



Floyd County Soil & Water Conservation District

74th Annual Report

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021



(Pictured L-R) Director Angel Jackson, and Supervisors Alisa Perkins, Reba Kamer, Tom King, Melanie Palaisa, and Ron Wathen

SWCD CONTACT INFORMATION

Floyd County Soil & Water Conservation District

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A REVIEW OF 2021

January

Planning for the Annual Meeting

Alisa Perkins was the district delegate for the Indiana Associate of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) Business Meeting. The Board attended virtually from the district office

February

Annual Meeting held with limited in-person attendance and on-line participation. No meal or awards were presented.

Reba Kamer was re-elected as supervisor and Melanie Palaisa was deemed an Associate supervisor.

A review of the district's finances was presented by Ron Wathen and Reba Kamer highlighted district events for the year

March

Tom King was named Chairman of the board, Ron Wathen named Vice Chairman, and Angel Jackson named Secretary / Treasurer of the board

Supervisor Dennis Konkle resigned and associate Melanie Palaisa was temporarily elected to fill the remainder of Dennis' term.

Board sponsored Grow Pots for local 5th graders & the newly constructed Community Garden at the fairgrounds

Floyd County resident tree orders were picked up from Vallonia

April / May

Annual Plan of Work was reviewed and updated

The District partnered with the Arts Alliance of Southern Indiana to help sponsor the creation of a Monarch Education Garden in downtown New Albany

Invasive Callery Pear tree advertisement ran in local newspaper helping to increase participation in our Clean Water Indiana cost-sharing grant for removing invasive plants

June

The District was featured at the SE Regional Meeting for their unique partnerships and collaborations.

The District successfully completed a financial audit by the State Board of Accounts with no instances of non-compliance found.

July

The District adopted a new Capital Assets policy

Supervisors and staff worked on plans for upcoming workshops and volunteered time / resources to the Monarch Education Garden



Supervisors watch the Indiana Associate of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) Annual Business Meeting virtually from the district office. Alisa Perkins was the district's delegate.



A resident's tree order from Vallonia State Tree Nursery. The District picks up resident orders and delivers them to the district office saving residents shipping.

A Review of 2021

(Continued)

August

District partnered with Purdue Extension to host an Urban Wildlife Nuisance Animals workshop featuring guest speakers Conservation Officer Paul Crocket and Wildlife Biologist Bridget Stancombe

September

A virtual Forestry Roundtable Discussion was hosted by the District and Purdue Extension and included district forester Maddie Westbrook, forester Nathan Kachnavage, and district conservationist Kevin Chastain

Enjoy Your Land publication being updated for 2022 printing

Supervisors and staff helped with Weed Wrangle hosted by our local CISMA (Floyd County Native Habitat Restoration Team)

October

The Local Workgroup Ranking Meeting was held following the regular board meeting

Election Committee members for the Annual Meeting decided

Ron Wathen appointed to another 3 year term

November

Melanie Palaisa was selected to be the district's delegate at the 2022 IASWCD Business Meeting

Clean Water Indiana grant completed with final cost-share payment paid.

December

The board decided to host another hybrid annual meeting due to the ongoing health pandemic

District's candidates for election at the Annual Meeting will be Alisa Perkins and Melanie Palaisa



Supervisor Melanie Palaisa takes her oath and is sworn in by County Commissioner John Schellenberger. Melanie served in place of Dennis Konkle who stepped down earlier in the year.



The District helped sponsor the Monarch Educational Gardens created by the Arts Alliance of Southern Indiana. The garden is located in downtown New Albany at 820 East Market Street.



The District's first In-Person event of the year was an Urban Wildlife Nuisance Animals workshop held at Purdue Ext.



Japanese Stiltgrass is removed from a walking path on the grounds of Mt. St. Francis retreat center. Floyd County's CISMA (FCNHRT) hosted the weed wrangle.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF FLOYD COUNTY SWCD
January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

RECEIPTS

Balance Brought Forward	\$73,813.42
State for District Operations	\$10,000.00
County for District Operations	\$1,309.90
Clean Water Indiana (CWI) reimbursement	\$2,390.50
Reimburse sales tax paid	\$2.20
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$13,702.60

TOTAL (Balance forward + Receipts) **\$87,516.02**

DISBURSEMENTS

Annual Meeting Expenses	\$38.32
Audit by State Board of Accounts	\$457.00
Clean Water Indiana (CWI) cost-share	\$4,230.00
Clean Water Indiana (CWI) newspaper advertisement	\$1,000.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,525.00
Educational supplies	\$132.50
Office Supplies	\$139.75
Postage & Delivery Expenses	\$295.00
Printing/Copying Expense	\$304.33
Supervisor Per Diem	\$2,000.00
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	\$355.00
Other Disbursements (Wildlife Seed)	\$400.00
Other Disbursements (Sponsorships)	\$3,975.00
Other Disbursements (District laptop)	\$1,275.87
Other Disbursements (coffee pot, laptop carrying case, raingarden maintenance)	\$184.46
Other Disbursements (40 Copies of Monroe Co. SWCD children's book)	\$200.00
Other Disbursements (10 sponsorship tags)	\$32.20
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$18,544.43

BALANCE (Total receipts – Total disbursements) **\$68,971.59**

CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY

Salaries	\$54,836.04
Fringe	\$8,368.26
Other (Mileage)	\$154.44

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Investments	17,229.31
Ending Investments	17,231.03
Change (+/-)	1.72

Harrison / Floyd / Crawford Farm Service Agency Update

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The Farm Service Agency (FSA) serves the agricultural community by administering many of the federal Farm Bill programs. Among the most popular in this area are the Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL), Disaster Programs for Livestock, and the Farm Loan Programs.

Additionally, FSA administered several COVID-19 pandemic relief programs the past two years, including two rounds of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP and CFAP2) for crop and livestock producers and the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers Program (PATHH) for loggers. Over \$2.95 Million of CFAP1, \$4.36 Million of CFAP2, and nearly \$250 Thousand of PATHH funds were distributed to assist eligible producers in the three-county area.

The CRP program currently has 221 active contracts (158 in Harrison, 20 in Floyd, 43 in Crawford) with a total of 2494 acres enrolled. The CRP program issues over \$320 Thousand of annual rental payments into the local economy.

The FSFL program provides low interest loans for the construction of commodity storage facilities. These are three to twelve year loans (depending upon the loan amount) that help provide storage for up to two years of production. Current interest rates are: 0.875% for 3-year term, 1.250% for 5-year term, 1.375% for 7-year term, 1.500% for 10-year term, and 1.625% for 12-year term.

The Farm Loan Programs provide direct loans and loan guarantees for the purchases of land and/or equipment as well as operating loans to local eligible producers. There are approximately 40 direct active loans in the three-county area totaling around \$3.6 Million.

For additional information on these or any other FSA programs, please feel free to contact the FSA office at 812-738-8121 Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. Regional Farm Loan staff are located in the Salem FSA office and can be reached at 812-883-3006.

County Executive Director
Jennifer Anderson
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Farm Loan Manager
Debbie Maudlin
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Natural Resources Conservation Service

2021 Floyd County Update

Private citizens own over 90 percent of the land in Indiana which includes nearly 15 million acres of farmland and about 4 million acres of forestland. Making stewardship critical to the health of our environment. Each day, these farmers and forest landowners are making decisions about natural resource use and management that impact soil and water quality. With NRCS' help, many are managing more productive lands while improving healthy ecosystems.

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance through voluntary conservation programs for all kinds of land, natural resources, and people. We provide help with identifying resource concerns and developing a plan to address those concerns. NRCS offers several conservation programs to help reduce erosion, protect streams and rivers, establish wildlife habitat, improve air quality and conserve energy.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the primary program that NRCS uses to provide financial and technical assistance to private landowners wanting to install conservation practices on private lands.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities. CSP may address various resource concerns including soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, and animal or timber resources.

Typical EQIP and CSP contracts include practices such as, livestock watering systems, pasture/hay planting, access roads, heavy use area protection, forest stand improvement, invasive species control, cover crops, nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, no-till, pollinator habitat, and tree planting.

Improving Soil Health continues to be a major focus of NRCS and the Conservation Partnership. As soil health improves, soils become more resilient and able to function at a higher level even during extreme weather patterns. Healthy soils are more resistant to erosion, absorb more rainfall, cycle nutrients more efficiently, and require fewer inputs. These things are important whether you are producing corn and soybeans or forages for grazing livestock. Implementing practices like no-till, cover crops, nutrient and pest management, conservation buffers, and prescribed grazing will make your soils function at their highest level.

To find out more about the programs and services offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and available in Floyd County, please contact: Kevin Chastain, NRCS District Conservationist at kevin.chastain@usda.gov or Erica Wyss, NRCS Soil Conservationist at erica.wyss@usda.gov . Or visit www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/. or call (812)738-8121 ext. 3.

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