

November 5, 2008

State Soil Conservation Board
Attn: Nola Gentry, Chair SSCB
Division of Soil Conservation
101 W. Ohio, Suite 1200
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Gentry;

Please present our request for waiver of the 10 acre rule to the State Soil Conservation Board.

The Floyd County SWCD respectfully request that the 10 acre of land requirement be waived for elected soil and water conservation district supervisors. Due to the fact that Floyd County is primarily urban, it has become increasingly difficult to find supervisors that own or rent 10 acres of land. A concerned citizen with less than 10 acres could be an advantage for our board. Being a more urban area this person would be able to provide a perspective on ideas to provide services and education in a more urban setting.

The Board's consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Floyd County SWCD

Maurice L. Stilger. Chairman

RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENT

APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORS: IC 14 – 32 – 4

Sec. 10. (a) The term of an appointed supervisor is three (3) years.

(b) Before the term of an appointed supervisor expires, the supervisor's position shall be filled as follows:

(1) Not later than November 1, the district supervisors shall 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 receives a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation.

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

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

Submit by **November 1** to: **Your District Support Specialist via e-mail**

Please visit the following website to access contact information for your DSS:

http://www.in.gov/isda/files/DSS_tempassignments.pdf

The Board of Supervisors of the Jay County Soil and

Water Conservation District certify that:

NAME Bob Schmit

ADDRESS 5167 Sr 67 East

CITY: Bryant STATE: IN ZIP: 47326

is a resident of Jay County and recommend him/her for:

REAPPOINTMENT

He/she attended monthly supervisors' meetings last year.

NEW APPOINTMENT

This appointment is necessary because of

expiration of term , resignation (enclose)

or death of

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:

Carl Walker, Chairman

DATE (M/d/yyyy): 11/11/2008

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: Bob Schmit PHONE: (260) 729-7014 DATE OF BIRTH: 2/17/1939

ADDRESS: 5167 Sr 67 East

CITY: Bryant STATE: IN ZIP: 47326

EDUCATION: High School Graduate

OCCUPATION OR TYPE OF BUSINESS: Grain Farmer & Retired Machinist

LIST CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES: 3 yrs SWCD Associate Supervisor; 4-H Council; United Way; Bryant Lions Club and Bryant Community Building.

Please check one of the following:

NEW APPOINTMENT

REAPPOINTMENT

I currently hold a public service position/office Yes No (If yes) I have been informed about "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide Yes 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 (M/d/yyyy): 11/11/2008

Signature of appointee Bob Schmit



Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District
656 South Boatman Road, Suite 3
Scottsburg, IN 47170-6866
Phone: (812) 752-2269, Extension 3
Fax: (812) 752-7066

October 15, 2008

John Hardin
Chairman

Joe Robbins
Vice Chairman

Matt D. Oberlies
Treasurer

Bill Comer
Supervisor

Jeff Coomes
Supervisor

Lynda Phillips
District Coordinator

Dear State Soil Conservation Board,

RE: 2008 CWI Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant A377-8-CWI-872

Scott County has completed the first half of our project. We have completed the first of two workshops. (The second is planned for spring 2009.) We have sent out an educational mailing as well as articles in our quarterly newsletters. Also, as outlined in the original grant we have used some of the money to purchase printer cartridges for the color laser printer.

However, we have found that some things we estimated did not cost as much as expected and other needs have arisen. We saved \$255 on postage when the Farm Service Agency picked up the postage cost for one of the newsletters. We saved \$60 on location rental by holding the event at the local volunteer fire station. We are requesting that the SSCB board allow us to reallocate any excess monies for other useful items that would complement this project.

The focus of the project is marketing. It is important for any marketing tool to be attractive, neat and eye-catching. This is best achieved through the use of a professional print agency or color-laser printer. We feel that a professional printer is an unnecessary expense since the office already owns a laser-color printer. Even though this printer is used only for special projects and not "everyday" printing, printer cartridges are expensive and we would like to be able to use the extra dollars to purchase another set of printer cartridges. This would be a wise investment since the cost per page is only one cent versus 25 cents or more from a professional printer. It makes sense to use marketing grant money on necessary marketing materials.

Other uses for this excess money would be the purchase of the book "Managing Cover Crops Profitably". This book would be an excellent addition to our cover crop workshop that is planned for spring 2009. It is priced at \$19 each. We would use the grant money to purchase the books and make them available to producers.

Another use for the money would be to purchase advertising space in the local newspaper. We would use this space to guarantee that our educational articles are published. Many times the newspaper will hold an article until they feel there is space to run it and as a result we are unable to control the timing of our articles. By purchasing ad space, we would be able to insure timely media releases of our educational articles.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lynda Phillips

Lynda Phillips
District Coordinator



APPLICATION FOR 2008 CWI GRANT:
 CONSERVATION MARKETING INITIATIVE GRANT
 INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

This application MUST be typed and MUST be submitted electronically to Amy Eizinger at: AEizinger@isda.in.gov

Grantee Name	Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District
Address	656 South Boatman Road
City/State/Zip	Scottsburg, IN 47170

Contact Name	Lynda Phillips
Title	District Coordinator
Address	656 South Boatman Road
City/State/Zip	Scottsburg, IN 47170
County	Scott
Telephone	812-752-2269, ext 3
Email	lynda.phillips@in.nacdn.net

Signature Authority (District Chairman)	John Hardin
Project Title	2008 - 2009 Soil Quality Marketing Plan: Cover Crops and Nutrient Management Plan
Nutrient Management Practice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cover Crops <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No-till Strip <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Management Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buffers

Use Ctrl Key to select more than one choice.

Describe the event you are proposing along with your plan for promotional and educational objectives. Be sure to include key steps and desired outcomes (200 words or less).

Gasoline and fertilizer prices are always rising. Farmers can save precious money and resources by utilizing soil testing and a nutrient management plan as well as cover crops to better manage their land. Soil testing can tell a farmer what nutrients if any are necessary, while cover crops not only put nutrients back into the land but also reduce sediment and erosion. By implementing both of these practices, landowners will have an impact on Scott County water quality.

Scott County SWCD is excited to announce our 2008 - 2009 Soil Quality Marketing Plan. The goal of our plan is to educate farmers on ways that they can better manage both their economic and conservation resources. We will accomplish this goal in three phases.

Phase one involves education. We will host two Soil Quality workshops. The first in Fall of 2008 will focus on Nutrient Management. The second will be in Spring of 2009 and will focus on Cover Crops. If additional monies can be obtained through the CWI Sediment & Nutrient Reduction grant, then we will also offer farmers additional incentives for adopting better practices.

The second phase of our plan will be accomplished through marketing. We will advertise and promote the workshops in our local media. We also plan to provide educational articles focusing on Nutrient Management and Cover Crops to the local newspaper and also include educational articles in promotional brochures and our quarterly newsletters.

The final phase of this campaign is accomplished through follow-up with our customers. We will establish a list of landowners that attend the events and track if they felt the event was beneficial. We will also contact a sampling of landowners who receive our quarterly newsletter to see if they found the information useful. This follow-up will be conducted not only through telephone surveys but also through postal surveys included inside two of the newsletters.

County	Scott
CIT Region	SE
14-digit HUC Code(s)	05120207030-060; 05120207040-040,-100; 05120207100-020
Grant Amount Requested	\$2,000.00

Briefly list promotional materials and advertising you will need to complete this project.

1	Quarterly newsletter educational articles about Cover Crops and Nutrient Management (paper and
2	printing provided by FSA, but we must pay the postage on 1500 pieces.)
3	Promotional Brochures about Cover Crops and Nutrient Management (paper provided by NRCS
4	and copier by FSA)
5	Newspaper Articles about Cover Crops and Nutrient Management (provided for free by local newspaper)

Briefly state the education events you will host.

1	Soil Quality Workshop focusing on Nutrient Management in Fall 2008
2	Soil Quality Workshop focusing on Cover Crops in Spring 2009
3	
4	

Briefly list expected expenses for your educational event(s).

1	Promotional Materials: newspaper (in-kind), brochures (in-kind) and newsletter (\$1,020 postage)
2	Workshop Location Rental (\$100 x 2 events) and food (\$200.00 x 2 events) = \$600.00
3	Supervisor Salary \$35.00 x 5 = \$175.00 x 2 events = \$350.00
4	District Coordinator Salary \$12.96 x 60 hours = \$777.60 (includes all time spent on preparation, implementation and follow-up)
5	

Budget		
Expense/Item(s)	In-Kind Match	CWI Funds Requested
Personnel - Supervisor & Dist. Coordinator salaries	\$777.60	\$350.00
Fringe Benefits - Dist. Coordinator salary x 25%	\$194.40	\$0.00
Travel - 20 miles x .41/mi. (County rate)	\$8.20	\$0.00
Equipment (Itemize Below)		
Supplies (Itemize Below)		
Food (anticipated donations: \$200.00 x 2 events)	\$400.00	\$0.00
Postage: 1500 x \$.17 = \$255 x 4 = \$1020	\$0.00	\$1,020.00
Printer Cartridges: \$380	\$175	\$205.00
Other (Itemize Below)		
Bulk Mail Permit: \$350	\$175.00	\$175.00
Follow-up Administrative Fee		\$50.00
Workshop Location Rental: \$100.00 x 2 = \$200		\$200.00
Total CWI	2000	
Total In-Kind Match	1730.2	
Total Project Cost	3730.2	



Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District
656 South Boatman Road, Suite 3
Scottsburg, IN 47170-6866
Phone: (812) 752-2269, Extension 3
Fax: (812) 752-7066

October 8, 2008

John Hardin
Chairman

Joe Robbins
Vice Chairman

Matt D. Oberlies
Treasurer

Bill Comer
Supervisor

Jeff Coomes
Supervisor

Lynda Phillips
District Coordinator

Dear State Soil Conservation Board,

RE: 2008 CWI Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant A377-8-CWI-008

Scott County has completed the first two phases of our project. The original grant was written to allow twenty producers free soil testing up to \$400. Those twenty producers would develop a best management plan (bmp) with our soil consultant, who would then receive fifty dollars. The final stage of the project is a \$250 cost incentive to the producer for implementation of the best management plan.

We held our Pasture workshop in June and advertised the project in local media, at the county fair and also in personal letters to livestock producers. We planned to accept applications from June to August. However, as of August 1 we only had received thirteen applicants. The grant committee decided to extend the deadline until September 1, 2008. Another mailing was sent to interested parties notifying them of the deadline extension. In the end, we accepted twenty-five applicants.

The soil testing is completed and we have found that an unforeseen irregularity in acreage and grid sampling has resulted in unspent money for the soil testing phase. Even with the additional producers, we still have in excess of \$690 that had been allocated for soil testing. Scott County SWCD requests that this money be reallocated to the bmp and cost incentive phases of the project. The additional five applicants will require the district to make up the difference of \$1500 from the original grant allocation. If you allow us to apply the surplus of \$690 from soil testing, it will reduce the amount the district will need to disburse from our operating budget.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lynda Phillips

Lynda Phillips
District Coordinator



APPLICATION FOR 2008 CWI GRANT:
SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT REDUCTION GRANT
INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

This application MUST be typed and MUST be submitted electronically to Amy Eizinger at: Aeizinger@isd.a.in.gov

Grantee Name	Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District
Address	656 S. Boatman Rd., Suite 3
City/State/Zip	Scottsburg, IN 47170

Contact Name	Lynda Phillips
Title	District Coordinator
Address	656 S. Boatman Rd., Suite 3
City/State/Zip	Scottsburg, IN 47170
County	Scott
Telephone	812-752-2269, ext. 3
E-mail	lynda.phillips@in.nacdnet.net

Signature Authority (District Chairman)	John Hardin
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Project Title	Scott, Clark & Jefferson County Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Project
Sediment and/or Nutrient Reduction Practice	Soil Testing

Describe your proposed project and how it will address sediment and nutrient management. Be sure to include key steps, milestones, and desired outcomes. (500 words or less)

In today's world gasoline and fertilizer prices are always rising. Most farmers agree that soil tests can save money and improve the environment. However, many producers emphasize row crop land and spend money improving that soil while neglecting to test pasture or hay land. Soil testing tells what nutrients if any are necessary, and facilitates applying nutrients in the most efficient manner. This improves plant health and vigor. Healthy plants enhance soil quality, provide better grazing and hay land and reduce sediment loss by eliminating erosion.

In 2006, Scott County SWCD outlined our five year business plan. One emphasis of our plan was that by December 2011, we would correct over/under fertilization by encouraging best management practices (BMPs) in pasture land. The goal of our Sediment and Nutrient Reduction grant project is to increase the number of pasture and hay land producers who apply correct amounts of fertilizer and lime as indicated by soil tests. We will accomplish this through four steps.

Step one involves education. We will host a Pasture workshop in the summer of 2008 and emphasize the advantages of soil testing and variable-rate fertilizer application. This event will be advertised through our quarterly newsletter and local newspaper. The funding for this step is all ready paid by our district and the CWI Marketing Incentive grant.

Farmers know that soil testing can help their yield and reduce the application of excess nutrients, but they don't want to spend the money testing pasture and hay land. Step two of our plan will be accomplished by offering free soil testing. Along with our partner Crop Production Services, we will offer up to \$400 of free pasture or hay land soil testing for approximately 20 producers. The soil testing will take place in the month following the workshop.

Step three involves developing a BMP. We will offer a consultant \$50 to follow-up on each soil test. The consultation will insure that the producer has the correct information and needed resources to see that fertilizer is applied according to soil test recommendations.

Now that the soil has been tested and the BMP written, the most important element of our project is application. Step four is a \$250 incentive payment for actually completing the BMP and for application according to the soil tests. The plan can be implemented in either fall 2008 or spring 2009. The producer will receive this payment after providing receipt of application.

This is a great project and we believe so strongly in it that we have partnered with both Jefferson and Clark County. In addition to a multi-county partnership one final way we plan to maximize the effects of the grant is by documenting success. We want to be able to share the results of three or four of the farmers at future events, in newsletters or newspaper articles. We will stretch the dollars that have been allocated to us and give our project even greater impact on our community.

Noble County Soil and Water Conservation District
100 East Park Drive, Albion, IN 46701

RE: #A317-8-CWI-011

"Using In Season + End Season Tests In
Effort to Balance Nitrogen Application"

Amy -

As we discussed yesterday, I found that 97% of the farmers agreeing to conduct these special tests felt all the rain we received in June impacted their ability to test appropriately. Although Noble County didn't apply for disaster funds because we weren't hit near as hard as our southern counties, this unusual weather did create a hardship on the timing of this grant. As you can see if you can't do the testing in the spring it was pointless to do the testing in the late summer, early fall.

After talking with people, they still would like to conduct the tests next year however the grant ends. On behalf of the district, I would like to request a one year extension on this grant. If that is not possible, we would be willing to make arrangements to forward the money back to you.

If you would like for me to discuss this in detail with others, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Stacey McGinnis - Noble County *SMC*



**APPLICATION FOR 2008 CWI GRANT:
SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT REDUCTION GRANT
INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD**

This application MUST be typed and MUST be submitted electronically to Amy Eizinger at: Aeizinger@isda.in.gov

Grantee Name	Noble County Soil & Water Conservation District
Address	100 East Park Drive
City/State/Zip	Albion, Indiana 46701

Contact Name	Stacey L. McGinnis
Title	Centralized Office Manager
Address	100 East Park Drive
City/State/Zip	Albion, Indiana 46701
County	Noble
Telephone	260-636-7682 Extension 3
E-mail	stacey.mcginis@in.nacdn.net

Signature Authority (District Chairman)	Gregg Cunningham
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Project Title	Using "In Season" & "End Season" Tests In Effort To Balance Nitrogen Applications
Sediment and/or Nutrient Reduction Practice	Nutrient Management Practices

Describe the proposed project and how it will address sediment and nutrient management. Describe the desired outcomes. (500 words or less)

Proposal:

Provide cost-share incentives to producers who participate in both "in season" and "end season" nitrate testing in effort to implement a more conservative nitrogen management system for their farming operations. Livestock operations could also receive an additional nutrient management incentive for completing a manure analysis test.

Plan:

To branch off of our Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant, we will be offering producers a cost-share incentive program to allow at reduced/minimal cost to them an opportunity to conduct special tests (outlined above) as a enticement to begin and then hopefully continue to use these nitrogen testing methods to better address their actual nitrogen needs. The Noble County SWCD would provide cost-share incentives per test with a maximum incentive cap of \$500.00 per participant. Livestock operations would receive up to an additional \$100.00 incentive for completing manure analysis tests. Through a cooperative agreement with the laboratory, special forms will be given out to participants so the lab can set-up a specific tracking database for the SWCD. This tracking system will ensure participants completed both tests and in the timeframe necessary to receive accurate results. Thus, cost-share will be issued to participants by the SWCD after this conclusion. If tests are not completed according to the agreement no cost-share will be granted. Participant's private results, along with nitrogen recommendations will be mailed personally to them straight from the lab. A final report from the lab will give the office general information of the overall results of the testing in Noble County. Applications would be accepted during a short sign-up period and approved by SWCD board members until funding is exhausted.

Key Steps:

- Promote this opportunity in a variety of ways ~ somewhat tying in with our Conservation Marketing Grant.
- Make personal contacts with co-ops and other supporting agencies asking for their assistance in promoting this opportunity.
- Dedicate office time to a sign-up period.
- Dedicate a time to conduct a special board meeting for application approval.
- Have approved participants sign contract agreement for cost-share assistance.
- Provide special soil testing kits and forms to participants.
- Communicate with the lab on progress.
- Provide cost-share incentives upon completion of tests.
- Complete a short report of the overall grant opportunity.

Desired Outcomes:

- These tests will assist farmers in adjusting their Nitrogen rates to meet the demands of the crop yet and eliminate over applying.
- This cost-share will be somewhat of a stepping stone to begin the whole nutrient management process and planning.
- We will have at least 20 applications and success stories.
- We will build partnerships with our local co-ops and agencies.
- Participants will find the testing useful and continue the practice each year and on additional fields.
- We hope we can apply for additional years of funding for this type of grant based on our successes.

List specific partners who will assist with this project, as well as the amount of their contribution.			
Partner	Amount	Partner	Amount
A & L Labs ~ Fort Wayne, IN	\$500.00	Avilla Grain	\$100.00
LaOtto Farm Supplies	\$100.00	Purdue Coop. Extension	\$100.00
Helena Chemical	\$100.00	Gaerte Grain	\$100.00
Crop Production Services	\$100.00		
Fricks Services	\$100.00		
Total			1200

County	Noble
CIT Region	NE
14-digit HUC Code(s)	All of Noble County (Includes thirty-six 14-digit HUC Codes) Example:04050001180060
Grant Amount Requested	\$10,000.00

Budget		
Expense Item(s)	In-Kind Match	CWI Funds Requested
Personnel	\$4,000.00	
Fringe Benefits		
Travel	\$250.00	
Equipment (Itemize Below)		
No Equipment Needed For This Grant		
Supplies (Itemize Below)		
Shipping/Mailing Supplies	\$1,500.00	
Testing Kits/Office Supplies	\$500.00	
Other (Itemize Below)		
Cost-share For In Season/End Season Testing		\$10,000.00

Total CWI Funds Requested	10000
Total SWCD In-Kind Match	6250
Total Partner Funds Contributed (J.65)	1200
Total Project Cost	17450



Posey County Soil & Water Conservation District

1805 North Main St., Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
(812) 838 - 4191 Fax (812) 838 - 1564

November 4, 2008

Nola Gentry
c/o Kelly L. Gentry
Division of Soil Conservation
Indiana State Department of Agriculture
101 West Ohio St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Gentry:

On behalf of the Posey County Soil & Water Conservation District, I would like to request an extension of our 2008 Clean Water Indiana Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant, contract #A377-8-CWI-004.

Our grant – the Cover Crop Campaign – involves a \$20 per acre incentive to producers to offset the cost of planting acceptable cover crops. The intent of the grant was to increase the number of acres planted into cover crops primarily in the fall. We had a good response to our grant and had 474 acres signed up with requests for more than the 50 acre per person allowance.

Unfortunately, we've had a strange year here, like many others within the state. With all the flooding, crops were planted late which pushed harvesting back as well. We have many producers within the county who are not finished cutting beans still. This has created a time issue with planting cover crops.

Our latest cover crop, cereal rye, has a plant by date of November 15th. We are fast approaching this date. Several of our applicants have called the office to let us know they will not be able to plant a cover crop by this date. A few of our applicants have planted their crop.

In order to achieve the goal of our grant, we are requesting an extension of this grant to November 15, 2009. Ideally, next year will bring better weather and give our applicants a chance to plant their cover crops and get the full nutrient value.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Droege
Chairman

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT 11-12-08

November 12, 2008

Watersheds	Contracts	Acres	Average Dollars/Acre	Obligated State Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Tippecanoe River	350	2498.2	\$169.30	\$422,935.00	\$7,284,751.20
Upper White River	207	1392.4	\$426.19	\$593,430.00	\$4,060,238.40
Pigeon/Highland Rivers	91	412.1	\$214.97	\$88,590.00	\$1,201,683.60
TOTAL	648	4302.7	\$256.81	\$1,104,955.00	\$12,546,673.20

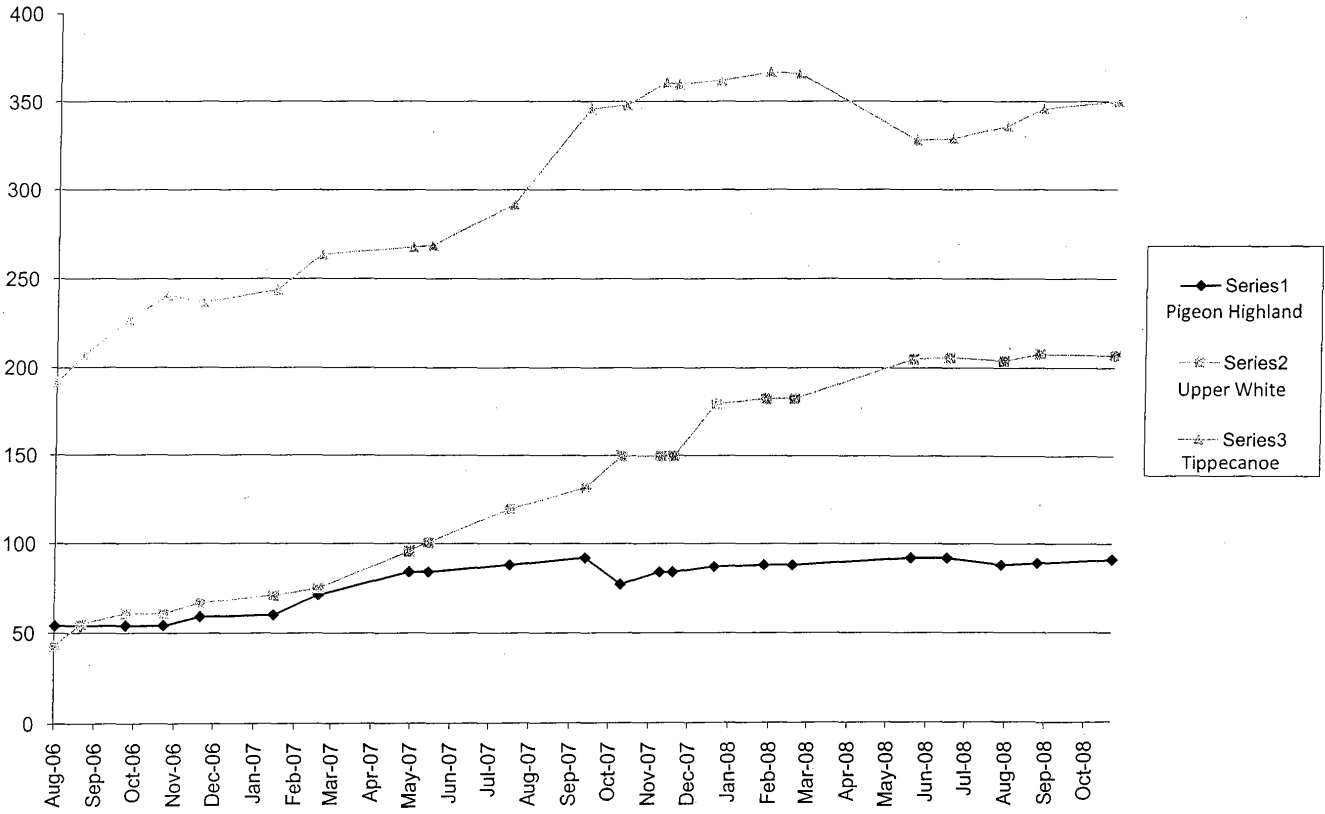
There were some adjustments in the Upper White. We lost a contract dropping down our acres and state funds totals. Also, a couple contracts lowered their acres.

September 16, 2008

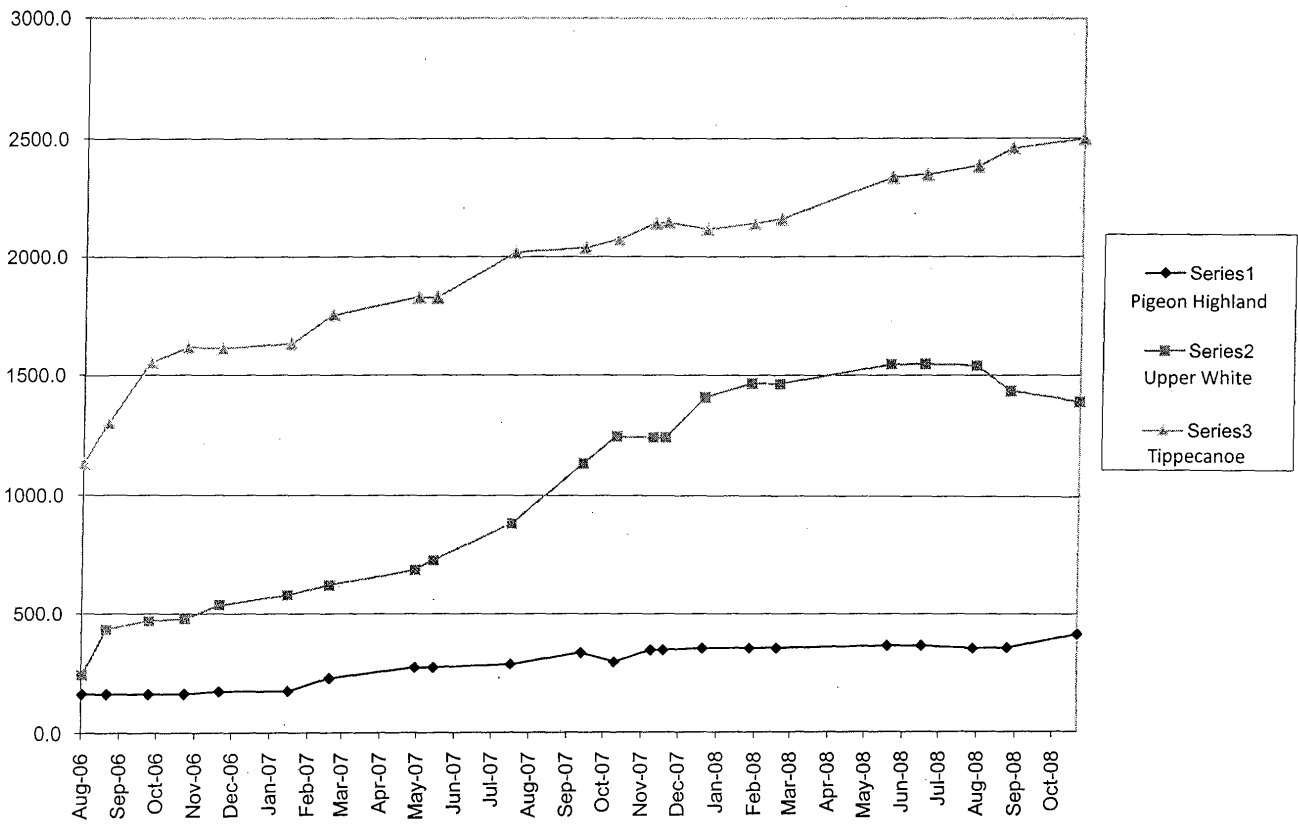
Watersheds	Contracts	Acres	Average Dollars/Acre	Obligated State Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Tippecanoe River	346	2459	\$170.29	\$418,755.00	\$7,170,444.00
Upper White River	208	1434.3	\$429.27	\$615,700.00	\$4,182,418.80
Pigeon/Highland Rivers	89	353.7	\$185.69	\$65,680.00	\$1,031,389.20
TOTAL	643	4247	\$259.04	\$1,100,135.00	\$12,384,252.00

We lost several large practices. The largest was in the Upper White: Conner Prairie 157.2 Acres, totaling \$62,880.

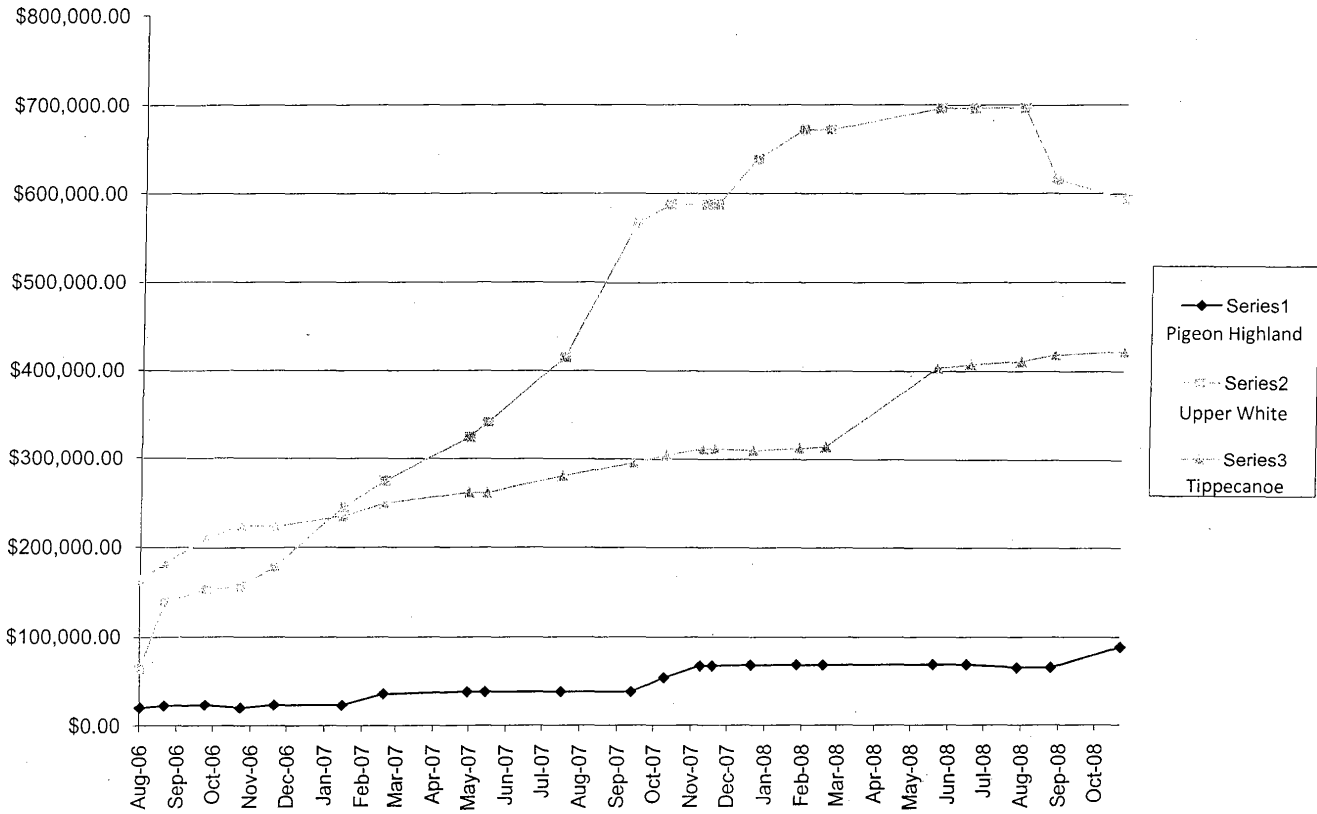
CREP Landowner Contracts August 2006 - November 2008



CREP Obligated Acres August 2006 - November 2008



CREP Obligated Funds August 2006 - November 2008



CREP Report - By County**11/12/2008****PIGEON HIGHLAND WATERSHED**

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Gibson	57.5	\$5,750.00	\$167,670.00
Posey	49.3	\$10,540.00	\$143,758.80
Vanderburgh	226.3	\$61,820.00	\$659,890.80
Warrick	79	\$10,480.00	\$230,364.00
TOTAL	412.1	\$88,590.00	\$1,201,683.60

TIPPECANOE WATERSHED

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Benton	2.6	\$260.00	\$7,581.60
Cass	47	\$17,600.00	\$137,052.00
Fulton	355.7	\$42,200.00	\$1,037,221.20
Jasper	103.8	\$20,490.00	\$302,680.80
Kosciusko	216.4	\$97,695.00	\$631,022.40
Marshall	44.8	\$4,480.00	\$130,636.80
Noble	7.7	\$770.00	\$22,453.20
Pulaski	1274	\$168,110.00	\$3,714,984.00
Starke	231.1	\$30,950.00	\$673,887.60
White	199.6	\$38,680.00	\$582,033.60
Whitley	15.5	\$1,700.00	\$45,198.00
TOTAL	2498.2	\$422,935.00	\$7,284,751.20

UPPER WHITE WATERSHED

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Boone	24.6	\$3,330.00	\$71,733.60
Delaware	257.7	\$73,770.00	\$751,453.20
Hamilton	214.9	\$96,575.00	\$626,648.40
Hendricks	56.4	\$14,190.00	\$164,462.40
Henry	11.1	\$4,440.00	\$32,367.60
Madison	563.5	\$341,290.00	\$1,643,166.00
Randolph	172.8	\$46,020.00	\$503,884.80
Tipton	91.4	\$13,815.00	\$266,522.40
TOTAL	1392.4	\$593,430.00	\$4,060,238.40

Clean Water Indiana Grant Report for November 2008

CWI Flood Reallocations

8-CWI-833	Henry	\$2,000
8-CWI-019	Monroe	\$10,000
8-CWI-015	Greene	\$10,000
8-CWI-889	Wayne	\$1,000
8-CWI-873	Shelby	\$2,000
8-CWI-869	Ripley	\$1,000
8-CWI-830	Hancock	\$2,000
8-CWI-878	Switzerland	\$695
8-CWI-807	Brown	\$1,000
8-CWI-877	Sullivan	\$1,331
8-CWI-824	Franklin	\$1,000
8-CWI-006	Sullivan	Follow up
6-CWI-305	Brown	\$8,000
7-CWI-315	Sullivan	Left over
	Total:	\$40,026

CWI 2008

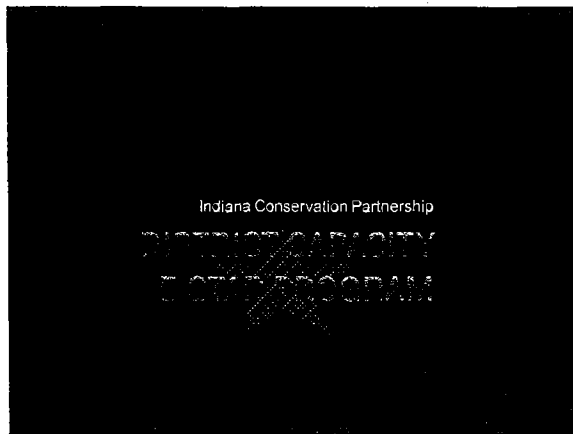
- There are 80 open CMIG grants. (2 have closed already.)
 - \$156,100 has been paid out in CWI funds.
- There are 23 open SNRG grants.
 - \$199,975 has been paid out in CWI funds.

CWI 2007

- There are 12 open grants. 4 of those are multi-year grants.
- \$467,439.41 has been paid out to date.

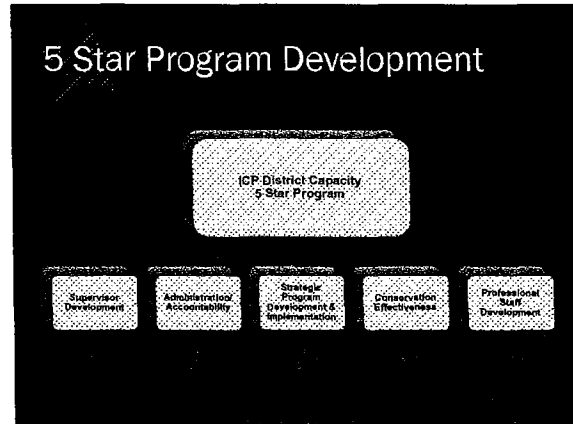
CWI 2006

- There are 10 open grants. 6 of those are multi-year grants.
- \$507,502 has been paid out to date.



5 Star Program Development

- ICP 20/20 Strategic Plan
- Leadership Development Strategy
- Leadership Development Workgroup
 - ICP member representation
 - Leadership Institute formed
 - District Visits program
 - Training, etc.



5 Star Program Development

- Components
- References available
- Resources needed
- Responsibilities
- Evaluation

Supervisor Development

Provides leadership and capacity training for current soil and water conservation district supervisors (& associates) in order for them to become more fully engaged and knowledgeable in their positions

- Leadership Institute
 - Cornerstones of Leadership
- Other topics/trainings
 - Writing job descriptions; staff evaluations; hiring/interviewing
 - District Law
 - New board member development
 - Self-assessments

Administration/Accountability

Provides operational training for local soil and water conservation district staff and supervisors in order for them to be in compliance with state standards and accountable for public funding

- District Visits program
- District Operations
 - On-line tool kit
 - State Board of Accounts
 - Public Access law, etc.
- Program evaluation tools
- CWI funding evaluation
- Local cooperative working agreements

Strategic Program Development & Implementation

Provides strategic program development and implementation tools so soil and water conservation districts can successfully deliver their local conservation programs

- Strategic planning
- Annual plan of work
- Funding
- Outreach/marketing of plan
- Partnerships
- Community relationships

Conservation Effectiveness

Provides tools, resources and information on conservation technology and assessment so soil and water conservation districts can successfully implement appropriate technological and innovative practices for their customers

- Technology/assessment tools
- Value of tools
- Prioritization
- Tracking

Professional Staff Development

Provides job specific training for soil and water conservation district technical, managerial and education personnel

- Technical (rural and urban)
- Managerial/Administrative
 - Manager/Executive Director
 - Assistant/clerical
- Educator

Next Steps

- Finalize details
- Presented to IDEA members at Fall Conference (Oct.)
- Establish on ICP website
- Roll out to Districts
- ICP workgroup assignments

Questions ?

IDEM's Watershed Planning Branch Update
SSCB Meeting November 12, 2008

Storm Water Report for September and October of 2008

- MOU between IDEM and SWCDs has been approved by IDEM Management. There have been some modifications and final updates are being made. Next course of action will be to schedule a final meeting with the SSCB and other partners to finalize MOU and determine the next step to roll out the information.
- Missy Shaber, Storm Water Specialist received certification as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC). Currently 3 staff of the seven Storm Water team are certified. R. Boehm and R. Beck will be testing for certifications in March of 2009.
- Staff is coordinating and on the planning committee with representatives of Ohio and Kentucky in planning a storm water conference in Cincinnati that is scheduled for May 14 and 15.
- Staff is planning with several MS4s and SWCDS for the Central Indiana Storm Water Workshop to be held on January 20 and 21 in Indianapolis.
- Staff is coordinating with the Indiana Association of Floodplain and Storm Water Managers a tutorial and testing session for certifications offered through EnviroCert, Inc. The two sessions are for Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) and Certified Erosion Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI).

October:

- Total of 159 new Notices of Intent received.
- 24 NOI Deficiency letters issued and 161 Sufficiency letters issued.

September:

- Total of 197 new Notices of Intent received.
- 34 NOI Deficiency letters issued and 197 Sufficiency letters issued.

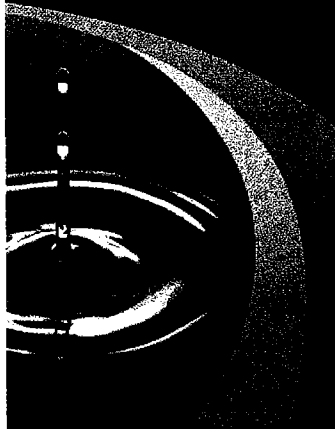
Other activities for the September/October Reporting Period:

- Staff participated in three (3) training sessions with 255 in attendance. These sessions included presentations at Drainage 101 (sponsored by Farm Bureau) and the annual meeting of the Indiana Association of Floodplain and Storm Water Managers.
- 22 MS4 Audits conducted for Construction Minimum Control Measure .
- 30 MS4 Audits conducted for Education, Public Involvement, and Good Housekeeping
- 2 Enforcement Referrals
- 2 Violation Letters
- 90 Inspections to determine Compliance with Rule 5



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

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



IASWCD

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Ripley County

SECRETARY:
Ray McCormick
Knox County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Jennifer Boyle
Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org

To: State Soil Conservation Board
From: Jim Droege, President, IASWCD
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008

2009 Annual Conference

The SSCB meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am at the downtown Indianapolis Hyatt hotel. Registration for the conference is available on-line at <http://2009indianasoilwater.theregistrationsystem.com>

CWI Program/2009 Legislative session

The IASWCD Legislative Committee has released a platform, 2009 action plan, tip sheets, and more at http://www.iaswcd.org/district_tools/cwi/index.html (copies provided to SSCB at today's meeting) and is scheduling region meetings to be held after Thanksgiving. As a note, the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA) is once again supporting CWI as a main priority for the 2009 legislative session.

District Showcase Award Tour

Four winners were selected for the first District Showcase Award (Kosciusko County SWCD, LaGrange County SWCD, Clark County SWCD, and Gibson/Vanderburgh/Warrick/Posey County SWCDs). A tour was held in both Kosciusko and LaGrange counties on September 29. A tour is scheduled for Clark County on November 13. We hope more ICP members will attend the tours in the future. These four winners will be highlighted at the Annual Legislative Breakfast on Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

2009 IASWCD Slate of Officers

- President – Paula Baldwin
- Vice President – Ray McCormick
- Secretary – Ray Chattin and Jeff Meinders
- Treasurer – Brian Campbell and Larry Strole

2009 IASWCD Representatives to NACD (annual conference is February 1-4, 2009 in New Orleans)

- Delegate – Ray McCormick
- Alternate Delegate– Jim Droege

NACD Awards

- Clark County SWCD has won the Collaborative Conservation Award for the North Central Region. They will now be competing for the national award.

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.

IASWCD Legislative Platform

2009 & Beyond

This document is intended to reflect the legislative goals and strategies of the IASWCD and the Districts it serves. In a year facing a negative economic situation and a number of new legislators, it seems a strategy to build a sound understanding of our position and needs is required for future success in increasing funding. This platform cannot succeed without the full participation of Districts who will be required to establish the primacy of the roles and responsibilities of Districts within the Indiana Conservation Partnership. Interaction with legislators on both a statewide basis and through local contact as well as generating demonstrable public support will be required. The primary goals of this platform include:

- To see that Clean Water Indiana (CWI) funding is administered according to guidelines established by I.C. 14-32 and see that these funds are significantly increased.
- To establish without question, the importance of the roles and responsibilities of local Districts, the great need to improve natural resources, and the unique ability districts have to address those resource concerns.
- To sponsor legislation ensuring that CWI funds will be non-reverting.
- To sponsor legislation to allow IASWCD to be represented on the Indiana Natural Resource Commission.

The information contained in the IASWCD Legislative Platform will be used by districts and IASWCD to generate support for districts from other organizations, agencies and the public. The Legislative Platform requires that the following questions be answered.

1. Where are we now?
2. Where should we be?
3. Why are we not there?
4. Why does it matter?
5. How can it be fixed?

IASWCD Legislative Platform

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

CWI is currently contributing to Districts by supporting the Leadership Institute and a grants program, however, Districts are suffering from an overwhelming lack of operational, technical, administrative and program funding as well as a total lack of cost share funding from the Division of Soil Conservation. Almost 51% of Indiana Districts have no technical staff and 69% do not have a dedicated

professional staff person. Districts are currently receiving less operating dollars (excluding grants) from the state than they did in 1996. The on-going county funding crisis has been impacting local dollars, federal funding for technical support is becoming less and less available, and every District is facing greater and greater operational costs (rent, for example). Additionally, technical support provided by NRCS is being reduced and this critical need must be filled if conservation is to continue. The grants provided by CWI are disjointed and lack flexibility to address each District's key local issues. Many concerns cannot be addressed by any funds from traditional partnering – these include urban/suburban land treatments and Rule 5 review costs (327 IAC 15-5-6).

WHERE SHOULD WE BE?

All 92 Districts should have the basic funding to provide a minimum conservation delivery system in their county made up of staff and program support. A minimum staff includes one administrative person, (receptionist/ office worker), one professional staff person, (department head/program administrator) and one technician (survey & design, marketing, Farm Bill and other programs), plus funds for equipment and training that each needs to fulfill their positions. This is the bare minimum that can be seen to offer residents of every county the support for conservation they deserve. Flexible grant and cost-share dollars need to be available to Districts for local needs as well as to allow District's the capacity to bring resources to the Conservation Partnership in order to become a full and equal partner. This includes allowing grant funds to be used in suburban/urban areas for conservation practices. A trained work force and certified members of the board of supervisors in each District will provide the local development and implementation of programs that are held to a state standard and are focused solely on the health of our natural resources.

WHY ARE WE NOT WHERE WE SHOULD BE?

The existing CWI funds are being diverted to employ Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) Staff.

(Resource Specialists, including equipment for these personnel) Clearly, the DSC has its unique mission, which should be funded from its own budget, and should not duplicate the role of Districts in the conservation delivery system. Furthermore, the CWI grants program needs to allow districts to define and meet their resource needs as they define them, with oversight from the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB). It is inappropriate for the SSCB to define those needs for local boards who understand their local resource base, who need to be flexible in garnering local resources (partners and funds), and who are elected and appointed officials who should be allowed to act as such.

Funding is totally inadequate to support a credible conservation delivery system in 92 Districts. A 2006 District Needs Assessment showed the need for an additional \$17 million annually to adequately address local resource needs. These requests included Administration/Operations, Technical Assistance, Programming (including cost-share programs) and Training. Unfunded IDEM 319 Nonpoint Source grant requests for 2008 totaled \$1.96 million. Total unfunded Farm Bill conservation requests (2005) totaled

\$32 million. Total unfunded CWI grants over the last 3 years totaled \$2.15 million¹. (This figure is relatively low due to the fact that CWI grants were limited to specific uses and had funding caps that limited their usefulness.) The unrestricted grant of up to \$10,000.00 that has been each District's only state funding has not increased since it was first granted. This represents an appallingly low state support compared to surrounding states. The power of those dollars continues to decrease every year. A District faced with inadequate funding from both the state and county with minimal staff cannot attempt to gather the resources needed to address conservation nor can they hope to have the resources needed to write proposals, manage the funds, and implement the programs as required by any grant program.

WHY SHOULD LEGISLATORS CARE?

SWCDs have identified water quality, soil erosion, land use planning, nutrient run-off and forestry as their priority resource concerns in that order. In a natural resource survey conducted in early 2008, three of our District's top four concerns were tied to water quality. SWCDs cover every watershed in the state and are unique in their ability to create partnerships within agencies and the private sector to leverage funds. They are also unique in that their respective Boards of Supervisors understand local resource needs and how to address them. As unpaid public officials they bring a level of integrity and peer approval that has been unparalleled in any other government agency. Though a District works within a county, the unique structure of this state agency allows for a powerful system of county staff working across a watershed in multi-county programs. Across the state, the public is becoming increasingly aware of water issues such as flooding, algae blooms, sediment and chemical impairments, and drought concerns. Increasingly, residents of Indiana are concerned about land-use issues and how they affect their homes, health, and property values.

According to the 2003 Annual Natural Resources Inventory, Indiana is currently losing 3.5 tons/acre/year of soil annually (due to wind/water erosion) at a cost of \$275 million (\$6.00 per ton) that is negatively impacting water quality and the ability of our natural resources to provide the ecosystem services that equate to quality of life for Hoosiers. With less than 30% of corn acres under no-till systems, Indiana is far from attaining a level of sustainability in the way it practices agriculture. Indiana has also been identified by the USGS as the third largest contributor to Phosphorus and Nitrate pollution in the 31-state Mississippi River Watershed, while being the smallest state in the watershed. Indiana is a member of the Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force, a partnership of state and federal agencies. A 2008 Gulf Hypoxia action plan identifies specific actions for stakeholders throughout the Mississippi Basin, however the most significant critical need is to secure additional political and financial support for actions led by the Task Force members, other states and non-governmental organizations, and citizens. Voluntary programs continued to be relied on.

¹ Currently, DSC/SSCB has not provided funding to address natural resource concerns on non-agricultural working lands that make up one- third of Indiana's land base.

Agriculture land continues to be converted every year. With that conversion comes increased soil erosion in the short term, and increased storm water run-off and associated pollution. Districts have traditionally worked with agri-businesses to address soil issues through voluntary programs because they have that local connection – boards are community leaders of good standing who can work with their peers to affect change. As land use issues have changed, so have our boards and they now often include developers, businessmen, educators, and professionals who have strong ties with these new land users and can continue the tradition of affecting change through peer pressure, example, and community buy-in.

Demand for water in our state is increasing exponentially with the proliferation of agricultural irrigation, housing developments outside urban centers, and industrial use. Our current system of ditches and drains overload streams and reduces groundwater recharge and results in higher storm water management costs to municipalities, heavy flood damage, increased dredging costs, and increased degradation of water quality (The 2008 Indiana 303d list of impaired streams lists 827 stream segments impaired for e.coli and 411 for impaired biotic communities). Districts are the only agency whose primary focus is soil and water quality. The ability of these local agents to work across political boundaries, to garner support from a wide range of local partners, and to engage stakeholders in water quality planning is not duplicated by any other government agency or not for profit.

The health and productivity of our forest resources are being threatened as never before by invasive species, fragmentation from development, and water and climate concerns. Districts play a key role in addressing this problem through their ability to engage foresters, developers, woodland owners and others in dialogues that bring people together to solve these land use problems in a voluntary effort. Possible opportunities exist for Districts to play a role in promoting carbon sequestration and in certification of carbon trading contracts. This is an area that can positively impact soil health and water and air quality.

HOW CAN WE FIX IT?

Districts need to be given the opportunity to do what they were created to do. Many have never been given that chance because this state has never recognized the need for investing in them. CWI offers the mechanism through which Districts may receive up to a 1:1 funding match from the state. Making the CWI program effective will require that funding be allocated in accordance with statute. It will require a level of trust in local SWCD Boards that will give them the latitude to utilize CWI grant dollars as they see fit. This does not understate the importance of oversight by the DSC and the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB), but certainly will lessen the requirements associated with the current granting program. The bottom line is that Indiana is currently getting what it pays for (see attached graphs). A strong base funding that can be augmented by CWI cost-share and grant funds will provide Districts the ability to implement a true conservation program for Indiana – one that is well funded, well implemented, and successful.

In addition to a strong base of funding for conservation, Indiana is in critical need of a state conservation plan that addresses a wide range of soil and water concerns. All state agencies and organizations

involved in conservation, land use decisions, and environmental review/regulation should be partners in developing such a plan. In turn, this plan could then help direct funding more appropriately and effectively to solve conservation problems.

Indiana's Conservation Partnership (ICP) has begun an impressive training program to grow the leadership capacity of our boards and begin the steps to develop a certification program that will hold each county to a high standard of quality. The Leadership Institute and the District Visits Program have potential to be recognized nationally as components of a new system of certification. CWI funds have been used to allow staff and Supervisors access to training that is key to this certification and nothing should be done to reduce District access to these groundbreaking programs. With proper funding streams, the burden of these costs can be reduced so that more CWI funds are available to implement actual conservation programs and practices.

District Legislative Template

(For use by individual Districts with their legislators)

The IASWCD Legislative Platform reflects the legislative goals and strategies of the IASWCD and the Districts it serves. In a year facing a negative economic situation and a number of new legislators, it a strategy to build a sound understanding of our position and needs is required for future success in increasing conservation funding. This platform cannot succeed without the full participation of Districts who will be required to establish the primacy of the roles and responsibilities of Districts within the Indiana Conservation Partnership. Interaction with legislators on both a statewide basis and through local contact as well as generating demonstrable public support will be required. The primary goals of this platform include:

- To see that Clean Water Indiana (CWI) funding is administered according to guidelines established by I.C. 14-32 and see that these funds are significantly increased.
- To establish without question, the importance of the roles and responsibilities of local Districts, the great need to improve natural resources, and the unique ability districts have to address those resource concerns.
- To sponsor legislation ensuring that CWI funds will be non-reverting.
- To sponsor legislation to allow IASWCD to be represented on the Indiana Natural Resource Commission.

Where are we?

Districts need to describe the current capacity of their District as well as outlining what an SWCD is and how funding is provided. Describe levels of staffing, funding, and partnering and relate them to current resource issues and your ability to address those issues. Highlight achievements to show your ability, but include programs you cannot implement because of financial or operational limitations.

Where should we be?

Refer to your needs assessment and be prepared to justify your requests. If you don't have a needs assessment, create one! Offer a vision of what you could accomplish with adequate funds, staff, and training.

Why we are not.

Talk about the inadequacy of the current CWI Program not only in terms of funding shortfall, but that all CWI funds are not being used in accordance with the law and that grants are too restrictive. Talk about unmet Farm Bill Conservation program requests, IDEM 319 grants, etc.

Why they should care.

Relate your Districts current resource needs including annual soil loss, water quality issues, urban issues etc. and your unique ability to address these needs – play up that special connection that your volunteer board has with community, the leveraged funding and in-kind support you receive because of this unique standing, and your ability to move people to voluntarily do the right thing for conservation.

How to fix it.

Tell legislators what your District needs and how they can contribute. Again touch on the legislative grant (\$10,000) and CWI as the means towards this fix. Provide examples of how adequate funding allows for technical assistance to land users, a well-trained staff and board, and flexible dollars to address your local resource needs.

Plan of Action for 2009 Legislative Session

The IASWCD Legislative Committee, IASWCD Board members, and the 92 local soil and water conservation districts support the following course of action:

- Advocate for an increase in the ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation's annual budget from \$1,968,750 to \$3,490,750 (a \$1,522,000 increase)

Why? The increase in the Division of Soil Conservation's budget would allow them to fully fund all the Resource Specialists, along with their contract and equipment expenses. In turn, this would free up funding in the current Clean Water Indiana program and allow the State Soil Conservation Board to direct more dollars for on the ground conservation on all working lands, as intended by the law.

- Advocate for \$500,000 per year in general fund appropriation to the Clean Water Indiana Fund

Why? The CWI fund received an additional \$500,000 per year during the 2008/2009 budget cycle from general fund appropriation. We need to advocate for this increase to be continued in the 2010/2011 budget cycle. This increase has been dedicated to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

- Advocate for language which clarifies the Clean Water Indiana Fund as a non-reverting fund

Why? While the current CWI statute (IC 14-32) does state that funds at the end of a state fiscal year do not revert to the state general fund, more specific and stringent language is needed to avoid any misinterpretations by the Indiana Office of Management and Budget.

How?

- Meet with state legislators and explain issues; help them understand soil and water conservation districts and their duties and responsibilities for natural resource issues in each county. Utilize local data and information.
- Utilize the templates and tip sheets on the IASWCD website at http://www.iaswcd.org/district_tools/cwi/index.html
- Utilize CREP information to demonstrate the power of federal return dollars: As of August 2008, 4,277.9 acres have been obligated through 628 contracts for a total of \$1,203,755 in obligated state funds and \$12,474,356 in estimated federal leverage funds.
- Invite state legislators to field days and on field tours. Show them on the ground conservation practices.
- Discuss these issues with other local partners and gain support.

For more information visit: http://www.iaswcd.org/district_tools/cwi/index.html

Indiana Sustainable Cropping Systems Project (IN SCS)

BACKGROUND

The IN Sustainable Cropping Systems is a proposed project to continue and expand the efforts of the Indiana Conservation Tillage Initiative (ICTI) which was a cooperative effort between The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP), Agriculture Industry and Indiana farmers. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received funding from an EPA Section 319 grant through Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to fund a Conservation Tillage Coordinator for three years.

The objective of the Indiana Conservation Tillage Initiative (ICTI) was an effort to expand the adoption of no-till and management of other high residue farming methods by identifying technical and social barriers to adoption, identifying solutions to the barriers, creating a network among farmers and agriculture professionals to increase no-till technology transfer, and providing training and technical information to farmers and other agriculture professionals in the latest technology, which will take these cropping systems to new highs in profitability. Results of this project included:

- Over 9,000 participants at over 90 project events
- Estimated in 2004 that 125,000 acres of new no-till corn and 115,000 acres of new no-till soybeans were realized; equating to over \$2,140,000 savings in energy costs
- Web site created that includes upcoming events, publications, and links
- Numerous publications and presentations created
- Established a no-till network among farmers and agriculture professionals
- Provided technical assistance to individual farmers

The ICTI project identified the following challenges and needs at the conclusion of the project:

- Continued need for consistent and specific technical assistance to all areas of Indiana, as soils and cropping systems are quite variable;
- Renewed commitment for research to advance no-till systems;
- Continued commitment to the no-till network to facilitate the transfer of technology between farmers that is practical and proven; and
- Continued commitment to the ICTI website to facilitate networking and information sharing.

MOVING FORWARD

The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) believe that because of the success of the ICTI project and the challenges it identified, this is an effort that needs to be continued and expanded. Therefore, the IASWCD's Natural Resource Policy advisory committee in consultation with NRCS is proposing an Indiana Sustainable Cropping Systems project whose long-term outcomes include providing consistent and specific sustainable cropping system technical assistance throughout the state, supporting on-going research of sustainable cropping systems technology, and tapping into the carbon credit market for landowners. For this project, sustainable cropping systems includes practices such as continuous no-till, strip-till,

cover crops, precision nutrient management, drainage system management, and other best management practices (BMPs).

PROJECT BUDGET – See Attachment A

A project budget has been drafted. In-kind services and donations will be sought after in addition to actual dollars. A three-year minimum commitment to the project is preferred.

Position descriptions are described in **Attachment B**. Two positions are suggested with a full-time position being the technical coordinator and part-time position being a program coordinator. The program coordinator is needed in or to assist with scheduling, marketing and outreach, website maintenance, information tracking, and publication development.

Attachment A

IN SCS Project Budget

Personnel	Budget	Total for 3 years
Technical Coordinator (FT)		
Salary (per year)	\$58,900.00	\$176,700.00
Fringe/Benefits (per year)	\$11,781.00	\$35,343.00
Program Coordinator (PT)		
Salary (per year)	\$20,000.00	\$60,000.00
Fringe/Benefits (per year)	\$4,000.00	\$12,000.00
Operating	Budget	Total for 3 years
Office space	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00
Office supplies	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00
Equipment	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Travel	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Postage	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Printing	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00
Contracts	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00
Total Expenses	Budget	Total for 3 years
	\$115,681.00	\$337,043.00

Revenue Sources	Budget	Total for 3 years
NRCS*	\$57,840.50	\$173,521.50
IASWCD		
SSCB - CWI		
CTIC		
ISDA		
Other		
Total Revenue	Budget	Total for 3 years
	\$0.00	\$0.00

*NRCS is proposing to fund 1/2 of the costs for this project; discussions still underway.

Attachment B

Position: Technical Coordinator (full-time)

MAJOR DUTIES:

Serves as the Technical Coordinator in Indiana for the Sustainable Cropping Systems Project. Provides leadership to promote and educate Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) employees on sustainable cropping systems. Provides coordination, leadership and direction in identifying methods to overcome barriers to the adoption of various sustainable cropping systems in the State of Indiana. This includes providing technical assistance to farmers, conducting workshops, preparing and presenting technical information and documents for farmers and the ICP and reviewing dissemination of technical information prepared by others. Makes technical presentations on sustainable cropping system topics at field days, workshops and other functions. Serves as the technical advisor to the IASWCD- Natural resources Policy Committee and incorporates recommendations of the Committee related to sustainable cropping systems into technical transfer. Establishes and maintains working relationships with university researchers, industry representatives, state and federal agencies and commodity organizations around the state. Serves as a member of the NRCS Technology Staff and facilitates the transfer of technical information on sustainable cropping systems to NRCS and other conservation partners around the state.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: Must have a BS in agriculture or Agronomy or must have at least 2 years of college with 4 years work experience in agriculture. Candidates must have at least 2 years in specialized work experience. Specialized experience is work that involved working with farmers and landowners with a variety of cropping systems and farm enterprises, providing solutions and analyzing data from a variety of sources on soil quality, no-till/strip-till systems, cover crops, conservation buffers, precision farming, nutrient and pest management, and an understanding of conservation tillage equipment.

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

1. KNOWLEDGE OF THE AGRONOMIC PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF CONSERVATION CROPPING SYSTEMS in order to increase the adoption of these systems by farmers in Indiana.

2. KNOWLEDGE OF BROAD USE OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND THEIR INTEGRATION FOR SUSTAINING NATURAL RESOURCES in order to provide practical recommendations and solutions for integrating these practices into a commercial farming operation.

2. KNOWLEDGE OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS in order to utilize these programs to increase the adoption of sustainable cropping systems by farmers in Indiana.

3. ABILITY TO USE MODERN OFFICE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS COMPUTERS, MS-OFFICE SOFTWARE AND EMAIL in order to effectively exchange, evaluate and present information and data with partners and collaborators.

4. ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE, EDUCATE, AND DEMONSTRATE EFFECTIVELY IN WRITING AND ORALLY WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH DIVERSE TECHNICAL BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES in order to facilitate the transfer of information and technology between individuals and groups such as government agencies, universities, businesses and industry.

Position: Program Coordinator (part-time)

MAJOR DUTIES:

Serves as the Program Coordinator in Indiana for the Sustainable Cropping Systems (SCS) project. Coordinates the travel/speaking/presentation schedule for the Technical Coordinator of the SCS project. Provides marketing and outreach assistance on sustainable cropping system information to farmers, the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) employees, and other conservation partners in the state. Assists in the development of new publications as needed. Maintains a tracking system for landowner requests, assistance provided, workshops, tillage transect data, and other data collection. Maintains an up to date website of the project.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: At least 3 years in specialized work experience. Specialized work experience is work that involved development and maintenance of a website, development and maintenance of databases, and development of marketing materials. Knowledge and/or experience in agriculture preferred.

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

1. KNOWLEDGE OF WEBSITE PROGRAMS in order to develop and/or maintain an active project website.
2. KNOWLEDGE OF MS-OFFICE SOFTWARE AND EMAIL including Access in order to develop and maintain databases, exchange, and communicate with others.
3. ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE ORALLY AND IN WRITING in order to produce appropriate marketing materials and provide outreach assistance.
4. ABILITY TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY AND WITH MINIMAL SUPERVISION.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation

2008 Soil & Water Report for Indiana legislators

2 million pounds of topsoil in floodplains was lost; affecting over 100,000 acres of land (source, Indiana NRCS, 2008)

Nearly 205,000 acres had soil losses of over 35 ton/acre in June alone (from rolling upland fields that were not no-tilled) (source, Indiana NRCS, 2008)

In light of the major weather events that occurred in 2008, Indiana's 92 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) felt it was important to report on the condition of our raw materials and the steps taken to repair and recover these important natural resources.

Summary of disaster effects:

To date, 43 counties were declared federal disaster areas due to flooding between April and June. An additional 16 counties were declared Federal Disaster Areas due to storm damage in September.

Minor to major damage occurred in many of these areas including stream bank erosion, levee breaks, gullies, logjams and other debris in waterways and private dam failures. Damage to crops was significant; many fields had to be re-planted multiple times and many fields were left bare because of significant damage to the soil. The road to recovery in some of these areas will be challenging due to loss of soil fertility and rebuilding of organic matter.

Summary of Program Assistance:

In August, the State Soil Conservation Board appropriated over \$1.2 million to 35 SWCDs (Knox, Posey, Gibson, Jackson, Bartholomew, Dubois, Clay, Greene, Vigo, Sullivan, Pike, Morgan, Parke, Lawrence, Putnam, Shelby, Martin, Washington, Jennings, Daviess, Wayne, Johnson, Orange, Fountain, Decatur, Rush, Vermillion, Fayette, Franklin, Monroe, Owen, Jefferson, Dearborn, Union and Brown) to assist landowners with disaster recovery on agricultural lands. Each SWCD assessed the needs in the county and prioritized the dollars based on those needs. If additional funds become available, more SWCDs and counties will be given assistance.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Indiana has, to date, secured over \$1.8 million for 22 emergency projects in eight counties (Bartholomew, Clay, Daviess, Decatur, Morgan, Owen, Parke, and Vigo) through the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP). An additional 48 projects totaling \$1.7 million is being requested for non-emergency projects. The program easements objective is to assist sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance

to remove debris from streams, protect destabilized stream banks, establish cover on critically eroding lands, repair conservation practices, and purchase flood plain easements.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Indiana secured over \$10 million in disaster funds for 26 counties (Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Decatur, Dubois, Fountain, Gibson, Greene, Hendricks, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Parke, Pike, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo) for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). Producers may use federal dollars for removal of farmland debris, restoration of fences, and repairing conservation structures damaged by floods. Funds also may be used to carry out emergency water conservation measures in response to severe drought.

Local SWCDs assist their conservation partners (NRCS & FSA) and landowners by educating them about the emergency programs available and providing technical and administrative assistance as needed. Our local SWCDs have been very active this past year talking with landowners, assessing damages from the weather events, and making sure landowners know about the different local, state and federal disaster programs available.

The 2008 weather events demonstrated the continued importance of protecting our soil and water resources. Conservation measures on the land such as waterways, filter strips, no-till, tree and grassland plantings, pasture management, manure and nutrient management, and other best management practices (BMP's) all help maintain protection for Indiana's vital soil and water resources.

We urge you to continue to fund programs that voluntarily help landowners put conservation on the ground and protect our soil and water resources for all of Indiana.

Indiana State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
NRCS State Conservationist Report November 2008

Farm Bill Update

NRCS is in the final stages of developing rules for the 2008 Farm Bill programs. Applications are currently being accepted for EQIP, WHIP and WRP, but can not be ranked and selected for funding until final rules are in place. Conservation planning work for all interested customers can continue as we await final rules.

Floodplain Easement Program (FEP)

Indiana is one of four states to receive FEP funding. Indiana received over \$6.7 million dollars for floodplain easements. NRCS announced an open sign-up period in early September running through October 1, followed by a continuous sign-up. Applications are currently being ranked for funding. To be eligible for FEP the land must have flooded at least twice in the last 10 years, and once in the last 12 months. More information about FEP is available on the NRCS Programs web page under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/EWPhomepage.html>).

NRI Data Collection

The Natural Resources Inventory is a statistical survey of land use and natural resources conditions and trends on non-Federal lands. Data is currently being collected in Indiana on crop history, tillage practices, tillage timing, etc. at 1,500 data points throughout the state. The NRI information is intended for use on a state or regional basis, and is not designed to be used on a county level. For additional NRI information, please visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/>.

LincPass

Information will be coming out soon on training and certification processes for district employees, which will be required prior to obtaining a LincPass. In order to access the USDA network and landowner files, conservation district employees must participate in the same training and certification as NRCS and FSA employees. USDA plans to complete training nationwide by the end of April 2009.

National NRCS Civil Rights Review

In February, 2009 Indiana will have a Civil Rights Review, conducted by the national NRCS Civil Rights Division. NRCS employees at the state office and at some field offices will be interviewed. In addition, some district employees and customers may be interviewed. Information about the review will be covered at Area Meetings after the first of the year.