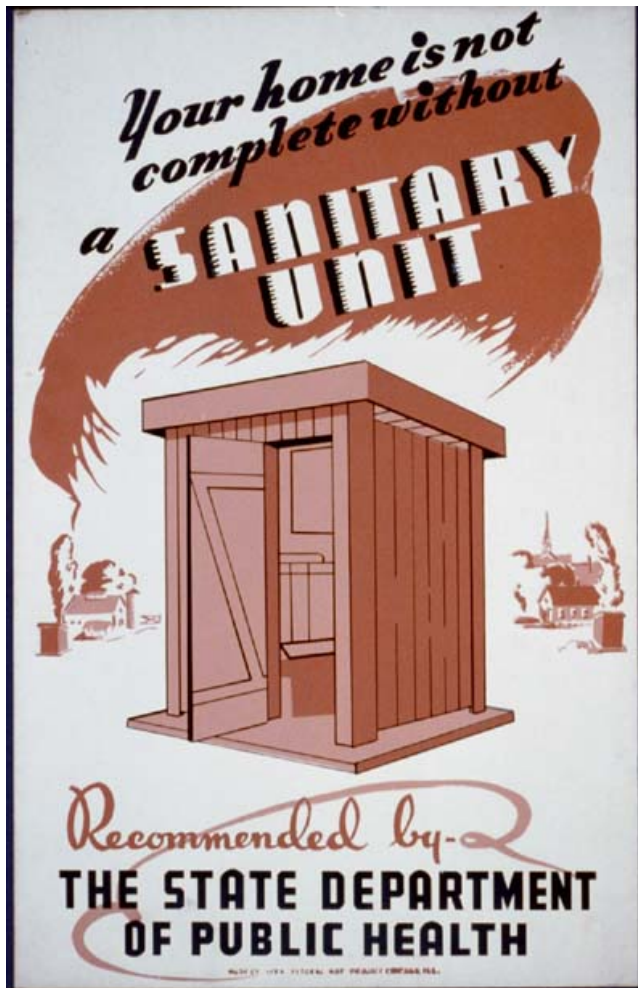


Getting started Onsite: A Primer for Onsite Sewage Systems



State Soil Conservation Board
Meeting
April 12, 2011

Denise H. Wright
ISDH-Environmental Public Health Division
Onsite Sewage Systems Program

Some Onsite Statistics

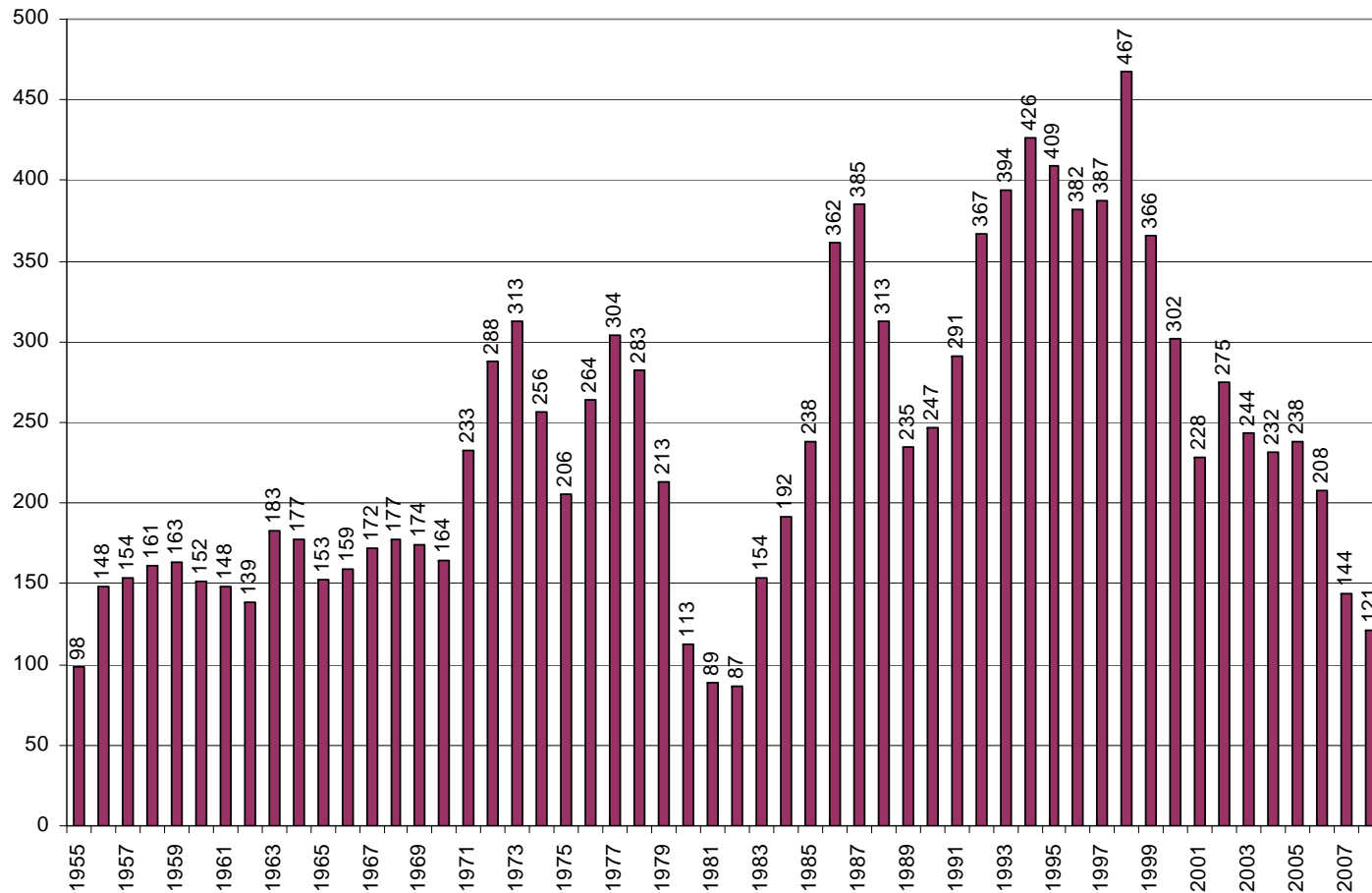
- Based on the 2000 census: numbers for Hoosier onsite systems
 - 800 K onsite systems in IN
 - about 250,000, of those are failing one way or another
- 2008 “trends”
 - 8,595 permits issued
 - 4,595 new
 - 4000 repair/replacement



Some Onsite Statistics

– Allen county permitting numbers

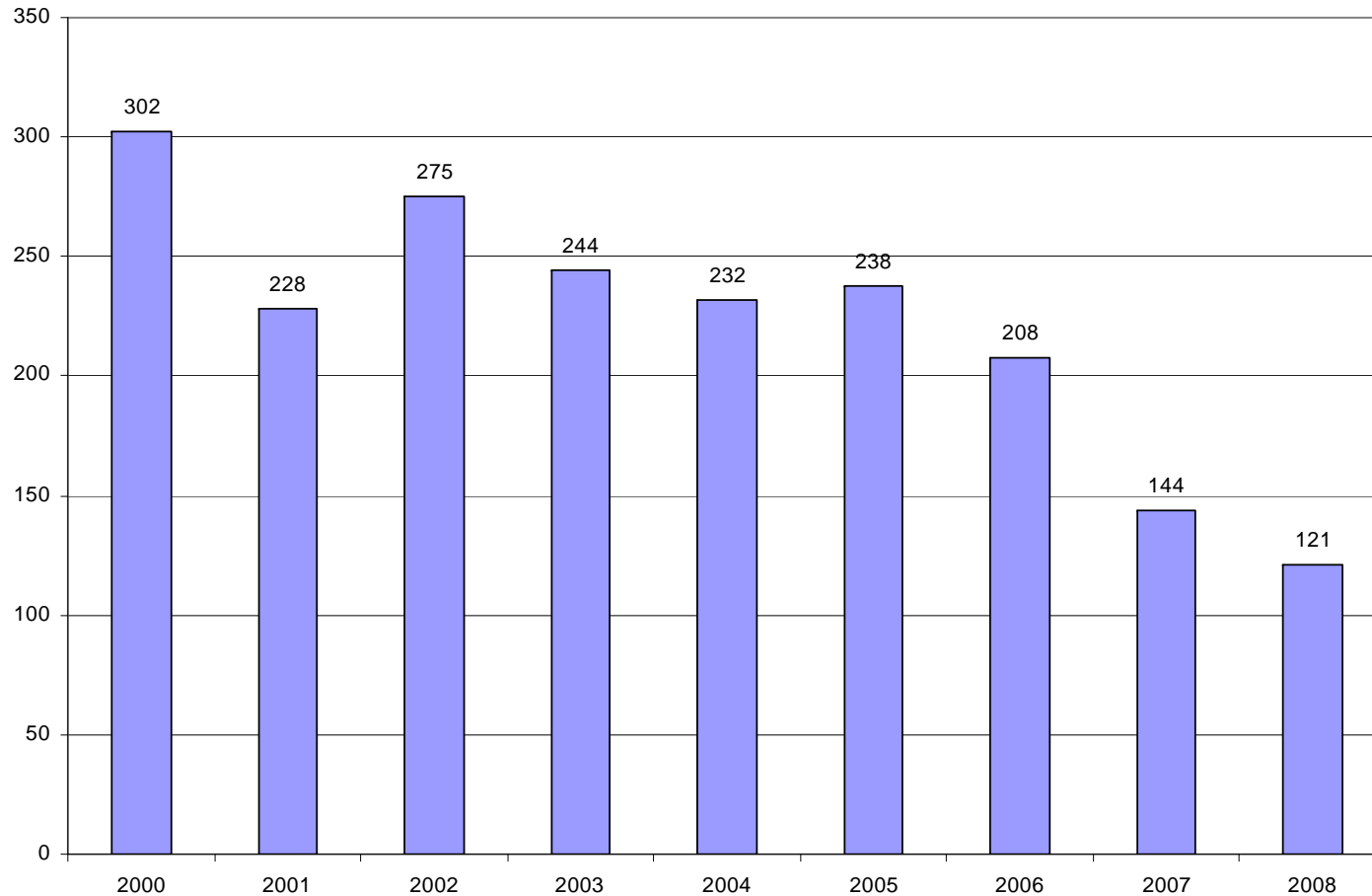
Septic Permits per Year



Some Onsite Statistics

– Allen county permitting numbers

Septic Permits Per Year



Some Onsite Statistics

- Unsewered Hoosier Communities: 681
- Discharging “neighbors”
 - OH 250-400 K
 - IL 170K



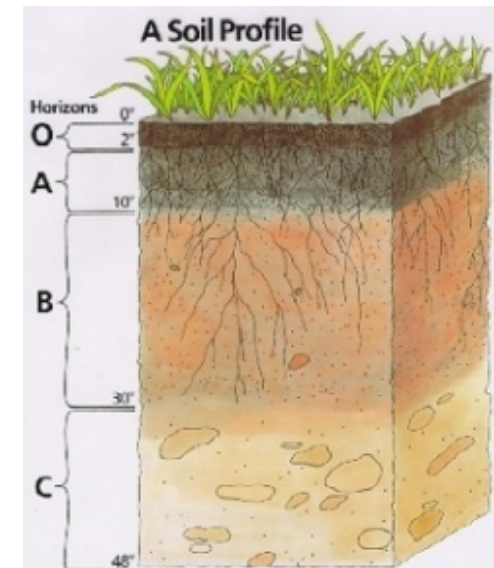
Diseases associated with direct contact with sewage

- **Campylobacteriosis**
- **Cryptosporidiosis**
- ***Escherichia coli***
Diarrhea/ HUS
- **Gastroenteritis**
- **Giardiasis**
- **Hepatitis A**
- **Hepatitis E**
- **Leptospirosis**
- **Poliomyelitis**
- **Salmonellosis**
- **Shigellosis**
- **Paratyphoid Fever**
- **Typhoid Fever**
- **Yersiniosis**

What are the concerns?

Why are onsite systems failing?

- Protect public health
 - The existing onsite infrastructure through maintenance
 - Properly designed and installed new systems



What are the concerns?

Why are onsite systems failing?

- EPA management models
- New State Code which introduces maintenance methods to LHDs/ citizens
 - Operating permits
 - Outlet filters



What are some ideas for dealing with these issues?

- The new code advances the efforts to ensure proper onsite system design and installation
- LHD ordinances that promote maintenance
- Educate the homeowner is a constant , unrelenting task for everyone...we gladly accept and appreciate any help. (Consistent message)



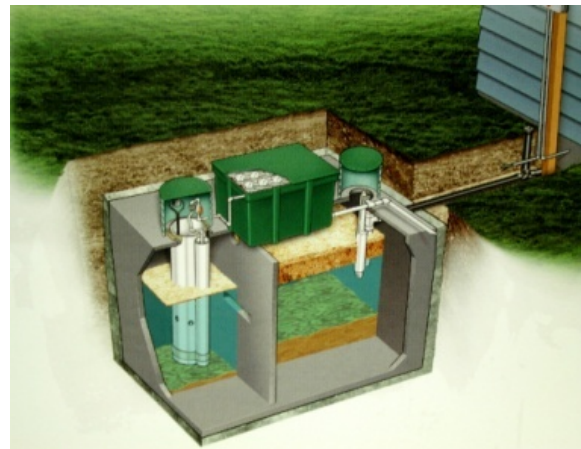
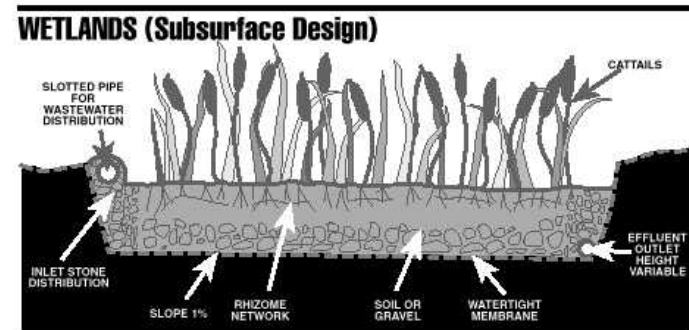
What is ISDH seeing as far as trends?

- Creating a **Statewide Database** to develop an inventory of onsite systems in the state
- **Operating Permits** by LHDs to continue to contact onsite systems to gain knowledge on performance/status
- **Voluntary Maintenance Programs** by LHDs and service providers



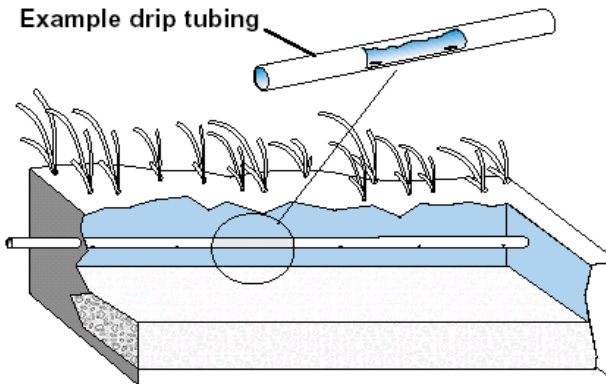
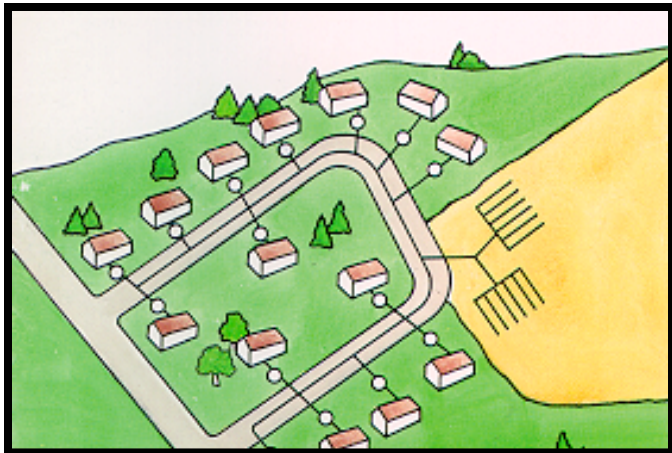
What is ISDH seeing as far as trends?

- **Technologies New to Indiana** addressing better treatment of septic effluent before it is applied to the soil



Another Decentralized Trend: Cluster systems

- Switzerland County:
 - Bennington and Moorefield communities
 - Recirculating gravel filter
 - Subsurface driplines



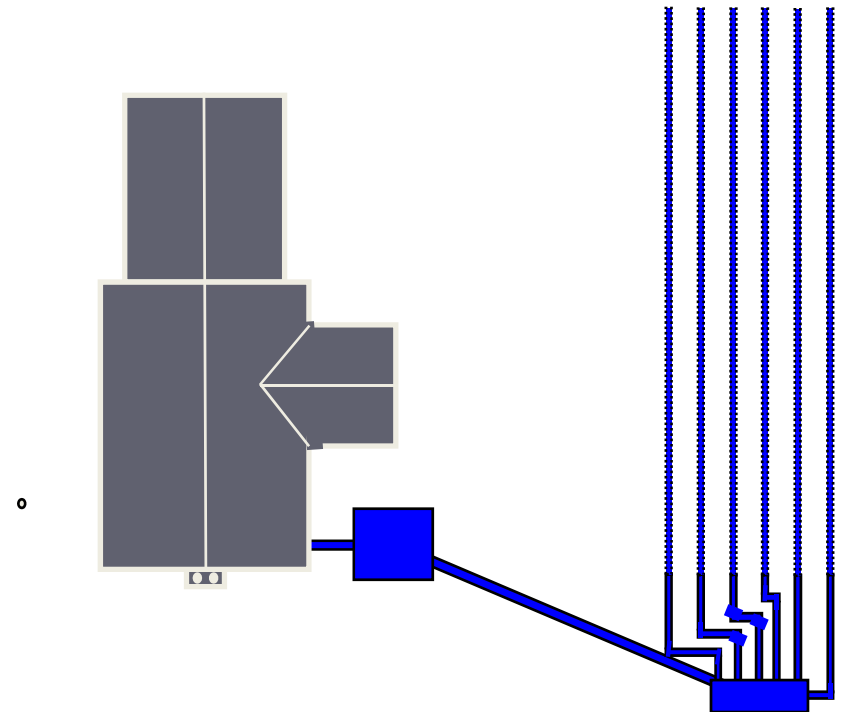
What help could you provide?

- ***Getting our message out:*** Partnering would help ISDH get in contact with more onsite users (rural)




What help could you provide?

- ***Educating the Onsite System Owner:*** Develop materials for the homeowner that address proper use, care and maintenance of their Onsite Sewage System.



What help could you provide?

- ***Becoming actively involved:*** IEHA-WWMC, IOWPA and IRSS are just a few state associations that would benefit from your membership.



*Roster of
Indiana
Registered
Soil
Scientists*

Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists
Office of Indiana State Chemist, Purdue University
175 S. University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2063
Telephone: 765-494-1492, Fax: 765-494-4331
<http://www.isco.purdue.edu/irss/>



WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN

WHY

HOW

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

April 2011 CREP Report

PURPOSE OF CREP:

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state natural resources conservation program that addresses agricultural-related environmental concerns at the state and national level. CREP participants receive financial incentives to voluntarily enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in contracts of 14 to 15 years. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation.

The Indiana CREP is a partnership between USDA and the state of Indiana. The program currently targets the enrollment of 25,250 acres of land in 11 watersheds where sediments, nutrients, pesticides and herbicides run off from agricultural land.

The program will improve water quality by creating buffers and wetlands that will reduce agricultural runoff into the targeted watersheds. Installing buffer practices and wetlands will enhance habitat for wildlife, including State and Federally-listed threatened and endangered species. The program will also reduce nonpoint source nutrient losses.

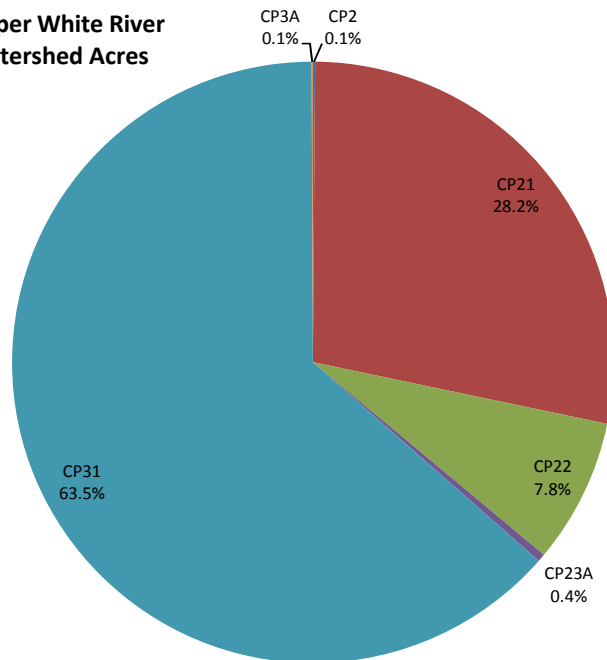
	<u>Completed Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Completed State Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Federal Leverage</u>
TOTAL Paid through Feb 2011	793	5455.21	\$1,319,202	\$13,192,020
Total Paid through April 2011	816	5543.51	\$1,338,685	\$13,386,851

April 11, 2011

Upper White River Watershed

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Completed Contracts</u>	<u>Completed Acres</u>	<u>Completed State Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Federal Leverage (Completed CREP)</u>
CP2-Native Grasses	1	1.6	\$160	\$1,600
CP21-Filter Strip	130	404	\$41,750	\$417,500
CP22-Riparian Buffers	22	111.5	\$56,985	\$569,850
CP23A-Wetlands	1	6	\$3,900	\$39,000
CP31-Bottomland Timber	64	910.1	\$473,480	\$4,734,800
CP3A-Hardwood Trees	1	1	\$650	\$6,500
TOTAL	219	1434.2	\$576,925.00	\$5,769,250.00

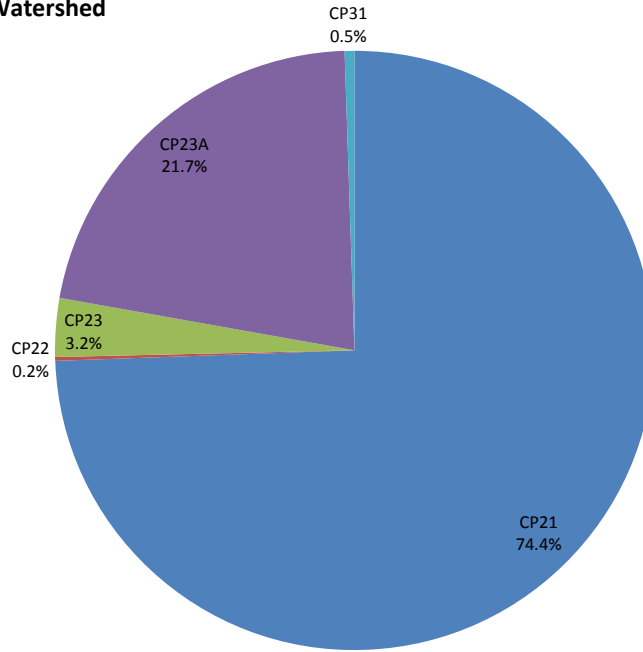
Upper White River Watershed Acres



Tippecanoe River Watershed

Practice	Completed Contracts	Completed Acres	Completed State Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage (Completed CREP)
CP21-Filter Strip	466	2865.5	\$286,558	\$2,865,580
CP22-Riparian Buffer	2	7.8	\$3,120	\$31,200
CP23-Wetlands	1	121.7	\$79,105	\$791,050
CP23A-Wetlands	37	834	\$333,600	\$3,336,000
CP31-Bottomland Timber	2	20.4	\$11,860	\$118,600
TOTAL	508	3849.4	\$714,243.00	\$7,142,430.00

**Tippecanoe River Watershed
Acres**



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

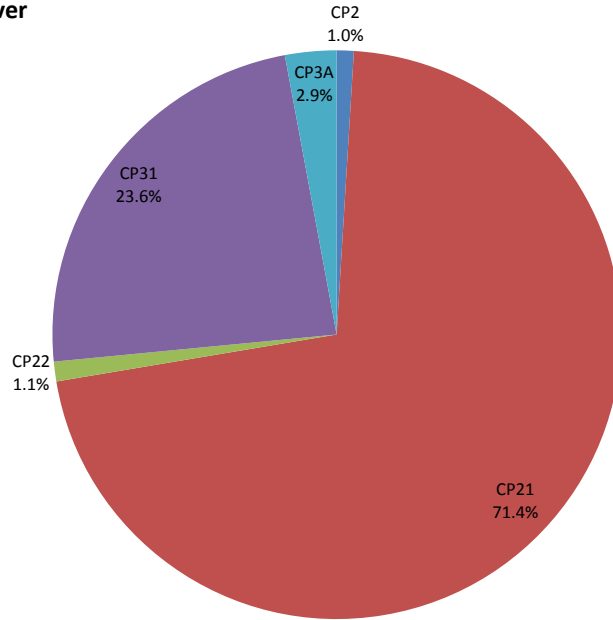
Paid TNC Easements in the Tippecanoe Watershed

Contracts	Acres	Estimated State Funds
11	575.58	\$287,790

Highland-Pigeon Watershed

Practice	Completed Contracts	Completed Acres	Completed State Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage (Completed CREP)
CP2-Native Grasses	1	2.5	\$250	\$2,500
CP21-Filter Strip	72	185.59	\$18,579	\$185,791
CP22-Riparian Buffer	7	2.91	\$1,164	\$11,640
CP31-Bottomland Timber	4	61.3	\$24,480	\$244,800
CP3A-Hardwood Trees	5	7.61	\$3,044	\$30,440
TOTAL	89	259.91	\$47,517.10	\$475,171.00

Highland-Pigeon River Watershed Acres



2010 CWI Grant Report Summary

- Final Reports Submitted - 61
- The SWCDs partnered with 299 organizations to achieve their goals.

Adult Education

Total Number of Events Held	174
Total Adult Attendance	23,606
Multi-District Events	53
CWI Funds	\$59,770
District Funds	\$18,230
District In-kind	\$44,339
Other District Funds	\$9,486
Other District In-kind	\$21,882
Partner Funds	\$31,735
Partner In-kind	\$51,848

Outreach/Marketing

Total Number of Outreach Materials	55,793
Total Number of PSAs/TV Interviews/News Articles	331
New Websites Created	6
CWI Funds	\$56,992
District Funds	\$27,116
District In-kind	\$32,548
Other District Funds	\$3,290
Other District In-kind	\$4,265
Partner Funds	\$5,277
Partner In-kind	\$7,730

Marketing Methods Used to Promote Outreach/Marketing Efforts

Website	39
Billboard	7
E-Blasts	9
Fair Exhibits	34
Newsletters	41
Newspaper	28
News Releases	34
PSAs	16
Other	35

Cost-share Incentives

Cost-share Projects Funded	343
Cost-share Recipients	352
Cost-share Acres Impacted	19,469
Clients that utilized equipment rental	109
Acres impacted by equipment rental	10,458
CWI Funds	\$164,739
District Funds	\$61,187
District In-kind	\$29,029
Other District Funds	\$55,266
Other District In-kind	\$1,633
Partner Funds	\$45,457
Partner In-kind	55,644

Summary of Cost-share Projects Funded
Aerial Cover Crop Seeding
Cover Crops
Critical Area Seeding
Feeding Pads
Frost Seed/Soil Test
Nitrification Inhibitor
Outback S Litebar Technology
Pasture Planting
Septic System Pumping
Tile Drainage Systems
Tree Plantings
Two Stage Ditch Project
Urban Practices – rain barrels, rain gardens, compost bin, pervious pavement, green roof, invasive plant control, backyard pond
Water Well Decommissioning
Well Closure Program
Wildlife Habitat Planting

Summary of Equipment Purchased or Leased
Agricultural Lime Spreader
Airplane
Brillion Seeder
Great Plains No-Till Drill 606NT
Outback S Litebar
Outback S2 Guidance Systems
Truax No Till Grass Drill

Capacity Building

Number of staff trained	129
Total cost for staff training	\$21,293
Number of supervisors trained	119
Total cost for supervisor training	\$34,604
Total staff funded by grant	24
Managers/Admins	5
Education/Outreach	8
Technicians	11
Full Time Employed	7
Part Time Employed	17
Multi-County Employees hired	9
Districts which used funds to increase staff salary	8
Districts which used funds to increase staff hours	8
Districts which used funds to hire new staff	12
CWI Funds	\$106,369
District Funds	\$83,362
District In-kind	\$18,577
Other District Funds	\$3,750
Other District In-kind	\$2,000
Partner Funds	\$92,265
Partner In-kind	\$1,550

Funding Summary

CWI Funds	\$398,304
District Funds	\$191,080
District In-kind	\$126,839
Other District Funds	\$71,642
Other District In-kind	\$30,180
Partner Funds	\$179,500
Partner In-kind	\$119,563

SWCD	Proposal Amt	Partners	Description	Adjusted Amt
Kosciusko	\$ 30,000.00	Fulton, Marshall, RC&D, Tippe WS, Participants	On Farm Soil Quality Asst (like CCSI)	\$ 20,000.00
Allen	\$ 30,000.00	DeKalb, Steuben, Adams, Noble, Wells	On-Farm Network (OFN) = Nutrient Reduction/ WLEB	\$ 20,000.00
Wells	\$ 15,000.00	Huntington, Jay, Blackford, NRCS, FSA	Salamonie River watershed Incentive (like CREP)	\$ 9,000.00
Tipton	\$ 46,500.00	Howard, USDA-NRCS, ISDA, Purdue, Co-Alliance	OFN/ 10-20 producers, stalk sampling	\$ 20,000.00
Knox	\$ 30,000.00	Daviess, Pike, TNC, Original	Tri-county p/t tech, field days, OFN, Wetland RH	\$ 15,000.00
Clark	\$50,000.00	Scott, Jefferson	3 Watersheds/ cost share	
Hamilton	\$21,720.00	Marion, Tipton, Town of Fishers, Morse ww, Geist	Water Quality/ Backyard Conservation	
Delaware	\$40,000.00	Madison, Blackford	OFN/ eval 6,000 acres	
Owen	\$40,000.00	Monroe, Putnam, Brown, SPEA, NRCS	Stream restoration/ CREP	
Gibson	\$21,600.00	Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Landowners	OFN/ nitrate stalk tests	
Dubois	\$8,250.00	Perry	Invasive Species intern	
Jennings	\$40,000.00	Decatur, Bartholomew	MRBI	
Miami	\$42,000.00	Wabash, Manchester College, 319, MRBI	Water Quality/Middle Eel	
Sullivan	\$40,000.00	Greene, Clay, IDNR, Sycamore Tr, West central	Reclaim abandoned coal mining	
Newton	\$22,300.00		Cover Crop/ 3 yrs/ 4 farmers	
Warrick	\$93,171.00	Gibson, Posey, Pike, Vanderburgh	Gypsum Test Plots Multi-County (Alcoa Power plant)	

Total

Requested \$ 570,541.00

Total Available \$

Approved Funding \$ 84,000.00

84,000.00 \$ -

2010 CWI GRANT

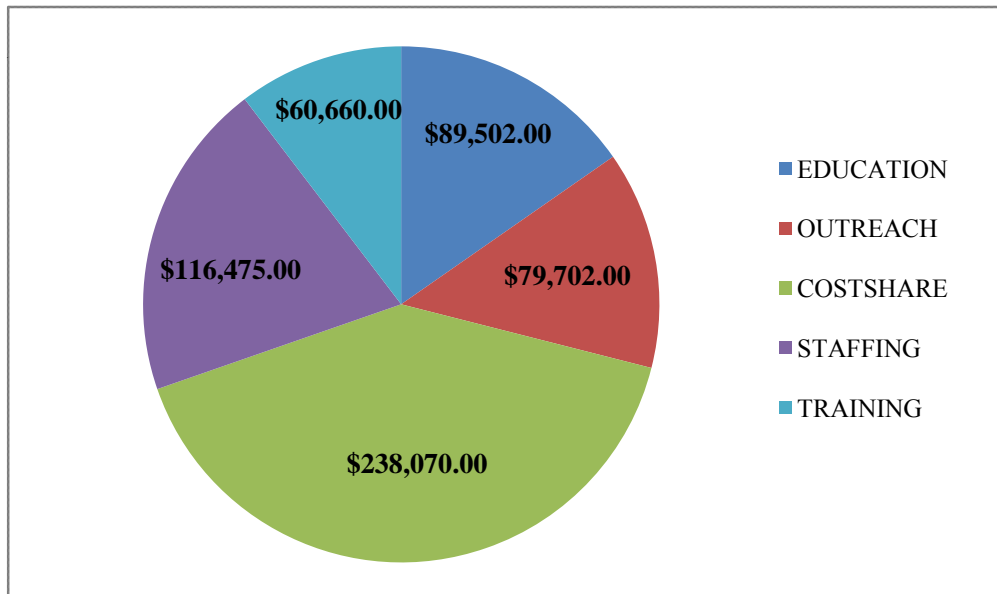
PURPOSE OF GRANT:

For 2010, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) set aside \$550,000 for this grant cycle, as well as provide more choices for the use of grant funds. Each Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) was given the opportunity to apply up to \$7,000. The focus for this round of grant funding includes:

- Adult Education
- Outreach/Marketing
- Cost Share Incentives
- Capacity Building
 - Staffing
 - Leadership Development Training

88 SWCDs applied for the 2010 CWI grant totaling \$584,409. The SSCB approved all grant applications and funded the total amount applied. All 2010 CWI grants have one year to complete their project, except for Leadership Development Training. Projects start January 1, 2010 and must be complete by December 31, 2010. Leadership Development Training reimbursement may include training from July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010.

BREAK DOWN OF 2010 CWI GRANT FUNDS:



STATUS UPDATE:

- 46 Districts have submitted a final report and final payment has been issued. A total of \$521,720.19 has been paid. \$2530 has been liquidated.
- Final reports are due April 30. 14 districts have submitted final reports, but did not utilize all of their funds; we are working with the Districts to verify this before paying the final reports and closing the grant.
- The following counties have extensions on the 2010 grants: Hancock (10/31), Lawrence (7/31), Owen (6/30), Franklin (6/30) Perry (6/30), Elkhart (9/30), LaPorte (9/30) Fulton (6/30), Tippecanoe (11/30)

BLACKFORD
COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



“Protecting
the soil & water of our
county”

BCSWCD
121 N. High St.
Hartford City, IN
47348
Phone:
(765) 348-1404
Fax:
765-348-4945

Board of
Supervisors

JEFF FISHER
Board Chairman

BRIAN KITTERMAN
VICE CHAIRMAN

CLIFTON RINKER
TREASURER

DAVE SMITH
SECRETARY

REX BAXTER
SUPERVISOR

STEVE HOLTZLEITER
ASSOCIATE
SUPERVISOR

Karen Kitterman
District Administrator
kkitterman@
blackfordcounty.com

April 4, 2011

State Soil Board

Dear Board Members,

The Blackford County SWCD did not receive their 2010 Allotment from our county until January 4, 2011. Blackford County allotted the district \$11,000 for 2010 and this figure will reflect on our 2011 financial report along with the amount of our 2011 county allotment.

Since we did not receive the check until after 2010 had ended, I am asking for the Board's understanding about this matter so our district can qualify for state funding from the CWI grant. Our district heavily depends on the CWI funds to help cover the operating expenses of our district and we would appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Thank you,
Karen Kitterman
District Administrator
Blackford Co. SWCD



INDIANA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

1 North Capital, Suite 600 • Indianapolis, IN 46204 • 317.232.8770 Phone • 317.232.1362 Fax

Chair
Larry Clemens

Vice Chair
Scott Ham

Members
Warren Baird
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Brett Glick
Bill Mann

Jefferson County SWCD Board
3382 W. State Road 56, Suite
Hanover, IN 47243

April 13, 2011

Dear SWCD Supervisors;

The State Soil Conservation Board has considered the questions and concerns raised by the Jefferson County SWCD Board concerning the 2011 Supervisor Election very seriously. As committed at the March 8, 2011 State Soil Conservation Board meeting we have sought legal council to help understand the authorities of the State Soil Conservation Board and whether the results of the Jefferson County SWCD supervisor election should be considered final. Please find the memo from Kyleen Welling, General Counsel, Indiana State Department of Agriculture attached to this letter. Based on this legal opinion, from interpreting the statutes as well as knowledge and experience of other cases, the election results should stand and challenging this would likely result in the same conclusion.

The State Soil Conservation Board believes that the stewardship of natural resources in Jefferson County rests squarely on the strong, dedicated leadership of the local SWCD supervisors and it is of great importance that this board functions with this belief at the forefront of their actions. Considerations, actions, and decisions made must be properly approved through a public, democratic process with a quorum and majority vote. To function outside of these rules or to act as individuals, on behalf of the board without board approval, is detrimental to the board's effectiveness, public perception, and ability move forward with the important work of conservation. It is obvious that the Jefferson County SWCD Board has been experiencing internal strife and it is our hope that differences can be set aside for the well-being of your county's natural resources.

We offer assistance through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, District Support Specialist upon request. We trust that the Jefferson County SWCD Board will take this information and proceed in a professional manner implementing strategies that increase stewardship of natural resources in Jefferson County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Clemens".

Larry Clemens
Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Board.

Memorandum

To: Larry Clemens, Chair, State Soil Conservation Board

From: Kyleen Welling, General Counsel, Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Date: April 8, 2011

Re: Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District election

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide legal interpretation and guidance related to Indiana Code 14-32-4, a section of the Indiana Code governing the election/appointment process for County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) supervisors.

The specific questions posed are:

1. What is the definition of land occupier;
2. Was the election conducted by the Jefferson County SWCD valid? Does the State Soil Conservation Board have the authority to make a determination regarding the local election;
3. Is Mr. Mike Pittman an elected supervisor.

My understanding of the matter is that the Jefferson County SWCD conducted their annual election in February 2011. After the election, it came to light that one of the newly elected supervisors might not meet the requirements concerning number of acres occupied within the county. Since that time, the Jefferson County SWCD has approached the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) for advice and to seek a remedy of the situation. This memorandum examines Indiana Code and recent case law in an effort to guide the SSCB in determining what authority the SSCB has in the matter.

1. Land Occupier

The definition of “land occupier” or “occupier of land” is found in I.C. 14-8-2-143. Land occupier, for the purposes of IC 14-32 is defined as:

a firm, an individual of voting age, a limited liability corporation, or a corporation that

(1) owns:

(a) a life estate, or

(b) an interest greater than a life estate in, or

(2) is in legal possession, under an express or implied rental lease, of a tract of land that is located within a district

The relevant sections of the statute do not define “legal possession”, but *possession in law*, often referred to as *constructive possession* is defined as “control or dominion over a property without actual possession or custody of it.” *Black’s Law Dictionary, 2nd Pocket Edition, 2001*. A lease is a contractual obligation, with an express lease being one with explicit terms set out, and implied lease being one where the parties do not set out specific

terms but act in a manner that the understandings and assumption between them have legal significance. *Black's Law Dictionary*.

2. Jefferson County SWCD supervisor election legalities. Does the SSCB have the authority to declare a local election invalid?

I.C. 14-32-4-6 requires that an election be conducted at the annual meeting of the local SWCD for one of the three elected supervisor positions. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot. Prior to the annual meeting, the district chairman is to appoint an election committee. The committee is responsible for selecting qualified individuals to fill any vacancies, determine the individuals willingness to serve, and submit a list of qualified individuals to the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) by December 1.

The names of the nominees are to be placed on the ballot for the election, and nominations are also to be accepted from the floor during the annual meeting. After all nominations are made, voting is to be conducted and the election committee is to count the votes. The committee is to report the results to the district chairman, who in turn is to report the results to the SSCB.

The statute does not set forth a mechanism for challenging the results of the election. Nor does the statute give the SSCB any authority or jurisdiction over how the election is conducted. The only real criteria for the election are that it must take place at the annual meeting and be secret ballot.

The statute makes clear that the election committee is to "select qualified individuals" as nominees. It would seem the onus is on the election committee to vet each candidate and insure that they are indeed "qualified." The qualifications for supervisors are found in I.C. 14-32-4-1. To be an elected supervisor, an individual:

- (1) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is:
 - (A) more than ten (10) acres in area; and
 - (B) 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 imposes on supervisors.

However, the ten (10) acre requirement may be waived if a district requests a waiver and the waiver is approved by the board.

Generally speaking, the time to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate are prior to the election. If the local election committee presented the candidates as qualified, and the candidates were placed on the ballot submitted to the SSCB, the statute does not provide a mechanism to later remove a candidate and declare them ineligible. I.C. 14-32-4-15 states that the SSCB may remove a supervisor after notice and a hearing for "neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other reason."

4. Is Mr. Mike Pittman an elected supervisor?

Mr. Mike Pittman submitted an application packet to the Jefferson County SWCD in late 2010. He was included as a qualified nominee on the ballot presented to the SSCB prior to the supervisor election. At the supervisor election he received the greatest number of votes and was announced and sworn in as a district supervisor.

I.C. 14-32 permits for supervisors to be removed from office for only neglect of duty or malfeasance in office by the SSCB. Supervisors may also resign from their position. The SSCB does not have the authority to remove Mr. Pittman for any other reason.

While general Indiana election law is not applicable to the SWCD supervisor elections, the Indiana Supreme Court in the past has indicated a reluctance to remove a person from office who has been duly elected by the voters. *See Pabey v. Pastrick (2004)*. In other cases they have refused to remove someone from office on claims of ineligibility unless the voters had notice or knowledge that the candidate was ineligible. *See Oviatt v. Behme (1958)*, *Hoy v. State ex rel. Buchanan (1907)*.

Mr. Pittman did have a challenger, he did receive the greatest number of popular votes and he was sworn in and announced as a supervisor. Additionally, as I.C. 14-32-4-1 gives the Jefferson County SWCD a mechanism to remedy this situation by requesting a waiver for the ten acre requirement, it seems unlikely that there would be any precedent to invalidate the election and remove him from office.



**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
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PRESIDENT:

Ray McCormick
Knox County

VICE PRESIDENT:

Jeff Meinders
Ripley County

TREASURER:

Jamie Scott
Kosciusko County

SECRETARY:

Brian Campbell
Elkhart County

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Jennifer Boyle Warner
Jennifer-boyle@iaswcd.org

To: State Soil Conservation Board
From: Ray McCormick, President, IASWCD
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2011

HB 1001 (budget)

- House passed budget includes funds for CWI: \$500,000 in general fund appropriation and \$3.6 million in dedicated CWI funds.
- Senate Appropriations is now working on their version of the budget.

HB 1348 – Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Eliminates 10 acre rule and makes other administrative language changes to District law.
- At second hearing on floor, an amendment pertaining to Conservancy Districts was added by Senator Lawson. Bill passed on 3rd reading and now must be returned to the House for concurrence.

SB 375 - Sustainable Natural Resources Task Force

- Establishes the sustainable natural resource task force to: (1) collect programmatic and funding data on current natural resource protection programs in Indiana; (2) perform a needs assessment concerning natural resource programs; and (3) collect information concerning the natural resource protection programs of other states, including information about funding and funding mechanisms for those programs.
- Passed the Senate; passed the House Natural Resources Committee; at 2nd hearing on House floor

Conservation Accomplishments project

The Indiana Conservation Partnership's Outreach committee has been working on this project. The goal is to create a Web site that showcases conservation accomplishments to local, state and federal legislators, landowners, constituents and other important decision makers such as community and business foundations, etc. The site will be an excellent resource to use with elected officials, potential funders, constituents, etc. to show the impact conservation has in the State of Indiana and in the local communities.

The ICP Web site will provide four critical sections for each Soil and Water Conservation District: Success story and photo; District contact information; Pie chart – break down of overall local, state and federal conservation dollars the county receives; and bar graphs: break down of program fund specific dollars going into each county. ICP organizations will provide the conservation data (Type: grant information, locations of projects etc.) that will be incorporated into the on-demand reports.

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.



Indiana Conservation Partnership Delivery System



Purpose:

The Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) has implemented a coordinated delivery structure to provide technical assistance for Conservation Planning and Implementation work throughout Indiana. This structure allows ICP employees to work together as a statewide team delivering technical assistance.

Conservation Implementation Team (CIT) Staffing

The CITs, two in each area of the state, include all types of technical partners working together. While the federal staff works from a centralized location, the state and local staff may work from satellite offices. This structure offers an effective CIT system that recognizes geographic flexibility and a technical delivery tool with room for all types of staffing options.



CIT Base Staff may include:

Natural Resources Conservation Service Positions

- 1 CIT Leader (CITL)
- 4 Engineering Technicians
- 1 Engineer
- 2 Soil Conservationists

ISDA Division of Soil Conservation Positions

- 1 Resource Specialist Team Leader (RSTL) per Area
- 2-3 Resource Specialists

Soil and Water Conservation District Positions

- 1 or more County or Watershed Technician

NRCS CIT Leaders coordinate the distribution of all job requests received from field offices to CIT staff and consult with the ISDA Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) Resource Specialist Team Leader (RSTL) as needed. DSC structure now aligns one RSTL per administrative area and will work directly with two CIT Leaders. The NRCS CIT Leader supervises NRCS CIT staff, the DSC RSTL supervises DSC CIT staff, and the SWCD Board supervises the SWCD Technicians.

Helping People Help the Land

ICP Conservation Planning Protocol

The local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will serve as the hub for customer assistance requests. SWCD administrative staff may serve as the first line of contact for assistance and can direct customers to specific partnership technical staff for further assistance as needed. The NRCS District Conservationists' planning priority will be Farm Bill programs. They will serve as the lead planner and sign all Conservation Plans for Farm Bill programs. All ISDA Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) Resource Specialists and SWCD Technicians will place a priority on state and local program conserva-

tion planning activities. Though each partner has priorities, the ICP goal is for all employees to assist each other to accomplish these priorities. For coordination, the NRCS District Conservationist will serve as the main contact with the CIT, provide oversight on Conservation Plans, and facilitate project status with customers. This team approach will ensure a consistent partnership planning product with our customers to address local resource concerns. All technical employees will maintain a professional Certified Conservation Planner or Conservation Planning Technician level.

ICP Conservation Planning Certifications

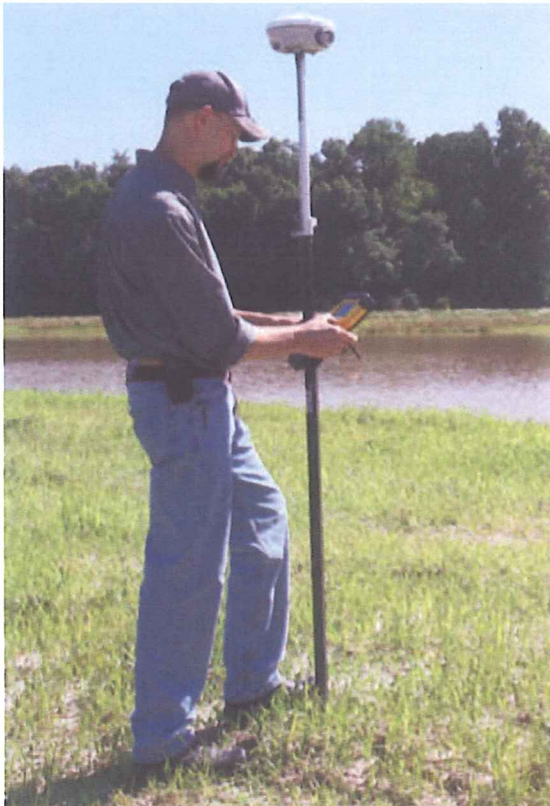
All NRCS planners are expected to achieve the Certified Conservation Planner (CCP) professional level, and all SWCD and ISDA DSC technical staff should achieve a Conservation Planning Technician (CPT) professional level. DSC will have a minimum of four CCPs, with one in each administrative area.

Certified Conservation Planners

- All NRCS District Conservationists
- All NRCS Soil Conservationists
- Four DSC Resource Specialists (at least one per area)
- SWCD Technicians/Watershed Coordinators (as identified by SWCDs)

Conservation Planning Technicians

- All DSC Resource Specialists
- All SWCD Watershed Coordinators and Technicians



Indiana Conservation Partnership Members

- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and its 92 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
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Photo at left: Jeremy Ingmire, NRCS engineering technician on the Greensburg Tech Team; courtesy of Elise Brown, Public Affairs