



Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District

2008 Annual Report

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to provide quality technical, educational, and informational resources for the community through leadership, service, and citizen involvement to foster natural resource conservation and environmental stewardship.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES March 20, 2008

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and breakfast was held on Thursday, March 20, 2008, in combination with a workshop at the Beck Agricultural Center in West Lafayette, Indiana. The day was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by District Administrator Chris Remley following an omelet breakfast that was prepared by the Indiana State Egg Board. Participants were provided information on the day's agenda, and supervisor and staff introductions were made.

Next came a brief presentation on how the SWCD was organized and its primary function, immediately followed by the business meeting being called to order. Remley recommended that in the interest of time, the actual reading of the 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Report be foregone and requested a motion to accept both as presented. Said motion was made and seconded, carrying unanimously. At this time, special guests and the Election Committee was recognized. Remley reported that due to time constraints, Chuck Shelby is not seeking reelection and introduced the two individuals on the ballot for the vacated position. The nominees were Linda Eastman and Larry Underwood. Dan Dunten, ISDA District Support Specialist then presided over the supervisor election calling for other nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded that nominations be closed, carrying unanimously, and the election committee collected the ballots.

Progress was reported on the 2005-2010 Long Range Plan and conservation awards were presented. The 2007 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Dan Best. Master Farm Conservationist Award for 2007 was next awarded to Gerry Risk, and Tippecanoe County's River Friendly Farmer award was presented to Paul Ade. Kris Ziller received the Community Conservation award. Immediately following the award presentation, Mary Moyars-Johnson of the Tippecanoe County Historical Society gave a presentation on the history of farming in Tippecanoe County entitled "It's Not Your Grandfather's Farm Anymore".

The election results were then announced. Larry Underwood was elected and will serve a three-year term, expiring in 2011. The oath of office was given to Underwood and the business meeting concluded. Remley provided instruction to attendees on the location of their concurrent breakout sessions and indicated that the meeting and workshop will dismiss directly from the breakouts.

Remley thanked everyone for their attendance and encouraged them to stop into the office or give us a call, reminding them to stop by the registration table on their way out to pick up a thank you gift for attending.

With no further business, a motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Agricultural Workshop Session:

Technology Overview of Precision Agriculture
Presented by Noah Freeman, Ivy Tech Community College, Agriculture Program Chair

Urban Workshop Sessions:

Urban Forestry... Why Does It Matter
Presented by April Murray-Clayton, IDNR, Division of Forestry, Volunteer Coordinator

Meeting attendance – 62

Minutes recorded by Chris Remley.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY SWCD

January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008

Balance Brought Forward	\$ 23,042.73	\$ 23,042.73
RECEIPTS		
State for District Operations	10,000.00	
Clean Water Indiana Grant	5,562.92	
County for District Operations	19,000.00	
Other Grants (List) Lafayette School Corporation - Backyard Conservation	500.00	
Total Intergovernmental Receipts		35,062.92
Equipment Rental & Farm Income	5,600.00	
Other Charges for Services - NPDES Phase II	7,084.25	
Total Charges for Services		12,684.25
Reimbursements & Refunds	998.31	
Sale of Used Equipment	301.00	
Sales Income	31,721.03	
Other Revenue - Voided Check #4907	2,800.00	
Total Miscellaneous Revenue		35,820.34
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	83,567.51	83,567.51
TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)	106,610.24	106,610.24
DISBURSEMENTS		
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	2,881.28	2,881.28
Annual Meeting Expenses	819.57	
Clean Water Indiana Projects	600.00	
Conservation Education Programs	18,769.46	
Contractual Services	0.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	6,393.50	
Office Supplies	1,302.28	
Other Services & Charges	625.47	
Postage & Delivery Expenses	245.72	
Printing/Copying Expense	0.00	
Rent	10,107.53	
Repair Expenses	3,304.97	
Sales Tax Paid to Ind. Dept. of Revenue	2,377.02	
Supplies for Resale	30,353.87	
Telephone or Other Utilities	126.47	
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	1,937.08	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Awards	291.00	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Advertising & Marketing	634.95	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Insurance	1,604.00	
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Training	3,962.00	
Total General Government Disbursements		83,454.89
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	86,336.17	86,336.17
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)	86,336.17	86,336.17
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31	20,274.07	20,274.07
CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY		
	Salaries + Fringe	Other
Totals Only	138,969.57	\$0.00

Priority #1 - Riparian Buffers

By 2010, Riparian Buffers will be planned on
235 acres & wildlife habitat increased

By definition, a riparian buffer is a zone of trees, shrubs, and grasses along a stream corridor established to protect and improve water quality. This zone filters/ removes nutrients & sediment from runoff, supplies food, habitat and shade for fish and wildlife, protects the bank from erosion and moderates flood damage.

In addition to environmental benefits, there are also financial incentives. Cropland adjacent to streams, ditches, and watercourses may be eligible for cost-share assistance & annual rental payments for the area taken out of crop production.



4,691 acres of buffers are needed in Tippecanoe County, covering 107 stream miles in five priority watersheds.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 102 acres WRP buffers planned with an additional 217 acres installed
- 223 acres upland wildlife habitat management planned with 404 acres installed
- 219 acres of filterstrips, field borders, and trees/ shrubs planned
- Installed conservation practices mapped
- SWCD warm season grass drill utilization
- Newspaper articles printed in the Journal & Courier
- Grant awards continued from Clean Water Indiana and the Indiana Smallmouth Organization

WE EXCEEDED THE 235 ACRE GOAL BY 60 ACRES!!!

Priority #2 - Conservation Tillage

By 2010, Conservation Tillage on erosive soils will reach 50,000 acres

On cropland with highly erodible soils, steep slopes, or areas adjacent to riparian zones, crop residue can provide the necessary soil protection to effectively reduce wind and water erosion. By reducing the tillage of the ground from conventional tillage to conservation tillage, the results can be easily seen.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Co-sponsored a "Bi-State No-Till Seminar" held in Covington, Indiana featuring Jill Clapperton, a nationally known authority on soil quality
- Co-sponsored a regional "Conservation Tillage" Field Day at Purdue University's Agronomy Center for Research and Education where we highlighted residue management, conservation tillage, equipment conversions, and earthworm populations
- Conducted a conservation tillage transect, documenting tillage methods, crop rotations, etc.
- 76% No-till soybeans in 2008 - 12% increase from 2004
- 23% No-till corn in 2008 - 11% increase from 2004



Conventional Tillage
Plowing/ Disking
Bare Soils and Gully Erosion

Conservation Tillage
Lo-Till/ No-Till
Ground Cover and Soil Protection



Priority #3 - Soil and Water Education

By 2010, Soil and Water Education will reach 25% more adults, industry, & local government while sustaining current education programs for youth

By providing classroom training, informative programs, the Soil District continues its outreach community about the protection of importance of water quality in



hands-on activities, and other and Water Conservation efforts to educate the their natural resources and the Tippecanoe County.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Total Presentations Given: 215

- Youth Education reached 5346 students through classroom presentations, field days, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, surrounding county's field days, and FFA National Convention, etc.
- Adult education reached 1593 adults through presentations, watershed festivals, Purdue collaborations & more
- Industry & Business education increased by expanding partnerships within Tippecanoe County to 17, including Alcoa, Coca-Cola, Eli Lilly and Co., Insight Communications, Ivy Tech Community College, North Central Health Services, Purdue University, Subaru, Sunspot Natural Market, and more
- Local Government education increased by expanding working relationships and fostering new partnerships. Local government partnerships include City of Lafayette, City of West Lafayette, Town of Dayton, Town of Battle Ground and Tippecanoe County

NOTE: ALL EDUCATION NUMBERS HAVE FAR EXCEEDED OUR 25% GOAL AND ARE STILL ON THE RISE!

Over 1500 people were personally introduced to soil & water education at the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair as a result of the District's booth. Adults had the opportunity to visit with natural resource professionals regarding stormwater, rain gardens, native grasses, tree plantings, etc. Adults and children alike, were drawn to the stream table which demonstrated water erosion.

Priority #4 - Urban Services

By 2010, the Urban Technical Assistance Program will increase by 50%

In countless studies throughout the last 10 years, urban runoff has been identified as one of the leading sources of water quality impairments in the surface waters of the United States. To address these growing concerns, the SWCD Urban Conservation Committee recommended the development of an urban technical assistance program.

Our goal is to provide information, education and technical assistance to local entities and businesses, to provide assistance to homeowners and individuals with natural resource concerns, and to provide natural resource planning recommendations to the County Area Plan Commission, the Twin Cities and the developing areas of Tippecanoe County.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Provided onsite homeowner technical assistance
- Planned Backyard Conservation Seminar Series
- Participated in the NACD Urban and Community Conservation Inventory
- Assisted the Area Plan Commission with 14 sketch, draft, and review plans to promote conservation with land use changes
- Provided technical assistance on 17 municipal projects relative to Clean Water Act Phase II and Rule 5 regulations
- Provided technical assistance to the Tippecanoe County Surveyor's office and the Lauramie Creek Steering Committee relative to Backyard Conservation practices



Larry Gamble is Tippecanoe County's 2008 Conservation Farmer of the Year

This award is given to one producer in the county who exhibits an outstanding dedication to conservation through consistent implementation of conservation practices. This year's Conservation Farmer of the Year award is being presented to Larry Gamble.

Larry has been farming his whole life and has many tracts that include highly erodible land (HEL). Restrictions on HEL land caused him to begin experimenting with no-till coulters. Due to an increased conservation awareness and the ease of conversion, he changed the whole farmstead to a no-till operation. He has been no-tilling beans for 18 years and corn for the past six years. In addition, Larry has installed filter strips, riparian forest buffers, grassed waterways, and a host of different structures to help control erosion of cropland into the Little Wea Creek.

Larry is aided in his conservation endeavors and farming "ugly" practices by his wife Anne, who manages the office and is his farm partner. Congratulations Larry Gamble!

2008 Master Farm Conservationists Osborn Farms

This award is a lifetime achievement honor for men and women who have dedicated their farming careers to preserving and protecting Indiana's natural resources.

Osborn Farms was selected as Tippecanoe County's Master Farm Conservationists for 2008. Tom and Toni Osborn initially began no-tilling for financial purposes, but later discovered that the greatest benefit was the reduction of soil loss from their farms. The Osborns were recognized for their conservation efforts a few years back as Conservation Farmers of the Year. And their efforts continue today as we recognize them for this award. Tom stated that "The entire family including son, Doug and son-in-law Chris are actively involved in all farm operations and strive to do what is right for the land, even when it may not be economical."

Congratulations to Osborn Farms with a special thanks to Tom and Toni for a lifetime dedication to the protection of Tippecanoe County's natural resources!



Randy Geswein 2008 River Friendly Farmer

The River Friendly Farmer (RFF) Program is designed to recognize farmers who protect and enhance Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams by using sound cropping and livestock management practices in their operations.

Randy received this award for conservation of soil and water resources on lands that he owns or operates and for his encouragement to others to consider the natural resources of their own land. One landowner that Randy rents from stated that "He (Randy) is a truly conscientious farmer and a wonderful man." Randy practices conservation tillage and participates in a variety of conservation programs. In addition, he has installed grassed waterways, riparian forest buffers, filter strips and wetland wildlife habitat on his land, and maintains these areas for nesting birds, waterfowl, and mammals.

Thank you, Randy, for your continued environmental stewardship!



2008 River Friendly Farmers Joe and Lorraine Rund

Tippecanoe County selected two River Friendly Farmer award winners this year. It is an honor given to producers/ farmers who exhibit exemplary conservation ethics and implementation of conservation practices in their farming operations.

Joe and Lorraine Rund are currently retired from farming, but still play an active role in the guidance of farm operations and in local conservation activities. Joe served on the SWCD Board for many years and was a leader in Tippecanoe County switching to ridge-till farming over 30 years ago. His continued leadership and dedication to conservation swayed many farmers to try "farming ugly" which is another term for no-till farming. Lorraine has always been conservation-minded as well, and currently serves on the Greater Wabash River Resource Conservation and Development Council.

As Tippecanoe County's River Friendly Farmers, Joe and Lorraine were honored at a ceremony at the Indiana State Fair held last August on Farmers' Day.

2008 Community Conservation Award Winners Jennifer Bonner and Crystal Joshua

Our Community Conservation Award was developed to promote & recognize urban conservation efforts by community or civic leaders, homeowners, businesses, volunteers, teachers, students, and student organizations.

This year's Community Conservation Award winners are two individuals who work as a team in moving the City of Lafayette to the forefront in "going green". Our first award winner is Jennifer Bonner, Lafayette's City Engineer and Public Works Director. Her counterpart is Crystal Joshua, Lafayette's Engineering Assistant. The City's Engineering Department is responsible for building permits and site plan reviews. They also review subdivision plans and inspect infrastructure and are responsible for the enforcement of City Code on new construction and for the design of streets, utilities, and drainage plans. As environmental rules and regulations have become stricter, greater responsibility has been placed on local municipalities to manage their own facilities in a green manner and to adopt best management practices. With the help of Jenny and Crystal, the City of Lafayette has done an outstanding job this past year in leaving less of a "footprint" on our environment.



Jennifer Bonner



Crystal Joshua

In addition to their efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle, they've also been proactive in energy reduction and product substitution. They've "greened up" the landscape by including bio-swales and rain gardens in municipal projects. They've created a bio-retention area near County Road 350 South and Concord Road, and are planning a future brick street project using pervious pavers in parking areas. And if that's not enough, low impact development standards are being evaluated by the City for local use.

Congratulations to Jenny and Crystal...and the City of Lafayette for your excellent stewardship of the land!

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
Provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
TIPPECANOE COUNTY - FY 2008
10/01/07 - 09/30/08

Summary Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Animal Mortality Facility (316) (no)	1	
Closure of Waste Impoundment (360) (no)	1	5
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (100) (no)	1	1
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)	4,092	4,296
Cover Crop (340) (ac)	650	136
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647) (ac)	40	
Fence (382) (ft)		4,100
Field Border (386) (ft)	2,336	652
Filter Strip (393) (ac)	82	45
Grade Stabilization Structure (410) (no)	5	3
Grassed Waterway (412) (ac)	16	14
Heavy Use Area Protection (561) (ac)	1	1
Hedgerow Planting (422) (ft)		300
Lined Waterway or Outlet (468) (ft)	20	20
Mulching (484) (ac)	12	7
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	1,989	2,322
Pest Management (595) (ac)	1,995	1,609
Pipeline (516) (ft)		650
Pond (378) (no)	1	
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	30	30
Pumping Plant (533) (no)		2
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345) (ac)	3,151	957
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329) (ac)	2,354	1,039
Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643) (ac)	51	127
Roof Runoff Structure (558) (no)	1	
Spring Development (574) (no)		2
Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580) (ft)	600	
Subsurface Drain (606) (ft)	22,355	8,660
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)	46	6
Tree/Shrub Pruning (660) (ac)	15	15
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)	223	404
Waste Utilization (633) (ac)		80
Water Well (642) (no)		2
Watering Facility (614) (no)		4
Wetland Restoration (657) (ac)	44	39
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (ac)	58	178
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) (ft)		1000

2008 SWCD SUPERVISORS

Roger Verhey, Chairman

Randy Geswein, Vice Chairman

Jim King, Supervisor

Gene Kroeschen, Supervisor

Larry Underwood, Supervisor

2008 SWCD STAFF

Chris Remley, District Administrator

Megan Benaage, Rural Conservationist

Don Emmert, Water Quality Educator

Sean Rock, Urban Conservation Technician

Rachael Yanni, Storm Drain Stencil Technician/ Coordinator

2008 PARTNERSHIP STAFF

Mark Eastman, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dan Dunten, District Support Specialist, ISDA - Division of Soil Conservation

For more information on programs and services available, please contact:

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www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org

All programs and services of the SWCD, IDNR, and NRCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, marital status, or handicap.