



Clean Water Indiana 2011 Grant Report

INDIANA
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



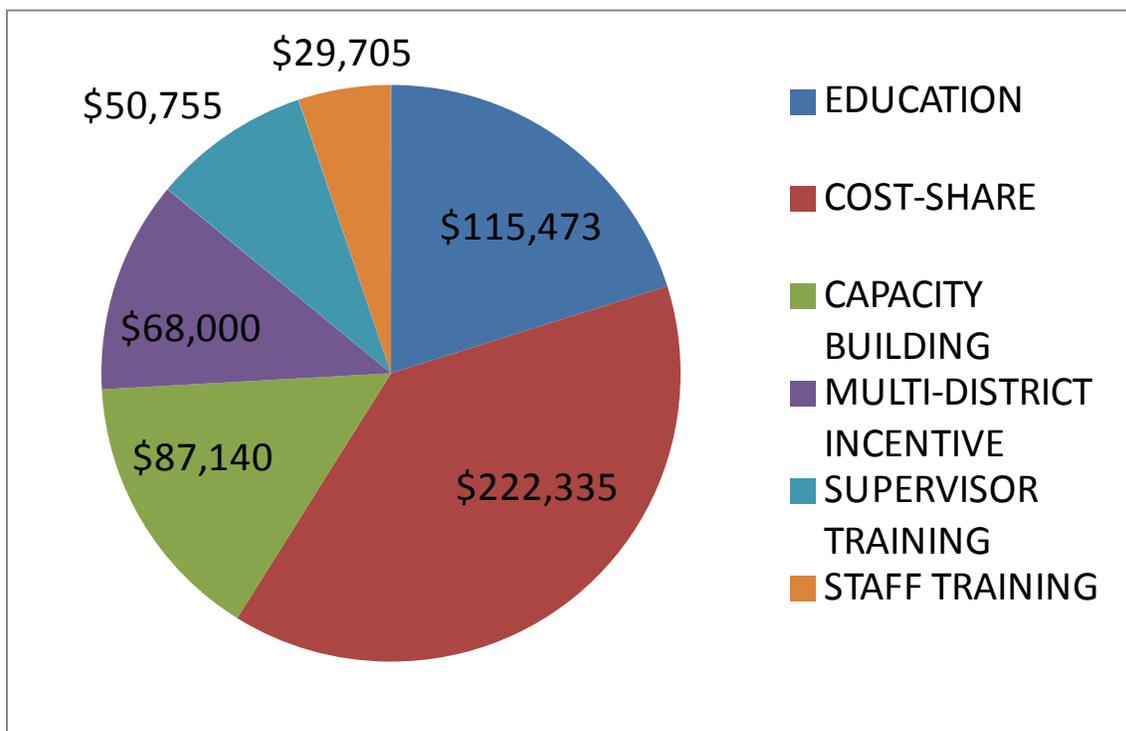
Overview

In 2011, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) designated \$644,000 for Soil and Water Conservation District grants. Each Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was given the opportunity to apply for Clean Water Indiana funds up to \$7,000. The focus for this round of grant funding includes:

- Adult Education/Outreach
- Cost Share Incentives
- Multi-District Initiatives
- Capacity Building

Eighty-eight SWCDs submitted CWI grant applications totaling \$573,408 (Chart 1). The SSCB approved all grant applications and funded the total amount applied. All applicants had one year to complete their project which started January 1, 2011 and concluded by December 31, 2011¹.

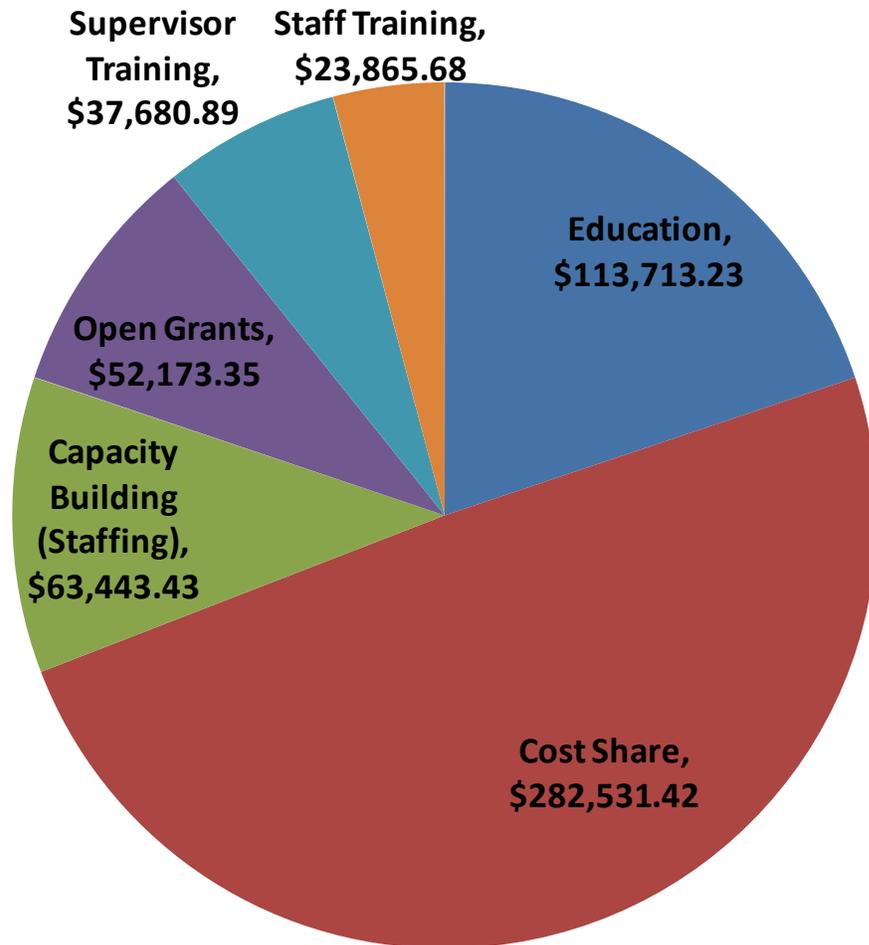
Chart 1



1. Twelve districts have extensions on the 2011 CWI grants. These grants will end between June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

Final Reports

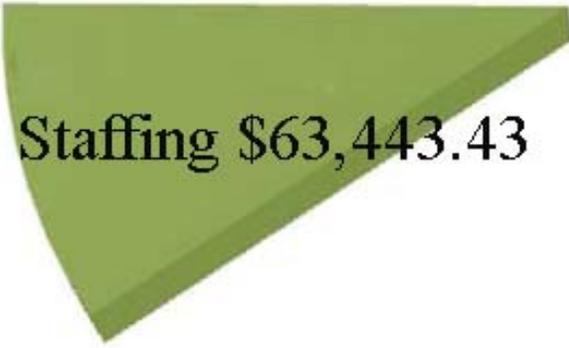
Final reports for 2011 grants were due on March 1, 2012. As of June 2012, 76 reports were submitted and reviewed.



SWCDs reported spending \$521,234.70. The remainder (labeled “Open Grants”) is comprised of the balance of the 12 grants with extensions and \$2,253 which was not spent and reverted back to the State.

In conjunction with Clean Water Indiana funds, districts also utilized \$264,832 in district funds, \$212,816 in district in-kind, \$105,100 in partner funds, and \$148,938 in partner in-kind.

In an effort to allow districts to fully utilize their grant funds SWCDs were able to modify their grant spending from their original request, as long as the spending stayed within the scope of the grant. This flexibility allowed most SWCDs to fully utilize their grant funds.



Staffing \$63,443.43

Staffing

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The 2011 Clean Water Indiana grants assisted in funding 23 employees. CWI funds provided support for the following positions:

- 11 Technicians
- 3 Education/Outreach professionals
- 5 Project Managers
- 4 SWCD Managers/Administrative staff

“Jerry (Smith) was already working as a contract employee through another grant to educate the public in the Pigeon Creek Watershed on Water Quality and Septic System Education. There were requests for these presentations and materials outside the watershed. We used the CWI money to hire Jerry to give presentations to groups in other watersheds within our county.”

-Steuben County SWCD

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- 11 positions served at least two districts
 - 7 Full time positions
 - 16 Part time positions
 - 8 new staff
 - 9 positions saw increased hours

Supervisor and Staff Training

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Clean Water Indiana funds provided training reimbursement for 233 staff members and 289 supervisors. Districts could receive up to \$1,000 in training reimbursement, with at least 50 percent spent on Supervisor training.



Staff Training
\$23,865.68



Supervisor Training
\$37,680.89

This grant has allowed the Porter SWCD to build on its relationships with fellow government agencies and individual landowners.

-Porter County SWCD

IASWCD Annual Conference Attendance:

- 136 Supervisors
- 81 Staff

Leadership Institute Attendance:

- 26 Supervisors
- 11 Staff



Education and Outreach

The 2011 Clean Water Indiana grants helped fund 143 events across the state with nearly 12,000 people in attendance. The grants also helped fund outreach and promotional items including:

- Over 195,000 printed materials
- 416 Radio Ads
- 32 Websites
- 5 Billboards
- 15 e-blasts
- 23 Fair exhibits
- 50 Newsletters
- 34 Newspaper Ads

“At least three producers attending our field day expressed to me (Debra Carpenter) a desire to plant cover crops this fall and asked for assistance in planning. The CWI dollars used to promote and put on this field day impacted many decision-makers and will be turned into BMP’s to keep sediment and nutrients in the soil where they belong.”

-Delaware County SWCD

Cost Share

The 2011 Clean Water Indiana grants helped fund over 340 cost share programs around the state. These programs impacted over 190,000 acres. Cost share programs included:

- Cover Crops
- Tree Plantings
- Tile Drainage Systems
- Pasture Plantings
- Private Well Water Supply Testing
- Nitrification Inhibitor
- Hillside Erosion Control
- Grid Sampling
- Abandoned Well Closures
- Bank Stabilization
- Buffer Strips



“Without this cost share program many Crawford County Farmers would be unable to help with soil fertility, sediment reduction and nutrient management principles.”

-Crawford County SWCD

Clean Water Indiana Funds in Action

Brown County SWCD



Damage from old logging trails in Brown County that covered over 700 feet. (Above) After the use of CWI funds Brown County repaired the entire trail. (Right) Photos courtesy of Brown County SWCD



Brown County SWCD utilized their Clean Water Indiana Grant to repair an old logging trail. The old logging trail covered over 700 feet along properties belonging to three landowners. The ruts, up to five feet wide and deep, caused gullies and erosion issues that needed to be permanently repaired along the entire logging trail. The CWI funds allowed the district to repair the trail.

Dekalb County SWCD



Participants from the Agronomy field day at the Andersons Ag Center learn about Nitrogen management in corn. The day brought together many partners from around the area. Photo courtesy of Kent Sweitzer

The Andersons Ag Center, in cooperation with the Dekalb and Steuben County SWCDs and Purdue Extension hosted an agronomy field day. The theme of the event was Stewardship: “Balancing the business of feeding the world & preserving it for our future”. Additional contributions were made by Cisco, NRCS and other sponsors. Topics under the tents included Nitrogen Management in Corn, Soybean High Management, and Blind Inlets & Cover Crops.

Dubois County SWCD

Dubois County SWCD used Clean Water Indiana grant funds for a soil health workshop and a cover crop cost share program. The cost share program assisted farmers in planting nearly 1400 acres of cover crops. The district also no-tilled a test plot of seed donated by Cisco and held a cover crop field day in November. About 20 local farmers came to the field day. The test plot had about 10 different species and mixes of cover crops for the participants to examine. Field day leaders dug up selected plants to demonstrate the root structure and the value of cover crops to the soil. From these efforts, the Dubois County SWCD actually had one long-time conventional farmer “see the light” so to speak and plant cover crops for the first time this fall!



Barry Fisher and Dave Ring, landowner who hosted the field day, show participants the cover crops at the Dubois County SWCD field day. Photo courtesy of Dubois County SWCD

Gibson, Pike, Vanderburgh, Posey and Warrick County SWCDs



Over 60 landusers from Gibson, Pike, Vanderburgh, Posey and Warrick counties attended a workshop in August 2011. Districts brought in speakers to talk about cover crop integration, setting up planters for no-till, precision farming, and farm bill information.

Landusers from Gibson, Pike, Vanderburgh, Posey and Warrick counties attended a workshop to hear about management techniques from specialized speakers. (Above) SWCD staff worked in a coordinated effort to host a five county event. (Right) Photos courtesy of Gibson County SWCD



Huntington County SWCD

Huntington County SWCD used Clean Water Indiana funds to conduct two field days. They also exhibited a cover crop display at their county fair. Guests were able to view soil pits showing the root systems of the cover crop seeded the previous fall. Guest speakers provided information about different varieties of cover crops and the benefits of cover crops to soil. Through the CWI grant the SWCD also offered a one-time incentive to seed cover crops. This was well received and many landowners signed up for programs to incorporate cover crops in their farm plans.



*Huntington County SWCD created a cover crop display to use at various events, including the county fair and field days.
Photo courtesy of Huntington County SWCD*

Jasper County SWCD

Utilizing Clean Water Indiana grant funds, Jasper County SWCD provided cost share to 680 acres, 2000+ acres with farmer match, as well as technical support on all acres. The grant also helped fund six different cover crop mixes and five fall soil pit digs.

*Jasper County SWCD used funds for soil pit digs in the Fall. (Below) They also used funds to illustrate root structure and depth. (Right)
Photos courtesy of Jasper County SWCD*



Lawrence County SWCD

Lawrence County SWCD hosted a cover crop barn meeting in December 2011. The purpose of the barn meeting was to educate the public about the incredible benefits that cover crops have on soil health and erosion control. The SWCD planted a demo plot with 11 different varieties of cover crop mixes planted to show farmers the different root structures, and soil benefits between different varieties of plant species. The barn meeting began at the demo plot and Downing discussed the benefits with each different plant species. Immediately after the demo plot discussion the 39 attendees traveled to SWCD Supervisor Mike Spreen's farm near Williams, Indiana, where we continued our discussion about cover crop advantages. The SWCD gave those who attended a free book on cover crops. Cost share dollars were given to all attendees who planted cover crops in the fall of 2011.



Lawrence County SWCD planted a cover crop demo plot with 11 different varieties.

Photo courtesy of Lawrence County SWCD

Madison County SWCD



Field day participants from Madison and Hancock counties toured a hog farm to learn more about modern Confined Feeding Operations.

Photo courtesy of Madison County SWCD

Madison County SWCD hosted a Confined Feeding Operation (CFO) Field Day with Hancock County at a Hog Farm on the Madison/Hancock county line. The purpose for the event was to educate the public on CFO's. The district also worked with Tipton and its surrounding counties on a Soil Quality Field Day that was held on August 17, 2011.

Miami County SWCD

Miami County SWCD used 2011 Clean Water Indiana funds to acquire retired NRCS technician/engineer, Roger Roeske for part-time employment. Roger's expertise in creating conservation designs benefits a strong partnership between the Miami County SWCD and the many different divisions of NRCS. One project Roger worked on is a 6.8 acre grass waterway and a concrete toewall structure constructed this past summer on rented ground that required a lot of coordination between the renter, the landowner, Miami Co. SWCD, NRCS, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Wabash County Surveyor's office, Miami County's Farm Service Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The project, which physically lies in Wabash County, is within the flowage easement of the Army Corps of Engineers' Mississinewa Reservoir, and has a Wabash County-maintained tile. Almost 600 acres of cropland drains through this grass waterway and concrete toewall structure.



The toewall structure above was partially funded by CWI grant and required a collaborative effort from landowner, renters and government entities, photo courtesy of Miami County SWCD

Monroe County SWCD



*Monroe County SWCD staff deciding where to place the Heavy Use Area pads.
Photo courtesy of Monroe County SWCD*

All of the Clean Water Indiana funding that Monroe County SWCD received went to offset the cost of the installation of Heavy Use Area Pads. Our SWCD neighbors to the south in Lawrence County have been encouraging the installation of this HUAP for a long time. They are now finally catching on here in Monroe Co and we wanted to do whatever we could to assist landholders to use them.

Porter County SWCD



Porter County SWCD helped the local Drainage Board with seed on recently cleared land to help reduce erosion and sedimentation.

Photo courtesy of Porter County SWCD

adjointing landowners. “The Drainage Board was grateful to have the seed especially for smaller areas where it wouldn’t pay to bid out the project. If the seed was not made available these places most likely would not have been seeded.” said Russ Pumroy, Porter County Drainage Board member. “As a landowner you really appreciate that the seeding took place in a timely fashion,” said Jim Lambert, Porter County SWCD Chairman and farmer. Once made aware of how the seed would be utilized, the seed dealer sold the seed to the District at cost.

The Porter County Soil & Water Conservation District dedicated roughly \$1,000 of its 2011 Clean Water Indiana funds to purchase seed, which was utilized by the Porter County Drainage Board to reseed recently cleaned and repaired ditches throughout the county. By seeding as part of the cleaning and repair process, the potential for erosion and sedimentation was greatly reduced and water quality improved. This

expenditure also helped to strengthen the relationship between the County Drainage Board, the District and the

Steuben County SWCD

Through the Clean Water Indiana grant, Steuben County SWCD was able to assist producers in the planting of 150 acres of cover crops in the Pigeon and Fish Creek Watersheds, keeping sediment and nutrients from getting into nearby streams. This grant also enabled the district to partner with other conservation districts, Purdue Extension, and other non-traditional partners, such as The Nature Conservancy, The St. Joe River Watershed Initiative, and The Andersons to put on several local field days to educate producers on the benefits of best



Steuben County SWCD used CWI funds for cost share for cover crops.

Photo courtesy of Steuben County SWCD

management practices (BMPs). The district sponsored the Conservation Farming Expo in Montpelier, Ohio, as well as the Agronomy Field Day in Waterloo, Indiana. The Steuben County SWCD was also involved with several other educational events, such as our Annual Meeting, the Steuben County Lakes Council’s Fall Forum, and a Cover Crop Field Day, which not only promoted the grant, but also BMPs producers could use to reduce the sediments and nutrients leaving their farms. The district was also able to expand the work of their part-time Water Quality Education Coordinator, who is funded through an IDEM-319 grant, to work in the Pigeon Creek Watershed. He was able to provide septic system and water quality education to different watersheds in the county.

Fulton County SWCD



Participants in the Healthy Soils field day event receive information on soil health.

Photo courtesy of Fulton County SWCD

good questions were asked of the speakers, and the producers who attended seem more inclined to use cover crops. Both meetings concentrated on soil health, with emphasis on how to build soil tilth, reduce nutrient inputs, increase productivity, increase profitability, use cover crops, and practice crop rotation.

Fulton and Marshall County SWCDs held a multi-county Healthy Soils field day event in September 2011 and provided practical information on soil health and field demonstrations. Sixty-five people attended, and many participants remained after the workshop to ask questions of the experts and to discuss their particular concerns about soil health and cover crops. The winter follow-up meeting was held in March 2012 with thirty-six people in attendance. Again,

Vermillion County SWCD

Vermillion County SWCD, working with their counterparts in Parke and Fountain counties, hired Larry Timm as a Conservation Cropping Expert to supply one-on-one support, advice and encouragement for anyone considering initiating or expanding their use of conservation cropping methods. Larry's time and expenses are paid with grant funds allowing the SWCDs to offer this service free-of-charge to county producers.



Larry Timm helped individual, small and large groups with expanding their use of conservation cropping methods.

Photo courtesy of Vermillion County SWCD

Larry spent the year meeting with individuals and small and large groups. Vermillion County SWCD also utilized the some of their Clean Water Indiana funds to offer producers cost share funds to plant cover crops in the fall. CWI funded cover crops were installed successfully by seven producers protecting over 630 acres of prime farmland.

Vigo, Clay and Sullivan County SWCDs

Through Clean Water Indiana grant funds, Clay, Sullivan, and Vigo SWCD along with the West Central Indiana Watershed Alliance, Ceres Crop Solutions, and EdAir coordinated aerial seeding of approximately 3500 acres, leveraging Busseron 319 funds for about 2000 of those acres. They had three airplanes in the air at one time, and seeded about



Through a multi-county cooperation, approximately 3500 acres were able to be aerial seeded by EdAir.

Photo courtesy of West Central Indiana Watershed Alliance

2500 acres in a single morning. As a follow up to the aerial seeding, the SWCDs, Greene Co SWCD, WCIWA, Purdue Extension, and Ceres hosted a workshop in December, focusing on spring management programs.

Warrick County SWCD



Participants attend a workshop to help them with a no-till planter set-up in a multi-county area.

Photo courtesy of Warrick County SWCD

In 2011, cover crops were successful for Warrick SWCD in partnership with the Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson, and Pike SWCDs. Some were seeded by plane and some conventionally but the weather was good last fall so the cover crops looked really good.

Approximately 3100 acres were seeded within the five counties using Clean Water Indiana cost-share funds. These Districts conducted a no-till planter set-up workshop last

summer for farmers with older equipment to help prepare them for fall seeding. In March 2012, the partnering SWCDs sponsored a breakfast for our farmers. This project served as both a follow-up to last year's CWI program and a kickoff for the 2012 grant cycle.

Blackford County SWCD

Blackford County SWCD put on a Tri-County Soil Fertility Field Day in June 2011. The field day featured a soil pit, eight cover crop demo plots, a tour of Davis-Purdue farm's corn into cover crop plots, and a no-till planter set-up. Speakers were Hans Kok (CSSI), Greg Haley (NRCS), and Greg Downing (CISCO Seeds). There were approximately 70 people in attendance and the event covered by Hoosier Ag Today. The Blackford County SWCD advertised for participation in a cover crop planting incentive program. The district funded the planting of 237 acres on highly traveled roads in different parts of the county. Signage was put at each plot to advertise the project and Hoosier Ag Today played radio spots during twice daily farm reports for one week. The Clean Water Indiana dollars used to promote this field day impacted many decision-makers and will be turned into Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep sediment and nutrients in the soil.

Newton County SWCD

Newton County had approximately 3,000 acres in cover crops that were put in this fall. In November 2011, Newton County SWCD held soil pit field days in Newton and Jasper Counties. The district dug out three pits. One at Larry Strole's, one at Ollie Dorn and one at Brian Johnson. The district also used a rain simulator to show the effects of having cover crops on your land versus bare soil when it rains. It was a huge success! Newton County SWCD is going to follow up with soil pits again in 2012 to show the rooting depths of cover crops the spring. Newton County SWCD also ordered two signs to be used in the fields in the future to draw attention to the cover crops.

Jefferson County SWCD

In December 2011, the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a forest management field day. The field day was held at the National Guard Armory in Madison, IN. There were many speakers that gave information packed presentations for the attendees. Phil Marshall, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology, spoke about invasive insects, such as the Emerald Ash Borer and their effects on landowners' trees and forests. Duane McCoy from IDNR Division of Forestry gave a great presentation of the Best Management Practices in forests. Tom Rathert and Brad Meagher (private consulting foresters), Tim Schwipps (NRCS), and Susan Knowles (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) also informed the attendees of cost-share programs available to landowners through each of their different organizations, as well as how to go about receiving funding.

Clinton, Benton, Warren, & Montgomery County SWCDs

The Tippecanoe, Benton, Warren, Montgomery & Clinton SWCD's partnered to host a no-till breakfast meeting to encourage communication and candid discussion on the benefits and challenges of no-till farming. Hans Kok and Dan Towery facilitated discussion. A panel of experienced no-till farmers answered questions from those attending. The Clinton and Tipton County SWCD's partnered to host a Septic Maintenance Workshop held in March 2011 at the Kempton Town Hall. The area targeted falls within the Wildcat Creek Watershed with known E. coli impairments. Purdue Cooperative Extension, Board of Health, and contractors led the discussion. The Clinton, Howard, Tipton and Madison county SWCDs partnered to host a Soil Quality Field Day at the farm of Warren Baird. CCSI staff, NRCS staff and local producers Rodney Rulon and Cameron Mills provided the program.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

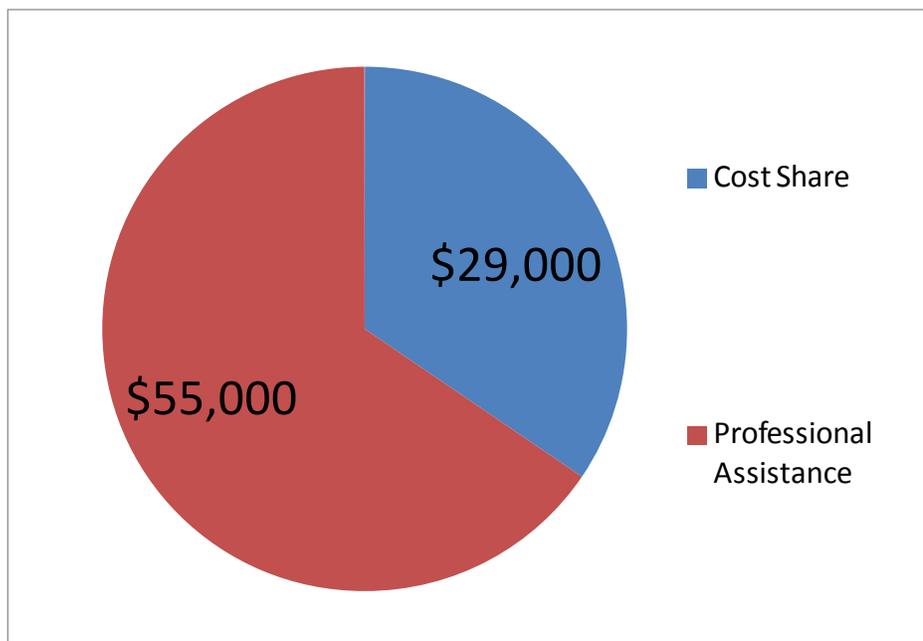
In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) allotted CWI funds for the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI), along with NRCS. The intent of CCSI is to promote a systematic approach to production agriculture focusing on continuous no-till/strip-till, cover crops, precision farming, nutrient and pest management, and conservation buffers resulting in improved soil quality, water quality, and profitability on Indiana cropland. Through this program, agronomy professionals provide very specific education and technical assistance to agricultural producers and our partners directed at production efficiency and nutrient/sediment runoff reduction. In 2011, 114 presentations were given to over 5,800 individuals and CCSI was present at events and/or provided technical assistance in over 56 counties. In 2012, 169 presentations were given to over 10,000 individuals and CCSI was present at events and/or provided technical assistance in over 69 counties.

Clean Water Indiana 2011 Watershed Grants

For 2011, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) also awarded \$84,000 for competitive watershed-based grants. Projects are to fund one or more of the categories listed below:

- Cost Share/Incentives/Demonstrations
- Increase Direct Professional Assistance to Land Users

Eighteen applications were received for the 2011 CWI grant totaling over \$500,000. The SSCB approved five grant applications and awarded a total of \$84,000.



Districts report on their grant progress on an annual basis, with the first report due in July, 2012.

Impact of Clean Water Indiana

Established within the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) provides guidance and coordination to the state's 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) as they provide local leadership in the protection of Indiana's soil and water resources. Additionally, the SSCB administers the Clean Water Indiana Grants Program, a water quality related erosion and sediment reduction program. Through the Clean Water Indiana Grants program, the SSCB aids local SWCDs to develop and maintain projects and programs that achieve the following goals:

- Clean drinking water
- Clean rivers, lakes and streams
 - More productive soils
 - Enhanced quality of life

