

YOUR Association: Not your ordinary association!

Joe Schmees
Executive Director, IASWCD



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
soil and water conservation
DISTRICTS

Association - [uh-soh-see-ey-shuhn]

noun

- an organization of people with a common purpose and having a formal structure
- the act of associating or state of being associated
- friendship; companionship
- connection or combination
- the connection or relation of ideas, feelings, sensations, etc.; correlation of elements of perception, reasoning, or the like
- an idea, image, feeling, etc., suggested by or connected with something other than itself

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Whew!) or IASWCD

- Nonprofit that represents all 92 county SWCDs at the State level
- Incorporated as a nonprofit in 1968
- Made up of our 92 member Districts
- Governed by a 13 member board
 - 8 Regional Directors
 - 5 Executive Board positions
 - Assistant Region Directors and Secretaries
 - 5 staff – Executive Director, Communications Director, 3 CCSI staff (Director and 2 Program Managers)



“Our mission is to enable the conservation of Indiana's natural resources. We strive to improve the environment and quality of life for future generations.”



IASWCD Regions and Directors 2019

North-Northwest
Kim Peterson
Lake County
bkwpeterson@aol.com

South-Northwest
Mike Starkey,
Hendricks County
mstarkey.ms@gmail.com

North-Southwest
Josh Bishop,
Vermillion County
Josh747@att.net

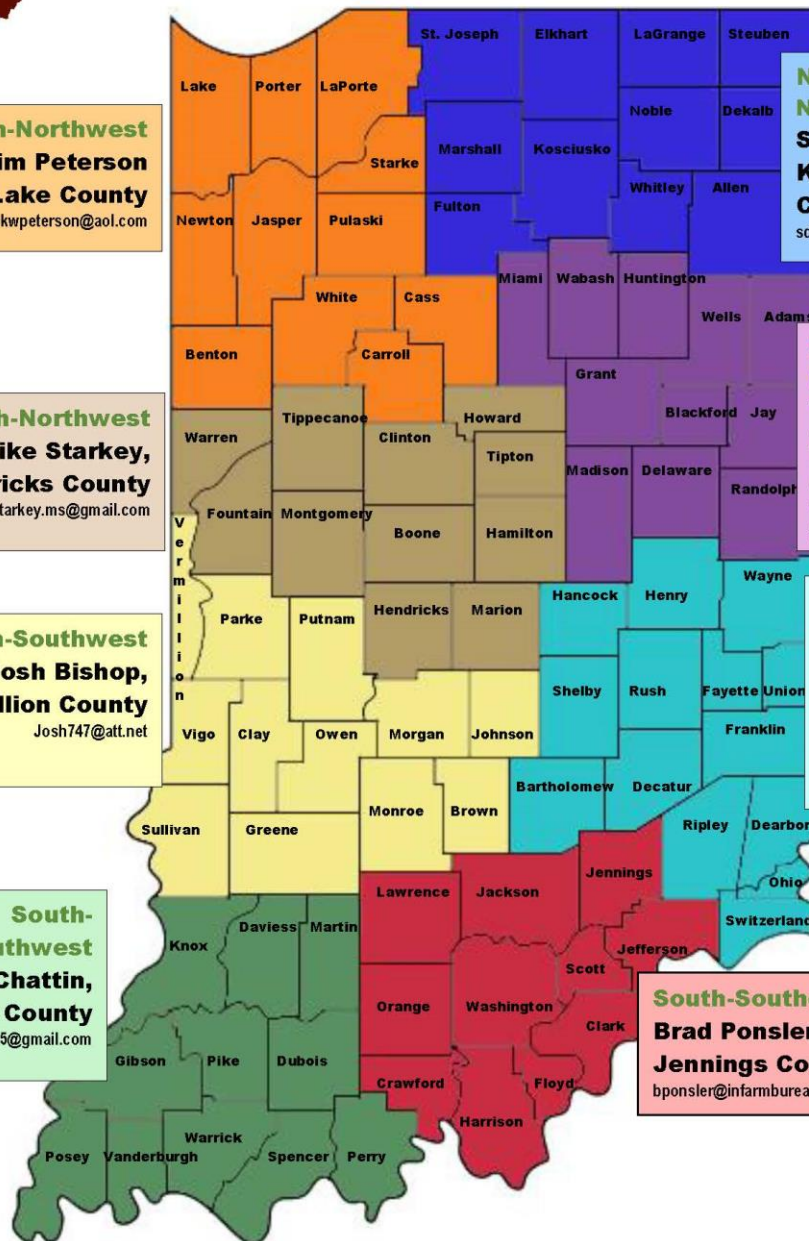
South-Southwest
Ray Chattin,
Knox County
chattin2265@gmail.com

North-Northeast
Stan Moore,
Kosciusko County
sdmoore4650@gmail.com

South-Northeast
Troy Hattery,
Miami County
that60@earthlink.net

North-Southeast
Cathy Becker,
Wayne County
cathybecker@hotmail.com

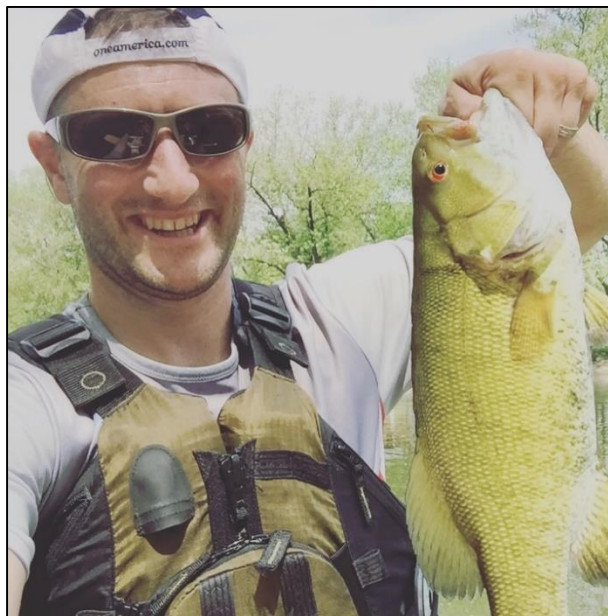
South-Southeast
Brad Ponsler,
Jennings County
bponsler@infarmbureau.org



Main Office - Indianapolis

Joe Schmees

- Executive Director of IASWCD since May 2018
- Manages Association finances and operations
- Represents SWCDs on the ICP Leadership Team, at SSCB, IANA, Woodland Steward Institute
- Past President and current Treasurer of IWRA, and President of ILMS



Amy Work

- Communications & Member Programs Director of IASWCD since April 2016
- Manages and Operates Association communications and award programs
- Represents SWCDs on the ICP Technical training committee, the Indiana Family of Farmers, the ICP communications committee and the Women4theLand Steering Committee
- Co-leads, with Executive Director, Annual Conference for Districts



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a soil core. The soil is light brown and contains many fine, white roots. The person is wearing a gold watch on their left wrist. The background is a blue tarp.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

Mission:

To improve soil health on
Indiana cropland



Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative - Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland

Workshops and Trainings

Since January 1, 2019:

- 12 Trainings for 297 ICP Staff and Ag Professionals
- 74 Events reaching 2500 individuals
- 28,500 individuals reached since 2011





Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative - Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland



Indiana Crop Health on Indiana Cropland

CCSI Staff- Field Offices

Lisa Holscher



- Director since 2016, staff member since 2012
- Oversees strategic planning and implementation / projects management
- Develops external relations/networking
- Based out of Princeton Tech Team Office

Joe Rorick



- Conservation Agronomist since 2016
- Oversees CCSI-SARE Soil Health Training Program
- One of 100+/- CCAs with Sustainability Certification in US
- Provides connectivity to Purdue Campus and Extension
- Based out of Lilly Hall, Purdue University

Jessica Hoehn



- Southern Program Manager since Fall 2018
- Provides planning, logistical support to partners
- Covers SW and SE Regions of Indiana
- Based out of Corydon USDA Service Center

Sheila Schroeder



- Northern Program Manager since Spring 2019
- Provides planning, logistical support to partners
- Covers SW and SE Regions of Indiana
- Will be moving to Winamac Service Center (Currently Jasper Tech Team Office)



Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative - Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland

What does IASWCD do?!

Work to give Districts a unified voice statewide!

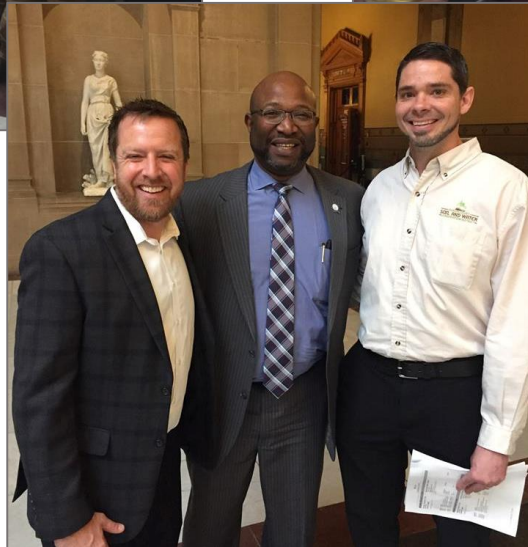
- Represent the 92 county SWCDs with the leadership of executive conservation agencies at the state level through the Indiana Conservation Partnership, at the State Soil Conservation Board, with the Indiana Family of Farmers, and the Indiana Ag Nutrient Alliance



Advocate for the needs of Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the State with the State Legislature



Assist Soil and Water Conservation Districts to advocate for conservation at the Statehouse



Work to give Districts a unified voice nationally!

- Represent the 92 county SWCDs with the National Association of Conservation Districts
 - Provide leadership on the North Central Region Board, Natural Resources Policy and Finance, and with Executive staff



Advocate for the needs of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Conservation Funding with the Federal Legislature



Assist Districts with capacity building and administrative support

- Work with ISDA and others to plan and organize regional meetings to network and learn
- Provide training through an annual conference for SWCDs and partners
- Work through the ICP training program and CCSI to provide technical conservation training – we want to provide what you need!
- Work with partners like NRCS to coordinate resources at the local level
- Carry general liability insurance for all Districts
- Work to coordinate funding opportunities through state partners for Districts
- Help Districts troubleshoot difficult issues



What do my dues
get me?!

Your dues go a long way to work for you!

- Each District pays about 1% of Joe's salary, and 0.5% of Amy's salary
 - District dues do not pay for CCSI programs; these are through grants and agreements
- About \$320 goes to a master liability insurance policy
 - This would cost each District roughly \$1,500 or more to purchase individually!
- About \$150 goes toward advocacy at the State level
- About \$65 goes toward representation at the NACD
 - We represent Indiana at the NACD Annual meeting, Summer meeting, North Central Regional meeting, and the NACD Executive Directors' meeting
- Majority of the remaining dues pays for operational support
 - (ex. Insurance, workmen's comp, bookkeeping, tax prep, payroll taxes)
- Dues do not pay for annual conference
 - This is covered by sponsorships, exhibitors, and registrations



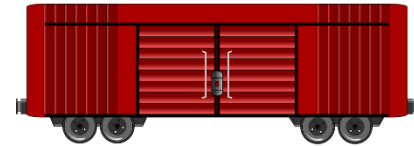
Why is this important?!

SWCDs are Local Government at Its Finest!

- We have 460 Supervisors statewide that volunteer their time (and this doesn't include Associate Supervisors!)
- We have 202 Staff statewide delivering conservation technical assistance and education directly to our local farmers and communities
- We were established to be the local implementation delivery for Soil Conservation Service, now NRCS
- We are a leveraging machine when it comes to each dollar invested in SWCDs
 - In 2017, SWCDs leveraged \$6,723,825 in local funding, \$3,141,579 in state funding, and \$87,603,026 in federal funding
 - That's a lot of MONEY SWCDs are bringing to Conservation in Indiana!

Along with ICP Partners, SWCDs are Making Conservation Gains!

- Supported by the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP), Indiana landowners installed over 19,000 new conservation practices in 2017. 11,911 of these practices had associated sediment and nutrient load reductions to Indiana waterways reducing:
 - 889,768 tons of sediment, enough to fill 8,898 fifty-foot freight cars stretching end to end from Indianapolis to Huntington.
 - 1,846,473 lbs. of Nitrogen, enough to fill 9 fifty-foot freight cars
 - 923,119 lbs. of Phosphorus, enough to fill 4.6 fifty-foot freight cars
- Indiana landowners increased no-till acres on corn and soybean fields by 379% since 1990
- Indiana landowners increased conservation tillage acres on corn and soybean fields by 297% since 1990
- Indiana landowners increased cover crop acres on corn and soybean fields by 466% since 2011
- Indiana leads the nation in acres planted to cover crops, second only to Texas



Where do YOU fit in?!

We are All Called to be Stewards of the Land

- We want to leave the land better for the next generation
- We take pride in our work and accomplishments



We can each be Servant Leaders!

- Servant Leaders put the needs of others first and help people develop and perform as highly as possible: Lead to serve others!
- Soil and Water Districts are the true servant leaders
- The characteristics of the servant leader include empathy, awareness, stewardship, community building, and being committed to the growth of others.
- Servant leadership isn't defined by your role or station, but by your actions

We need each other to have a collective impact!

- Every District not only represents your local interests, but all Districts
- Individually we are not as well recognized as we are together
- We have a unique opportunity to organize as a large grassroots effort. By telling our stories and reaching out to the public and to our legislators we can make a difference. We want to inform them about what we do, why we do it and how it impacts our communities, our state and the nation.
- We need you to keep the conversation about conservation at the forefront of the conversation.

QUESTIONS?



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