

2022 IASWCD Annual Report



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
soil and water conservation
DISTRICTS



IASWCD



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
soil and water conservation
DISTRICTS

ABOUT

The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization that supports the efforts of the soil and water conservation districts 460 supervisors and 200+ staff in 92 local offices through training, communications, contribution agreements, partnership building, and advocacy.

MISSION

To enable the conservation of Indiana's natural resources. IASWCD strives to improve the environment and quality of life for future generations.

Table of Contents

CONTENTS

01

President's Perspective

02

IASWCD Board

03-04

Fiscal Summaries

05

District Support

06

Policy & Advocacy

07-09

2022 Year in Review

10-12

2022 Award Recipients

13-14

USH & CCSI Programs

15

2022 Sponsors

16

IASWCD Staff

2022 President's Perspective



Bobby Hettmansperger,
Wabash County, IASWCD
Board President, 2021-2022

2022 was a year of navigating through our "new normal."

In the first quarter of the year, the Indiana Legislature convened for a short session. IASWCD met with partners and legislators, telling our conservation story and advocating for continued state Clean Water Indiana (CWI) funding. Various natural resource concerns were on the docket, including watershed commissions and drainage. In the fall, a new drainage taskforce was created and included a seat for an SWCD board supervisor.

The IASWCD Executive Director served on the Wetlands Taskforce this year, completing a report that, among other recommendations, discusses the need for additional conservation investment.

In late spring, IASWCD, in partnership with the State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM), began a campaign to raise Clean Water Indiana funding in the next general assembly by \$8.6 million per year. The campaign, Clean Water Indiana: Next Level Conservation for Working Lands, will need districts to assist during the legislative session in early 2023 to continue this campaign initiative of \$9.57 million, which includes the previous \$970,000.

IASWCD continues to be a resource and support for Indiana's 92 Soil & Water Conservation Districts. We are proud to have delivered on our mission amidst many challenges. Thank you to our SWCD members for entrusting us to advocate on your behalf.

2022 IASWCD Board of Directors



Executive Board



Jeff Baker
Vice President
Warrick County



Bobby Hettmansperger
President
Wabash County



Marc Roberts
Secretary
Montgomery County



Sarah Delbecq
Treasurer
DeKalb County



Roger Wenning
Past President
Decatur County

Region Directors

Mark Kingma, North-Northwest
Sherry Baird, South-Northwest
Vacant - North-Southwest
Brad Smith - South-Southwest

Stan Moore, North-Northeast
Troy Hattery, South-Northeast
John Kruse, North-Southeast
Vacant - North-Southwest

2022 Fiscal Summary - Revenue*

Revenue

72%

Grants & Agreements

16%

Membership Dues
(95% of Indiana SWCDs
contribute dues)

11%

Events

1%

Other

**additional financial details can be found
in the Delegate Notebook at iaswcd.org*

2022 Fiscal Summary- Expenses*



Expenses

62%

Grants & Agreements

18%

Administration

14%

Events

(Conference, Regional Meetings, Conservation Awards and Recognition)

3%

Insurance

(Liability insurance provided for Districts)

1%

Policy & Advocacy

2%

Other

**additional financial details can be found in the Delegate Notebook at iaswcd.org*

District Support

Capacity Building

- Collaborated with NACD, NRCS and ISDA to implement NACD technical assistance grant opportunities for Districts
- Partnered with The Nature Conservancy & met with Indiana/Illinois cross-state districts regarding soil health adoption barriers
- Provided liability insurance coverage for all Indiana Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Garnered \$31,590 in sponsorships to provide feasible annual conference registration costs for SWCDs
- Continued the NRCS Program Support Agreement for NRCS priority designated Districts
- Supported the Urban Soil Health Program and Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative



Oats & Hairy Vetch Cover Crop



Benefits include nitrogen contribution and topsoil conditioning. Planted in the fall, the hairy vetch legume overwinters and is cut down in May before transplanting crops like peppers and tomatoes. The vegetation is left on the soil surface to suppress weeds and conserve moisture.

Policy & Advocacy

District Advocacy

- Maintained Clean Water Indiana (CWI) general fund appropriation budget and a presence in the statehouse on behalf of districts

Statehouse

- Administered a Legislative Preview Webinar for Districts
- Provided weekly updates to SWCDs during legislative session
- Participated on the Wetlands Taskforce
- Met with the Lieutenant Governor and Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to advocate for increase in CWI funding
- Acquired an SWCD seat on the Drainage Task Force

Partnerships

- Engaged with Rural Legislators at Rural Caucus meeting
- Represented SWCDs on the Indiana Conservation Alliance steering committee
- Participated in 12+ meetings with state legislators and partner organizations regarding the 2023 CWI funding increase campaign
- Organized virtual meeting, during NACD virtual fly-in, with Federal Congressional representatives
- Arranged two legislative tours in the Western Lake Erie Basin
- Appointed to serve as a member on the Indiana Invasive Species Council

Trainings and Workshops

Training & Information Sessions* for District Staff and Supervisors

2022 Annual Conference of SWCDs
Four Summer District Region Meetings
Five Lunch 'n Learns
Legislative Preview Session
Clean Water Indiana Funding Initiative Webinar
Stormwater Permitting Webinar

**Recorded sessions are available at <https://iaswcd.org/for-districts/>*

2022 Annual Conference

Back in Person!

American Agriculture Broadcaster, Max Armstrong, was the Keynote Speaker at the 79th Annual Conference of Indiana Soil & Water Conservation Districts in downtown Indianapolis. Presentations included Urban & Small Farm Soil Health, Regional Trends in Severe Weather, Native Plant Landscaping, Invasive Species Outreach, Female Leaders in Conservation and more! **250** attended from across the state for educational enrichment and networking opportunities.



Communication & Outreach

Direct Communication Emails to Districts and Partners

Important, timely information was distributed via email from the IASWCD staff and board to all Indiana SWCD Staff and Supervisors on a regular basis.

This information included Upcoming Events; ISDA, SBOA district deadlines and more.

Conservation INsight

The IASWCD bi-weekly eNewsletter is sent to Indiana Districts and Conservation Partners. It includes updates from the ICP and other partners, News Releases, Training Opportunities, Grant Funding Resources and more. It is distributed every other Wednesday to an average of 1,075 people.

Job Board

Maintained listing of Conservation Job Opportunities on the IASWCD website

ISDA/NRCS/SWCD Partnership Meeting

Co-coordinated the summer virtual gathering for over 300 ICP staff. Keynote Speaker, Matt Havens, spoke on the importance of understanding, recognizing and resolving generational issues.

300 attended online

*

Templates

Templates were provided to Districts including the Legislative Breakfast Invitation and River Friendly Farmer News Release. RFF stories featured in [Kankakee Valley News](#), [Farm Progress](#) and [The PostandMail](#) (Whitley Co).

Communication & Outreach

District Showcase Videos

Created videos highlighting the success of District Showcase Award recipients Gibson County (a 23-district project), Hendricks County, Miami County and Warrick County. Videos were premiered at the 2023 Annual Conference.

Indiana Conservation Partnership Technical Trainings



As a member of the ICP Technical Training Committee, IASWCD managed registration and promotion of seven ICP Invasive Plant ID trainings held throughout the state.

Promotion of Statewide Events

32,008 Total Email Sends promoting

Annual Conference

ICP Trainings

Women4theLand

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

Urban Soil Health Program

Events hosted by districts and partners of the Indiana Conservation Partnership

Calendar of Events

Maintained Calendar of Conservation Events on the IASWCD website

IDEA Website & Meetings

Managed updates on the Indiana District Employee Association website and attended Region Director Meetings

2022 Award Recipients



River Friendly Farmer Award Recipients

John & LaNae Abnet (Adams)
Corey Buhlmann & James Schueler (Adams)
Jamie Bultemeier (Allen)
Troy Werner (Clinton)
John Kruse (Dearborn)
Paul Vanderpohl (Decatur)
Greg Burt (Delaware)
Scott Balsmeyer (Dubois)
Daryl Auffart (Dubois)
Thomas Kercher (Elkhart)
Jeff Dungan (Fayette)
Duane Riddle (Fulton)
Cindy & Robert Montgomery (Gibson)
Howard & Clinton Carter (Howard)
Hal & Julia Hoffman (Huntington)
Josh Perzee (Jasper)
Todd Cline (Jay)
Doug Harrell (Jefferson)
Nathan Byrd/Ice Farms (Knox)
Gary & Jackie Myers (LaGrange)
Jack Gable (Miami)
Mike & Jeff Buis (Morgan)
Thomas Carter (Morgan)
Bob Ormiston (Newton)

Matt Lorenz (Perry)
Brad Hunter (Porter)
Kevin Podell (Pulaski)
Mick Perry (Pulaski)
Clayton McCammack (Putnam)
Michael Roos (Spencer)
Unity Gardens (St Joseph)
Dale Bales (Starke)
Ron Waite (Steuben)
Ryan Waite (Steuben)
Curtis Horton (Sullivan)
Larry & Mike Thieman (Switzerland)
Elliot Dale (Tippecanoe)
Ken Kemper (Tipton)
Mark Tolle (Tipton)
Allen Paddock (Union)
Brandon & Tyler Jackson (Vanderburgh)
Jeff Hawkins (Wabash)
Taylor Family Farms (Warren)
Gary David Plassmeier (Warrick)
Rick, Randy & Landon Roberts (Washington)
Ben Alyea (Wayne)
Andy Evans (Wells)
Greg Woll(Whitley)



2022 Award Recipients



Conservation Farmer

Tim Tabert

Warren County



Supervisor of the Year

Michael Ponsford

Washington County



Friend of Conservation

Dan Wire

Marshall County



President's Award

Joe Schmees

IASWCD Executive Director 2018-2022



Friend of Conservation

Marshall County Recycle Depot

Marshall County



2022 District Showcase Awards

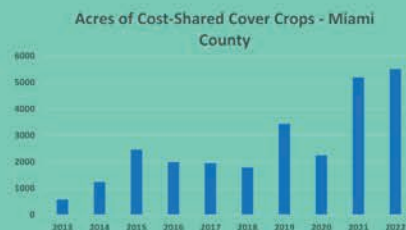
Hendricks County SWCD



Porter Farm was featured as a partnership project that now provides education, training and hands-on experience for veterans and the community.

Miami County SWCD

For the past 10 years, this NE Indiana county has provided a **Cover Crop Cost-Share program** enabling farmers the opportunity to trial cover crops and experience the benefits.



Gibson County SWCD "The Alliance"

A Collectively called the Alliance, 23 SWCDs collaborated to focus on **Nutrient and Sediment Load Reduction**. Supported by a Clean Water Indiana grant, this group provided soil health workshops, natural resources education & outreach to their communities, and cost-share funding.

Warrick County SWCD

Conservation Crusaders is a summer day camp for children ages 5-12. Pooling local resources with various partners, the SWCD uses this camp to expose local students, through hikes and science stations, to the wonders of nature in their own backyard.



Urban Soil Health Program

(USH)

*a program of the Indiana Association
of Soil & Water Conservation Districts*

**URBAN
SOIL HEALTH**

Mission

*To improve soil health on Indiana's urban
and community small-scale agricultural land.*

2022 Highlights & Accomplishments

Urban Soil Health Team

- **5,000+ people attended** USH trainings, events, and workshops
- Conducted and participated in **130+ events**
- 52 growers received site visits
- 29 growers received technical assistance
- Attended 22 board meetings with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
- Participated in 30+ professional development and training opportunities



Local Urban Soil Health Working Groups

- 150+ growers received site visits
- 130+ growers received technical assistance
- **Conducted 19 educational events** related to soil health
- Created 11 educational materials related to soil health



Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

*a program of the
Indiana Conservation Partnership*



Mission

To improve soil health on Indiana's cropland.

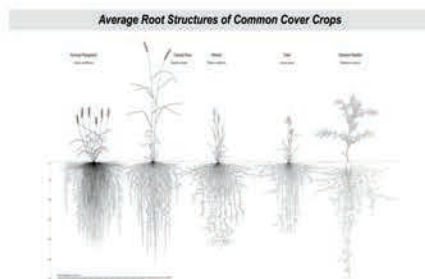
2022 Highlights & Accomplishments

Soil Health Trainings

- Core Soil Health Trainings (four days)
- Continuing Soil Health Education: Best Management Practices for Herbicide Application and Cover Crop Termination
- Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-day training)
- Grow More Training
- Byron Seed Dealer Training

Podcasts, Website, Social Media and Outreach

- Hoosier Ag Today podcast being resumed for at least 24 more episodes
- CCSI website: 9,400 sessions by 5,800 unique users
- **The Root Project** continues to expand and imagery has been downloaded from every continent except Antarctica
- Twitter posts continue to reach wide audiences with almost 250,000 impressions
- Facebook daily total reach over 57,000
- YouTube Channel had nearly 11,500 views over 1,000 hours from seven countries



[Visit the Root Project](#)

[View the full 2022 CCSI report](#)

2022 Sponsors



River Friendly Farmer Award Program



Annual Conference - Top Sponsors



*IASWCD is grateful
to its members across the state,
whose combined support makes our work possible.*

IASWCD Staff



Liz Rice
Executive Director



Amy Work
Communications & Member
Programs Manager



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
soil and water conservation
DISTRICTS

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

225 S. East St., Suite 142, Indianapolis, IN 46202 | 317-692-7325 | iaswcd.org