.
- Indiana NRCS has filled 33 positions in FY19.

FARM BILL

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Indiana has made excellent progress on obligating FY19 funds for approved EQIP applications. To date we have obligated over 99% of our original allocation of \$20.5 million dollars. Indiana has requested additional dollars to help fund a portion of the remaining preapproved applications.

Indiana has also recently received an additional \$2.4 million to assist landowners on cover crop plantings for prevented planting/flooded fields. These funds were provided as a special funding request due to the wetness and flooding that has occurred in Indiana in 2019.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP contracts continue to be reviewed for obligation. Indiana has recently received \$1.25 million in additional CSP funds. The additional funds will be used on preapproved but not yet obligated CSP applications.

A sign-up for Grassland Conservation Initiative-a component of CSP has recently ended. This program involves lands with a crop base that are currently in grass and allows the participant to receive a payment to have it remain in grass. Eligible participants were identified by working with FSA and eligible participants have been notified. Approximately \$100,000 dollars will be obligated on 76 applications for CSP-GCI.

Agricultural Conservation Easements Program

Indiana had the most Wetland Reserve Easement enrollments of any state in 2019 with 40 on over 2,600 acres. The full easement allocation for 2019 was \$10.3 million and we expect to obligate 99% into new enrollments and management/repair on existing easements.

MRBI/NWQI Priority Watersheds

NRCS is seeking new priority watersheds for the Mississippi River Basin Initiative and National Water Quality Initiative. MRBI has a primary focus of improving water quality while also restoring wetlands, enhancing wildlife habitat, and sustaining agricultural viability in small watersheds of the Mississippi River Basin. Projects should align with state nutrient loss reduction strategies. NWQI is a joint initiative between NRCS and EPA to address agricultural sources of water pollution, specifically nutrients, sediment and pathogens in priority watersheds. Implementation projects for both MRBI and NWQI must have a watershed assessment that meets NRCS guidelines and targets efforts at the 12-digit HUC level. Applicants can apply for funding to complete a watershed assessment before applying for implementation funding. Proposals are due to Indiana NRCS by September 20. Interested partners should contact Jill Reinhart for proposal guidelines and watershed assessment criteria.

Local Working Groups

Local Work Groups focus on identifying agricultural and natural resource issues existing in their communities and provide information and feedback to direct NRCS farm bill programs, such as EQIP and CSP. Participants can be farmers; private woodland owners; representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations; and agencies carrying out environmental, agricultural, or conservation programs and activities. The LWG is a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee that meets annually to discuss their local natural resource issues and provide recommendations on their top priority concerns to the STC. The deadline for this action is November 1, 2019.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

NRI is the National Resources Inventory, a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection will begin in early September and run through until the end of January 2020. The soils staff at the state office will collect data. Field office staff and FSA may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plan, cropping history, etc. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Rick Neilson State Soil Scientist at rick.neilson@usda.gov.

COMPLIANCE STATUS REVIEWS

Status reviews are underway around the state. Completing status reviews is required by law and Indiana USDA (NRCS and FSA) takes this responsibility seriously, but we also use this opportunity to discuss conservation with all program participants. These reviews can educate the landowner about why compliance is required and help them get back on the conservation track and keep them eligible for our programs.

CROP INSURANCE AND COVER CROPS UPDATES

USDA Risk Management Agency recently authorized the grazing, haying, and silage harvest of cover crops (as identified by an ag expert) after September 1, 2019 for this crop year only.

A variance to the Indiana FOTG Cover Crop (340) allows customers to plant corn, soybean, grain sorghum, and/or alfalfa as a monoculture (cover or grazing only) or in a mix (cover, grazing, haying, silage) and be considered to meet the standard. The cover crop **cannot be harvested for seed/grain under any circumstances**. The variance is for fiscal year 2019 growing season only.

A variance to the FOTG Tree/Shrub Establishment Standard (612) allows planting of bareroot seedlings after July 1st if the seedlings have been properly stored and they are planted as soon as site conditions are suitable. This is for 2019 only

FFA VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

The FFA National Convention and Expo is October 30-November 1, 2019. As in years past, NRCS will be supporting the Natural Resources and Environment Judging event and we are asking **for volunteer assistance from partnership staff**. This event will take place on October 30th from 11AM-2PM at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. If you would like to volunteer for one of these events, please contact Kris Vance at: kris.vance@usda.gov.

2019-2020 IDEA Region Directors

South-Southwest - Erica Burkemper-Fischer, President; Pike Co. SWCD
North-Southwest - Martha Miller, Vice President; Monroe Co. SWCD
South-Northeast - Mary Lou Musselman, Secretary; Miami Co. SWCD
North-Southeast - Cindy Newkirk, Treasurer; Hancock Co. SWCD
South-Northwest - Eric Shideler, Co-Director; Vermillion Co. SWCD
South-Northwest – Lori Jordan, Co-Director; Fountain Co. SWCD
North-Northwest - Rose Morgan; Newton Co. SWCD
North-Northeast - Julie Knudson; DeKalb Co. SWCD
South-Southeast - Terry Ault; Jackson Co. SWCD



Poster Contest 2019 –

Theme was **Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home**; there are five divisions judged by grades: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 and judging takes place at the IASWCD Office by District Staff. IDEA awards each winning SWCD with a \$100.00 to be given by the District to the Winner!

Winners were:

- K-1 Abriella Bishop, Vermillion County
 - 2-3 Hayden Ehrich, Vermillion County
 - 4-6 Sean Taylor, Parke County
 - 7-9 Clare VanMeter, Franklin County
 - 10-12 Anabel Stein, Lake County
-
- Poster Contest 2020 will be **Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators** and there are five divisions judged by grades: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12 and judging takes place at the IASWCD Office by District Staff <https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/pollinators/>
 - 2019 IDEA Fall Conference will be October 1-3, 2019 and will be at Clifty Falls State Park, Clifty Inn at Madison, Indiana Hosted by the South-Southeast Region of Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Lawrence, Orange, Scott, and Washington Soil and Water Conservation Districts

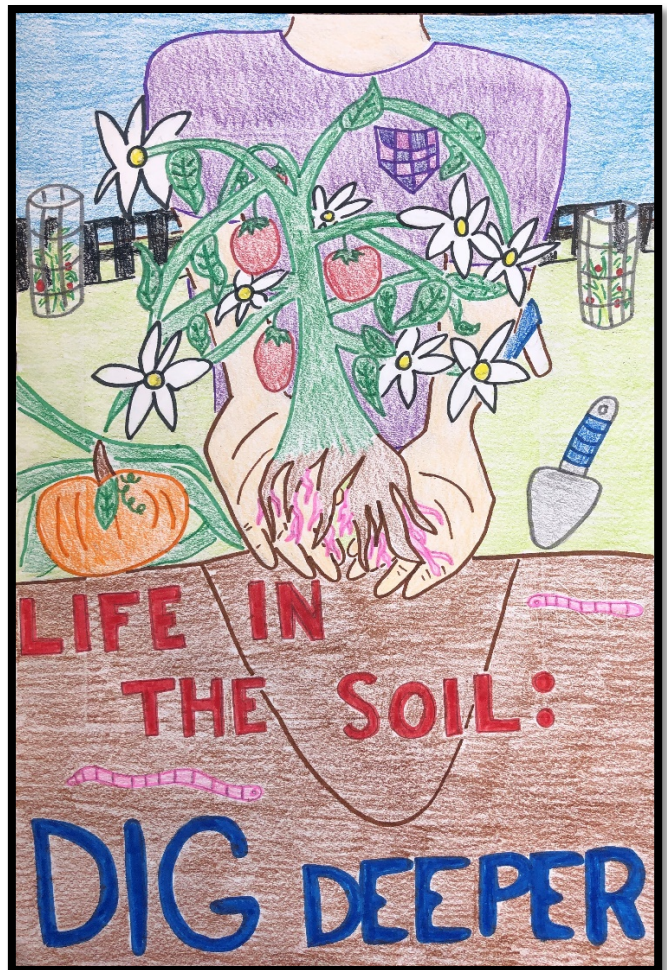


- IDEA is creating a Region Conservation Partnership Calendar for 2020 that will be handed out at the IASWCD Annual Conference showcasing the 2019 Poster Contest Winners.
- The IDEA Regions Directors with Region Staff and ISDA District Support Specialist (DSS) have been meeting monthly, bi-monthly and/or quarterly dependent on the Region to help further the strength of IDEA and District Employees.
- IDEA Silent Auction will once again be happening at the IASWCD Annual Conference in January 2020. We encourage you to bring a donated item, as well as stop by the Auction in January and sign up to buy one of the items. Proceeds go to our Poster Contest and Scholarship Programs.

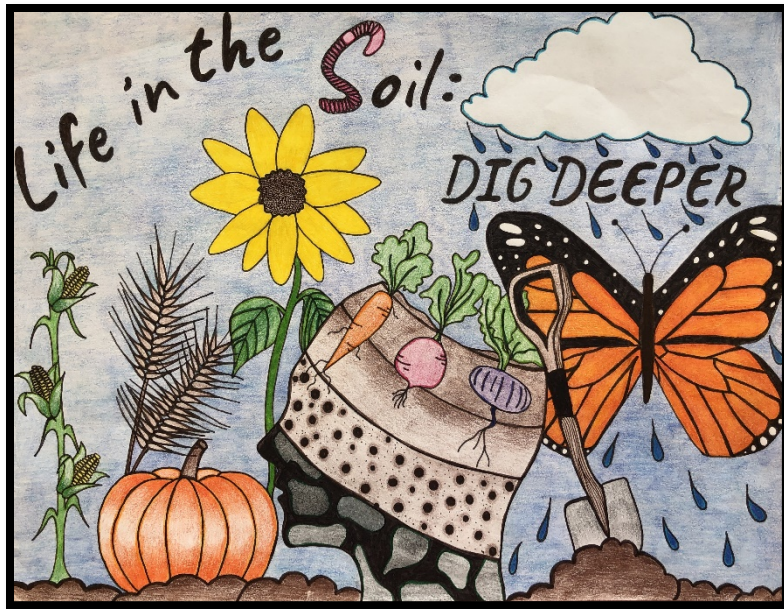
2019 State Poster Contest Winner Artist



Abriella Bishop
 SWCD: Vermillion County
 Category: Grades K-1



Clare VanMeter
 SWCD: Franklin County
 Category: Grades 7-9



Anabel Stein

SWCD: Lake County

Category: Grades 10-12

www.iaswcd.org



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

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



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TREASURER:
Marc Roberts
Montgomery County

SECRETARY:
Jeff Baker
Warrick County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Joe Schmees
joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org

To: State Soil Conservation Board
From: Roger Wenning, President, IASWCD
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

- Several successful trainings and field days held in late summer.

Pathway to Water Quality

- All went well...thanks again to everyone for their hard work and dedication
- Committee already making plans for 2020.

Legislative Issues

- Executive Director, Joe Schmees, was appointed by the Governor's office to the Storm Water Management Task Force. The first meeting was held, August 27, and the final two meetings are September 18 and October 1.
- IASWCD gearing up for the 2020 legislative session, which is a short session. The focus will be connecting Districts to their legislators to build relationships this year, and keep their work at the forefront.
- Three resolutions submitted for consideration at the IASWCD Business meeting in January

Other

- River Friendly Farmer awards ceremony held Aug. 14 with 47 farmers recognized from 37 counties. This continues to be a well-received event.
- The Summer Supervisor and Staff trainings have been completed. There has been positive feedback, and our attendance numbers were higher than last year. A few districts had their full board in attendance.
- District Showcase Awards have been submitted and reviewed, and winners announced soon.
- 2019 Conservation Awards nominations have been submitted, and will be under committee review soon and will be awarded at the 2020 Annual Conference of Indiana SWCDs in January.

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