

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

February 11, 2014  
USDA-NRCS  
6013 Lakeside Dr  
Indianapolis, IN

- I. 9:30 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of October 2013**
- III. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
  - a. Chair and Vice Chair selection
  - b. Committee selections
- IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - a. Gibson County SWCD-Nathan Stoelting
  - b. Warren County SWCD-Geneva Tyler
- V. Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Updated Clean Water Indiana Budget-Jen Pinkston
  - b. Healthy Rivers Initiative Update-Angie Tilton
- VI. SSCB Report**
  - a. Business Plan Update-Scott Ham
  - b. Future of Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee Report-Scott Ham
- VII. ISDA Updates**
  - a. Technical Report-Jordan Seger
  - b. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader
  - c. Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst
  - d. District Support-Laura Fribley
  - e. Water Quality and CREP-Logan Garner
- VIII. Conservation Partner Reports**
  - a. IASWCD Report
  - b. IDEM Report
  - c. DNR Report
  - d. Purdue Report
  - e. FSA Report
  - f. NRCS Report
- IX. Public Comment**
- X. Next Meeting:**

March 4, 2014 9:15 AM The Nature Conservancy 620 E Ohio St Indianapolis, IN June 3, 2014 9:30 AM Location: TBD-Johnson County area	July 31, 2014 9:15 AM The Nature Conservancy 620 E Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN October 28, 2014 9:15 AM Location: TBD
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- 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.

	Budget Bill	\$ 1,301,179	\$ 1,582,884	\$ 4,014,201	\$ 4,666,425
	Less Reserve (3%)	\$ (39,035)	\$ 392,487	\$ (120,426)	\$ (1,074,722)
	Allotment	\$ 1,262,144	\$ 1,190,397	\$ 3,893,775	\$ 3,591,703
	Balance	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ -
<b>ISDA Annual FY2014</b>		<b>Soils 2014</b>	<b>Soils 2013</b>	<b>CWI 2014</b>	<b>CWI 2013</b>
				<b>INCLUDES</b>	
Point 1	Fed Grant Admin Income-3 IDEM 319 RSs	\$ (128,116)	\$ (137,090)	<b>General Funds</b>	
Point 1	Soils 319 RS	\$ 128,116	\$ 137,090		
Point 1	2 PM, 3 RS Team Leaders, 9 RS, 1 Director	\$ 1,114,687	\$ 954,293		
Point 1	Soils CWI Admin, 1 PM, 8.5 RS, 5 DSS, 2 WLEB Partially NRCS funded until March 2014 (Current Rates + 3% increase)			\$ 1,184,890	\$ 1,214,378
Point 2	Soils CWI DSS Admin			\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Point 2	Soils CWI DSS IT			\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
Point 2	Soils Telecom/IT	\$ 36,000	\$ 48,000		
Point 3	Soils Services	\$ 2,523	\$ 2,523		
Point 3	Soils ESRI Fee	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000		
Point 3	Soils CREP Match			\$ 660,000	\$ 660,000
Point 4	Soils CWI DSS Admin			\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000
Point 4	Soils Gas	\$ 42,000	\$ 44,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,670
Point 4	Soils Maintenance	\$ 16,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Point 4	Soils Supplies	\$ 9,463	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,500	
Point 5	Soils Equipment		\$ 27,860	\$ 20,000	
Point 7	Soils CWI CCSI			\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000
Point 7	Soils CWI Pilot Program			\$ 145,269	
Point 7	Soils CWI SWCD Training Grants			\$ 30,000	\$ 66,000
Point 7	Soils CWI Grants			\$ 579,000	\$ 529,676
Point 7	Soils CWI Statutory AFR			\$ 920,000	\$ 920,000
Point 7	Soils CWI Retiree	\$ 25,470	\$ 25,470	\$ 26,885	\$ 28,300
Point 9	Soils CWI DSS Travel			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Point 9	Soils CWI SSCB			\$ 15,000	\$ 11,000
Point 9	Soils CWI SWCAP	\$ 10,000	\$ 52,251	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,179
Point 9	Soils Travel/Training	\$ 4,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 68,000	
	<b>Additional 1.5% reserve</b>			<b>\$ 79,731</b>	
	Total CWI Competitive Grants			\$ 579,000	\$ 529,676

## RECOMMENDATION FOR VACANT APPOINTMENT POSITION

### APPOINTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13

**Sec. 13 (a) If a vacancy in the position of appointed supervisor occurs during a district's operating year:**

**(1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position,**

**(2) at the first board meeting held after the board received a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation, and**

**(3) the board shall notify the supervisor of the appointment made by the board.**

**(b) The individual appointed to fill a vacant appointed supervisor position under subsection (a) shall serve the unexpired term of the individual's predecessor.**

**("Board" as used in the state statute refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)**

Instructions for submitting this form:

**STOP! If you haven't read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit forms, please do so before proceeding.**

**If you opened another District's Recommendation for Vacant Positions form by mistake, click on the Close button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Then read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit new forms and update/save previously submitted forms.**

If you are submitting the **Recommendation for Vacant Appointment** form for the first time, click on the **Save As** button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. **Uncheck Overwrite Existing File**. Enter the **name of your county followed by the date** in the File Name box. For example Allen County would Enter **Allen03.12.12**. Click **Save**. Click **Close**.

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**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**

The Supervisors of the  County Soil and Water Conservation District certify that:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of  whose term began in (Month, Year)

Feb. 2012 and was scheduled to expire in (Year) 2015. (If supervisor has resigned, you **MUST** attach copy of resignation letter. See SharePoint Tutorial for



Troy Leak.docx  
Microsoft Office Word  
Document  
12.7 KB

instructions on attaching a file.)

Death of \_\_\_\_\_ whose term began in (Month, Year) \_\_\_\_\_ and was scheduled to expire in (Year) \_\_\_\_\_.

**We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of Supervisor. We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.**

**DISTRICT SUPERVISORS SIGNATURES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

Tim Davis (typed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

**IC 14-32-4-1**

***(c) To hold the position of appointed supervisor, and individual:***

***(1) must be of voting age***

***(2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district, and***

***(3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.***

Name Ryan Bell

Phone Number 765-230-6416

Date of Birth 11/27/1979

Address 9125 S 900 W

City Covington

State IN Zip Code 47932

Education

BS from Purdue in agricultural economics.

Occupation or Type of Business

Seed Specialist for ProHarvest Seeds. Cover the State of Indiana for Cover Crops and work in west central Indiana for corn and soybeans.

List Conservation and Other Leadership Experiences

While at Purdue was part of the Farm Management club with Dr Taylor who traveled abroad to South America and help get their study abroad program going at Purdue for Ag students.

Was part of Class 11 with AgriInsitute, formally Indiana Ag Leadership Program.

Started as an associate board member for the Warren County SWCD about 6 months ago.

**Please check one of the following:**

- New Appointment**
- Reappointment**

**I currently hold a public service position/office**

- Yes**

**If yes, I have been informed about the "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide**

- Yes**
- No**

- No**

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

Date

Signature of Appointee

Please keep a copy of this on file at the SWCD office and notify your District Support Specialist.

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**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**

November 1, 2013

To: Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

From: Troy Leak

I would like to step down as Warren County SWCD Supervisor. Do to family demands and farming expansion I will not be able to carry on with my responsibilities as a Supervisor for the SWCD.

I would like to request permission to be an Associate Supervisor for the SWCD in Warren County.

I have enjoyed working with everyone and want to wish the Warren County SWCD success in the preservation of Conservation in Warren County.

Sincerely,

Troy Leak

## RECOMMENDATION FOR VACANT APPOINTMENT POSITION

### APPOINTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13

**Sec. 13 (a) If a vacancy in the position of appointed supervisor occurs during a district's operating year:**

*(1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position,*

*(2) at the first board meeting held after the board received a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation, and*

*(3) the board shall notify the supervisor of the appointment made by the board.*

*(b) The individual appointed to fill a vacant appointed supervisor position under subsection (a) shall serve the unexpired term of the individual's predecessor.*

*("Board" as used in the state statute refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)*

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The Supervisors of the  County Soil and Water Conservation District certify that:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of  whose term began in (Month, Year)

and was scheduled to expire in (Year) . (If supervisor has resigned, you **MUST** attach copy of resignation letter. See SharePoint Tutorial for instructions on attaching a file.)

Death of  whose term began in (Month, Year)  Jan. 2012 and was scheduled to expire in (Year)  2015.

**We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of Supervisor. We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.**

**DISTRICT SUPERVISORS SIGNATURES**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Date</b>
<input type="text" value="Tim Davis"/> (typed)	

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

**IC 14-32-4-1**

*(c) To hold the position of appointed supervisor, and individual:*

- (1) must be of voting age*
- (2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district, and*
- (3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.*

Name

Phone Number

Date of Birth

Address

City

State  Zip Code

Education

Benton Central Jr. Sr. High School - 1998

Occupation or Type of Business

Farming

List Conservation and Other Leadership Experiences

Use no-till, vertical tillage, CRP buffer strips, CRP waterways, side dress nitrogen, VRT fertilizer and soil samples, use of wheat, sinter rye, oats and daikon radishes as cover crops the last 3 year.

**Please check one of the following:**

- New Appointment**
- Reappointment**

**I currently hold a public service position/office**

**Yes**

**If yes, I have been informed about the "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide**

**Yes**

**No**

**No**

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

Date

Signature of Appointee

Please keep a copy of this on file at the SWCD office and notify your District Support Specialist.

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**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**

**From:** Debbie Wolfe [<mailto:deb.a.wolfe@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2013 9:36 AM  
**To:** Anthis, Tabitha - NRCS-CD, Princeton, IN  
**Subject:** Resignation

At this time I wish to resign from the Board of Supervisors Gibson County SWCD.

Debbie Wolfe

# RECOMMENDATION FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Instructions for submitting this form:

**STOP! If you haven't read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to fill out forms, please do so before proceeding.**

If you opened another Recommendation for Temporary Appointment form by mistake, click the **Cancel** button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Then read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit new forms and update/save previously submitted forms.

If you are submitting the Recommendation for Temporary Appointment form for the first time, click the **Save As** button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. **Uncheck Overwrite Existing** the name of your county followed by the date in the File Name box. For example Allen County 12/12/12. Click **Save**. Click **Close**.

If you previously submitted the Recommendation for Temporary Appointment form and re-make some changes or additions, click on the **Save** button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Click **Close**.

**NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.**

## ELECTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13

### Sec. 13

(a) If a vacancy in the position of elected supervisor occurs during the district's operating year, the board shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position;

(2) at the first board meeting held after the board receives a recommendation under subsection (a), the board shall act upon the recommendation and appoint an individual to temporarily fill the vacancy;

(3) the board shall notify the supervisors of the appointment made by the board.

(b) The individual appointed to temporarily fill a vacancy under subsection (a) shall serve until the next annual meeting.

(c) At the annual meeting immediately following the appointment of an individual to temporarily fill a vacant elected supervisor's position, the position shall be filled through the regular election process set forth in sections 6 through 9 of this chapter.

*("Board" as used in the state statute refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)*

The Supervisors of the Gibson County Soil and Water Conservation District  
David Weber (name) maintains a permanent residence within the district and is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that are imposed on supervisors by law.

### Address

7063 E 150 S

City, State and Zip

Francisco IN 47,649

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

- Resignation of Debbie Wolfe whose term began in (month, year)

scheduled to expire in (year) 2015

**YOU MUST SUBMIT THE RESIGNATION LETTER TO YOUR DISTRICT SUPPORT SPECIALIST AS WELL AS YOUR DISTRICT RECORDS.**

Death of [ ] whose term began in (month, year) [ ]

scheduled to expire in (year) [ ]

No election held

**We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of supervisor. We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorne Office Holding Guide.**

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS (signatures)

\_\_\_\_\_

Matt Michel (typed)

Date 11/19/2013

**Keep a signed copy of this form in the District office. Do not send to your DSS.**

**IC 14-32-4-1**

***(b) To hold the position of elected supervisor, an individual:***  
***(1) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is located within the district;***  
***(2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district; and***  
***(3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article supervisors.***

NAME

David Weber

PHONE NUMBER

812-779-7731

DATE OF BIRTH

9/8/1960

ADDRESS

7063 E 150 S

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Francisco IN 47649

EDUCATION

Wood Memorial High School graduate

OCCUPATION OR TYPE OF BUSINESS

Farmer

**LIST CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES**

Agricultural knowledge & experience.

**LAND OWNERS OR OPERATORS ONLY**

If applicable, list some of the soil and water conservation practices you have installed or performed Riparian buffers, WASCOB's, and filter strips.

**TEMPORARY APPOINTEE**

Have you previously served as an SWCD supervisor?

Yes

What was the date of last service?

What was the reason for termination of last service?

How many years did you serve as a supervisor?  # Years #Months

No

**I currently hold a public service position/office**

Yes

I have been informed about "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney Office Holding Guide

Yes

No

No

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend the supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

APPOINTEE:

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David Weber (typed)

11/19/2013 Date

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## **HRI/CREP Promotions Project**

### **Healthy Rivers Initiative Overview**

The Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI) is Indiana's largest land conservation initiative with the goal to protect approximately 43,000 acres of riparian corridor along the Wabash River and Sugar Creek in west-central Indiana, and another 26,000 acres of the Muscatatuck River bottoms in southeast Indiana. The DNR is joined in this initiative with a broad partnership of natural resource agencies and organizations, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), as well as many others.

### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Overview**

The Indiana CREP purpose is to address water quality and wildlife issues by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and enhancing wildlife habitats. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA and the State of Indiana to voluntarily implement conservation practices such as Bottomland Timber Establishment, Riparian Forest Buffers, Wetlands, and Native Grass Plantings. CREP participants receive financial incentives to voluntarily enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in contracts of 14 to 15 years. CREP is a priority initiative for the Indiana Conservation Partnership (Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, ISDA Division of Soil Conservation, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, State Soil Conservation Board, USDA Farm Service Agency, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service).

### **2012 -2014 HRI/CREP Promotions Project Overview:**

In 2012, the DNR and ISDA have established an Interagency Agreement to promote these two programs within the areas in which they overlap. This area includes the portions of the Middle Wabash-Busseron and Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion watersheds for CREP and for HRI includes the Wabash River and Sugar Creek which covers approximately 94 miles along the Wabash River through Parke, Vermillion, Vigo and Sullivan counties as well as Sugar Creek. Establishment of riparian conservation areas to reduce sediment and nutrients to improve water quality in these areas is an important aspect of both the HRI and CREP programs. This project included hiring a Conservation Program Specialist who focused on promoting HRI and CREP with landowners and increasing acres enrolled in either of these programs through outreach efforts. In addition to encouraging participation in HRI and CREP, the Conservation Program Specialist guided landowner contacts towards local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to assist with opportunities to pursue other fitting conservation programs and initiatives.

A portion of the project also funded the exploration of alternative marketing and outreach approaches. An independent consultant conducted a survey in the project area to identify barriers to enrollment in HRI and CREP, as well as key messages which can be utilized to better communicate with landowners about these two conservation programs.

Through this two year project, the DNR, ISDA and partners were successful in providing additional technical services with landowners in the project area. The Conservation Program Specialist worked with local SWCDs and conservation partners to provide outreach to landowners to help them better understand available conservation programs and assist them in applying for applicable conservation programs. Highlights of the accomplishments from the first two years of the HRI/CREP Promotions Project include:

- Hired a full-time Conservation Program Specialist to work in the project area within Parke, Vermillion, Vigo and Sullivan counties.
- Worked closely with staff from local SWCDs, the NRCS, and ISDA to promote and enroll landowners in conservation programs, resulting in:
  - 8 CREP practices within the project area for a total of 421.9 acres which reduces 2600 lbs nitrogen per year, 1298 lbs of phosphorus per year and 1466 tons of sediment per year. (See attached load reduction maps)
  - 11 Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) enrollments (7 were later cancelled, 3 completed for 153.23 acres), 6 WRP projects for a total of 405.37 acres closed and 1 additional project for 65 acres in the process to close.
  - 2,106.17 acres of fee simple acquisitions with 10 landowners, with an additional 1,278.96 acres in process the process of being acquired with 10 landowners.
- Promoted HRI, CREP and other conservation programs to landowners within the project area through a minimum of 4 direct mailings to all landowners owning at least 20 acres along the floodplain of the Wabash River and Sugar Creek (approximately 250 landowners)
- Followed up by phone or personal contact with all landowners owning at least 20 acres along the floodplain of the Wabash River and Sugar Creek
- Conducted a minimum of 10 informational meetings with influential landowners and partners to promote the benefits of enrolling in conservation practices. Many of these meetings, workshops and field days were conducted in partnership with local SWCDs.
- Attended and participated in a minimum of 25 community meetings that aligned with the goals of the project to promote conservation practices that prevent sediment erosion and reduce nutrients.
- Attended and presented at local SWCD monthly board meetings and annual meetings.
- Presented at a minimum 50 presentations to various audiences informing them of available conservation practices and the benefits of these programs to water quality and wildlife.
- Completed a landowner survey that resulted in a landowner engagement strategy for the project area.

The DNR and ISDA are looking to continue the success of this project for an additional two years. The continued support for the HRI/CREP Promotion Project would include the following expectations:

- Hiring of a full-time Conservation Program Specialist to work in the prescribed area (see attached maps) within Parke, Vermillion, Vigo and Sullivan counties.
- Providing technical assistance to landowners through the promotion and enrollment in HRI and CREP programs.

- Working directly with local SWCD and Conservation Partners to promote conservation programs that will reduce sediment and nutrients, as well as provide critical wildlife habitat protection along waterways.
- Regular communication and coordination with the SWCDs and Conservation Partners.
- Attending and/or reporting monthly at SWCD board meetings and annually at SWCD annual meetings.
- Joint hiring by DNR and ISDA leadership, as well as quarterly performance evaluation.

The DNR and its partners propose a total of \$40,000 from ISDA over a two year period to accomplish the above deliverables. A cash match of \$80,000 will be provided by DNR and The Nature Conservancy of Indiana (TNC). Total project costs over a two year period will be \$120,000.

<b>Proposed Budget: Year 1</b>			
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Requested CWI Funds</b>	<b>DNR Funds</b>	<b>Partner Funds</b>
Conservation Program Specialist Salary	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
Specialist Mileage and expenses	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

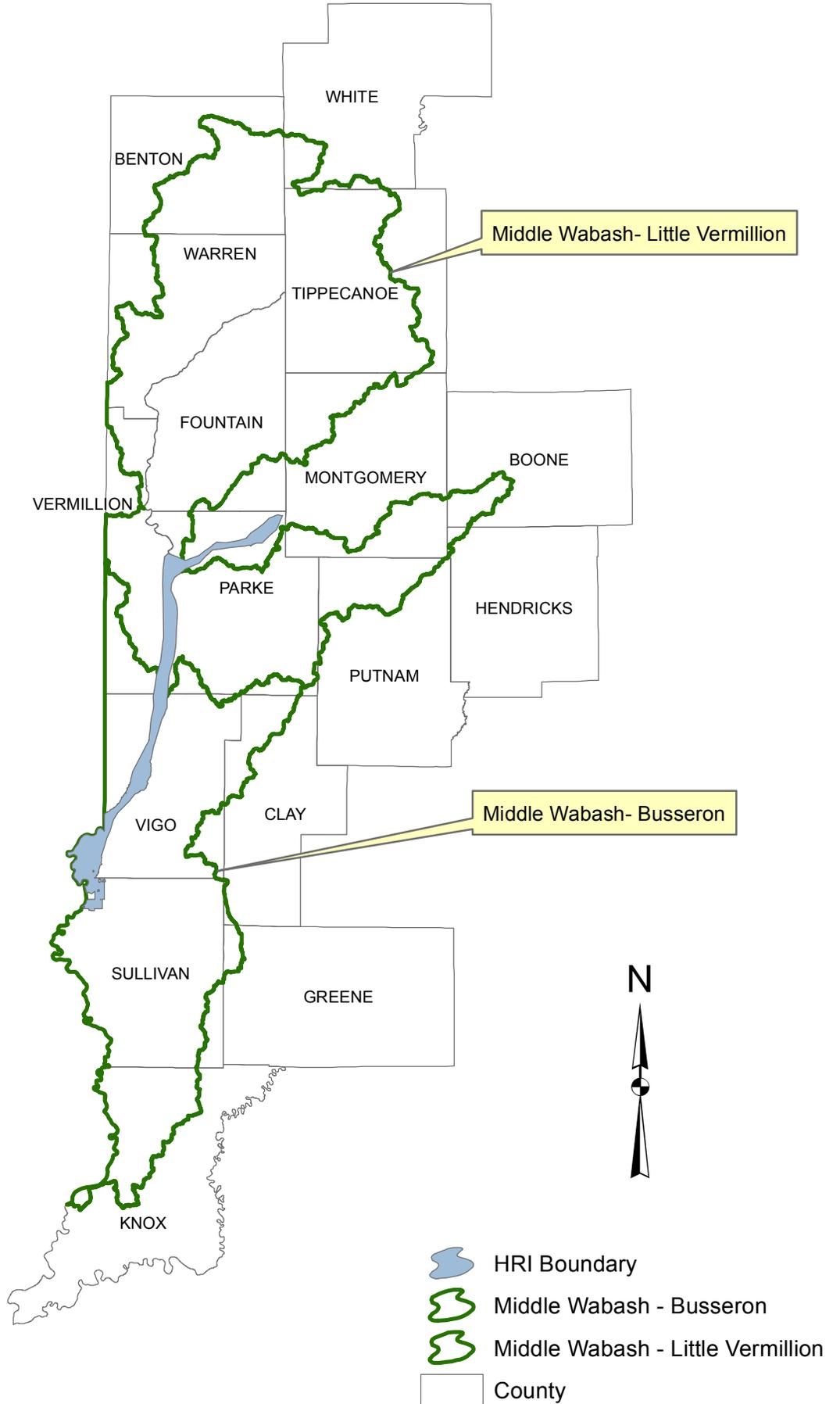
<b>Proposed Budget: Year 2</b>			
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Requested CWI Funds</b>	<b>DNR Funds</b>	<b>Partner Funds</b>
Conservation Program Specialist Salary	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
Specialist Mileage and expenses	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

In the first two years of the HRI/CREP Promotions project, CWI provided \$60,000 and a cash match of \$75,000 was provided by DNR and TNC. In this current proposal, we are requesting a reduced amount from CWI funding and providing additional cash match from both DNR and TNC, allowing the project to become supported less by CWI in this second phase.

We believe that this coordinated effort by DNR, ISDA and TNC in cooperation with conservation partners was critical to helping us to establish riparian conservation areas that effectively reduced nutrient and sediment runoff. With the recent passing of the Farm Bill, it is imperative that we continue the momentum that the first two years of this project allowed us to create. This project allows SWCDs and other conservation partners to better leverage our conservation dollars to directly work with landowners along the Wabash River to promote conservation practices that will effectively reduce sources of nonpoint source pollution, protect critical riparian habitat and therefore provide cleaner water for future generations.

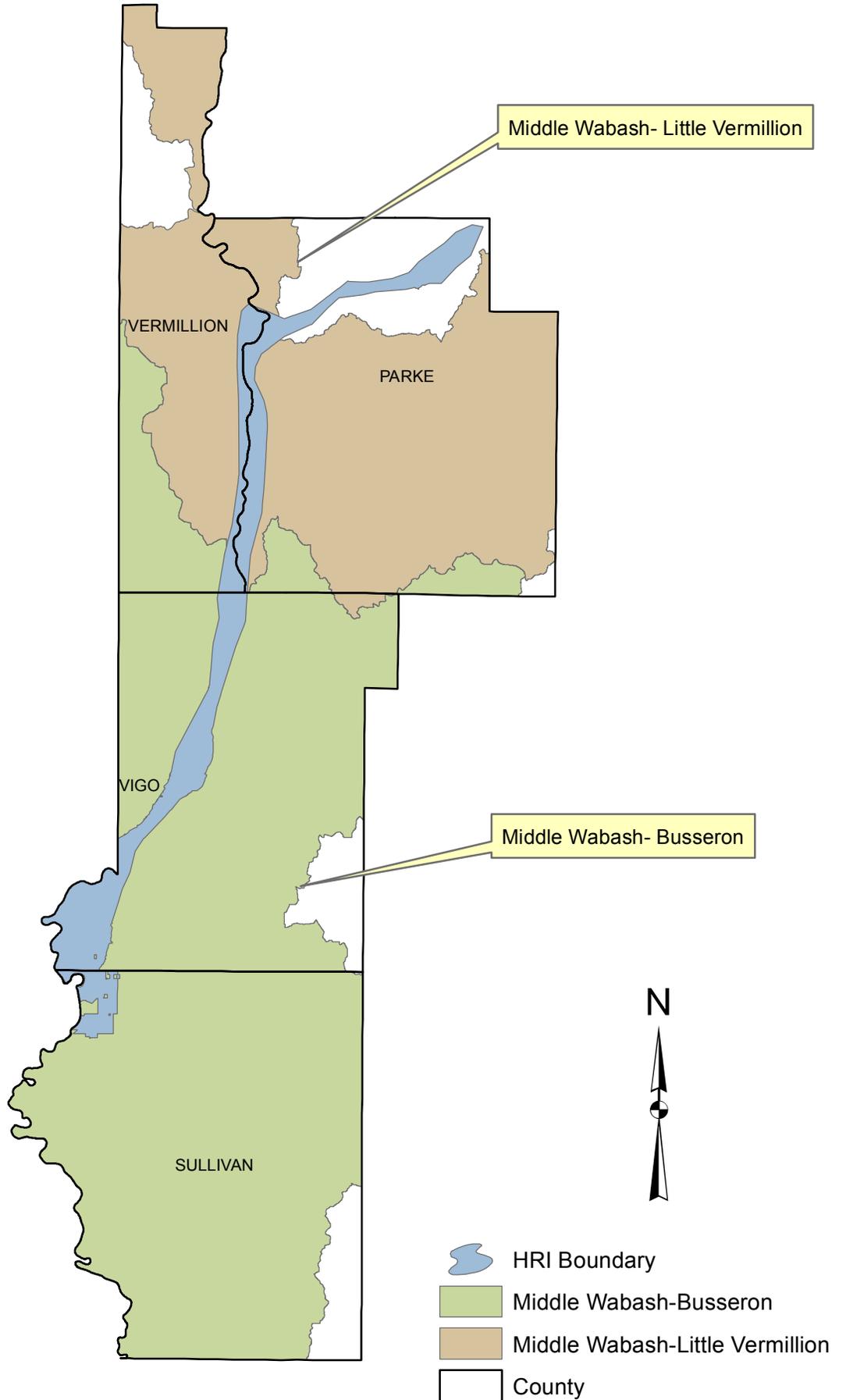
# Healthy Rivers Initiative

## CREP Watersheds

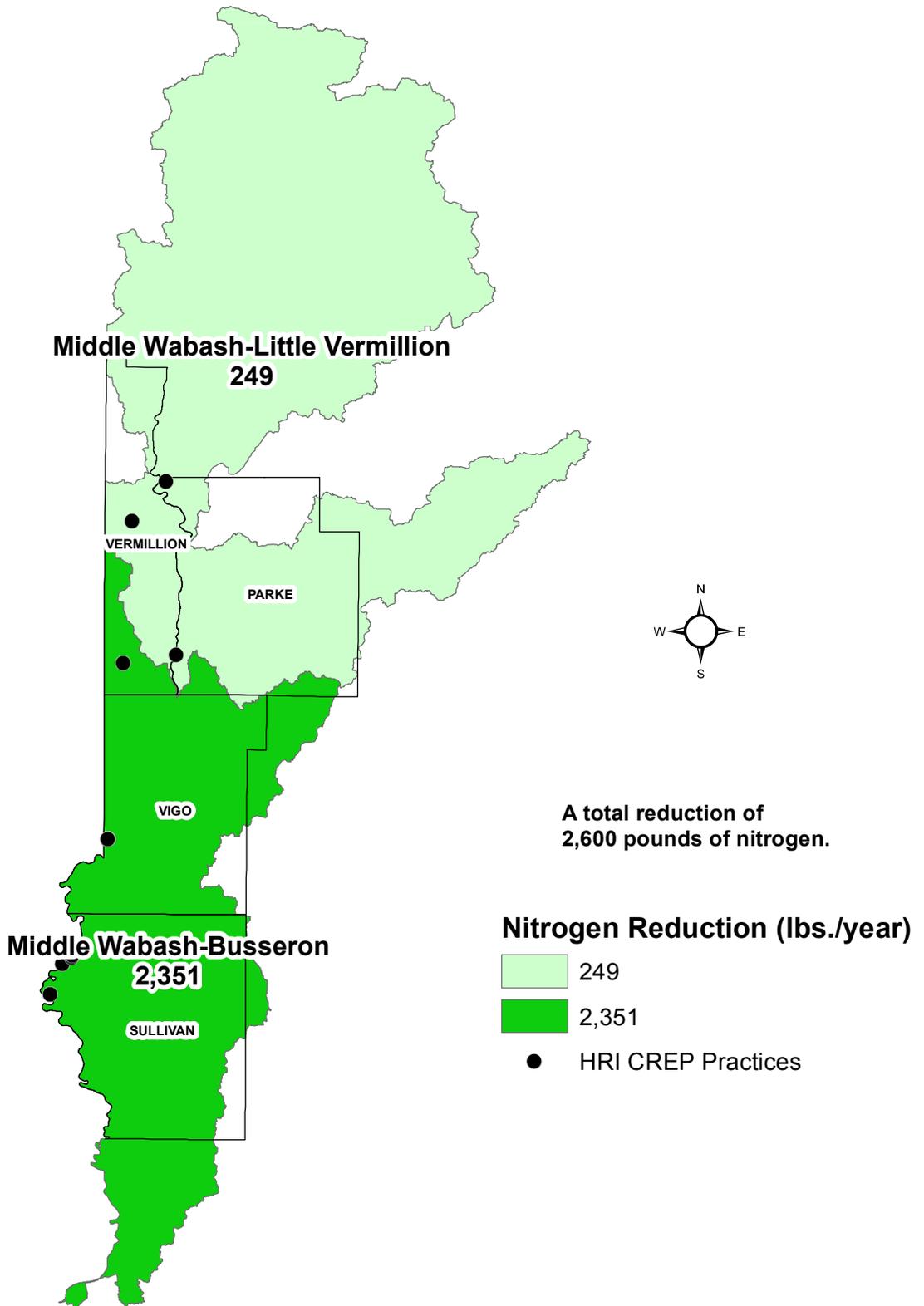


# Healthy Rivers Initiative

## CREP Watersheds

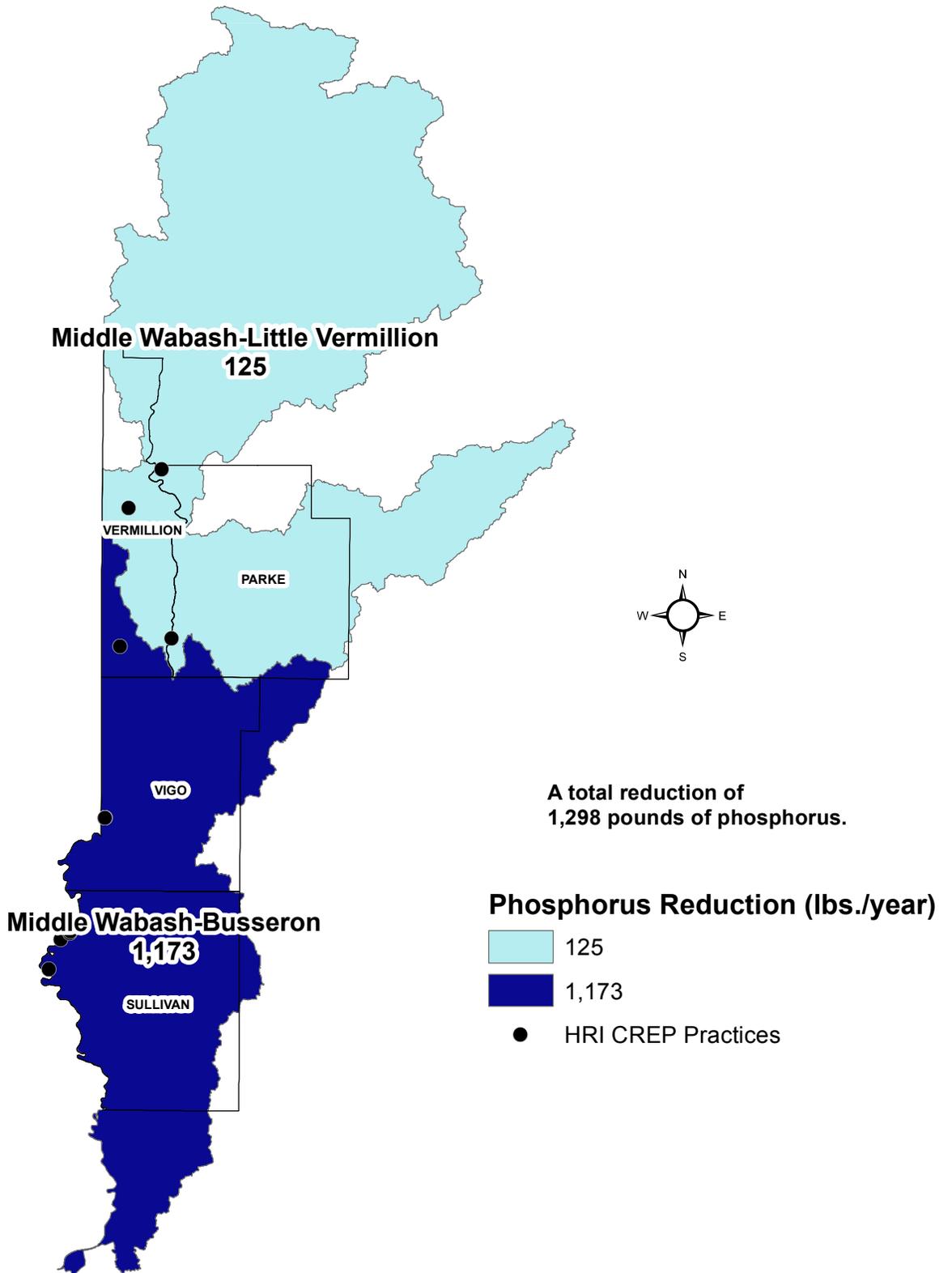


# Healthy Rivers Initiative CREP Practices - Nutrient Load Reductions



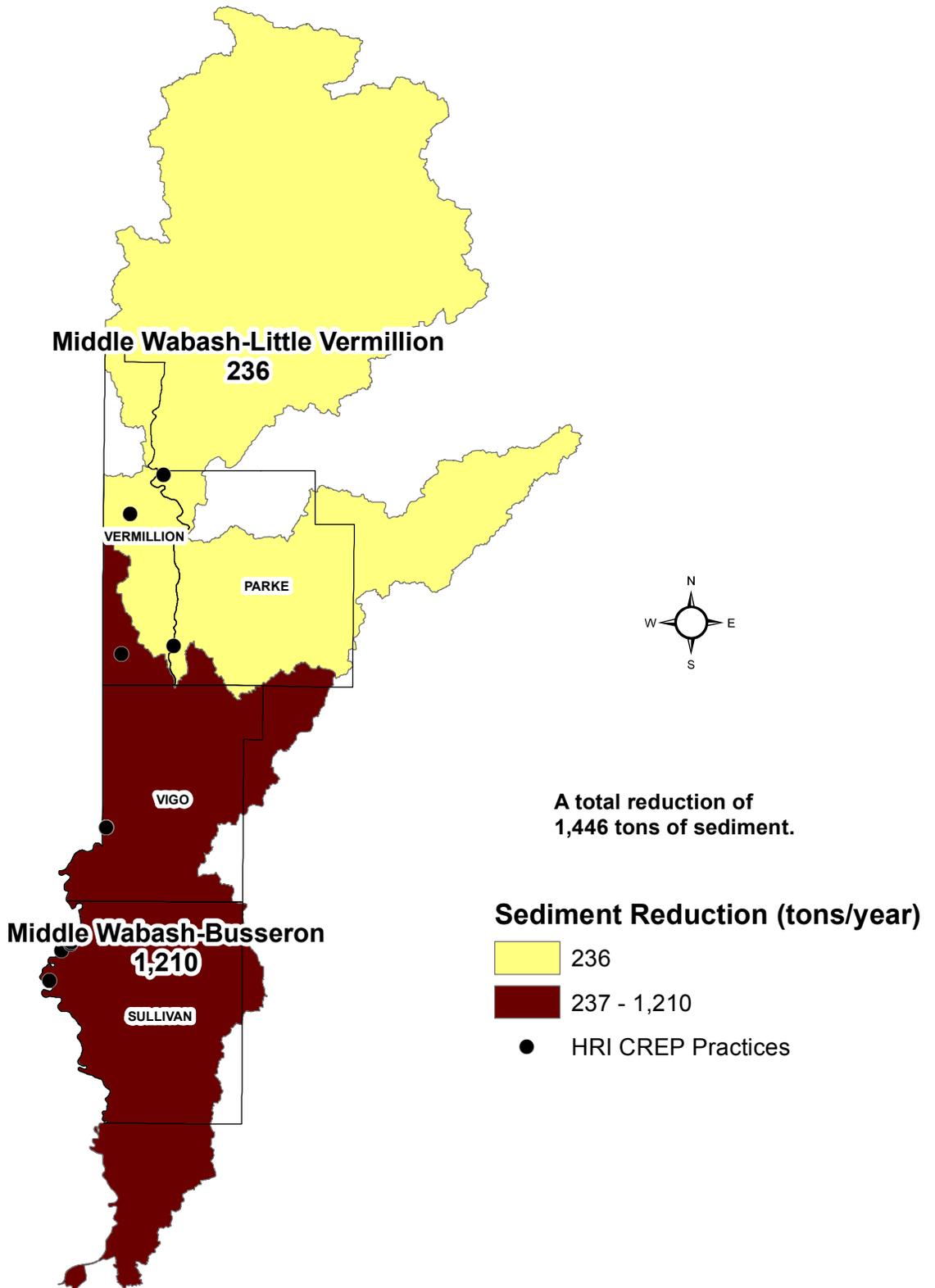
Based on Region 5 Model analyses conducted on Healthy Rivers Initiative CREP conservation practices installed by ISDA Division of Soil Conservation field staff January 2012 thru December 2013.

# Healthy Rivers Initiative CREP Practices - Nutrient Load Reductions



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# Healthy Rivers Initiative CREP Practices - Nutrient Load Reductions



Based on Region 5 Model analyses conducted on Healthy Rivers Initiative CREP conservation practices installed by ISDA Division of Soil Conservation field staff January 2012 thru December 2013.

# Concentrated District Support Specialist Proposal

**Purpose:** Attain strong local and grant based support for the Union and Fayette County SWCDs so as to expand conservation education and practices.

## **Vision:**

At the end of the term of this project the two districts will be served by a unified staff that will provide administrative, technical and educational support. The staff will obtain grants sufficient to support the majority of costs of the combined area's activities. Local government will provide significant financial support. Both counties will have full and active boards with members participating in all projects. There will be a combined business plan based on specific, measurable activities that advance conservation needs in the 2 county area.

## **Demonstration of Need:**

Fayette County – Up to the end of 2012 the county had supported the SWCD with a full time staff person. That support was terminated and no more is budgeted through 2014. The financial status of the county indicates that support in the form of a full time staff person will not happen in the foreseeable future, though the head of the budget committee for the council said they will consider funding specific projects.

Union County – a part time staff person is being supported by the county (Meryl Moyer - 1 ½ days – offices in the Fayette County FSA facility) and part of the time of a conservation educator (LuAnne Holeva) is being supported. There is no indication of increased support from the county in the foreseeable future.

## **3 Year Goals:**

### **Funding:**

- Obtain grants that will cover at least ½ the costs of personnel and practices required to meet the following goals.
- Obtain funding from the local governmental bodies to cover the remainder of the personnel costs.

### **Watershed:**

- Water Quality - Annual Whitewater River Cleanup Festival – for several years, Fayette County has sponsored an annual canoe based river cleanup along a portion of the Whitewater River. This will be expanded to include a festival featuring conservation oriented demonstrations, speakers, activities and games and also will include contests based on the quantity, weight and nature of materials gleaned from the river that day. The goal of the festival is to obtain commitments from both urban and rural attendees to initiate the water quality practices which are demonstrated at the festival. If possible, a Union County centered festival will be developed at Whitewater Lake Memorial State Park.
- Storm Drains: All required storm drains in Liberty and Connersville will be marked. Financial support will be provided by the Utilities departments of each city.
- Water testing – Home test kits will be available and promoted.
- A clinic on evaluation, maintenance, and installation of home septic systems will be held annually.
- A clinic on management of fertilizer and manure runoff will be held annually in conjunction with PARP qualification.

### **Education:**

- A soil conservation session will be included in Union County and Fayette County Ag Days.
- All Envirothon teams from Union and Fayette Counties will be sponsored.
- An annual Farm Day open to all students and parents in the county will be held in both Union and Fayette counties which will include conservation sessions and activities. Certain high profile groups are sending the

message that many agriculture activities should be eliminated for pollution reasons. An important goal of this event is to show the effective conservation measures that are being and can be implemented without interruption to our food supply.

- Public and private 4<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students will receive at least 2 hours of conservation education.
- The SWCD will participate in the annual school Career Day, reaching approximately 1,500 students.

#### Soil conservation:

- An on farm event oriented toward active farmers featuring soil conservation practices and including speakers, demonstrations and trade displays will be held annually.
- An annual financial incentive promoting Cover Crops will result in the initiation of at least 30 new cover crop practices.
- At both Union and Fayette County Fairs, there will be a daily drawing for a bag of cover crop seed.

#### Wildlife and Forestry:

- An annual clinic on wildlife, forestry, and invasive plants and animals will be held in Union and Fayette County. Whitewater Lake Memorial State Park and Mary Grey Bird Sanctuary are likely locations.
- A rain barrel and water garden clinic will be held annually in conjunction with a sponsor supported financial incentive program. There are two goals – 1. Increase wildlife habitat opportunities in both rural and urban areas, and 2. Increase rainfall retention capacity, particularly in the areas served by utility department storm drains to help reduce storm drain overflow. The utility departments in Connersville and Liberty will be encouraged to help with this project.

#### **Project Description:**

##### Current Staffing:

- Fayette County – no staff – we receive help from Tara Wessler - ISDA, Meryl Moyer – Union County staff, and Colt VanNatta - NRCS.
- Union County Staff – Meryl Moyer – 1 ½ days per week. Meryl oversees the ongoing administration duties of the SWCD. LuAnne Holeva helps with education and projects, also on a part time basis.

##### Potential for sharing staff and resources:

- Union County and Fayette County maintain a common office in the FSA building located in Connersville. The two counties share a combined annual meeting. There is a history of mutual cooperation between the Union County and Fayette County staff and boards. Sharing the CDSS resource will be a seamless move and is virtually in place now.

##### Governance:

- The combined districts will be governed by an Executive board. The Executive board will consist of two members from the Union County board and two members of the Fayette County board. It will be chaired by the chairman of either the Union or the Fayette county board and will alternate between county board chairmen annually.

##### Managerial:

- The Executive Board chairman will be the representative to the ISDA. The lead district will be the district with the current Executive Board chairman. Until Fayette and Union County flip a coin or otherwise determine which will supply the first chairman, David Caldwell of Fayette County will be the representative to the ISDA.

##### Partnerships:

- Office space, computer, copier, and other equipment are already in common use.

## Measuring Success:

### Effectiveness:

#### Major Focus areas for the CDSS –

- Communication with local government entities - county councils, commissioners and city councils – this is very important – in Fayette County, we are not perceived as being as vital by the people currently in office. The CDSS will establish a relationship with the members of these groups in both counties so as to help them understand the importance of conservation to future viability of the area.
- Communication with board members – The CDSS will encourage and lead the local board members to participate fully in all the events.
- Grant acquisition – obtaining grants will directly support conservation activities, and will help attract local government attention and funding.
- Education – The CDSS will arrange for or speak at events such as Ag Day, Career Day, Farm Day, and the schools.
- Organization – The CDSS will oversee a staff person responsible for day to day office administration, communication, etc.

### Efficiency:

Two counties would normally each utilize an office with a full time staff person. Between Union and Fayette Counties, we currently occupy one office with a single part time (1 ½ days/week) staff person – less than half the normal physical and personnel resources. We ask that consideration be given for the fact that part of the unification cost savings envisioned by this grant opportunity has already been realized.

Through this grant we are requesting three years support for a full time District Support Specialist. To assist the Specialist, the two counties will supply an administrative assistant or assistants at part time level totaling not less than 28 hours/week.

The long range goal by the end of 3 years is to establish grant and local support sufficient to maintain the Specialist on a permanent basis. The efficiency consists of two county SWCDs being served by one consolidated office.

#### Contribution Distribution by County based on current area and population:

Agricultural Projects – Examples: Cover Crops, Pasture Improvement, Stream Protection, Forestry improvement

Fayette County area = 215 sq. miles 60%

Union County area = 165 sq. miles 40%

People Projects – Examples: Youth Education, Rain Barrels, Water Gardens, Storm Drain Marking

Fayette County pop. = 24,277 75%

Union County pop. = 7,516 25%

Letter of Intent:

The Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District will participate with Union County in a multi-district pilot project featuring a Concentrated District Support Specialist. The multi-district will be overseen by a new executive board comprised of members of Fayette and Union County boards. The executive board will meet monthly or more often as needed. The Concentrated District Support Specialist and office staff will be shared by the multi-district. Ongoing traditional local initiatives will be continued by each county, but all conservation efforts will be shared throughout both counties wherever feasible.

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David M. Caldwell, Chairman, Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Lewis Brier, Chairman, Union County Soil and Water Conservation District

Union-Fayette County  
CDSS Application

**Thank you for this  
opportunity**

# Union-Fayette Counties



# Union-Fayette Counties

- Fayette County area = 215 sq. mi.
- Union County area = 165 sq. mi.
- Total = 480 sq. miles = 1.3% of IN
  
- Fayette County pop. = 24,277
- Union County pop. = 7,516
- Total = 31,793 = 0.48% of IN

# Union-Fayette Counties

- *Purpose* -
- Attain strong local and grant based support for the Union and Fayette County SWCDs so as to expand conservation education and practices.

# Union-Fayette Counties

- Vision –
- At the end of the term the two districts will be served by a unified staff that will provide administrative, technical and educational support. The staff will obtain grants sufficient to support the majority of costs of the combined area's activities. Local government will provide significant financial support. Both counties will have full and active boards with members participating in all projects. There will be a combined business plan based on specific, measurable activities that advance conservation needs in the 2 county area.

# Union-Fayette Counties

- Need –

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# Union-Fayette Counties

- *3 Year Goals*

- Funding – Grants, Local Support
- Watershed – Festival, Testing, Clinic, Runoff
- Education – Farm Day, Envirothon, Ag Day, Career Day
- Soil Conservation – Field Day, Cover Crop Incentive
- Wildlife/Forestry – Clinic, Rain barrel/water garden

# Union-Fayette Counties

- *Current Staffing*

- Union County Staff – Meryl Moyer – 1 ½ days per week. Meryl oversees the ongoing administration duties of the SWCD. LuAnne Holeva helps with education and projects, also on a part time basis.
- Fayette County – no staff – we receive help from Tara Wessler - ISDA, Meryl Moyer – Union County staff, and Colt VanNatta - NRCS.

# Union-Fayette Counties

- *Potential for Sharing Staff and Resources*
- Union County and Fayette County maintain a common office in the FSA building located in Connersville. The two counties share a combined annual meeting. There is a history of mutual cooperation between the Union County and Fayette County staff and boards. Sharing the CDSS resource will be a seamless move and is virtually in place now.

# Union-Fayette Counties

- *Governance* –

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# Union-Fayette Counties

- Union  
2 members
  - + Chairman
  - Fayette  
2 members
- Executive Board ↔ CDSS
- 
- ```
graph LR; U["Union  
2 members"]; C["+ Chairman"]; F["Fayette  
2 members"]; EB["Executive Board"]; CDSS["CDSS"]; U --- EB; C --- EB; F --- EB; EB <--> CDSS;
```

# Union-Fayette Counties

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- 

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# Union-Fayette Counties

- Thank You for Your  
Consideration

# Union-Fayette Counties



## State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan

2010-2015

Rev 1/8/12

Rev 3/6/13

Rev 1/6/14

**The mission of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB)** is to provide information, advice and consultation to soil and water conservation district supervisors to assist them in carrying out their powers and programs.

*Key Actions/Progress:* The SSCB will also provide policy and funding direction to the Indiana 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 **as identified in local soil and water conservation district business plans.**

**The SSCB has identified the following as statewide priority natural resource concerns** to be addressed over the next five years:

- o **Soil Quality Degradation/Soil Health** which includes the loss of top soil due to erosion, the depletion of organic matter, as well as soil compaction and other soil biology impacts that degrade soil quality.
- o **Water Quality Impairments** including sediment, nutrients, pesticides, *E-coli* and other non-point sources of water pollution found in our streams, rivers and lakes.
- o **Other soil and water related natural resources concerns** including forest lands, wildlife habitat areas, pasture and forage lands and air quality.

### **Priority Watersheds:**

There are geographical areas within all watersheds of Indiana that have critical natural resource concerns related to soil and water conservation. The SSCB will work with the ISDA-DSC, districts and all partners to address these concerns. However, the SSCB will give special attention and assistance to initiatives in the following priority watersheds:

- o **Highland-Pigeon, Lower East Fork White, Lower Wabash, Lower White, Middle Wabash-Busseron, Middle Wabash-Deer, Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, Tippecanoe, Upper East Fork White, Upper Wabash, and Upper White Watersheds.**

The SSCB will continue to support the existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in these watersheds.

- o **Wabash River Watershed**

In a special effort to help address the national concern about nutrient loading which are causing the hypoxia problems in the Gulf of Mexico, the SSCB will continue to assist in the implementation of CREP in the Wabash River Watershed. The SSCB will also continue to assist USDA with the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) which includes a portion of the Wabash River Basin in Indiana.

- o **Western Lake Erie Basin**

We will continue to assist the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership and our conservation partners in Indiana with efforts to reduce sediment and nutrients entering the Maumee River and ultimately the western basin of Lake Erie. Sediment in the mouth of the Maumee River must be removed at a high cost every year to keep the Port of Toledo open to shipping (including grains). Nutrient reductions especially reduction of dissolved

reactive phosphorus loading into the lake is needed in order to reduce blue-green algal blooms in Lake Erie. Several districts and partners will be utilizing special funding available under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to implement projects that will reduce sediment and nutrient runoff from entering the bay from Indiana.

o **Other Watersheds**

Iroquois Watershed

Ohio River Basin

We will continue to monitor other watersheds across the State of Indiana for future inclusion into SSCB priority watersheds.

In a strategic effort to address the top three resource concerns identified above, the SSCB has developed the following goals and strategies. These goals and strategies are consistent with the board's general authority and duties outlined in the District Law as well as its specific authority to provide direction to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana Program:

o **By 2011 work with IN Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and other water quality monitoring agencies and organizations, as well as the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to share baseline data of current pollution load conditions.**

Share data with Districts to help them identify priority areas. **On-going**

Help to gauge the environmental impact of soil and water conservation efforts. **On-going**

IDEM is a regularly contributing agency within the Indiana Conservation Partnership therefore the SSCB and ISDA interact with them regularly.

The Division of Soil Conservation along with IDEM has been developing the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy. As part of this effort, we are gaining a better understanding of trends and watershed treatment priorities through study of models and communication with USGS.

The Nutrient Reduction Strategy is a living document, which will continue to be updated by partners.

o **By 2012 have a tracking tool/model in place for measuring load reductions as practices and technologies are applied on the land. Complete**

Work with the ISDA-DSC to establish mechanism for tracking load reductions.

Strongly encourage the ISDA-DSC to have all their technical staff using the reduction tracking tool. All ISDA Staff and SWCD technicians are reporting practices implemented via SharePoint along with estimated load reductions.

Require districts to use the same tracking tool for reporting practices applied with CWI grant funding assistance.

All districts that have received 2012 or 2013 CWI Multi-District Watershed Project Grants are now required to report the practices implemented via SharePoint and with the help of ISDA Technical Staff also estimate and report load reductions.

Encourage districts and other partners to use the reduction measuring tool for practices and technologies applied with assistance from other programs.

We now have a model in place to estimate load reductions within the CREP watersheds and this expands our ability to communicate bmp effectiveness.

*For example: CREP has contributed (on average) to the estimated reduction of sediments by 8 Million pounds/year, and nitrogen – 13,000 pounds/year, and phosphorus – 6,000 pounds/year (estimated assumption... this equates to potentially 2 Million pounds of algae that did not form/or over 65 tri-axle dump truck loads of algae).*

**o By 2012 provide districts with a standardized reporting procedure for reporting income and expenses, accomplishments, federal, state and local dollars leveraged as well as state and district program needs for the coming year.**

ICP accomplishments report used to highlight district success stories along with state and federal funding received in each district.

All districts entering annual financial report through new State Board of Accounts Gateway web based reporting system. **Additionally, districts are submitting the Annual Financial Report to the State Soil Conservation Board.**

**o By 2012 the State Soil Conservation Board and ISDA-DSC staff will work with the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) and other Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) partners in developing a reporting format.**

SSCB will annually provide a consolidated report to the general assembly including program and funding needs.

25% complete thru SharePoint tracking system. Need to move this into generating a report.

A report on CWI Grant accomplishments for 2011 was prepared by ISDA-DSC and sent to legislators by IASWCD.

**ISDA-DSC will send 2013 annual report to general assembly.**

**o By 2013 there will be a measurable increase in the number of district supervisors actively engaged in district program planning and development, community outreach, local, state and federal conservation policy and legislative affairs.**

Continue to support the Leadership Institute four Corners of Leadership Workshops series.

Work with the Leadership Institute Program Committee and the ICP Leadership Development Workgroup to identify additional training needs and assist with implementing additional training based on needs identified and prioritized.

Continue to work with the ICP Leaders to develop and implement the draft 5 Star Program proposed by the ICP Leadership Workgroup.

Develop a scorecard for recognizing districts that increase their local program capacity, accomplishments and accountability, and in turn incrementally increase their state match over and above the \$10,000 currently provided for operations based on their scorecard results.

Three Leadership Workshops held in 2011; twenty graduates in 2011

**Two workshops held in 2012; five graduates in 2012**

**Two workshops held in 2013. One cancelled.**

**Seven graduates in 2013.**

5 Star Program/Scorecard on hold until Task Force completes their information gathering and recommendations and the SSCB determine its specific actions to take on the Task Force Report.

**The board will look into the IDEM capacity program and explore alternatives.**

Deadline Verification Tool implemented in 2013. Districts must meet minimum requirements as defined by Indiana Code and grant guidelines in order to receive competitive grants and training reimbursements.

**o By 2014 there will be a measurable increase in the number of districts employing district staff with skills in program development and revenue enhancement (ie; grant writing and project management), adult education, technical assistance, marketing and public relations**

Provide special training targeted to the training needs of district program managers. Work with the ICP to continue to develop and implement the technical training program initiated by ISDA-DSC with assistance from Ray Ledgerwood in 2009. This training program will be based on the plan laid out in the timeline developed in our ICP planning meeting and subsequently developed "white paper" developed by a sub-committee for this initiative.

Pursue opportunities for joint training with partners as well as opportunities to utilize trainers from other partners and states.

Investigate and evaluate training programs already in place in other states that could be modified for use in Indiana.

Provide CWI incentive grants to districts for the purpose of developing or adding staff capacity for program development, revenue enhancement, etc. if funds are available.

Offer specific CWI incentive grants to limited resource districts willing to share program development and/or technical staff if funds are available.

Skill Inventory and Training Needs Inventory requested of all Technical Staff in 2011 and again in 2013 for new employees.

Program Coordinator contracted by the partnership in 2012 to promote and manage the Professional Training and Certification Program.

Technical Review Board (TeRBo) continues to work on trainings offered to ICP. The SSCB committed \$25,000 in 2013 to support this effort.

**o By 2015 there will be a measurable increase in the number of joint sediment and nutrient reduction projects among districts.**

Offer specific CWI grants for joint district projects targeted at sediment and nutrient reduction if funds are available.

The SSCB has been offering CWI Multi-District Watershed Project Grants since the pilot grants were offered in 2011.

The SSCB approved 5 multi-district watershed project grants in 2011, 17 in 2012 and 9 in 2013 for a total of 31 to date.

**o Work with ISDA-DSC, IASWCD, and local districts to increase in the number of cooperative conservation projects with non-governmental organization and private industry.**

Several districts have active projects underway in cooperation with non-government organizations. In addition many districts receive great support from private industry sources to help cover costs of workshops, field days and other educational events.

The SSCB has places some priority on grant applications that outline planned participation in their watershed projects by many partners, especially non-traditional partners when selecting CWI grant recipients.

Continue to support the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI).

The SSCB has provided \$554,000 of CWI funds through a contract with IASWCD support the CCSI since it began in 2011.

SSCB will review and consider future of funding of CCSI.

**o Explore opportunities to work with Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and private sector to help promote agronomic conservation practices and technologies.**

Provide opportunities for division employees to increase their proficiency and assistance in promoting agronomic conservation practices and technologies.

Division staff are attending trainings and gaining proficiency.

Several active CWI funded watershed projects involve active participation by Certified Crop Advisors.

**o By 2015, SWCD's with limited resources are actively pursuing the benefits of and opportunities to consolidate.**

Provide education to districts regarding benefits and opportunities of merging.

Provide special CWI incentive grants to limited resource districts that are willing to merge to increase program capacity and effectiveness. Consider offering an incentive of two times the current state match for each of the merged districts for first year and then 1 ½ times the combined matching grant each year thereafter if funds are available. SWCD Coordination Task Force has been formed to address this goal.

**One of the three recommended options that came out of the Conservation Beyond 2016 Task Force Report for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation districts in delivering conservation programs locally was consolidation of ICP partners including districts based on a watershed or multi-district structure. No action has been taken by the SSCB to date relative to the strategy above to offer an incentive to limited resources districts that are willing to merge.**

In 2013, a subcommittee was put together to develop a set of recommendations to the SSCB to move forward with new conservation delivery models. The SSCB approved two pilot project options.

1. Concentrated District Support Specialist
2. Executive Director

Districts may apply for one of these options to test a new delivery model in February 2014.

**o By 2015 annually increase federal leveraged funds by an average of 5% per year for conservation implementation in the state**

Continue to commit state matching dollars for CREP from CWI funds. (On-going)

Continue to work with the partners to leverage federal funding from all federal sources. (On-going)

Work with our partners to develop a strategic plan to expand CREP to other areas of the state.

Work with the ICP and other traditional and non-traditional partners to enroll 26,250 acres into CREP.

A total of 8,150 acres has been enrolled in CREP as of October, 2013 with a little over \$1.7 CWI matching funds invested in 874 contracts with landowners/operators.

ISDA and FSA are working together to develop a targeted, watershed approach for advertizing and marketing of the program.

o **Key actions for 2014 to make progress in implementing each the goals**

- Continue to solidify partnership.
- Make a concerted effort to help IDEM and DNR become fully vested partners in the ICP.
- Meet with top leadership of ISDA and other state government officials as appropriate to discuss district needs and Clean Water Indiana funding.
- **Support the division in maintaining staff to provide district assistance.**
- Initiate discussions with IDEM and ISDH about septic issues.
- Continue to improve communication with districts by occasionally holding board meeting out in the regions areas of the state and by the use of the ISDA-DSC websites, partner newsletters, webinars, etc.
- **ISDA and SSCB will utilize SharePoint to foster open communications.**
- Pursue opportunities to meet with other state and local government organizations and agencies and others dealing with soil and water issues.
- Continue to encourage Supervisor led group/committee to explore consolidation
- Need legislative changes. Agree to do investigation.
- **Identify funding priorities.**

o **Desired Outcomes for the State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan**

- Clean drinking water
- Clean rivers, lakes and streams
- More productive soils
- Enhanced quality of life
- Increased cooperation with partnership
- Improved soil and water quality
- Districts have increased capacity to deliver conservation programs locally
- Stronger state economy
- Expanded partnerships and conservation partners\  
- **Soil Health**

# State Soil Conservation Board 2013 Annual Report

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Larry Clemens, Chair  
Scott Ham, Vice Chair  
Nola Gentry  
Warren Baird

Bob Eddleman  
Vacant  
Vacant  
Jordan Seger (Non-voting Member)

The ISDA - Division of Soil Conservation works along with the State Soil Conservation Board to enhance the stewardship of Indiana's soil and water resources. This is done by providing face-to-face, on-the-land technical and financial assistance for implementing conservation practices, supporting Indiana's 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and promoting the opportunities and benefits associated with caring for our soil and water resources.

## **Local Conservation Delivery:**

As a follow up to the "Conservation Beyond 2016" Task Force Report delivered in August 2012, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) ([www.in.gov/isda/2361.htm](http://www.in.gov/isda/2361.htm)) and the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) jointly established the membership of the SSCB Sub-Committee in 2013. The Sub-Committee was charged with reviewing the three options presented in the "Conservation Beyond 2016" SSCB Task Force Report for improving the capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness of our partnerships' local conservation delivery system. As part of their review, the sub-committee was asked to develop draft guidance for the SSCB to consider for conducting pilot projects to test any or all of the three options presented in the report. Those options were: (A) Collaboration and Sharing of Resources, (B) Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) Collaboration and Sharing of Resources on a Watershed Basis, and (C) Conservation District and ICP Consolidation on a Multi-District or Watershed Basis. The sub-committee was also given the flexibility to create new options or to combine aspects of multiple options for a pilot. The SSCB and IASWCD further requested the sub-committee to provide input on other actions that needs to be taken to improve our local conservation district delivery system.

The sub-committee felt the best approach the SSCB could take for testing Option A at this time is to offer a couple of scenarios for pilot projects on collaboration and sharing resources. These would be (1) providing direct "hands on" program capacity building assistance to 2-4 districts by providing a concentrated District Support Specialist and (2) providing a grant for 2-4 districts to acquire an Executive Director to help them develop and begin implementing a program to improve capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of all the districts in the pilot project area through a shared resources approach.

In October 2013, the SSCB released Request for Proposals to SWCDs interested in applying for funds for a pilot project. The deadline for the RFPs is February 3, 2014. Supervisors from the applying districts will present the request at a special SSCB meeting in February 2014.

## **Future of Clean Water Indiana Grants**

The SSCB established a working group in October 2013 to explore the future potential of Clean Water Indiana grant funding and priorities. The group will review Indiana Conservation Partner's grant and funding opportunities, identify underserved programs and/or initiatives and provide a recommendation to the board on where to direct funding in the future. The working group is made up of three SSCB members and one representative each from Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana District Employees Association, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, and USDA-Farm Service Agency. The group met in November 2013 and will meet again on January 6, 2014.

## **Grant Eligibility Requirements**

On May 8, 2013 the State Soil Conservation Board enacted new eligibility requirements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Clean Water Indiana competitive grants. Effective that day, recipients of future funding must adhere to minimum laws and deadlines as established in Indiana Code and through grant agreements.

## **Business Plan**

The State Soil Conservation Board is currently working off the business plan enacted in 2010. The current plan runs through 2015. Each year, the board reviews the plan and makes updates as needed. The SSCB Executive Committee met in December 2013 to review the plan and submitted updates for the entire board's consideration in January 2014.



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

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



**IASWCD**

225 S. East Street  
Suite 740  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317.692.7325  
Fax: 317.423.0756  
Web: [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org)

**PRESIDENT:**

Jeff Meinders  
Ripley County

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Paul Cummings  
Owen County

**TREASURER:**

Mike Starkey  
Hendricks County

**SECRETARY:**

Jamie Scott  
Kosciusko County

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Jennifer Boyle Warner  
[Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org](mailto:Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org)

**To:** State Soil Conservation Board  
**From:** Jeff Meinders, President, IASWCD  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014

**2014 Legislative Session**

- Cresswell Hizer has been our lobbyist again;
- Periodic emails with bills of interest have been sent to SWCDs;
- A funding task force has been created; first meeting is Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>

**Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> annual hub meeting held in December 2013;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of measurements start this spring;
- Workshops/field days continue;
- Oversight Committee continues to meet and plan for future;
- Partnerships/other grant opportunities being explored

**IASWCD Officers**

- 2014 officers include: Jeff Meinders, President; Paul Cummings, Vice-President; Jamie Scott, Secretary; and Mike Starkey, Treasurer
- Region Director elections to be finalized at March spring trainings

**Other**

- NACD will be hosting their summer meeting in Indianapolis, July 19-22. Please keep July 21 & 22 on your calendars. These days will be focused on a soil health program and tour.
- We will be sending 2 IASWCD board members to Washington, DC in March for the NACD fly-in. Focus will be on thanking legislators for supporting passage of the Farm Bill and inviting to the NACD summer meeting in Indianapolis.
- Participated in Conservation Day at the Statehouse on Jan. 28. Representative Karickhoff was given a Legislator of the Year award for his support of the Clean Water Indiana program.

**THE IASWCD MISSION** is to represent SWCDs as one voice and assist the leadership of local Districts through coordination and education for the wise use and management of our natural resources.

# DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION

## 2013 REPORT

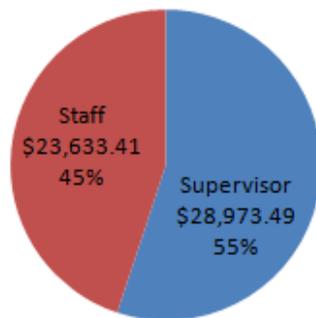


### Clean Water Indiana

#### SWCD Staff and Supervisor Training 2013

Each district was eligible to receive up to \$475 reimbursement for supervisor training that occurred during calendar year 2012. In addition, districts could request up to \$475 for staff training reimbursements. As in years past, at least 50 percent of the total amount requested by each district must be for supervisor training. Eligible Staff and Supervisor training requests were paid to districts totaling \$52,606.90.

#### Training Reimbursements Paid February 2013



## 2011 Clean Water Indiana 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.

**Project Title:** Reducing Nutrient Impacts in the Western Lake Erie Basin Through the On-Farm Network

**Participating Districts:** Allen, Adams, Dekalb, Noble, Steuben, Wells

**Funds Awarded:** \$20,000-Technical Assistance

**Status:** Projected completed 12/31/12. Final report submitted and reviewed.

**Project Title:** Tri-County Conservation Initiative

**Participating Districts:** Knox, Daviess, Pike

**Funds Awarded:** \$15,000-Technical Assistance

**Status:** Year 1 and Year 2 reports submitted and reviewed.

**Project Title:** On-Farm Soil Quality Assistance to Farmers

**Participating Districts:** Kosciusko, Fulton, Marshall

**Funds Awarded:** \$20,000-Technical Assistance

**Status:** Year 1 and Year 2 reports submitted and reviewed.

**Project Title:** Reducing NPS pollution by assisting agricultural producers in performing research on their farm

**Participating Districts:** Tipton, Howard

**Funds Awarded:** \$20,000-Cost Share

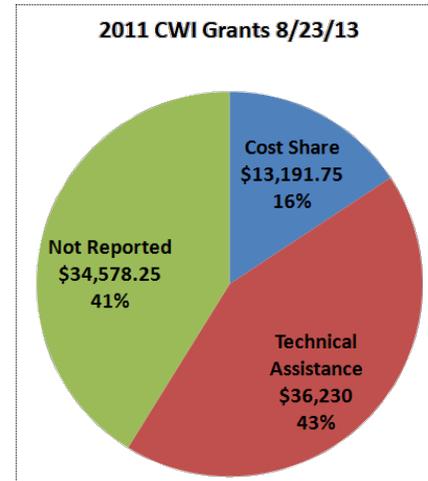
**Status:** Year 1 Year 2 reports submitted and reviewed.

**Project Title:** Salamonie River Watershed Incentive Program

**Participating Districts:** Wells, Huntington, Jay, Blackford

**Funds Awarded:** \$9,000-Cost Share

**Status:** Year 1 and Year 2 reports submitted and reviewed.



## 2012 Clean Water Indiana Watershed Grants

During state fiscal year 2012, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded 21 Clean Water Indiana grants totaling \$1,078,000. The focus for this round of grant funding includes:

- Cost Share Incentives/On Farm Demonstrations
- Increase Direct Technical/Professional Assistance to Land users
- Adult Education

## 2012 Clean Water Indiana Grant Funding- As Requested

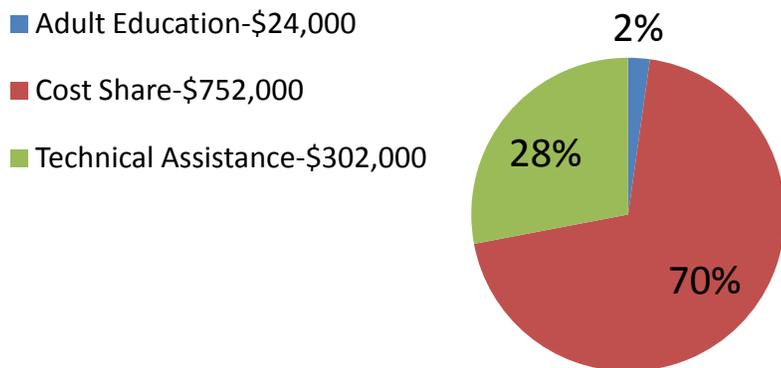


Chart 1

Chart 1 above illustrates the breakdown of funding requests.

Sixteen of the grants began on January 1, 2012; the remaining five began on May 1, 2012. All grantees are required to report on their progress annually.

| Lead District | Other Participating Districts           | Amount   | Details                                            | Status                                                         |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clay          | Vigo                                    | \$10,000 | cover crops, field border and rain simulator       | Project Completed                                              |
| Crawford      | Harrison Perry                          | \$40,000 | pasture planting                                   | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 5/31/14 |
| DeKalb        | Steuben                                 | \$60,000 | blind inlet with ARS/NRCS and cover crops          | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 report due 1/31/14 |
| Delaware      | Madison, Randolph, Blackford            | \$40,000 | OFN/CREP                                           | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 5/31/14 |
| Dubois        | Crawford, Gibson, Orange, Pike, Spencer | \$60,000 | Cover Crop/Vincennes University rain garden/barrel | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 5/31/14 |
| Fulton        | White                                   | \$40,000 | CREP/Cover Crop-hiring contractor.                 | Project Complete                                               |
| Hamilton      | Marion, Hancock, Madison                | \$60,000 | urban coordinator staff                            | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Howard        | Carroll, Clinton, Madison, Tippecanoe,  | \$60,000 | research project                                   | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 5/31/14 |

|            |                                                                        |           |                                                          |                                                                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | Tipton                                                                 |           |                                                          |                                                                |
| Jackson    | Jefferson,<br>Jennings, Scott                                          | \$60,000  | CREP cost share for people not eligible for FSA programs | Project Complete                                               |
| Jennings   | Decatur,<br>Bartholomew                                                | \$60,000  | CCSI, bundling incentive                                 | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Johnson    | Morgan                                                                 | \$60,000  | conservation BMPs                                        | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Knox       | Sullivan,<br>Greene,<br>Davies,<br>Gibson, Pike,<br>Dubois,<br>Warrick | \$60,000  | OFN on released coal lands                               | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Miami      | Wabash,<br>Kosciusko                                                   | \$60,000  | technical assistance                                     | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Newton     | Benton, White,<br>Pulaski, Starke,<br>Lake, Porter,<br>Jasper          | \$100,000 | cover crop and data collection                           | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Pike       | Gibson                                                                 | \$33,000  | bi-county technician                                     | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Randolph   | Delaware                                                               | \$15,000  | CREP cost share for people not eligible for FSA programs | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Steuben    | LaGrange,                                                              | \$60,000  | BMPs for Amish and English underserved                   | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Vermillion | Fountain,<br>Parke,<br>Montgomery                                      | \$60,000  | local CCSI contractor                                    | Project Complete                                               |
| Warrick    | Gibson, Pike,<br>Posey,<br>Vanderburgh                                 | \$20,000  | cover crops on ag land and gardens                       | Project Completed                                              |
| Washington | Lawrence,<br>Martin, Orange                                            | \$60,000  | BMPs in Karst area                                       | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |
| Whitley    | Allen,<br>Huntington,<br>Wells                                         | \$60,000  | cost share and TA to a new audience                      | Year 1 report complete and reviewed. Year 2 Report due 1/31/14 |

## 2013 Clean Water Indiana Watershed Grants

For 2013, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) voted to hold a grant program similar to the 2012 CWI grant program, focusing on multi-district, multi-year grants. The focus for this round of grant funding includes:

- Cost Share Incentives/On Farm Demonstrations
- Increase Direct Technical/Professional Assistance to Land users
- Adult Education

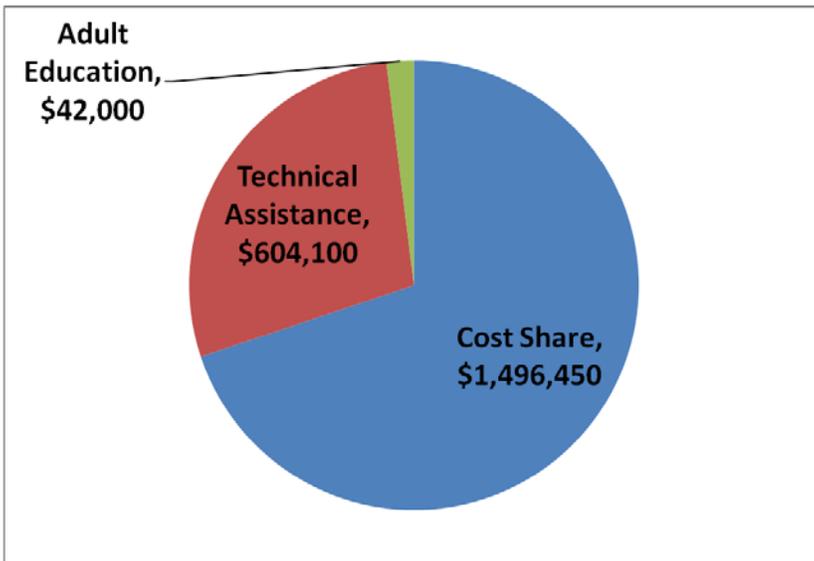
The total amount awarded was \$612,000.

| Lead District | Other Participating Districts        | Amount   | Details                                                                                      | Status                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allen         | Adams, Wells                         | \$70,000 | Connecting Communities to Conservation                                                       | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |
| Boone         | Clinton                              | \$70,000 | Watershed Land Treatment                                                                     | Year 1 report due 5/1/14  |
| Dearborn      | Ohio, Switzerland                    | \$70,000 | Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland County Water Quality Improvement Project                      | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |
| Gibson        | Posey                                | \$25,000 | Gibson/Pike Continuous Cooperative Partnership                                               | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |
| Hancock       | Hamilton, Madison, Marion            | \$70,000 | Implementing Backyard Conservation in the Fall Creek Watershed                               | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |
| Jefferson     | Clark, Jackson, Jennings, Scott      | \$70,000 | Better Soil. Cleaner Water. More profit                                                      | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |
| Martin        | Jasper, Lawrence, Orange, Washington | \$70,000 | Drought Relief Incentives for Pastures (DRIP)                                                | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |
| Orange        | Martin                               | \$70,000 | Lost River Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Initiative                                        | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |
| Owen          | Monroe                               | \$70,000 | McCormick's Creek Watershed Nitrification, Sedimentation and Bacterial Reduction Partnership | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |
| Posey         | Vanderburgh, Warrick                 | \$27,000 | Southwest Indiana Cover Crop Program                                                         | Year 1 report due 1/31/14 |

More information on Clean Water Indiana grants, including printable flyers, can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2379.htm>

## 2014 Clean Water Indiana Grants

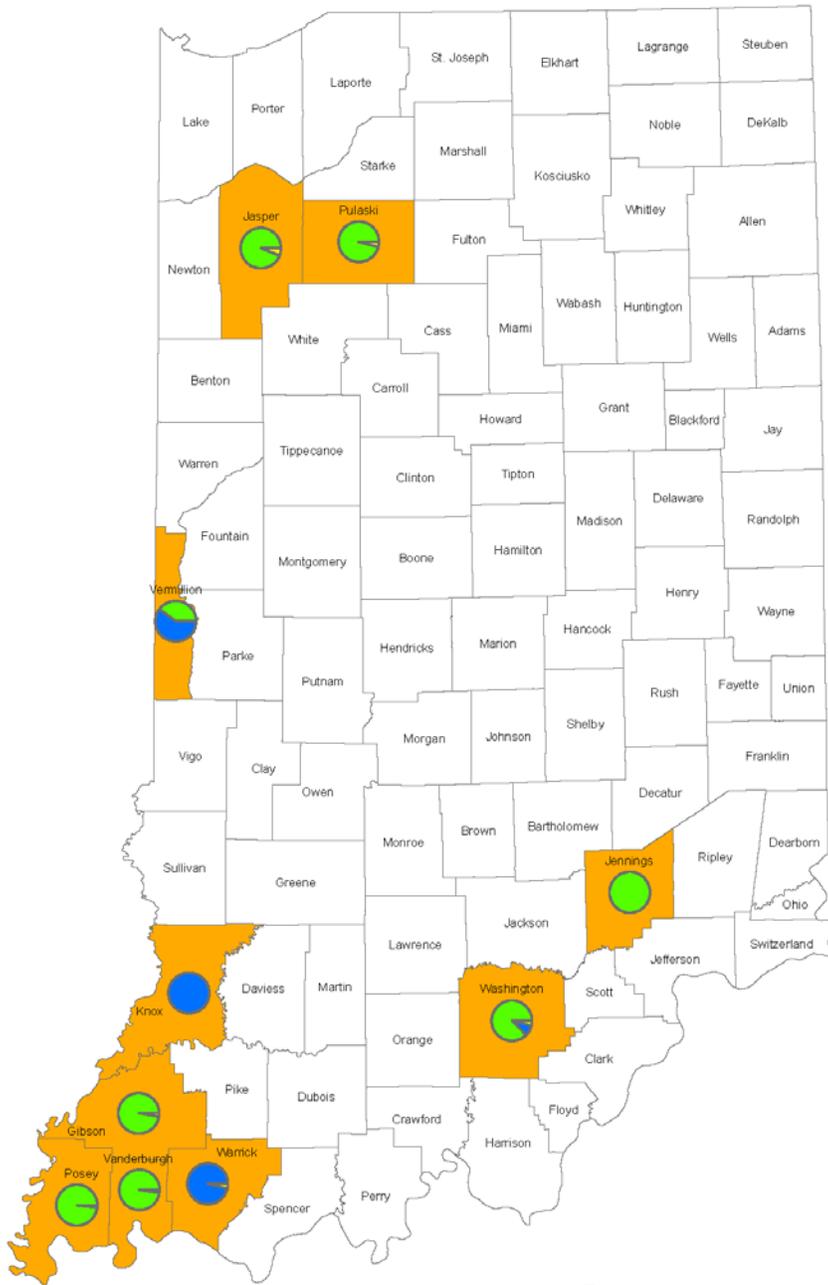
Thirty-three applications, representing 68 districts, were submitted for the 2014 Clean Water Indiana Grants round for a total of \$2,142,550. Applicants could apply for up to \$25,000 a year for up to three years in the following categories: Cost Share, Professional Assistance, and Adult Education (limit \$1,000 per year). Applications totaled \$1,496,450 in Cost Share, \$604,100 in Professional Assistance and \$42,000 in Adult Education.



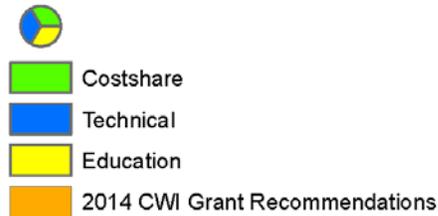
In October, the SSCB awarded ten CWI grants totaling \$579,000. The grants begin on January 1, 2014 and will be up to three years in length. Each project focuses on sediment and nutrient reduction within a multidistrict area (29 counties total). Grant funding levels ranged from \$22,500 to \$75,000 per project.

| Lead District | Amount Requested | Recommended Funding | Project Title                                                           |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gibson        | \$75,000         | \$44,750            | Gibson and Pike Continuous Cooperative Partnership                      |
| Jasper        | \$49,200         | \$49,200            | Facilitating High Clearance Seeding of Cover Crop in NW Indiana         |
| Jennings      | \$75,000         | \$75,000            | Muscatatuck Watershed Incentive Program                                 |
| Knox          | \$22,500         | \$22,500            | Tri County Conservation Initiative                                      |
| Posey         | \$51,000         | \$51,000            | Southwest Indiana Cover Crop Program                                    |
| Pulaski       | \$75,000         | \$75,000            | Cover Crops-Above and Beyond                                            |
| Vanderburgh   | \$39,250         | \$39,250            | Two Stage Ditch                                                         |
| Vermillion    | \$75,000         | \$75,000            | West Central Improvement Project                                        |
| Warrick       | \$75,000         | \$75,000            | Warrick/Pike Joint County Conservation Technician/Education Cooperative |
| Washington    | \$72,300         | \$72,300            | United for Cleaner Water                                                |

# 2014 CWI Multi-District Grants Approved Lead Districts and Breakdown of Funds Requested



|                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Cost Share Requested           | \$417,500        |
| Total Technical Assistance Requested | \$145,500        |
| Total Adult Education Requested      | \$16,000         |
| <b>Total CWI Funds Requested</b>     | <b>\$579,000</b> |



October 31, 2013  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

## SWCD Supervisor and Staff Training 2014

The SSCB is offering training reimbursement for SWCD staff and supervisors for calendar year 2013, up to a maximum total of \$30,000. Each district can apply for up to \$475 for supervisor and staff training reimbursement. Actual amount of reimbursements will depend upon requests received.

## Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)



The ISDA-DSC and SSCB continue to provide field staff technical support and financial support to the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative in 2013. CCSI ([www.ccsin.org](http://www.ccsin.org)) which is a nationally recognized Indiana Conservation Partnership ([www.iaswcd.org/icp/](http://www.iaswcd.org/icp/)) project which promotes 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 health and quality, water quality and profitability on Indiana cropland.

Since the project started over 60 CCSI workshops have been presented with over 4,000 in attendance throughout the state. For IN Conservation Partnership staff, five high level trainings on cover crops, soil health, and conservation cropping systems have been delivered with over 200 in attendance. The CCSI website has been updated ([www.ccsin.org](http://www.ccsin.org)) and is now being maintained by IASWCD. Contractors have continued to assist the IN On-Farm Network project, and assisted at the grower meetings in February 2013.

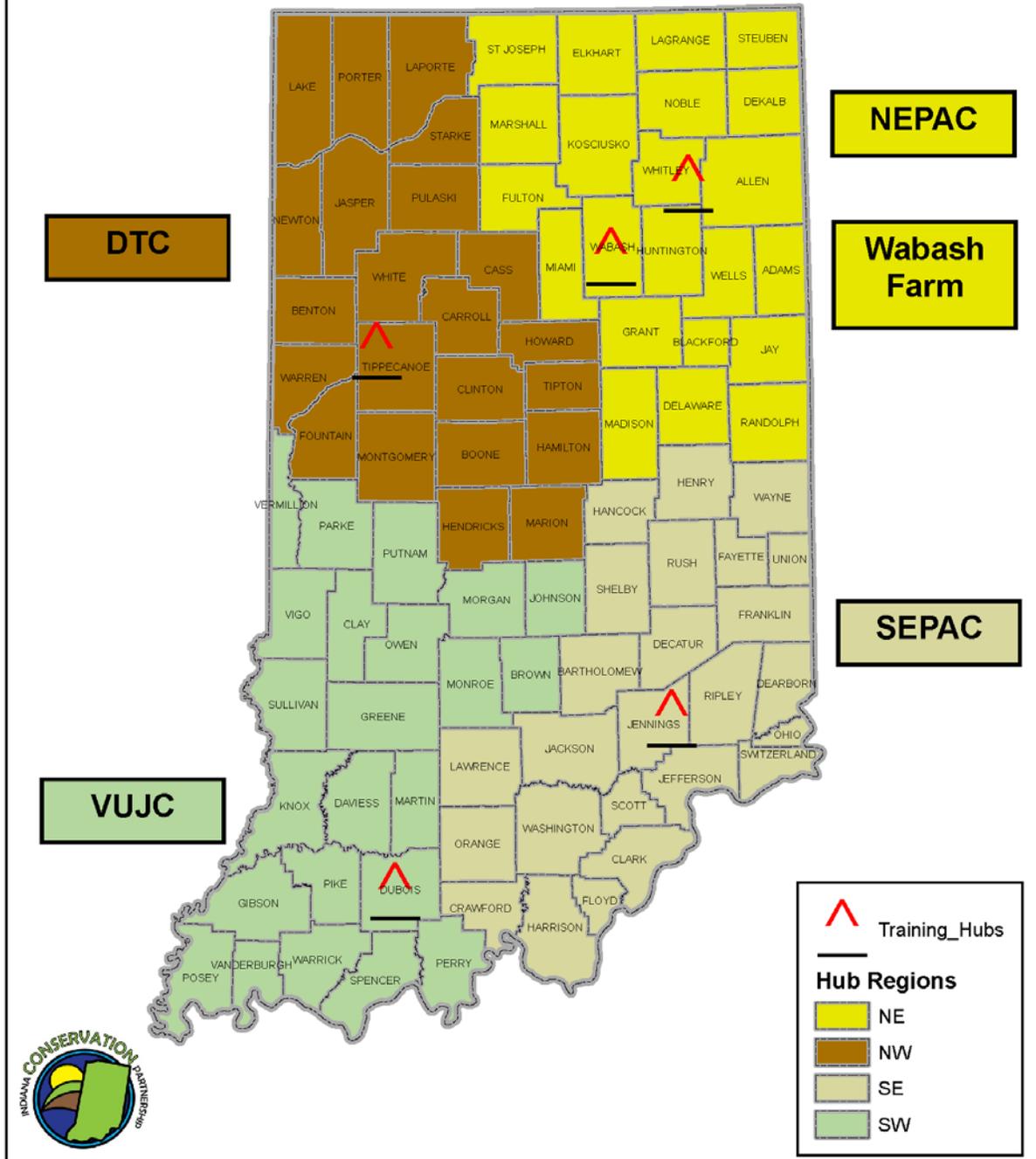
Towards the end of 2012 ICP partners secured a \$1.7 million, 3-year USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grant which takes the CCSI concept to the farm level and educates ICP partners. Hub farmers and farms were established, train the trainer and other educational events are taking place. This new project went into full swing in 2013, a huge leap forward for CCSI exploring the economical, environmental, agricultural, and biological benefits of conservation practices on a field scale all the while sharing these results in open formats to farmers and both the public and private sectors.

The IN Corn Marketing Council and the IN Soybean Alliance grow their strong CCSI partnership in 2013 with in kind staff time and both Corn and Soybean CheckOff funds.



Conservation  
Cropping  
Systems  
Initiative

# CCSI Training Hubs



This three year project (9/1/12-8/31/15) builds on the successes of Indiana’s current Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI), a sustainable cropping system and management strategy, which protects our natural resources and actually improves our soils. The Conservation Cropping Systems for Soil Health and Productivity project further demonstrates, implements, encourages, and evaluates the adoption of these conservation systems

that improve soil health. These systems include practices such as no-till, cover crops, crop rotation, nutrient and pest management, precision-farming technology and buffers focusing on the systematic approach to farming. This project utilizes inter-professional collaboration and technical exchange among Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) staff, farmers, private and industry consultants, and researchers to advance the adaptability of productive soil health systems on a regional basis. Farmers experienced with successful systems lead local demonstrations and guide efforts to adapt soil health systems to local conditions and wider adoption of these systems.

**Project Methods:** The project is directed from four Regional Hubs in Indiana. The four Regional Hubs serve as focal points for demonstrating various conservation systems and for training agency representatives and farmers as mentors. The hubs also provide information sharing and regional project coordination. Each of the four Regional Hubs is served by a designated team of farmers and Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) employees. Each hub's team develops its own work plan with guidance from a project manager and a technical coordinator.

The project starts with already proven conservation practices and elevates them to a higher level systems approach. Each of the four regions have established as a minimum three conservation demonstration sites. The demonstration sites will be established on private farmer (2 per hub; 8 total) and non-private and/or University properties. The non-private and/or University sites include: Vincennes University and Dubois County SWCD; Northeast Purdue Agricultural Center (NEPAC), Whitley County; Southeast Purdue Agricultural Center (SEPAC), Jennings County; Purdue University Diagnostic Center, Tippecanoe County; and Wabash County SWCD. The demonstration sites on private farmers' sites begin with their current proven systems, which in most cases consists of no-till/strip till, high level nutrient management, and in some cases cover crops, and add a new component to bring the soil to an even higher soil health. In many cases this means utilizing more cover crops or cover crop mixes than what they are already doing.

Measurements are being made to compare their current, good system to the newer system for its impacts on soil health. Where possible, a neighbor's field on similar soil types but with more conventional practices is used as another comparison. We anticipate these measurements on full scale farmer fields will be very effective in telling the story of soil health improvement.

Measurements that are being taken on farmer sites:

- a. Cover crop biomass, fall and spring - Results show total productivity as well as total N uptake
- b. Soil nitrate 1) at time of fall biomass sample, 2) at time of spring sampling and termination, 3) at pre-sidedress N sampling time (PSNT), and 4) at pollination time. These measurements assess the effects of cover crops on N availability at various times during the growing season.
- c. Chlorophyll meter readings. This helps interpret the N status of the corn crop in mid-season.
- d. Stalk nitrate test – this assess the N status of the corn crop at the end of the season.
- e. Standard soil fertility test – these samples reflect overall soil nutrient status and the influence of the conservation cropping system.
- f. Cash crop yield.

Additional detailed measurements may be made on farmer sites:

- a. Monitor soil moisture and temperature throughout the growing seasons, with Decagon moisture/temperature probes.
- b. Soil samples sent to four commercial laboratories that have begun to offer biological “soil health” analyses.
- c. Soil penetration resistance measured in the spring while soils are near field capacity.

d. Soil aggregation, a measure of soil tilth and ability to resist slaking.

Nitrogen availability from cover crop residue decomposition will be evaluated with a simple tool from Oregon State University, for its usefulness in predicting for field conditions in Indiana.

The specific demonstration sites serve as training centers for Indiana Conservation Partnership staff and as locations for field days and winter meetings for farmers. The farmer peer mentors serve as hosts for the demonstration sites, as peer mentors during the three events per year, as co-trainers in the train-the-trainers event to be held each year in their Regional Hub, and as a source for additional consultation with area farmers.

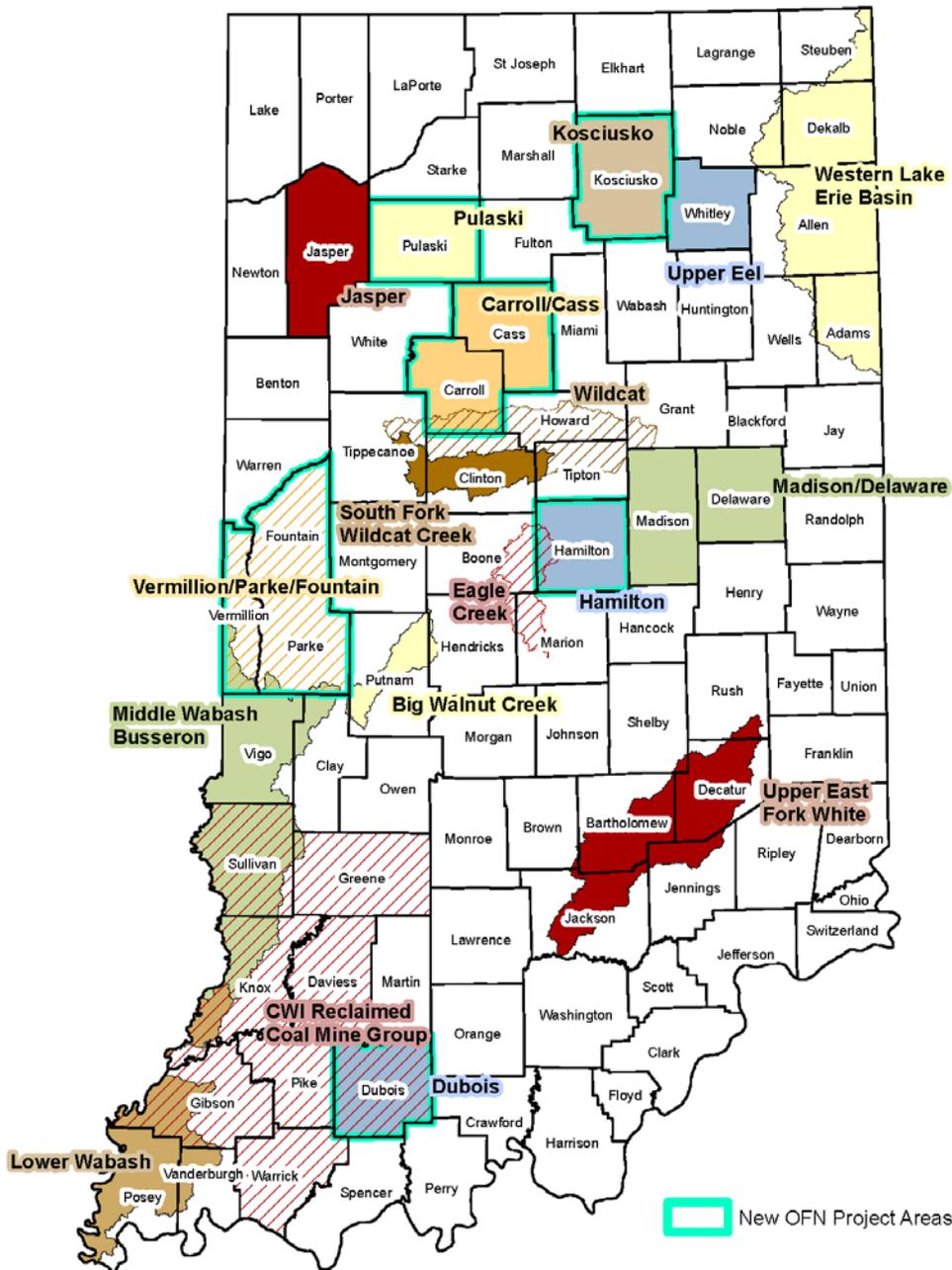
**Outreach:** Project partners share information across Indiana, the Midwest and nationally to expand the adoption of soil health systems and inform the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service about the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these systems. A project website profiles the Regional Hubs, details the demonstrations and shares the stories of the farmer mentors. Case studies (farmer sites) provide detail on soil health systems used and demonstrated, as well as the environmental and economic benefits of those systems. However, specific farmer information will remain confidential.

## **Indiana On Farm Network**



The ISDA DSC received a \$450,000 competitive USDA grant in 2010 to establish the On Farm Network in Indiana over three years. This grant was matched with Checkoff funds and support from the IN Corn Marketing Council and IN Soybean Alliance. The project has exceeded original grant goals. In 2013 the USDA granted ISDA a one year extension on this grant to continue running the IN OFN in the 2014 crop year and build upon the project's successes. In 2013 the project grew to one of the largest adaptive nutrient management farmer networks in the country. (Iowa has the largest) In 2013 the IN OFN coordinated aerial imagery of research plots at the request of Purdue Ag research. Preparations for the 2014 OFN year are underway.

# 2013 On-Farm Network Project Area



May 16, 2013  
 Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

## IN OFN Grant Goals

**CIG Year 1 (9/21/10-9/20/11) 2011 OFN Year**

Goal was to engage 25 growers and 75 fields

Accomplishments were 132 growers and 322 fields

### **CIG Year 2 (9/21/11-9/20/12) 2012 OFN Year**

Goal was to engage 35 growers and 105 fields

Accomplishments were 162 growers and 419 fields

### **CIG Year 3 (9/21/12-9/20/13) 2013 OFN Year**

Goal is to engage 50 growers and 150 fields

Accomplishments were 241 growers and 584 fields

\*Additional growers and fields in IN OFN funded by other means (EQIP, 100% Corn Checkoff, Purdue, etc.)

On Farm Network was developed by the Iowa Soybean Association in 2000 and became established in Indiana in 2010. The ISDA coordinates the Indiana On Farm Network in collaboration with the Iowa Soybean Association and partners across the public and private sectors of Indiana.

Participating farmers use precision agriculture tools, standardized protocols, and technologies to conduct in depth Nitrogen analysis in Corn fields on their own farms. This concept is considered adaptive management and generally results in changes that increase profitability of the producer and ultimately has a positive impact on water quality. The adaptive management process has shown most growers can reduce their nitrogen rates by one-third while maintaining or increasing profitability. Fields are evaluated with tools such as: Guided Corn Stalk Nitrate Testing, Geo-referenced Aerial Imagery, collaborative peer-to-peer learning, and Replicated Strip Trials. The Nitrogen data are reported back to farmers as their individual farm data and as aggregate results. Aggregate results are used publicly for educational purposes. Field history information is collected from every participating farmer – previous crop, manure history, manure applications, commercial N applications (including timing of application, form, placement, and rate) and tillage. This information is combined with analysis of results from on farm evaluation plots comparing different management practices (timing, form, application rate, etc). All data collected through OFN is anonymous. Reports can never be linked to a name or specific location.

Geographically based (county, watershed, or multi county) groups of 10-20 growers using standardized whole field protocols and sharing information amongst each other with the goal of Nitrogen efficiency in corn; while being supported with resources (funding, technical, labor, etc.) from a wide range of public and private sector partners including USDA-NRCS, ISDA, the Indiana Corn Marketing Council, the Indiana Soybean Alliance, the Iowa Soybean Association, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation districts (representing IN's 92 SWCD's), Purdue Extension, and the Conservation Cropping System Initiative

2013 IN OFN statistics at a glance

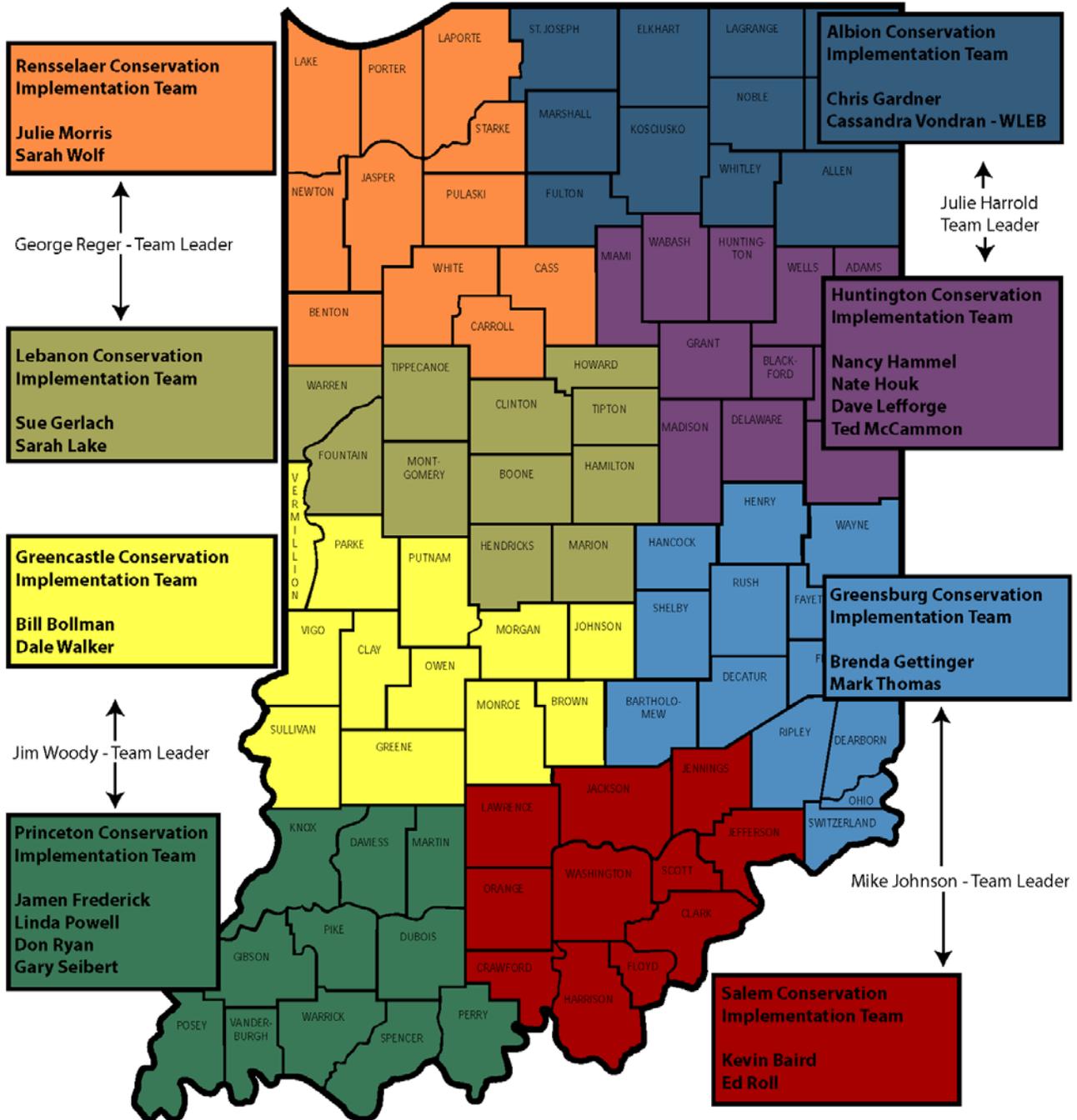
- Over 230 participating growers
- 18 Groups
- Over 600 fields totaling over 40,000 direct acres

### **Conservation Technical Assistance**

The cornerstone to ISDA's technical assistance is centered around the service provided by our field staff located across Indiana in various locations. The Division of Soil Conservation employs Resource Specialists to directly assist landowners with the planning and implementation of conservation practices addressing specific soil and water resource concerns. Resource Specialists work in regional Conservation Implementation Teams (CIT)

alongside staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). They assist with planning, survey, design, supervision of installation, and maintenance of conservation practices. The common practices these professionals install include, but are not limited to - filter strips, grassed waterways, forested and grassed buffers, water and sediment control basins, wetland restorations, and livestock watering systems.

# ISDA Division of Soil Conservation Resource Specialists



### Field Staff Activities

Activities are tracked through secure, web based software

January 1, 2013 – November 20, 2013

| Resource Specialist Activities                 | Total   |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| SWCD Board Meetings                            | 275     |
| ICP Meetings, Conference Calls, Webinars, etc. | 345     |
| Field Days                                     | 118     |
| Training                                       | 284     |
| Conservation Planning                          | 653     |
| Survey, Design and Inspections                 | 1,197   |
| Construction Checks                            | 355     |
| Public Interaction                             | *10,353 |
| CREP – Met with Landowners                     | 132     |

\*As of February 1, Field Staff were instructed to begin tracking their public interaction at various events including meetings, forums, seminars, exhibits and on-farm presentations.

### DSC Conservation Workload

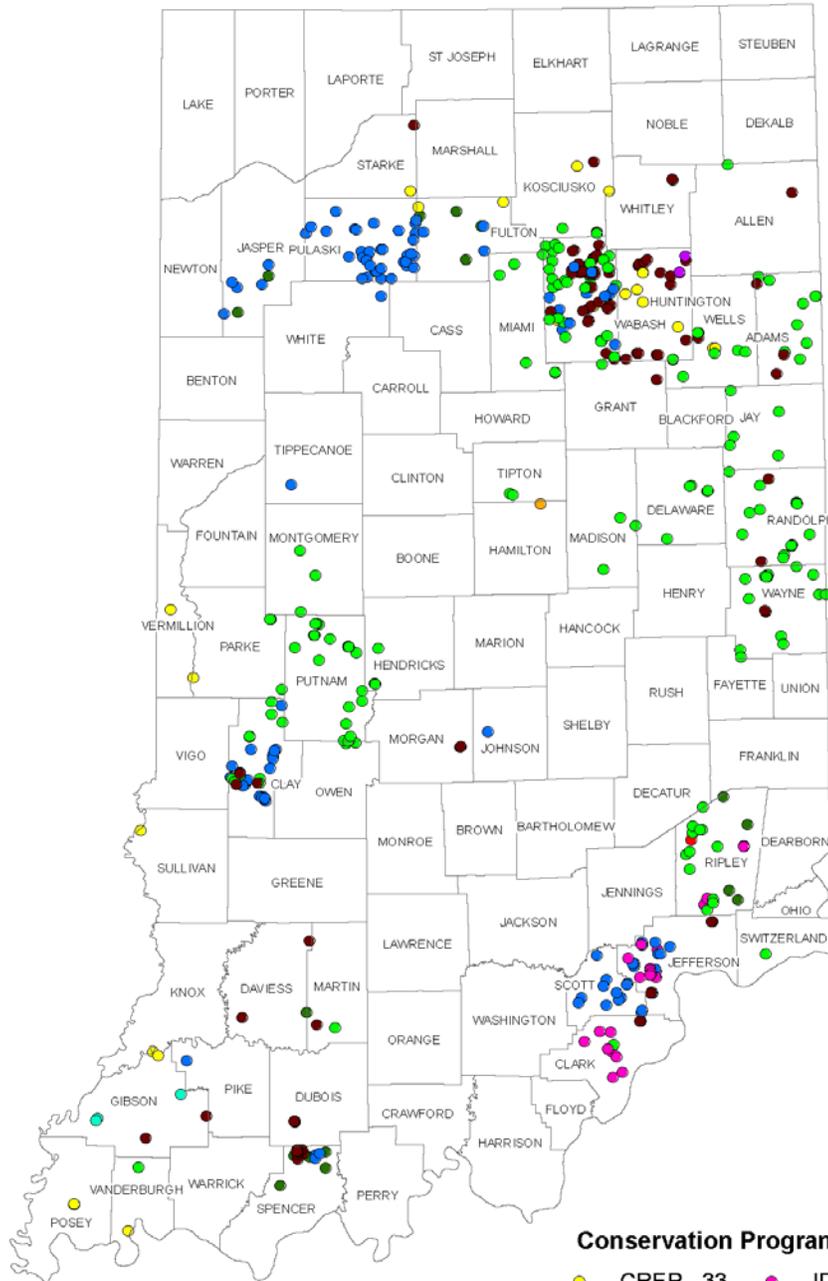
Activities with many other attributes are tracked through secure, web based software

January 1, 2013 – November 26, 2013

| Action                                 | Currently Reported                    |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Technical Assistance                   | 3,448                                 |
| Practices Underway                     | 685                                   |
| Completed Practices                    | 524                                   |
| Practice Acres                         | 12,344                                |
| Practice Feet                          | 313,633                               |
| Field Acres                            | 20,317                                |
| Nitrogen Reduction                     | 79,641 lbs.                           |
| Phosphorus Reduction                   | 40,942 lbs.                           |
| Sediment Reduction                     | 34,641 tons<br>over 69 million pounds |
| HUC8 Watersheds Impacted (38<br>Total) | 34                                    |

In 2013 the ISDA-DSC continued to support and prepare data for a public website detailing economic aspects of conservation practices by county: <http://www.in.gov/isda/icpreports/>

**2013 Indiana Conservation Workload  
Implemented by Division of Soil Conservation**



January 1 thru November 26, 2013  
Conservation Practices Completed - 524

November 26, 2013  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

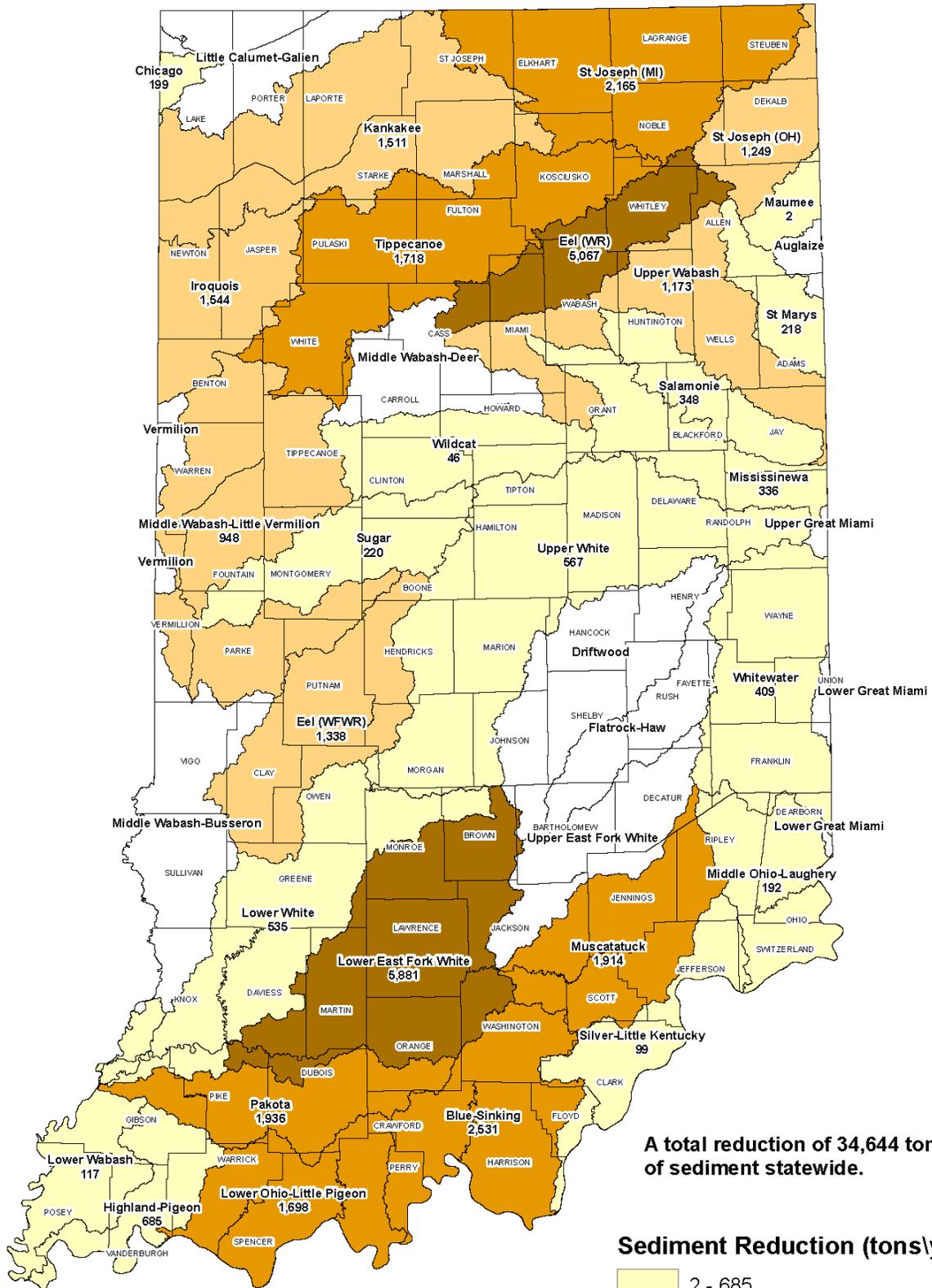
- Conservation Program**
- CREP - 33
  - CRP - 186
  - CSP - 1
  - CWI - 111
  - EQIP - 128
  - IDEM 319 - 34
  - LARE - 3
  - SAFE - 1
  - WRP - 3
  - OTHER - 23

## **Load Reduction Modeling of Installed Conservation Practices**

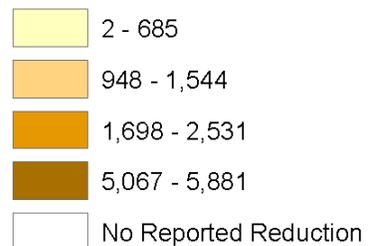
The technical assistance and practice designs of DSC Resource Specialists do not just translate into conservation on the ground, but also to nutrient and sediment reduction across the state. We are unique here in Indiana in that we utilize a mathematical model to estimate reductions of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and sediment to water ways from the installation of best management practices funded by Clean Water Indiana funds (monies from the cigarette tax). This model, called the Region 5 model, was co-developed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the US EPA, and is recognized by the EPA as a reliable indicator of the environmental benefits of these conservation practices. The maps below illustrate the estimated load reductions of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment in Indiana from practices and initiatives funded by Clean Water Indiana.

*Note: The maps below show load reductions January 2013 - June 2013 only. Further analysis for the entire 2013 CY will occur in December.*

# 2013 Nutrient Load Reductions Sediment



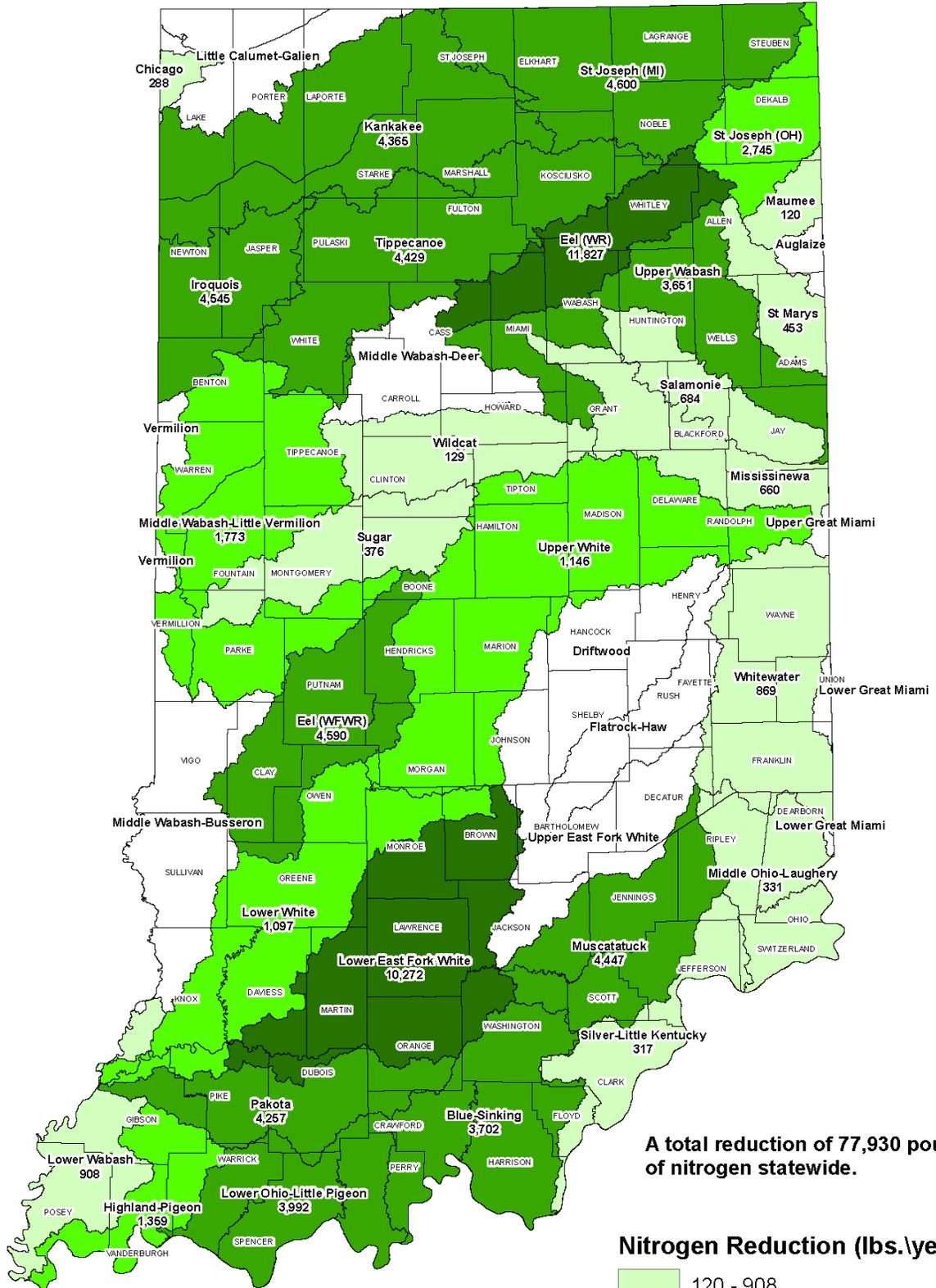
## Sediment Reduction (tons/year)



Based on Region 5 Model analyses conducted on 607 conservation practices installed by ISDA Division of Soil Conservation field staff and Soil and Water Conservation District technicians from January 2013 thru June 2013. Watersheds with low or no nutrient load reductions correlate with the lack of Division and SWCD field staff in those areas.

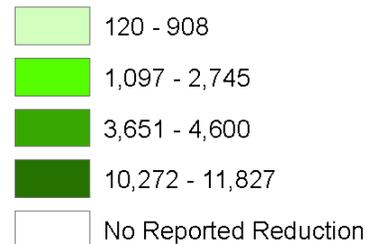
July 1, 2013  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

# 2013 Nutrient Load Reductions Nitrogen



A total reduction of 77,930 pounds of nitrogen statewide.

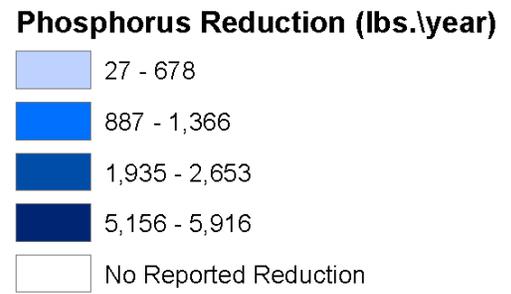
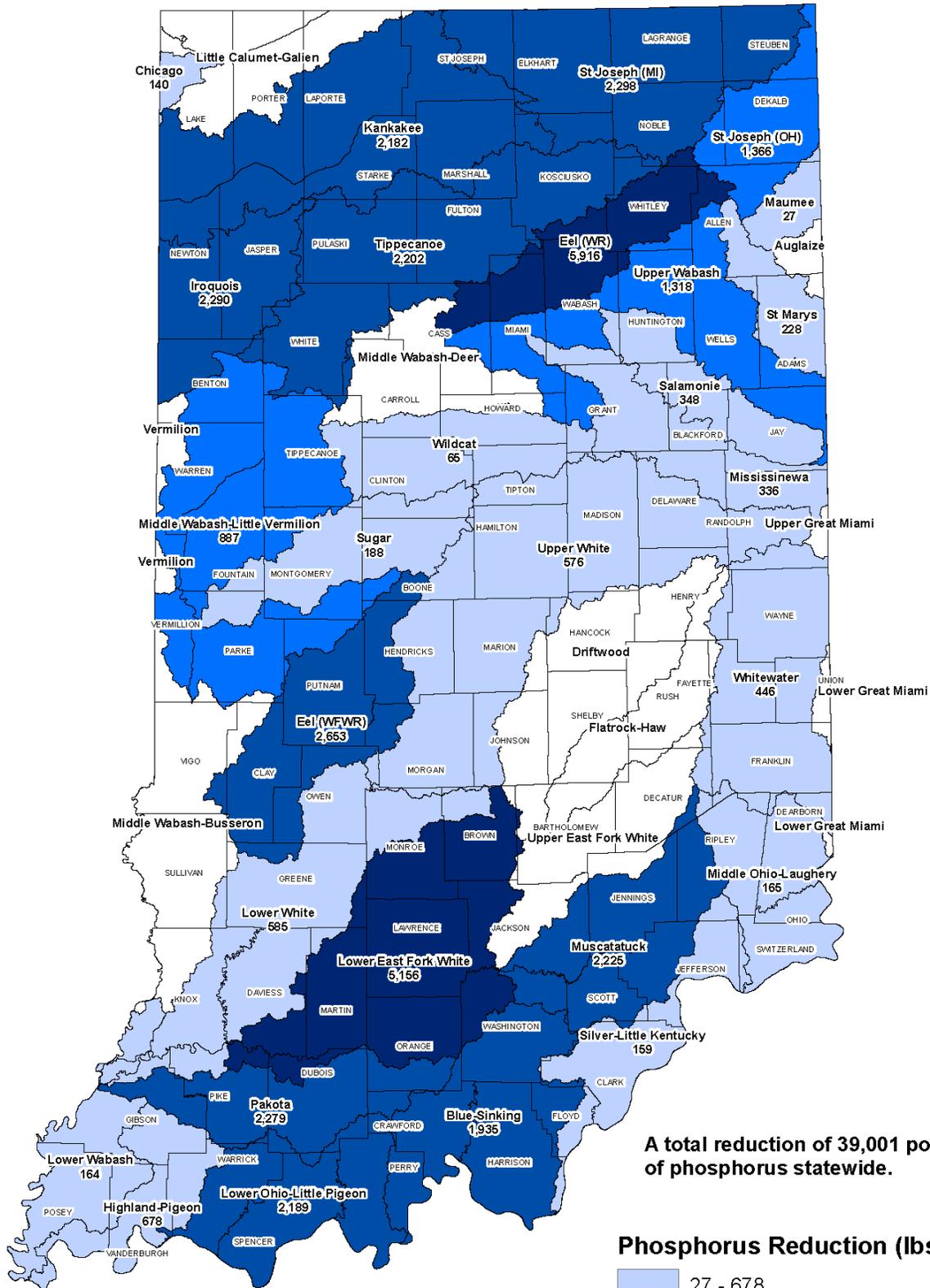
### Nitrogen Reduction (lbs./year)



Based on Region 5 Model analyses conducted on 607 conservation practices installed by ISDA Division of Soil Conservation field staff and Soil and Water Conservation District technicians from January 2013 thru June 2013. Watersheds with low or no nutrient load reductions correlate with the lack of Division and SWCD field staff in those areas.

July 1, 2013  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

# 2013 Nutrient Load Reductions Phosphorus



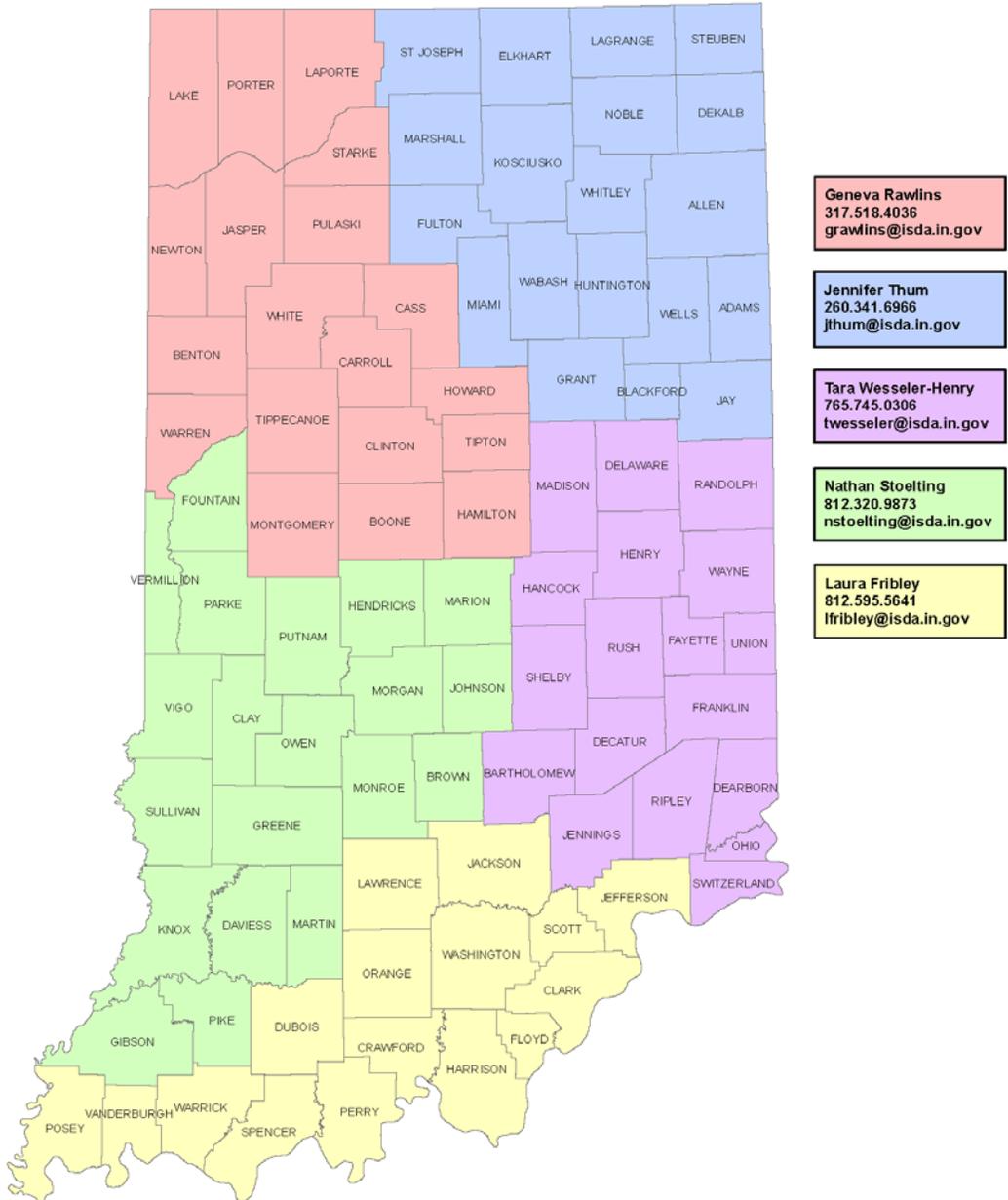
Based on Region 5 Model analyses conducted on 607 conservation practices installed by ISDA Division of Soil Conservation field staff and Soil and Water Conservation District technicians from January 2013 thru June 2013. Watersheds with low or no nutrient load reductions correlate with the lack of Division and SWCD field staff in those areas.

July 1, 2013  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA Program Manager

## District Support

Each District Support Specialist assists 16-20 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in his/her respective area of the state in developing their respective SWCD Business Plan and Annual Plan of Work. The District Support Specialists provide guidance and assistance to the districts in applying for competitive Clean Water Indiana Grants for implementing watershed based, multi-district sediment and nutrient reduction projects.

# District Support Specialist Regions



**District Support Specialists****Jan 1-Nov 26, 2013**

| Activities                                              | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Business Plan/Plan of Work updates                      | 30    |
| Meetings to provide guidance for CWI grant applications | 19    |
| SWCD Board Meetings attended                            | 144   |
| Planning Assistance for Educational Programs            | 19    |
| SWCD Annual Meetings attended                           | 34    |
| Individual Supervisor/Staff visits                      | 17/52 |
| Field Day Event Assistance                              | 9     |

The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) Training and Certification Program strives to improve efficiency in training amongst all ICP technical employees, resulting in a more highly skilled workforce and seamless delivery to customers. Two ISDA employees (one Resource Specialist and one District Support Specialist) serve on the team that helps steer the initiative. ICP trainings including RUSLE2, basic nutrient management, and rain garden trainings were conducted statewide. Several key grants were sought, and funding was secured from the State Soil Conservation Board to further the initiative.

In March 2013, four regional training workshops were held statewide for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and Staff. Key topics included “Building Relationships & Tools to Communicate with Local Officials and Community Leaders”, “Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative Regional Hubs – Expansion of the CCSI and What it Means to Your Soil Health Programs”, and an inspirational message by Charlie Adams, “Stoke the Fire Within You”. The District Support Specialists assisted in program planning, local arrangements, and workshop facilitation.

In addition, through November and early December 2013, four regional meetings were organized through the coordination of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the District Support Specialists. These meetings were held for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor and Staff who were given updates from various members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership. Topics included an update on Lake and River Enhancement grant opportunities, Clean Water Indiana pilot projects, Indiana District Employee Association updates and announcement and discussion of upcoming resolutions which will be voted on January 2014.

**Leadership Institute**

Leadership Institute is a statewide leadership development program established for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors. Key District staff are invited to participate along with their supervisors. The program intends to improve District capacity to increase the quality of Indiana's soil, water and related natural resources. Vital leadership skills can be learned from experience, but these skills become more effective when they are combined with the principles and concepts learned through training programs that join instruction, experiences and reflections on their learning.

Two Leadership Institute sessions were held in 2013. A third session was planned in December, but canceled due to hazardous weather. Between the February and October meetings, 50 supervisors and staff participated this year and seven individuals who have completed all four sessions will graduate.

As a supplement to these 3 workshops, an additional workshop was arranged for SWCD Chair and Vice-Chair in August, addressing staff management and the future of Districts. Approximately 60 supervisors were in attendance.

### **Red Gold Tomato Stewardship Award Program**



The innovative, public/private partnership Red Gold Stewardship Award Program was established in collaboration with the ISDA-DSC to showcase the conservation efforts employed by Red Gold Tomato Growers. The goal of this award program is to highlight the practices already undertaken by conservation minded-growers and stimulate a proactive approach among all of Red Gold growers to evaluate their farm management practices and make improvements when necessary.

This program is driven by Red Gold's desire to demonstrate their companywide commitment to good stewardship practices. Red Gold asks their tomato producers to adopt good conservation practices and has instilled an atmosphere of continuous improvement. This Award Program provides both a recognition of stewardship happening on growers operations and provides monetary awards to those top stewardship minded growers who continually raise the bar.

The award program examines a whole farm and systems approach to conservation. As a result, there is a strong emphasis on complete integration of stewardship of natural resources. All scoring and judging of the Award is conducted independently by the ISDA. The Award program was initiated in 2009. In 2013 the ISDA was once again proud to partner with Red Gold for the Stewardship Award Program.

There is a simple one page application form to fill out. From there the top five applicants are selected based on set ranking criteria and site visits are made. During these farm visits a more in depth score sheet is completed and the first and second place farms are selected.

In 2013, 21 Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Award applications were received. This was an increase from 2012 applications. Applications were ranked with the top 6 farms receiving site visits by ISDA Resource

Specialist Team Leader Julie Harrold. Recognition, scholarships, and “extra” loads during the pack year equivalent to a monetary reward. Since the projects inception in 2009 there has been a significant increase in cover crop use and other conservation practices amongst all of Red Gold’s growers.

In 2013 ISDA staff assisted Red Gold with planting a large cover crop demonstration plot near the Red Gold processing plant in Elwood. This cover crop plot was showcased at Red Gold’s annual summer field day with over 200 in attendance.

## **Technology and Accountability**

The Division of Soil Conservation utilizes SharePoint and ArcGIS technologies to track data, conduct data analyses, and report on the conservation workload activities achieved by Division’s field staff. Resource Specialists enter their conservation workload into a database housed on SharePoint. The Division’s Program Manager of Accountability and Technology pairs this data with ArcGIS technologies to conduct data analyses to create maps featuring the impact Resource Specialists make on soil conservation and Indiana’s water quality.

Not only do Division of Soil Conservation personnel benefit from SharePoint, but Soil and Water Conservation Districts as well. SharePoint is used by SWCD staff to submit Clean Water Indiana grant reports, administer Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program landowner contracts, coordinate SWCD annual meetings and elections, edit and share documents, submit questions and concerns on discussion boards, coordinate calendars, and maintain updated staff and supervisor directories all in one location.

This year, the Division of Soil Conservation’s SharePoint site received a great deal of attention from the Indiana Conservation Partnership when conservation workload maps were created utilizing data inputted by the Division’s Resource Specialists and Soil and Water Conservation District technicians. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service requested that their conservation workload be included in these maps and provided the Division with their data. For the first time ever, maps were generated that featured the conservation workload of all three entities on one map. These maps will aid leaders in the Indiana Conservation Partnership to make more informed decisions regarding their combined conservation efforts. Currently, DNR’s Lake and River Enhancement Program personnel are working with Division of Soil Conservation personnel to input their conservation practices into the SharePoint database. Efforts are in the works to obtain IDEM’s Section 319 conservation workload so their data can be included in the maps as well.

In 2013, ISDA expanded upon the Division of Soil Conservation’s SharePoint site to include all ISDA divisions. All ISDA personnel received a SharePoint tutorial and attended an in-house training. The new SharePoint site allows ISDA employees the ability to collaborate more efficiently and effectively. Several ISDA employees are utilizing the new technology to track data. Several SharePoint databases were created to input and track various data including Certified Livestock Producers, Livestock Promotion Grants, Livestock Market Development Grants, Youth Livestock Grants, Hoosier Homestead Awards, Grain Buyer warehouses, and Indiana Grown Producers.

## **Indiana Tillage Transect**

More than one-half of Indiana’s landscape is used to grow annual crops. The use of conservation tillage on this cropland is vital to maintaining the long-term productivity of the soil, as well as improving surface water quality. Farmers benefit from conservation tillage through reduced production costs and therefore have the potential for increased profit margins. Both farm and non-farm residents benefit from conservation tillage

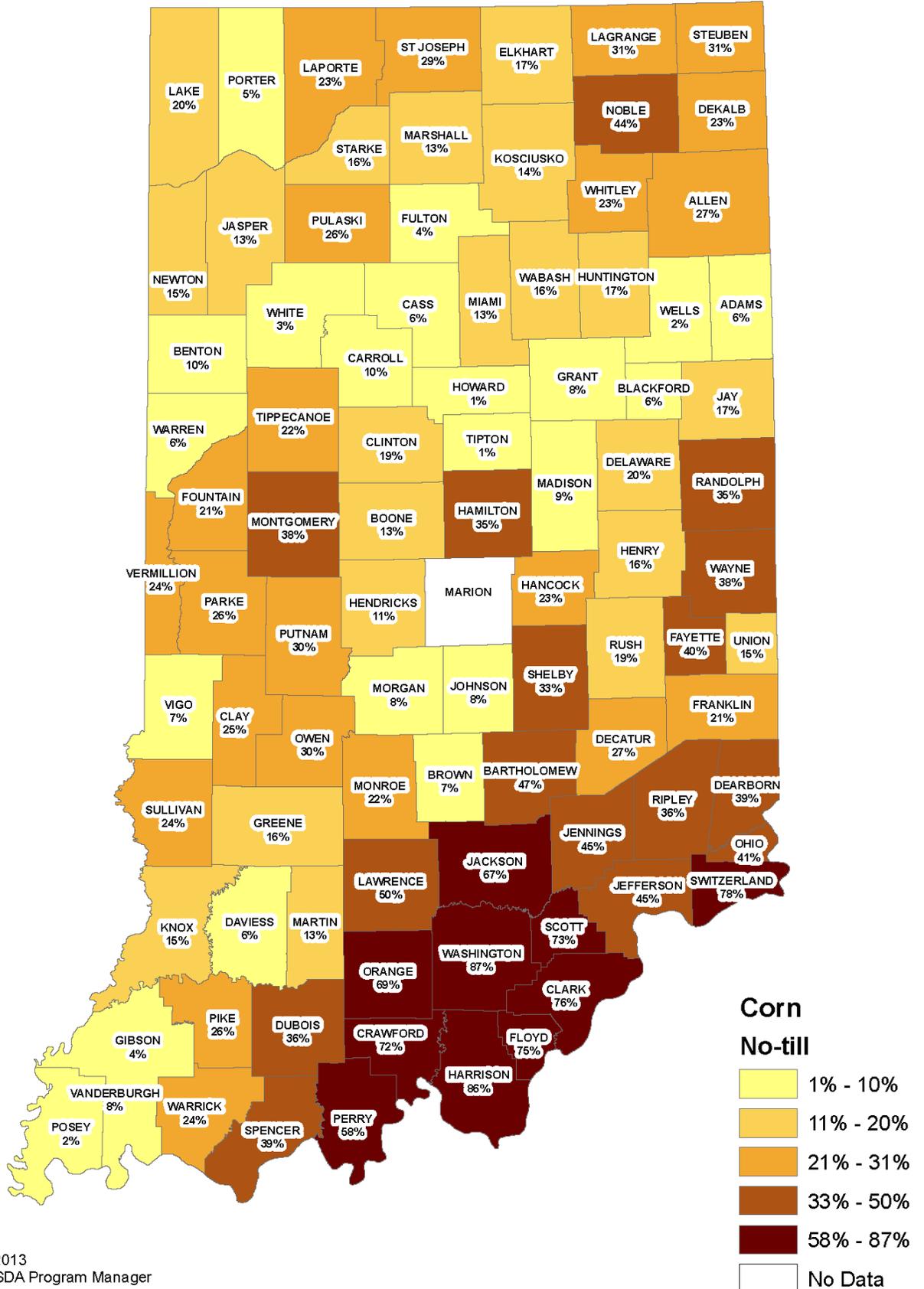
through cleaner surface water for drinking, recreation and other uses. Wildlife also benefit from the reduced runoff, cleaner water and the habitat provided through crop residue, food and cover, particularly in no-till fields.

Since 1990, the overwhelming adoption of conservation tillage has resulted in the accomplishment of 75 percent of the state losing soil at or below "T" (the tolerable level of soil loss). For most Indiana soils, "T" is three to five tons per year and is an approximate rate that new soil can be formed. This rate of soil loss may still present off-site water quality concerns since even 2-3 tons of sediment can contain a significant load of nutrients, pesticides and/or pathogens. While soil conservation has come a long way in Indiana, there continues to be more than 3 million acres losing soil at a rate faster than "T", as well as many additional fields with special resource concerns in need of conservation tillage and other erosion control practices.

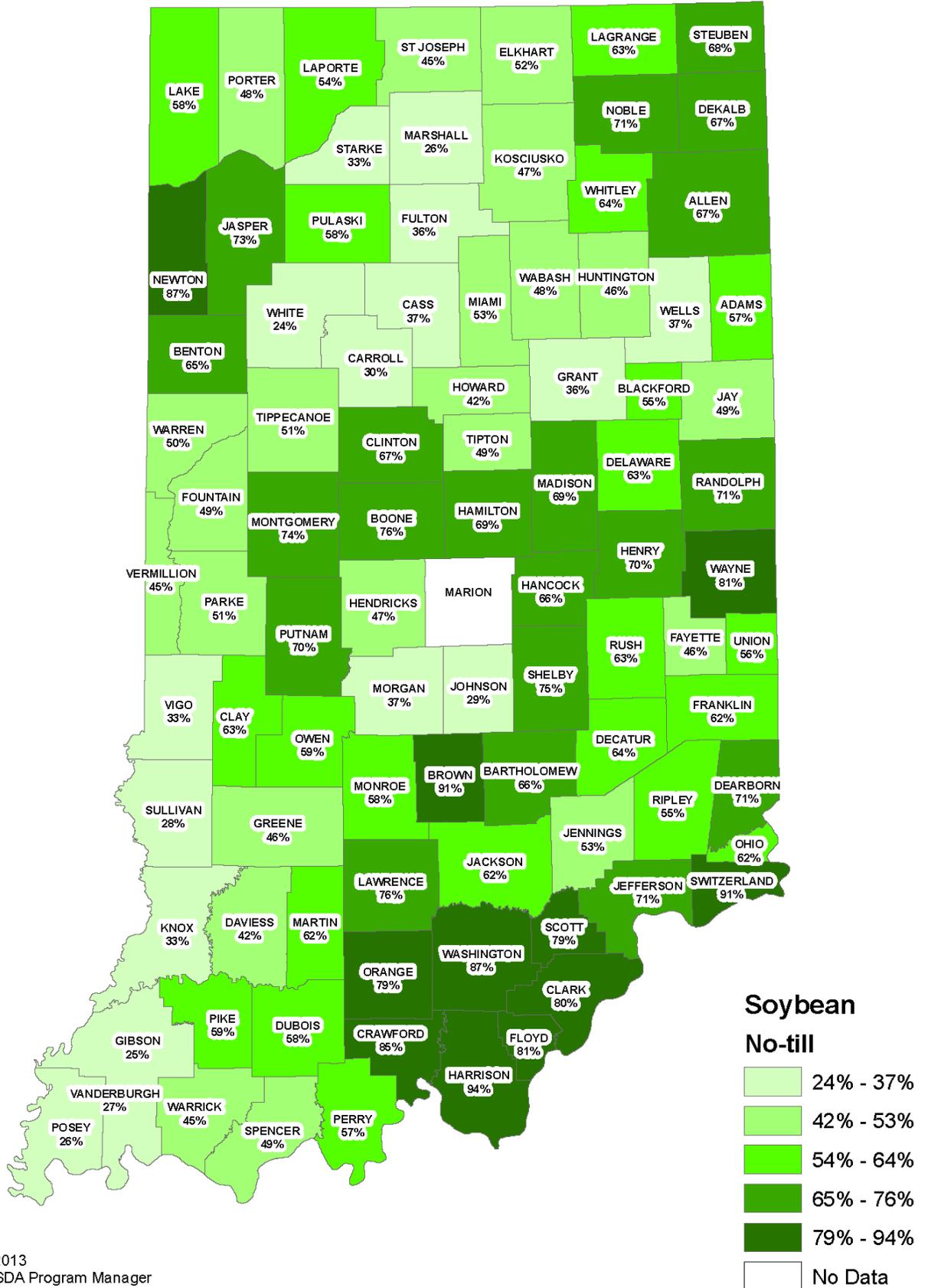
To measure trends in conservation tillage statewide surveys are needed. Led by the ISDA -DSC in collaboration with the ICP Indiana is one of the few states in the country that performs a statewide tillage transect survey. This is only possible with a large partnership of professional field staff.

A total of 91 counties participated in the 2013 Conservation Tillage Survey. Summaries, results, and rankings can be viewed online: <http://www.in.gov/isda/2383.htm>

# 2013 No-till Corn Percentages



# 2013 No-till Soybean Percentages



## **Ohio River Basin Water Quality Trading Program (IN, OH, KY)**

Indiana is among few states which are truly seeking an innovative approach to addressing nutrient loading challenges. The Ohio River Basin Water Quality Trading Pilot Project (<http://wqt.epri.com/>) is a market-based, inter-state trading program aimed at achieving water quality standards in watersheds along the Ohio River by allowing dischargers to purchase pollution reductions from other sources. This partnership between the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky was initially funded by a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) to the Electric Power Research Institute and is now privately funded or supported by over a dozen organizations with technical support from local, state and federal agencies. Water quality trading is a market-based approach to achieving water quality standards through programs that allow dischargers to purchase pollution reductions from another source. The Electric Power Research Institute's Ohio River Basin Trading Pilot Project is a first-of-its-kind inter-state trading program with participation from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. Indiana alone has been contracted to remove 22,000 pounds of total nitrogen and 11,000 pounds of total phosphorus over the five-year period of the pilot. A total of \$100,000 in cost-share monies for each of the three partner states will be distributed to farmers for implementation of approved water quality Best Management Practices. This project has not only gained regional interest, but international attention as well, and is the largest water quality trading project program in the world. Tracking of such an ambitious and beneficial project as the Ohio River Basin Water Quality Trading Pilot Project is a welcome exception to the norm when monitoring these private efforts; there is generally little to no tracking of data outside state and federal programs, so significant data from local and private initiatives too often go uncounted.

## **Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy**

At the request of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), each state draining into the Mississippi River Basin was charged with creating a comprehensive statewide nutrient reduction strategy. ISDA accepted the role of leading and developing the State of Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Members of the ICP (Indiana Conservation Partnership), in conjunction with additional stakeholders, formed the State of Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy Workgroup (NRSW) to develop the roadmap of the Strategy.

The state nutrient reduction strategy ([www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm](http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm)) was completed in 2013, but is a living document representing an inclusive effort under the leadership of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to capture present and future endeavors in Indiana which positively impact the state's waters. The nutrient reduction strategy was authored with input from the Indiana Conservation Partnership as well as members of the agricultural community, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Indiana Farm Bureau. This is a living document and will undergo revisions over time.

The document serves several functions. These are:

- To recognize water quality trends and concerns within the state of Indiana.
- To prioritize watersheds and coordinate implementation of current local, state and federal cost-share programs and grants which positively impact water quality in the state.
- To provide a summary of current water monitoring and permitting efforts in Indiana as well as significant changes and/or timelines therein regarding goals, targets or protocols for improved or increased monitoring and permitting.
- To illustrate the significance and achievements of the Indiana Conservation Partnership and its member entities as an invaluable resource in addressing Hoosiers' water quality challenges and concerns.

- To serve as a strategic document for seeking continued funding sources for current and future efforts concerning water quality in Indiana.
- To illustrate the means by which the state of Indiana will provide reports and accountability in these functions to federal agencies, to conservation partners within the state and to the public.

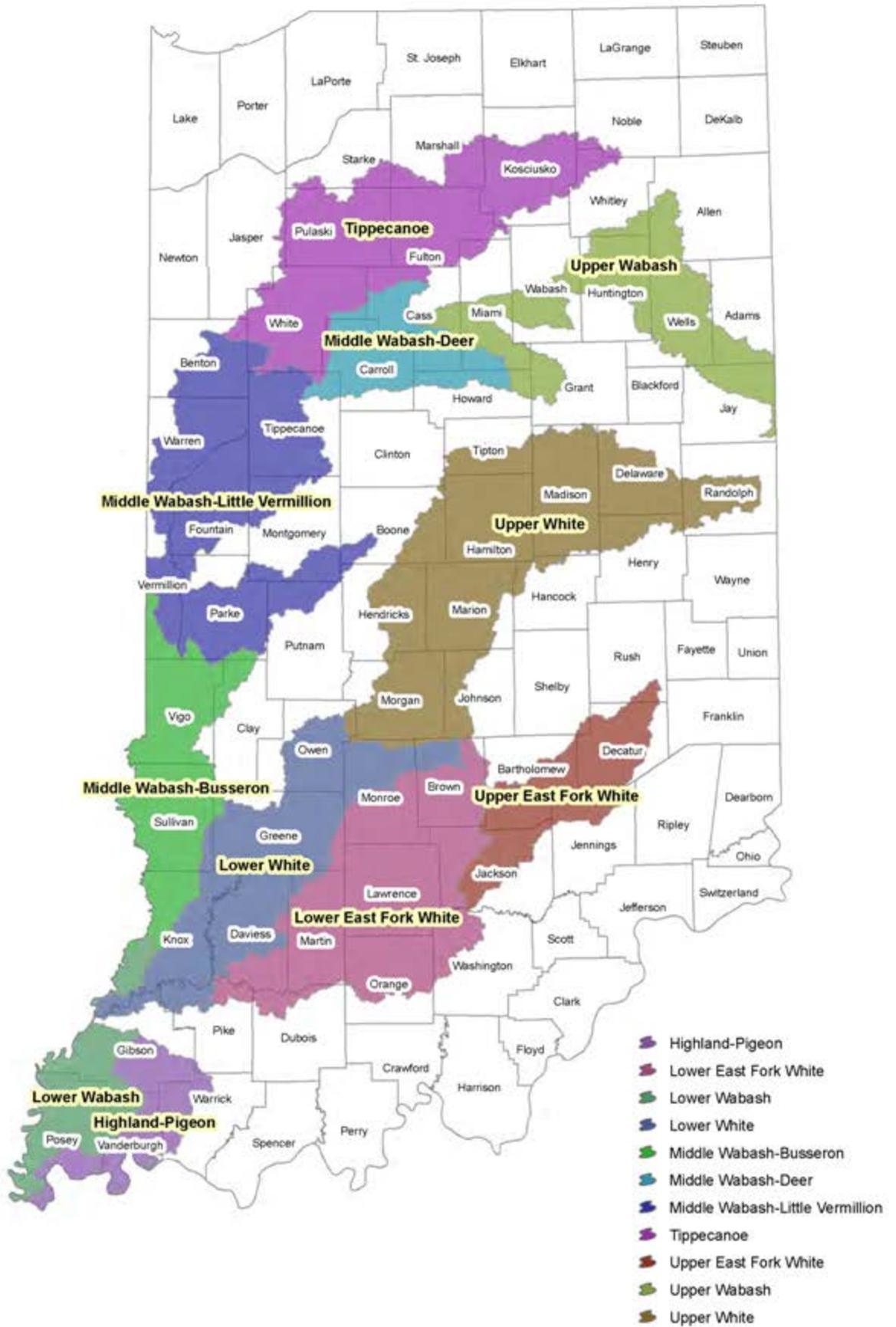
In addition to the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy, a Soil Health and Nutrient Management Strategy has also taken resolute form in 2012 and 2013. While this effort is the product of agricultural commodities groups' desire to proactively address soil health, water quality and nutrient loading issues in Indiana, the ISDA's Division of Soil Conservation has been heavily involved in its organization, structure both as a document and a conservation partnership initiative.

## **Indiana Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**



CREP provides both state and federal incentives to landowners who are willing to install practices directly adjacent to eligible surface waters. This program is possible through an agreement between the State of Indiana and the United States Department of Agriculture. The program expanded in August 2010 from the original three watersheds--Pigeon-Highland, Tippecanoe, and Upper White River—to 11 watersheds. The expanded CREP area now includes Lower Wabash, Lower White, Lower East Fork White, Upper East Fork White, Middle Wabash-Busseron, Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, Middle Wabash-Deer, and Upper Wabash Watersheds. The eleven targeted watersheds include 26,250 eligible acres.

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Eligible Watersheds



At the close of CY 2013, over 8,150 acres will be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program since its initiation in 2005. 2013 was a particularly successful year for CREP in that enrollment increased by over 20% from the previous year, as the following table illustrates.

| QUARTER | Q TOTAL | OVERALL TOTAL |
|---------|---------|---------------|
| Q2 2012 |         | 7607.5        |
| Q3 2012 | 120.2   | 7727.7        |
| Q4 2012 | 65      | 7792.7        |
| Q1 2013 | 56.8    | 7849.5        |
| Q2 2013 | 133.3   | 7982.8        |
| Q3 2013 | 152.4   | 8135.2        |

This growth has been in large part due to renewed outreach to conservation partners (Indiana DNR and USDA Farm Service Agency) to help promote the program. Another significant contributor to the increased enrollment has is this year’s removal of three limiting eligibility restrictions for wetland restoration practices:

- Strict relative pool size** - removed cap on size of area with standing water in relation to drainage area
- Buffer size** - a maximum buffer limitation was removed to allow for larger potential practice area
- Tile drainage requirement** - since most restorable wetlands are already in heavily tiled areas in Indiana, this requirement will usually be met anyway, though now smaller wetland restorations not fed by tiles may also be enrolled

Enrollment in wetland restoration practices alone spiked dramatically after these requirements were lifted, resulting in over 400 acres enrolled in this type of practice in 2013.

### Pathway to Water Quality



Pathway to Water Quality is a hands on exhibit at the Indiana State Fair that allows fair goers to walk through a shaded area where each area shows the public the different practices that are being used around the state to

protect and clean our water. In the middle of the exhibit participants have the opportunity to get a free drink of cold well water. There are sections in the exhibit for forestry, agriculture, homeowners, soils, and education.

This past year was the 20th anniversary for Pathway. A major renovation project was completed to re-dedicate the exhibit. The lower pond was cleaned out and completely reconstructed. The lower pond had served as a catch basin for the last 20 years and successfully collected a lot of sediment that needed removed and redistributed. The pond layout and design was completed by Indiana State Department of Agriculture Resource Specialist, Sue Gerlach. The project was recognized with a formal ceremony during this past years Indiana State Fair. Every year the Department of Agriculture provides employees to work over 35 shifts during the State Fair.