

District Consolidation Study Committee	
Knox CO SWCD	
Explanation of Problem(s) or Need	There are 16 SWCDs that are not co-located with a USDA Service Center. Most represent perennially underserved communities due to low population and low tax base. Natural resource problems do not respect county boundaries. Consolidating with one or more districts would provide many efficiencies in terms of staff and funding making more resources available to underserved SWCDs.
Proposed Solution	Establish a study committee led by the IASWCD made up of affected SWCDs, State Soil Board members, IASWCD, ISDA, IDEA and NRCS to review District Law, discuss the challenges and benefits of district consolidation and possible incentives, and establish a template for how this process can work.
Benefits Expected	Stronger partnerships with more resources available to underserved SWCDs.
Action Requested	Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Inc. establish a District Consolidation Study Committee made up of the above mentioned entities to determine the feasibility of SWCD consolidation.
Detailed Explanation	This resolution will bring relevant partners together to explore the potential and the roadblocks and create a template for making SWCD consolidation a reality.
Signatories	Jim Farris, Gene Flaningham, Andy Miller, Nathan Debord, Shawn McDowell

Partial Funding for CWI Grants	
Knox Co. SWCD	
Explanation of Problem(s) or Need	Under current CWI grant guidelines, partial funding of CWI grants is not permitted. This makes CWI grant approval a zero-sum game which means that if a grant application is multi-faceted, one aspect of the grant or if the request is too expensive it can disqualify the entire request. Under previous guidelines, partial funding was permitted, but due to the fact that this complicated the process by requiring affected districts to approve partial funding, it was dropped by the grants committee.
Proposed Solution	The IASWCD will petition the State Soil Board to reinstate the provision allowing for partial funding of CWI grants.
Benefits Expected	Allowing for partial funding of CWI grants will give the CWI grants committee more flexibility in awarding grant funding and increase opportunities for district to benefit.
Action Requested	Be it resolved that the IASWCD petition the SSCB to reinstate the partial funding provision for CWI grants.
Detailed Explanation	This resolution will encourage districts to submit multi-faceted grant applications without fear that one element of the grant or the overall price tag will void the entire request.
Signatories	Jim Farris, Gene Flaningham, Andy Miller, Nathan Debord, Shawn McDowell

Waiver of 3 Year Financial Commitment for CWI Grant Requests Exceeding \$1 Million	
Knox Co. SWCD	
Explanation of Problem(s) or Need	Districts or organizations that submit large CWI grant requests for employees or projects under current rules must do so for three years. This will limit the available grant funds for districts. This policy is in effect due to the possibility that CWI grant funding could possibly be reduced or eliminated. By creating a waiver, which would allow the applicant to request funding on an annual basis impact on the CWI grant fund will be minimized. With this waiver in effect the applicant would accept the liability that future funding may not be available.
Proposed Solution	The IASWCD will petition the SSCB to amend the CWI grant rules to allow a waiver that would remove the three year commitment of CWI grant funding for requests in excess of \$1million.
Benefits Expected	With this waiver in effect, the CWI grant fund would not be impacted in a way that would limit opportunities for other applicants.
Action Requested	Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. petition the SSCB to allow for CWI grant applications of \$1 million or more to receive a waiver to That would commit CWI funds for one year instead of three.
Detailed Explanation	In 2027 NRCS funding for the Indiana Invasives Initiative will end. To sustain the Indiana Invasives Initiative in its current staffing configuration under current CWI grant guidelines SICIM will be required to request \$1.5 million which will severely deplete the grant fund. With a waiver, SICIM would be able to request \$500,000 annually for three years making more funds available for other grants.
Signatories	Jim Farris, Gene Flaningham, Andy Miller, Nathan Debord, Shawn McDowell

Snowball's Chance	
Dearborn Co SWCD	
Explanation of Problem(s) or Need	Some Districts Have Problems Securing Supervisors for Board Positions
Proposed Solution	Allow supervisors to live outside the district in a contiguous county as long as they also own property in the county of the SWCD.
Benefits Expected	Opens up the possibility to recruit board members (in areas where staff already reside).
Action Requested	Be it resolved that the IASWCD request the wording of Indiana Code IC 14-32-4-1 (2) be changed to: "must maintain the individual's permanent residence within a contiguous county of the district; and own property in the county of the SWCD on which they wish to serve on the board."
Detailed Explanation	These requirements are Indiana Codes listed in the district law for the State of Indiana. Here is the portion of the law from Indiana's website. IC 14-32-4-1 Number and qualifications Sec. 1. (a) The governing body of a district consists of five (5) supervisors as follows: (1) Two (2) who are appointed. (2) Three (3) who are elected. (b) To hold the position of elected supervisor, an individual: (1) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is located within the district; (2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district; and (3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors. (c) To hold the position of appointed supervisor, an 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.
Signatories	Dearborn County SWCD Board of Supervisors unanimously approved this at their board meeting on August 14, 2025 (Ken Gunkel, Chris Powell, John Kruse, Dan Kemper & Tom Gaynor)

Resolution Supporting Refund of Indiana Bottle Deposit Revenues to the State of Indiana	
Pike Co SWCD	
Explanation of Problem(s) or Need	Conservation programs across Indiana have experienced reduced or eliminated funding in recent years. Without consistent funding SWCD's lack the capacity to provide essential services such as soil health initiatives, water quality improvement projects, wildlife habitat restoration, and landowner assistance.
Proposed Solution	Use the bottle deposit revenue to bridge the gap in conservation funding services.
Benefits Expected	Refunding and appropriately directing bottle deposit revenues back into conservation priorities would help restore funding stability, strengthen local capacity, and ensure that Indiana communities have the tools and resources necessary to address today's pressing conservation challenges.
Action Requested	Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc propose the establishment of a dedicated conservation fund at the state level, seeded by bottle deposit revenues or matched with state general funds.
Detailed Explanation	This resolution calls on IASWCD to advocate that bottle deposit revenues refunded to the State of Indiana be dedicated to restoring and supporting conservation programs, ensuring that SWCDs have reliable funding to continue protecting soil health, water quality, and natural resources across the state. It will also reduce single-use beverage containers in our roadways, streams, rivers and landfills.
Signatories	Norman Dillon, Chairman; Tom Rudolph, Supervisor