

March 2026 IASWCD Update

Next IASWCD Board Meeting:

March 13 at Indiana Farm Bureau, 225 S. East St., Indianapolis

Partners Invited

IASWCD Participating in NACD Spring Fly-In, March 24-26

Each year, hundreds of conservation district leaders from across the country travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Association of Conservation Districts's (NACD) Spring Fly-In. This event provides an opportunity to build relationships with congressional representatives and their staff, highlight the importance of locally led conservation, and advocate for strong federal conservation policies.

This year, Indiana's Fly-In representatives include Ken Gunkel, Sam Miller, Marc Roberts, Liz Rice and Eric Shideler.

Indiana Statewide Award Nominations Due March 31

Nominations are due by March 31 for the 2025-2026 Indiana Conservation Awards. These include:

- Conservation Farmer of the Year
- SWCD Supervisor of the Year
- Friend of Conservation
- District Showcase

Details regarding each award can be found on iaswcd.org.

Save the Date! 2027 IASWCD Conference

January 24-26, 2027

The Westin Indianapolis, 241 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Presentations have been submitted and the 2027 Planning Conference Committee is meeting in March to begin the development of conference content.



Indiana's Short Session: Legislative Advocacy & Updates Provided to SWCDs

During the 2026 Legislative Session, IASWCD's lobbyist firm, VanceMitchem, prepared weekly legislative updates for IASWCD and SWCDs on the tracking of bills. These tracking documents are posted on the IASWCD website [Legislative Advocacy page](#).

Also - NEW this year - Liz Rice hosted weekly Zoom sessions to keep districts informed regarding bills. This virtual forum provided an opportunity for districts to ask questions, gain clarification and be better informed.

Conservation Workforce Development Study

Liz Rice, IASWCD Executive Director, has been representing Indiana SWCDs in a research project titled "Conservation Workforce Development" undertaken by the Great Lakes Commission. As part of this study, SWCD supervisors and staff received an invitation to a survey. ***The survey will close soon, so we are encouraging Districts to participate now.*** Results from the study will be shared.

This study is being conducted by a project team led by Great Lakes Commission staff with researchers from the Ohio State University and bolstered by the expertise of state conservation district association executives from each of the eight Great Lakes states. The project aims to identify the current SWCD workforce status of states that touch the Great Lakes, and eventually determine how the workforce correlates to nutrient loading in the lakes. Learn more here: <https://www.glc.org/work/cwd>.

CONSERVATION DRAINAGE TRAINING

Originally scheduled for 11/03/25, this training was rescheduled to 03/19/25 due to the federal government shutdown.

INTRO TO SOIL HEALTH TRAINING

Intro to Soil Health Training was held virtually on February 24. Based on the 46 registrants' emails

- 2 from Ag Retail / Ag Retail Adjacent organizations
- 1 from Argentina
- 1 from France
- 1 from Canada
- 1 from IN DOE
- 3 from Watershed Groups / Associations
- 1 from an NGO
- 5 NRCS
- 7 RITA
- 1 Purdue
- 11 from SWCDs
- 13 Private citizens / farms

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOIL HEALTH TRAINING

*****Registration required by March 17 to allow adequate time for registrants to receive a Cover Crop field guide by mail*****

This train-the-trainer event provides a foundation for understanding how cover crops may be incorporated into Midwestern cropping systems, including considerations for changes in nutrient and pest management; as well as understanding cropping systems that can lead to improved soil health. Target audience for this training includes Indiana Conservation Partnership (Indiana NRCS, Purdue Extension, Indiana SWCD, ISDA, IDEM, IDNR, SSCB, Indiana FSA) staff, farmer-mentors, agronomists, and other ag professionals who have not attended Advanced Soil Health / Cover Crops Trainings.

WHEN:

- Session 1 - Virtual: Tuesday, March 31 - 10:00AM - 12:00PM Eastern
- Session 2 - Virtual: Tuesday, April 7 - 10:00AM - 12:00PM Eastern
- Session 3 - Optional In-Person: Tuesday, April 14 - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, West Lafayette
- Session 4 - Virtual: Tuesday, April 21 - 10:00AM - 12:00PM Eastern

TOPICS:

- Cover crops - Benefits, selection, and basic identification. Seeding and termination basics. Available resources.
- No-till - Equipment basics, adaptive systems management.
- Insect pests and beneficials - impacts of soil health systems, pest management considerations.
- Weed management - basic weed management considerations, impacts of herbicide carry over on cover crop establishment.

Register: <https://bit.ly/26-CCSI-Fundamentals>

CARGILL SUCCESS FROM THE GROUND UP GRANT

CCSI received a 1-year grant for \$69,000 from Cargill. These funds will support:

- Farmer-facing Outreach Events, including Program Managers Time and Travel
- Website Refresh
- 2027 National No-Till Conference to be held January 12-15 in Indianapolis. Organizers of the event will provide:
 - Soil Health Demonstration Booth
 - Registration Discounts for ALL Indiana Conservation Staff and Supervisors
 - A Classroom Education Session

2026 PARP / EPA RULES ROLLOUT

Similar to Category 14 Fertilizer (and manure) Application Rules rollout, the 2026 rollout of new EPA sensitive area application rules and reporting requirements is in a “learn it mode” for 2026. CCSI-Purdue On The Farm staff are working with the Indiana Office of the State Chemist to deploy a webinar to better understand the documentation portal and processes. As with Cat. 14, understanding the new rules will be important for ICP staff working with farmers, landowners and applicators. [Watch for more information.](#)

CRP Landowners Meeting Pilot

A well-received meeting for landowners enrolled in CRP was held January 22. Approximately 20 landowners were in attendance. Brianne Lowe, NRCS State Biologist, led coordination of the event with support and input from FSA, DNR, Montgomery SWCD and Pheasants Forever staff. CCSI provided logistical support. Attendees learned about site prep, seeding, maintenance, and management of Prairie Strips, Pollinator Habitat, and Quail Habitat. It is hoped that the meeting will be replicated in other areas of the state.

ADM / Ducks Unlimited Webinars

ADM and CCSI staff are working to deliver a series of webinars to support farmers who have enrolled in their re:generations program for cover crops. Subjects will include topics such as planter setup and modification, residual herbicide considerations, drill set-up, and combine adjustments. Videos will be available for viewing.

Completed Events and Trainings

- Nov 3 – Conservation Drainage Training, Lewisville [postponed](#)
- Nov 6 – Dearborn County Conservation Tillage Breakfast, Lawrenceburg [postponed](#)
- Nov 6 – IVYTech Drone Seeding of Cover Crops Demo, Lafayette
- Nov 15 – Lightning Bugs as Soil Health Indicators, Petersburg
- Nov 19 – Land Stewardship Leadership Academy
- Nov 21 – Hoosier Energy Applicator Drone Education Day
- Nov 20 – Soil Health Workshop, Rockport

Upcoming Events and Trainings

- Mar 03 - Orange County Soil Health Workshop
- Mar 03 - Sullivan County PARP
- Mar 03 = Orange County PARP

- Mar 14 – Scott County Cover Crop Tour
- Mar 14 – Clark County SWCD Annual Meeting
- Mar 17 – Soil Con, Kosciusko County
- Mar 18 – Howard / Tipton Cover Crop Field Day, Greentown
- Mar 19 – Conservation Drainage Training Pilot
- Mar 19 – Wayne County Conservation Focus Workshop
- Mar 19 – Vermillion County Workshop focusing on herbicide resistant weeds and other concerns in soybeans
- Mar 26 – Allen SWCD Cover Crop Field Day
- Mar 31, Apr 7, 14, 21 Fundamentals of Soil Health Training
- Apr 13 – Midwest Cover Crops Council Field Day, Shelby County
- Apr 14 – Cover Crop Field Day, St. Paul
- Apr(TBD) – “Mud is Fun” Soil Health Training, Fulton County
- June 8-11 – Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwest Staff Training
- June/July – Hoosier Chapter SWCS Summer Meeting featuring Bob Barr
- July TBD – Continuing Soil Health Education: Machinery and Equipment for High Residue Systems (2 trainings)
- July TBD – Ag 101: Commodity Crop Production Training (3 trainings)
- Aug 27 (tent) – Drone Technology Field Day, Wayne County
- Summer 2026 – Jasper County Field Day with Soil Pit
- Summer 2026 – Starke County Field Day
- Summer 2026 – Clean Water Indiana Reclaimed Minelands Workshop, Dubois County
- Summer 2026 – Clean Water Indiana Greene County Grazing Workshop
- Dec 2026- Indiana CCA Conference
- 2026 ADM / Ducks Unlimited Webinars
- Date TBD – Clean Water Indiana Pike County Crimper Workshop

Research

- Support – Purdue University NIFA – Empowering Indiana’s Organic Farmers – Assessing Regional and Farm Scale Soil Health with a Farmer Network (Rui); Multiple outreach events scheduled for summer 2025
- Support - SDSU and Pork Board – 5-year study with swine manure and effects of soil health on continuous corn
- POTF – Winter Kill and Injury to Cover Crops

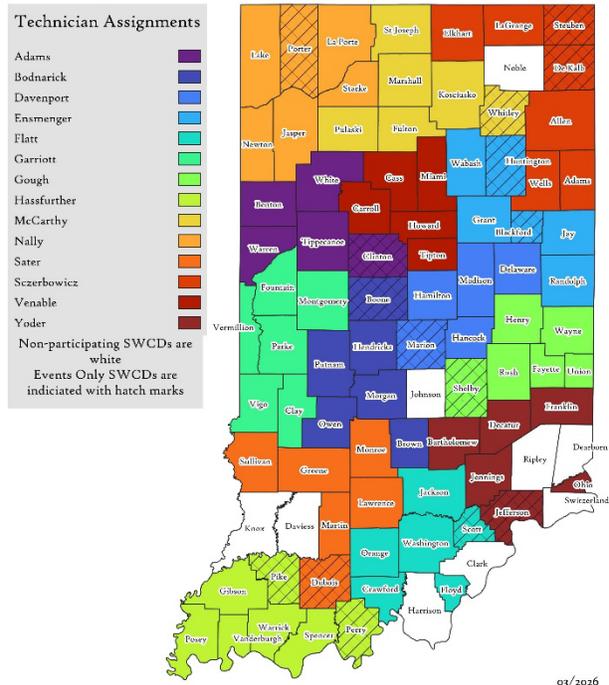
Report to the State Soil Conservation Board

March 10, 2026

Program Director Activities

ONGOING GOAL: Serve as a liaison for the agreement, and publicize opportunities related to the agreement to SWCDs statewide.

- The RITA in Action essays in IASWCD's Conservation INSight newsletter have continued.
- Tucker Ensmenger started at the end of January as Tech 6. RITA is fully staffed.
- Over the next nine months, Liz Rice and Meg Leader are leading a formal strategic planning process for the Program.
- Leader met with the IDEA Board in February
- Leader and Cole Flatt, Tech 12, met with Clark Co. SWCD Board on March 5 to discuss expanding the program into a new office.



ONGOING GOAL: Facilitate and lead local SWCD Boards, SWCD staff and partners in each program region to ensure effective work assignments and outcomes for Conservation Technicians.

- In discussions with NRCS of assigning a portion of the RITA Techs' time to assisting with NRCS's workload.
- Submitted a proposal to for a break-out session at IASWCD's Annual Meeting showcasing examples of how SWCDs and RITA Techs work together.

ONGOING GOAL: Work with NRCS program contact and qualified professionals to ensure the work identified in this agreement progresses as planned and meets technical standards and requirements.

- Arranging for RITA Techs to receive Conservation Desktop training from NRCS.

RITA Technicians Activities

ONGOING GOAL: Support SWCD priorities and projects and track selected metrics in five categories:

➤ **Outreach Activities**

Activities	Total
Attend SWCD board meetings	343
Attend ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars	479
Attend Field Days and Trainings	500
Present objectives/accomplishments at SWCD board meetings	172
Presentations at Field Days and Trainings	31
Presentations to the general public	213
Educational interactions with producers/forest owners	35
One-on-One discussions with land users on the benefits of soil health and improving water quality	206

➤ **Technical Assistance Activities – Resource Concerns**

Soil Health Management	99	Drainage & Water Management	68
Commodity Crops/Cover Crops Management	55	Invasives Management	157
Livestock/Pasture Management	26	Diversified/Orchard/Urban Gardens Management	109
Woodlands/Agroforestry Management	35		
TA to support Historically Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged Producers			62

➤ **Planning and Engineering Activities**

Completed conservation planning activities	2	Number of designs/inspections completed	5
Number of surveys	7	Number of construction checks completed	1

➤ **Program Support**

CWI Grants	108	RCPP Grants	7
LARE Grants	11	Other Farm Bill Programs	3
ISDA Soil Sampling	3	NACD Grants	10
EPA 319 Grants	45	Other Agency and NGO Grants*	67

* REMC and Community Foundation of Allen Co. Grants
 Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant
 IDEM Tire Recycling Grant
 Ball Grant
 Purdue-funded Study

Greenways Foundation Grant
 IDNR Community and Urban Forestry Grant
 Arrowhead RC&D Grant
 IN Native Plant Society Biodiversity Grant

➤ **ICP Collaboration Activities**

Field/Tillage Checks	117	ICP Referrals	6
Transect Participation	14	Meetings with other ICP Staff	116

Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

March 2026 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

REGENERATIVE PILOT PROGRAM

In December 2025, NRCS launched the NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program, a farmer first, outcomes-based approach to conservation designed to return the agency to its core mission – helping people help the land. NRCS is investing \$700 million to specifically support regenerative agriculture, including:

- \$400 million through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP); and
- \$300 million through the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP)

This pilot program addresses whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture conservation plans. It also puts American farmers first as a part of the solution to Make American Healthy Again (MAHA) by supporting access to American-grown whole foods, critical to addressing the chronic disease crisis nationwide.

Please use the following documents as guidance for communicating with potential participants:

- [Chief Bettencourt Video](#)
- [RPP Factsheet](#)
- [CEMA 216 Soil Health Testing Factsheet](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

MOU ROLLOUT AND SIGNING PROCESS

The MOU signing process was paused to clear another hurdle with Grants and Agreements Division for assignment of an agreement number for each of the MOUs. In addition, a five-year expiration date was added to the MOU. Partnership staff have been communicating with partners and answering questions regarding the MOUs. They are also updating the [Key Points and FAQ](#) document.

NRCS PRIORITIES

Chief Bettencourt released NRCS priorities: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities>.



State Soil Conservation Board

March 10, 2026

Nutrient Stewardship Update, Ophelia Norman



Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program

- Spring 2026 Registration is OPEN!!! 😊 Registration opened on Monday, February 16 – Wednesday, April 8, 2026.
- Registration process changed slightly in how much info interested participants complete themselves compared to past registrations.
- Spring 2026 registration season will be the last registration round under Workplan #1 which means that current program requirements and eligibility will still be in place.
- The program acreage enrollment threshold is set to at 100 acres (crop, pasture, hay, specialty) for the Spring 2026 Open Registration to ensure Resource Specialists are able to maintain workload capacity for other program contributions.
- The program webpage has been updated to reflect program information and can be found on the [ISDA website](#).
- This program includes Indiana watersheds within the MRB and excludes the WLEB and Lake Michigan Basins. This is due to federal statutory language associated with the funds.

Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP)

- The GHP CC Taskforce Meeting was held in early February 4-5, 2026 in Washington D.C. February 6 was the ANPC Phosphorus Workshop.
 - JT and Don Lamb were able to attend the HTF meeting with Julie and Ophelia. Meeting was held at EPA HQ (Maps Room).
 - Julie and Ophelia gave the update on Workplan #1's projects currently in place that are utilizing GHP dollars.
 - This meeting has been rescheduled to the first week in February.
- QAPP for Workplan #2 was recently submitted and is being reviewed by EPA.
- No-cost extension was approved which means current dollars are extended through spring/summer of 2026.
- Workplan #2 has been approved and is set to start Fall 2026.
- As a reminder, these are non-competitive funds established under the GHP to allow Hypoxia Task Force Member states to further their nutrient reduction strategy efforts.

SSCB Meeting March 2026



Cover Crop Premium Discount Program (CCPDP)

Allison McKain
CCPDP Program Manager
SW Indiana Resource Specialist

Cover Crop Premium Discount Program

Agreement

- Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- USDA Risk Management Agency

Key Partners

- The Nature Conservancy
- Clean Water Indiana: \$150,000 CWI Grant**
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance
- Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District's

Purpose: *reward farmers* who *plant cover crops* by providing a reduced premium on their crop insurance. The discount program was designed to *promote planting additional acres* of cover crops that are not *covered by other state or federal incentives*.



\$5.00 an acre discount

Enrollment first come/first serve

750-acre cap per entity

Only fields not enrolled in another cost-share program are eligible

Certified covers (FSA Form-578)

January 5th-March 15th

Past Program

2021 Program Statistics

Acres Enrolled: 6,904
Counties Represented: 6
Producers Enrolled: 34

2022 Program Statistics

Acres Enrolled: 15,007
Counties Represented: 11
Producers Enrolled: 57

2023 Program Statistics

Acres Enrolled: 35,000
Counties Represented: 31
Producers Enrolled: 117

Mississippi River Basin Cover Crop Premium Discount Program



Mississippi River Basin Cover Crop Premium Discount Program

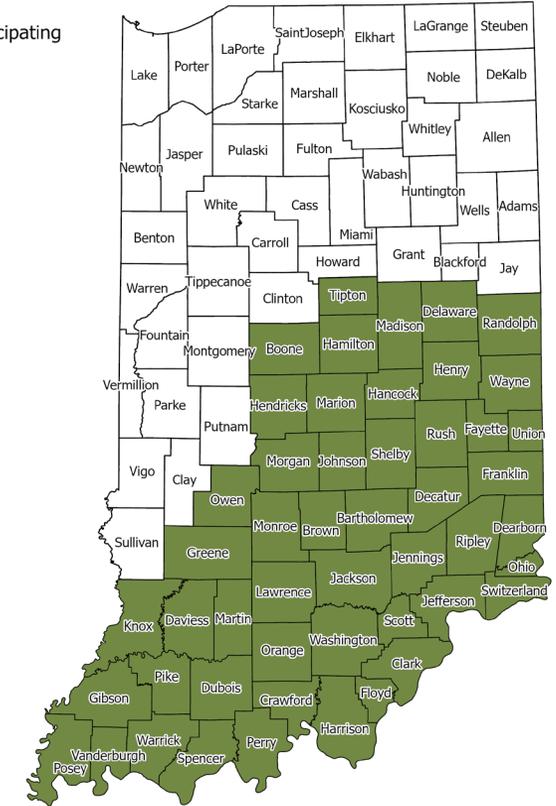
Eligible Portion of Mississippi Watershed



Cover Crop Premium Discount Program

CCPDP Participating Counties

No
Yes



ISDA | 11/18/2025

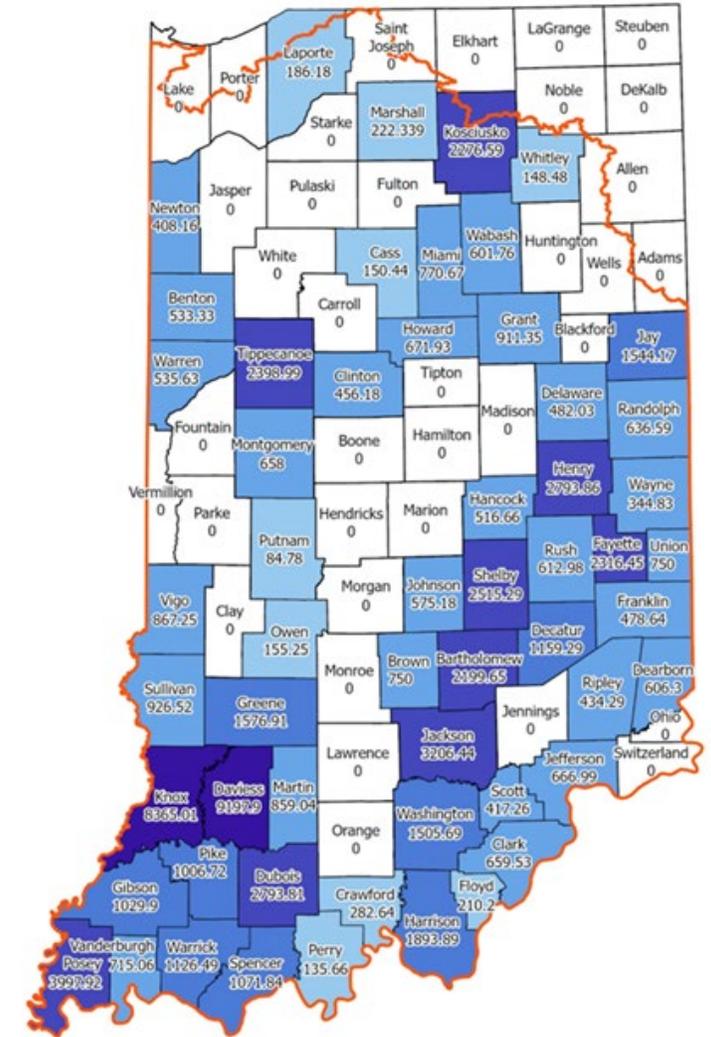


70,000 acres

- 163 applications to be transferred to USDA-RMA
- 55 participating counties
- 2,972 fields



Cereal Rye 2/20/2026 Sullivan County
Allison McKain, ISDA



**DRAFT: PENDING USDA-RMA
DATA REVIEW**

Pre-Enrollment: new this year

Pre-enrollment: December 15th-January 5th

- Producer can access application, enter information, upload FSA-578 form

Program Launch: January 5th

- Producer will submit application
- Program will remain open until March 15th or until all acres are allocated

Why?

- More time to enter field information, get records from FSA, etc.
- Can analyze pre-enrollment data to keep better track of interest and assess program allocation

Pre-Enrollment Importance

Pre-enrollment: December 15th-January 5th

Program Launch: January 5th

Unprecedented Interest: Enrollment ran 1/5 until around 2 pm.

-Accepted 193 applications.

-Funded 163 applications.

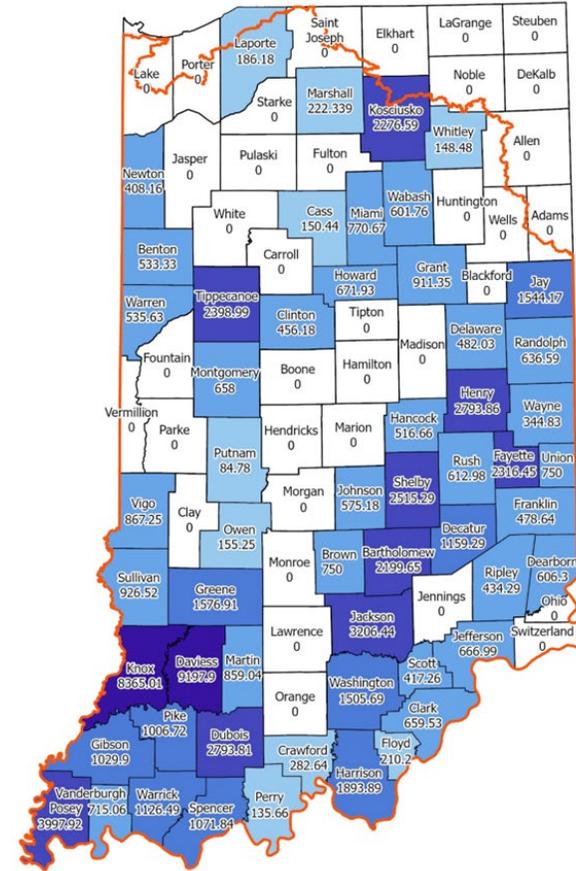
Interest:

193 applications “accepted” (88,103.95 acres)

518 applications left "unsubmitted" (56,324.15 acres)

Total Interest: 711 applications

144,428.1 acres



CCPDP Moving Forward

- 10% Field checks completed by RS Team last week:
 - Reviewed 7,000 acres across coverage area
- Transfer of data to USDA-RMA
- Begin collaboration for 2027 program



Cereal Rye 3/2/2026 Kosciusko County
Chris Gardner, ISDA



State Soil Conservation Board
March 10, 2026 District Support Specialist (DSS) Report:
1/3/26 to 2/20/26

Statewide DSS Activities of Significance for This Reporting Period	Total
Attendance at SWCD Annual Meetings	18
Input, Assistance & Attendance at SWCD Board Meetings	23
Assistance with SWCD or Partner Strategic Planning	2
Assistance with CWI Initiatives (Competitive Grants, Capacity Reports, etc.) as a Key Focus (doesn't include assistance during other interactions such as Board Meetings)	56
Other Events with SWCDs For Training, Assistance, Guidance, etc.	34
Total Number of Counties Impacted by Activities of Significance	62

Statewide or Regional Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff

- **Completed:**
 - 1/29: Kylie, Geneva, and IDEA hosted an AFR give help/get help session (5 counties present).
 - 2/11: Sandra and the IDEA NNW Director hosted an AFR get help/give help session.
- **Upcoming:**
 - 6/12: Lead from the Inside Out workshop. SWCD Supervisors and Staff, build self-awareness, affirm your personality, and promote appreciation and collaboration with others. This is a free workshop from 10AM – 2PM at the Indiana Farm Bureau Building in Indianapolis. Brought to you by the Board Leadership Program. Registration information is coming.
- **New Supervisor and Staff Training:** available year-round via your ISDA DSS. The training is available in-person, or virtually. As well, a recorded video is available for Supervisors. Please contact your DSS for more information.

DSS Committee Work and Other Key Accomplishments:

- DSSs participated in the following committees: BLP, CWI, SSCB, Women4theLand
- DSSs assisted SWCDs with questions tying to the upcoming election/appointment related deadlines, and Annual Meetings.
- DSSs joined the SSCB Strategic Planning Meeting.
- The DSS team met with NRCS about the MOU via Teams.

- DSSs have been supporting the Needs Assessment initiative by providing possible location sites for upcoming locations, and participating in planning/informational meetings.
- DSSs worked with Indiana State Personnel Department to look further at DSS goals and ways to clarify, prioritize and strengthen activities.

Clean Water Indiana (CWI)

- Competitive Grants: grant updates were due 1/31/26. DSSs assisted with related questions and reviewed submissions. They continued to assist current grantees in other aspects as well.

Board Leadership Program (BLP)

- In 2024, we had 42 counties and 110 Supervisors participate at least once. In 2025, we had 71 counties and 155 Supervisors participate at least once. Thank you SWCDs for both your participation, and prioritizing training and knowledge growth!
- Featured module: “New Supervisors Mandatory Training”. These trainings must be completed within the first few months after taking the oath of office. Time to complete these modules: New supervisor training (44 minutes), Sexual harassment training (10 minutes), & Internal controls (27 minutes).
- Access the BLP website: ISDA website [ISDA: Districts Tools](#) and [Conservation Link SWCD Training - Home](#)

SSCB Plan of Work 2025-2028

Mission Statement

The mission of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is to provide information, advice, consultation and resources to Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors to assist them in carrying out their powers and programs.

Key Items/Action Steps

The SSCB will provide policy and funding direction to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture?Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA?DSC) on the administration of the lean Water Indiana Program (CWI), to help address statewide natural resource concerns on rural, suburban, and urban lands as identified in local Soil and Water Conservation District business plans.

Action Step: Increase SWCD Supervisor Professional Development in every SWCD by 2028.

Timeline

Task (Action Item)	Outcome	Status	Start Date	Due Date	Assigned Person(s)	Resources or Examples
Evaluate and update past and current supervisor training materials .	Every new supervisor will have a printed packet of materials to help them understand their role and responsibilities.	In progress	3/1/2025	6/1/2025	Amy B., DSSs,	https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/districts-tools/
Provide training to supervisors on the roles of all the conservation partners	Every new supervisor will have an understanding who the conservation partners are and resources they provide				DSSs and promotion from SWCD staff	Board Leadership Program (BLP)
Host a Rural Conservation Leaders development days (north and south)	Every district will send their supervisors to learn more about their role and to meet others to share ideas and resources.			8/1/2026	ISDA staff, IASWCD staff, Kenny Cain	
Each new supervisor will be required to participate in new supervisor orientation	Every new supervisor will have received basic training.				DSSs	
Pursue joint leadership training opportunities and resources with other ag board groups	Combine and share resources for all leadership training among various groups			12/1/2028	ISDA staff	
Set expectations of supervisors attending training	Create a mechanism to recognize and encourage supervisors to participate in training			12/31/2028	SSCB	
Encourage districts to recruit and utilize Associate Supervisors.	Associate supervisors provide another diverse voice, more leadership, and support to a SWCD.					

Conduct training on job descriptions, performance evaluations for supervisors and staff	Every district will have up to date job descriptions and conduct performance evaluations for staff and evaluations for boards					
Launch an opportunity to meet face to face with all SWCDs	The SSCB and others will visit with every SWCD to discuss supervisor roles, training, accomplishments, and concerns				Jane, Tara	
Action Step: Enhance Clean Water Indiana engagement, awareness, and participation				Timeline		
Task (Action Item)	Outcome	Status	Start Date	Due Date	Assigned Person(s)	Resources or Examples
Develop CWI grant policies	Have consistent operations, promote fairness, create clear guidelines and standards	In progress			Breegan, Nathan, Geneva, and Tara	
Provide grant writing and management training.	Improve the effectiveness of grant proposals and project implementation for grantees	In progress		6/30/2025	CWI Program Director	
Hire a CWI Program Director	Improve program strategy, enhance communications and outreach, streamline operations	Task completed			JT, Breegan	
Develop a branding marketing program for CWI	Increase awareness, successes, and impact of CWI.					

Action Step: Build SWCD brand awareness through relationships, experience, recognition, and accountability.			Timeline			
Task (Action Item)	Outcome	Status	Start Date	Due Date	Assigned Person(s)	Resources or Examples
Streamline financials for all 92 SWCDs	All SWCDs will use one financial accounting system for consistency, internal controls, and streamlining reports	In progress	2/1/2025		DSC, IDEA	
Create uniformity for board meeting minutes	All SWCDs will utilize the same minute taking process for streamlining the process to provide consistency.			12/31/2025	DSC, IDEA	
Build relationship with Indiana Association of Counties (AIC)	All SWCDs will be recognized as being of value at every county.	In progress			Bregan (ISDA), Liz (IASWCD), Brandi	David Bausman (ISDA Counsel)
Continue to provide support and engagement from SWCDs for the District Showcase Award (SWCD recognitions boost credibility, increase visibility, enhanced employee morale, and provide opportunity to celebrate successes.					
Encourage districts to be more involved in Watershed Commissions	Involvement with watershed commissions can lead to several positive outcomes, including improved water quality and quantity, enhanced community engagement, and a more robust understanding of watershed issues.				Gene (SSCB) and Jennifer (ISDA)	
Showcase CWI efforts and accomplishments to legislators	All elected officials will know about CWI.				ISDA CWI Director, ISDA Legislative Team	
Develop a branding program for SWCDs	Increase awareness, successes, and impact of an SWCD.					
Enhance the utilization of the leveraging sheets for SWCDs	The leveraging sheet is one way to tell the story or the SWCD and the value they bring to a county.					

Action Step: Participate in the Success and Outcomes of The Indiana Conservation Partnership and Non-Traditional Partners			Timeline			
Task (Action Item)	Outcome	Status	Start Date	Due Date	Assigned Person(s)	Resources or Examples
Attend the ICP leader meetings	Have a SSCB member attend to represent the thoughts of the board and to stay informed		1/1/2025	12/31/2028	SSCB	
Attend other partners meetings	Have a SSCB member attend to represent the thoughts of the board and to stay informed					
SSCB will support strategic planning sessions for ICP, IASWCD, and IDEA	Support and involvement will lead to better communication, alignment of objectives, and the ability to share resources.					
Circulate the successful impacts the ICP has on Indiana citizens	The ICP efforts will be known and valued state and nationally.					
Continue to pursue and expand the Cover Crop Premium Discount Program	Provide more opportunities for farmers to receive a discount on their crop insurance.					TNC, ISDA
Continued support of the Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy (INRS)	The ICP and staff will be aware of what initiatives support INRS and the status of the goals.					
Communicate ICP field staff roles to SWCDs	All partners will have a role					
Indiana Natural Resource Concerns						
Enhance Indiana's Key Natural Resources: Forestry, Wildlife, Streams, etc.						
Water Quality and Quantity						
Soil Health/Degradation						
SSCB Committee Representation						
CWI Grants Committee:	Brad Dawson, David Tsetse (IDEM), Trevor Laureys (DNR)					
Capacity Development Needs Assessment: RFP	Jane Hardisty					
ICP Leaders Representative	Gene Schmidt or Jane Hardisty					
CCSI	Kenny Cain					
Pathway to Water Quality (PWQ)	Jewel Wise					
IDEA Mediation Task Force	Jewel Wise					
Training Needs of SSCB						
Conflict of Interest						
Financial disclosure						
Ethics						
Quorum						
Advocacy of their programs to decision makers						
SSCB member handbook						

INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

SSCB ROADMAP TO 2028



SSCB MISSION & OBJECTIVE

The mission of the State Soil Conservation board (SSCB) is to provide information, advice, consultation and resources to Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) supervisors to assist them in carrying out their powers and programs. The SSCB provides direction to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture - Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC) on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana Program (CWI), to help address statewide natural resource concerns on rural, suburban, and urban lands as identified in local Soil and Water Conservation District business plans.

BUILD SWCD BRAND AWARENESS THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS, EXPERIENCE, RECOGNITION, & ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✓ Showcase CWI to legislators
- ✓ Engage with Indiana Association of Counties (AIC) and Watershed Commissions
- ✓ Develop branding program for SWCDs
- ✓ Support SWCDs for District Showcase Award

PARTICIPATE IN THE SUCCESS AND OUTCOMES OF INDIANA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP & NON-TRADITIONAL PARTNERS

- ✓ Attend ICP leader & partners meetings
- ✓ Support strategic planning for ICP, IASWCD, & IDEA
- ✓ Circulate successful impacts the ICP has on IN citizens
- ✓ Expand Cover Crop Premium Discount Program
- ✓ Support Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy (INRS)

ENHANCE CLEAN WATER INDIANA ENGAGEMENT, AWARENESS, & PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Develop CWI grant policies
- ✓ Provide grant writing and management writing
- ✓ Develop marketing program for CWI

INCREASE SWCD SUPERVISOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Improve operations through updated materials, orientations, joint leadership training with agriculture board groups, & development days

INDIANA'S NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS

-  Water Quality & Quantity
-  Soil Health & Degradation
-  Forestry

Summary:**Financial System:**

- Discussion on the need for a streamlined financial system for districts.
- JT mentioned the challenges faced and the need to collaborate with the State Board of Accounts to develop a uniform system.

Meeting Minutes Format:

- Proposal to trial Microsoft Copilot for meeting minutes to ensure consistency and accuracy.
- Plan to implement this at the next board meeting.

Indiana Association of Counties:

- Emphasis on building relationships with the Indiana Association of Counties.
- Follow-up needed to include information about soil and water conservation districts in their newsletter.

YouTube Premium Account:

- Discussion on the feasibility of subscribing to a YouTube Premium account for hosting training videos.
- JT and Brigham to investigate further.

Pathway Video:

- Decision to send out the SSCB Pathway Video information to districts using Martha's YouTube channel.
- Link to the video: [SSCB Pathway Video Message](#).

Leveraging Sheet:

- Plan to update and enhance the leveraging sheet to make it more aesthetically pleasing and useful for districts.
- ISDA and IDEA to collaborate on this.

ICP Partnership:

- Discussion on the need to reinvigorate the ICP partnership.
- Proposal to hold regional meetings to strengthen relationships and improve coordination.

Action Items:

- **Financial System:** Meet with State Board of Accounts to discuss the development of a statewide financial system for districts. (JT, DSS)
- **Meeting Minutes Format:** Trial the use of Microsoft Copilot for meeting minutes at the next board meeting to evaluate its effectiveness. (JT)
- **Indiana Association of Counties:** Follow up with Liz to get information about soil and water conservation districts included in the Indiana Association of Counties newsletter. (JT, Liz)
- **YouTube Premium Account:** Investigate the feasibility and benefits of subscribing to a YouTube Premium account for hosting training videos. (JT, Brigham)
- **Pathway Video:** Send out the SSCB Pathway Video information to districts using Martha's YouTube channel. (JT, Geneva) [SSCB Pathway Video Message](#).
- **Leveraging Sheet:** Update and enhance the leveraging sheet to make it more aesthetically pleasing and useful for districts. (ISDA, IDEA)

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Cass Temp/Vacant Appt

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email was sent from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

CassSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Cass
Appointment Type
Vacant_Appointed_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
NA
Term Expiration
1/1/2029
Reason for Vacancy
Appointed Supervisor Cameron Mills chose not to renew his term that was to start in March of 2026. Ryan has attended our last few meetings as a guest, shows keen interest, and is going to be a welcome addition to our Board.
Supervisor Candidate Name
Ryan Kunkle
Address
10981 E CRE 700 S
City, State, ZIP
Galveston, IN 46932
Qualifications
Currently farm 360 Acres using cover crops, mo-till, reduced nitrogen, and banding all liquid nutrients with no dry fertilizer. Leadership experience is based on 18 years of firefighting, including 3 years as Fire Chief.
Occupation
Farmer/Producer

Conservation Interests

Educate others on the conservation practices that he has implemented on his own farm to better serve the county; soil erosion, nutrient capture, soil health and water quality.

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

Adam Pepper

Date of Submission

01/06/2026

Is a letter of resignation attached?

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 12:44 PM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Harrison Temp/Vacant Appt

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email was sent from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

HarrisonSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Harrison
Appointment Type
Vacant_Appointed_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Michael Wolfe
Term Expiration
2029
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Spencer Fulkerson
Address
810 Sival Rd NW
City, State, ZIP
Corydon, IN 47112
Qualifications
St. Xavier High School Graduate, Louisville KY Murray St. University, BS in Agronomy North Carolina State, Masters degree/Soil Science
Occupation
Spencer is a full-time farmer on 100 acres. He raises beef cattle and has a cow/calf operation. He processes hogs from farrow to finish. He and his wife, Emily have 4 commercial greenhouses, growing vegetable bedding plants and annual flowers.

Conservation Interests

Spencer practices rotational grazing, forestry management and sows fall cover crops.

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

A. Chris Miller

Date of Submission

03/04/2026

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

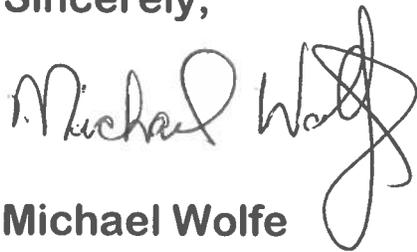
If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

March 3, 2026

To Who this May Concern,

I, Michael Wolfe, am formally resigning from the Harrison County Board of Supervisors effective March 3, 2026. I have enjoyed my 11 years serving on the board and wish the Harrison County SWCD and their partners continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the word "Wolfe".

Michael Wolfe

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:36 AM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Wabash Temp/Vacant Appt

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email was sent from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

WabashSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Wabash
Appointment Type
Temporary_Elected_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Dillon is being re-appointed
Term Expiration
2029
Reason for Vacancy
No_Election_Held
Supervisor Candidate Name
Dillon Gable
Address
1792 West State Road 114
City, State, ZIP
North Manchester, IN 46962
Qualifications
Dillon has served as Supervisor since 2022 and was chosen in 2020 for Wabash County Conservationist of the Year.
Occupation
Farmer
Conservation Interests

Gable Farms utilized corn and soybean rotation as well as the use of cover crops and pollinator strips. Dillon has been a certified organic farmer since 2020. He also has an Angus Cow calf heard.

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

Robert Shellhamer

Date of Submission

11/06/2025

Is a letter of resignation attached?

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

March 4, 2026

Good morning and happy New Year. Due to circumstances beyond my control I will be resigning my position with Warrick County Soil & Water as of today.

Respectfully
Ann Pendley

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 10:13 AM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Warrick Temp/Vacant Appt

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email was sent from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

WarrickSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Warrick
Appointment Type
Temporary_Elected_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Ann Pendley
Term Expiration
2027
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Melissa Minton
Address
12600 Kiddie Road
City, State, ZIP
Lynnville, IN 47619
Qualifications
Melissa raises Belted Galloway breed of cattle for breed stock and beef sales, flower farming for farmer's market and local florists, some vegetables for the local farmer's market. She sells through "Local Source". Local Source is an aggregator and online marketplace of locally grown and produced food. Melissa brings the urban flair to the board of supervisors, who are mostly agriculture.
Occupation
Farmer, owner/operator of beef production, flower farm production

Conservation Interests

pollinator plots, 4th grade farm fair (takes cattle to the 4th grade kids who attend, getting kids to reconnect with nature and conservation). and cover crops

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

Logan Springstun, chairman Warrick SWCD

Date of Submission

03/05/2026

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).