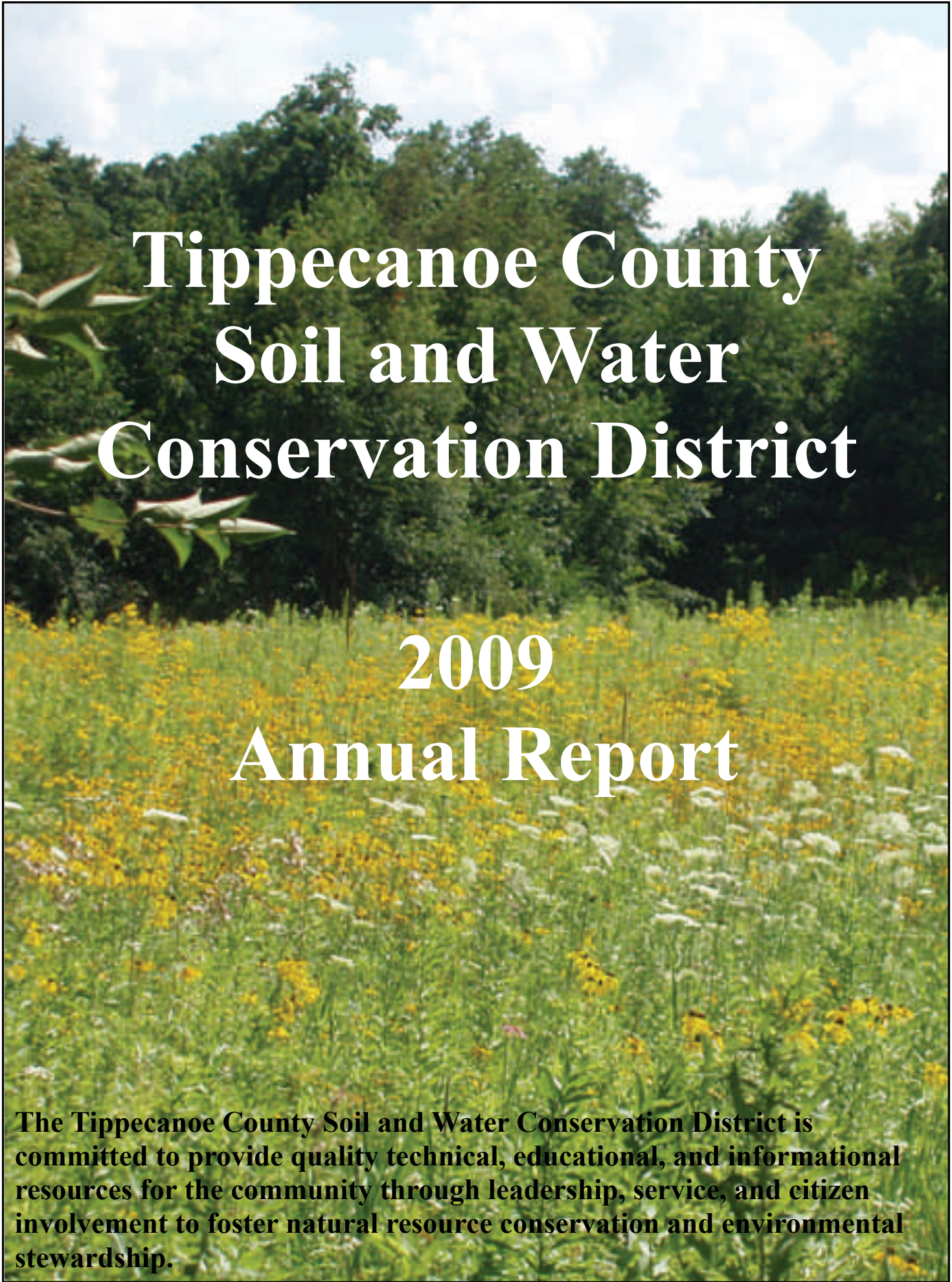




Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District

2009 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

February 18, 2009

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at the Beck Agricultural Center in West Lafayette, Indiana. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Roger Verhey. Participants were provided information on the meeting's agenda, and supervisor and staff introductions were made. At this time, SWCD Rural Conservationist Megan Benage presented a short video of conservation in Tippecanoe County.

Next came a presentation from Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Jane Hardisty on the conservation accomplishments within the State of Indiana and Tippecanoe County. Following Hardisty's presentation, the business meeting was called to order. Verhey recommended that in the interest of time, the actual reading of the 2008 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, the Election Committee was recognized and the two nominees, Linda Eastman and Randy Geswein were announced. 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.

Dinner was served, followed by a progress report on the 2005-2010 Long Range Plan. At this time, conservation awards were presented. The 2008 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Larry Gamble. Master Farm Conservationist Award for 2008 was next awarded to Osborn Farms, and Tippecanoe County's River Friendly Farmer award was presented to Randy Geswein and Joe & Lorraine Rund. Jennifer Bonner and Crystal Joshua of the Lafayette City Engineers Office jointly received the Community Conservation award.

The election results were then announced. Randy Geswein was re-elected and will serve a three-year term, expiring in 2012. The oath of office was given to Geswein and to newly reappointed supervisor, Jim King, whose term will also expire in 2012.

The business meeting concluded, and Verhey thanked everyone for their attendance.

With no further business, a motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting attendance – 70

Minutes recorded by Chris Remley.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY SWCD			
January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009			
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 20,274.07		\$ 20,274.07
RECEIPTS			
State for District Operations	10,000.00		
Clean Water Indiana Grant	4,323.36		
County for District Operations	17,500.00		
Total Intergovernmental Receipts			31,823.36
Equipment Rental & Farm Income	3,881.25		
Donations & Memberships	317.25		
Other Charges for Services - NPDES Phase II	21,013.09		
Total Charges for Services			25,211.59
Annual Meeting Income	190.00		
Interest from Checking, CDs, Savings, Etc.	18.31		
Reimbursements & Refunds	231.84		
Sales Income	23,995.20		
Total Miscellaneous Revenue			24,435.35
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$ 81,470.30		\$ 81,470.30
TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)	\$ 101,744.37		\$ 101,744.37
DISBURSEMENTS			
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	2,328.00		2328.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	2,798.20		
Audit Expense	208.00		
Clean Water Indiana Projects	3,650.00		
Conservation Education Programs	2,224.78		
Cost-Share Projects/SWCD-Funded	598.68		
Dues & Subscriptions	3,652.50		
Office Supplies	698.79		
Other Services & Charges	1,036.36		
Postage & Delivery Expenses	685.07		
Printing/Copying Expense	6,210.78		
Rent	10,097.14		
Repair Expenses	1,468.38		
Sales Tax Paid to Ind. Dept. of Revenue	1,659.15		
Supplies for Resale	17,977.83		
Telephone or Other Utilities	226.12		
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	2,861.32		
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Awards	651.18		
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Advertising & Marketing	3600.00		
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Insurance	1,604.00		
Other Disbursements (Describe) - Training	1,755.00		
Total General Government Disbursements			\$ 63,663.28
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$ 65,991.28		\$ 65,991.28
Purchase of Investments (CDs, savings accounts, transfers)	\$ 20,018.31		\$ 20,018.31
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)	\$ 86,009.59		\$ 86,009.59
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31	\$ 15,734.78		\$ 15,734.78
CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY			
	Salaries + Fringe	Other	
Totals Only	160,838.86	\$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:

- 130 acres of Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) buffers planned and installed
- 82 acres of wildlife habitat planned and installed
- 65 acres of hay, pasture and cool season grasses planted with no-till Truax drill
- 44 acres of Clean Water Indiana (CWI) buffers installed
- "An Indiana Landowner's Guide to Native Prairie Plants" was developed to assist the general public in identifying native prairie and wildflower species
- SWCD warm season grass drill utilization

**OUR FIVE YEAR TOTAL WAS 376 ACRES...
WE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL
BY 141 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:

- Conducted a conservation tillage transect documenting tillage methods, crop rotations, etc.
- Performed numerous site visits where no-till/lo-till systems were promoted as part of a larger conservation system
- 67% No-till soybeans in 2009 - 3% increase from 2004
- 19% No-till corn in 2008 - 7% 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

By providing classroom training, hands-on activities, and other informative programs, the Soil and Water Conservation District continues its outreach efforts to educate the community about the protection of their natural resources and the importance of water quality in Tippecanoe County.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Total Presentations Given: 176

- **Youth Education** reached 3930 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 1025 adults through presentations, watershed festivals, Purdue collaborations & more
- **Industry & Business** education increased by expanding partnerships within Tippecanoe County to 21, including Alcoa, Cargill Inc., Coca-Cola, Eli Lilly and Co., Insight Communications, Ivy Tech Community College, Lafayette Journal and Courier, Midwest Rentals, North Central Health Services, Purdue University, Subaru, WLFI TV18, & 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

In addition, 1200 + people were personally introduced to soil and water education at the Tippecanoe County Fair as a result of the District's booth highlighting Backyard Conservation Education and general information on watersheds.

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, Lafayette, West Lafayette, and the developing areas of Tippecanoe County.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Hired two part-time Urban Conservation Technicians with separate focuses on Backyard Conservation and Clean Water Act Phase II municipal projects
- Reviewed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) on 14 municipal projects relative to Clean Water Act Phase II and Rule 5 regulations
- Provided multiple onsite evaluations on 9 municipal projects
- Assisted the Area Plan Commission with sketch, draft, and preliminary plan reviews to promote conservation with land use changes
- Provided onsite technical assistance to homeowners relating to erosion, drainage, ravines, invasive plants, and flooding
- Held Backyard Conservation Seminar Series



Stewart Kellerman is the Recipient of Tippecanoe County's 2009 Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award

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

There are many conservation practices on the Kellerman farms. These practices work in concert with one another to reduce soil erosion, increase filtration, and provide wildlife habitat. The filter strips, field borders and waterways, that are very extensive on the farm, provide byways for wildlife and highlight the connectivity of water.

Stewart's conversion to no-till beans has reduced time and labor costs significantly, as well as machinery expense due to the lesser amount of implements required with this type of tillage. Reduced till systems have given him more farming freedom, i.e., planting time and nutrient applications.

His extensive waterway system has reduced erosion significantly and provides increased soil surface drainage into a nearby creek. The waterways increase productivity by working in combination with large amounts of field tile. The surface drainage and tiling system work together to increase the productivity potential by allowing Stewart to get into the field sooner and get the crops planted. It also allows for increased filtration and less nutrient runoff, which ultimately requires less nutrient input.

Stewart's filter strips protect the creek and work in combination with waterways to reduce soil erosion and filter sediment so there are less soil contaminants in the creek and streams. As Stewart stated, "The whole system just works together."

Jeff Haan is Tippecanoe County's 2009 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.

Jeff Haan is responsible for farming more than 2,000 acres of cropland and he is no stranger to the importance of conservation.. Since installing filter strips, he has noticed runoff and sediment decreasing significantly and loading into the Wildcat Creek has subsequently been reduced. He has installed a buffer strip around a wetland on one of his farms and has since experienced an increase in wildlife activity in and around the wetland.

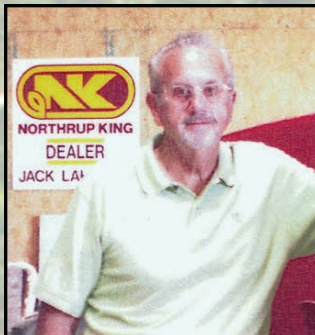
Jeff is a very involved no-till farmer and can see a direct benefit in soil health from these minimum soil disturbance practices. Crusting has been decreased and the amount of residue remaining on the field has helped hold more soil in place. Now, earthworms can be found when randomly digging in the field. This was not the case several years ago and he sees it as a direct tie in with his increased conservation efforts.

Jeff always wanted to farm and learned from his dad at an early age what good farming meant. He began farming with a moldboard plow, advanced through a chisel plow system and finally arrived at a no-till system. Jeff stated, "When I started [farming], I remember being next to the Wildcat after a big rain in the spring and smelling all the herbicide and fertilizer in the creek. I feel filter strips are a wise government investment and should be fully utilized by producers. I have been blessed to be able to farm and blessed to have good landlords who care about their farms. Less tillage and less residual herbicide has been key to increasing productivity, soil health, and environmental protection."

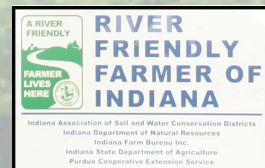


Tippecanoe County Recognizes Two 2009 River Friendly Farmers!

Jack Lahrman Sheffield Township



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.



Jack Lahrman is a grain production farmer. He stated "I know conservation is important and it is the right thing to do." In response to questions about yield enhancement and nutrient applications, he replied, "I'm not out to beat or compete with anyone, I'm just trying to do what my land is capable of...well, that and maybe a little more (laughter), but mostly what it is capable of."

All of his operations are no-till and he has switched to pesticide resistant corn so he can limit his interactions with pesticides and reduce use throughout the entire farming operation. Jack is passionate about farming and the benefits of conservation. He has even created his own blog and if you visit www.cornandbeansandnaples.blogspot.com, you will see a descriptive picture of his land with a grassed waterway installed for erosion control with a caption that reads "Good Stewardship Pays!"

Gary Brown

Tippecanoe Township



Gary is primarily a grain production farmer, but he dabbles in livestock a bit.



Gary is quiet about doing the right thing and expects no applause for taking on the challenge of farming adjacent to the Wabash River. He accepts this challenge and fights back with a variety of conservation tools, e.g., grassed waterways, filter strips, no-till farming, hay and pasture rotations, erosion control structures, and water & sediment control basins (WASCOBS).

Gary has also been known to take on additional projects to expand his conservation efforts. Gary has woods surrounding most of his farmstead and does not harvest because he feels it would negatively impact the river bottom. Gary is very conscientious about his actions and what effect his actions will have on the environment. His property and vehicles are well kept and general farm appearance is excellent. He too, is no stranger to good stewardship providing a payout.

2009 Community Conservation Award Winner Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

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

This year's Community Conservation Award winner is the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation. Stan Lambert, Executive Director and Sara Peel, Coordinator of Watershed Projects, have been working together for the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) to improve environmental and economic conditions in the Greater Lafayette Region and the Wabash River Corridor. Since 2005, WREC has been actively working to improve life along the Wabash River. Their efforts have included designation of a portion of River Road as a scenic by-way, floodplain mapping throughout Tippecanoe County, and urban corridor master planning within Lafayette and West Lafayette.

In September, WREC hosted the first ever Wabash River Sampling Blitz with more than 180 volunteers monitoring over 210 stream sites. Participants measured stream temperature on-site and collected water samples which were analyzed for nutrient, metal, and general field parameters using test strips. In addition, this past winter WREC partnered with Purdue University to conduct a fact-finding survey collecting information about local resident's perceptions and awareness of the Wabash River.

Congratulations to Stan and Sara...and the entire Wabash River Enhancement Corporation Board of Directors for their efforts to encourage stewardship and sustainability of the Wabash River!



Roger Verhey 2009 Indiana Supervisor of the Year

This award honors Soil and Water Conservation District leaders for their outstanding and exemplary achievements and leadership in the protection and enhancement of Indiana's soil and water resources.

Roger Verhey is Tippecanoe County's Supervisor of the Year and the overall award winner for the entire State of Indiana. Roger has served two terms on the SWCD Board and has served as chairman since his 2nd year as a supervisor. Roger has been instrumental in helping the SWCD office operate better as a team and provides clear direction from the Board. As a result, the SWCD was able to meet all conservation goals developed for the period of 2005-2010. He has been an invaluable source of information, assistance, and guidance and never hesitates to volunteer his time or offer advice.

Kenny Cain of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts states, "Roger Verhey's conservation ethic and leadership is exemplary to the state association and Tippecanoe County; he's always setting the bar high. I've known both him and his dad forever and those guys do everything right". Congratulations and many thanks to Roger for his conservation efforts over the past six years!

Tippecanoe County SWCD selected as a 2009 District Showcase Award Winner

“Conservation and Funeral Preparation Form a Unique Partnership in the Green Burial Project”

Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was one of four SWCDs honored as recipients of the District Showcase Award at the 2010 Conservation Awards. The District Showcase Award was designed to highlight the great stories that exist across Indiana about the work Districts are doing to put conservation best management practices on the ground in agricultural, suburban and urban land and all areas in between. These District stories describe how SWCDs are partnering with traditional and nontraditional groups, businesses, governmental agencies, local officials and volunteers to achieve conservation goals.



2009 was an interesting year for Tippecanoe SWCD. We were contacted by Hippensteel Funeral Home because they wanted input on a “green cemetery” project they were trying to initiate at a local cemetery, Springvale Cemetery. Since one of our primary goals is to increase buffer areas in the county as well as provide suitable wildlife habitat, we were able to provide assistance in developing a more eco-friendly alternative to the traditional cemetery/burial process. For those of you unfamiliar with green burial, it is a relatively new phenomenon that involves burying people in a natural setting. It has many definitions, but is generally known as a burial that returns a body to the earth without the use of vaults or traditional embalming

methods so that the body may recycle naturally. It is usually coupled with a habitat area, making green burial sites similar to parks. This project emphasized our need for sustainability in every aspect of life, including our final good-bye and is relevant to everyone in the community.

The Tippecanoe County SWCD Green Burial Project highlights buffer areas between urban lands and wildlife use areas. Hippensteel Funeral Home wanted a native grassland, savanna and woodland to serve as their habitat types. Grave plots are set up within each of these areas and customers have many alternative choices for burial. The Tippecanoe County SWCD has worked with Hippensteel to ensure that burial packages include conservation as a main focus. As a result, in each habitat area customers have individual choices for their grave site. For instance, in the grassland site, customers can choose specific wildflowers that have aesthetic, personal, or special wildlife value to be added to their site after settling occurs. In the savanna, an approved list of trees (those that can withstand fire and are native savanna species) can be chosen to be placed at the grave-head. These unique alternatives serve many purposes—ultimately allowing us to achieve a habitat area with many micro-niches suitable for a variety of birds, bees, butterflies, mammals, and other species that would not be found in a typical restored grassland because of cost and time limitations.

In the beginning, this strange request spread a wave of laughter throughout the office, but as we began to learn and talk more about this with NRCS and within our own staff, we realized that this whole process is the wave of the future. Indiana performed its first certified green burial in the fall of 2008 and we were on board. Our office has a great sense of pride in knowing that through our efforts we are a partner in an Indiana conservation first! It confirms that SWCDs have great purpose in each county and with a motivated and encouraged staff with technical expertise, we can grant even the oddest request. It has also made us consider how our end, as our lives have been, can be tied to conservation.

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
Provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
TIPPECANOE COUNTY - FY 2009
10/01/08 - 09/30/09

Summary Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Animal Mortality Facility (no)		1
Closure of Waste Impoundment (no)	4	2
Conservation Cover (ac)	110	103
Conservation Crop Rotation (ac)	5,353	3083
Cover Crop (ac)		449
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (ac)	11	
Fence (ft)		3900
Field Border (ac)	4	4
Filter Strip (ac)		15
Forage Harvest Management (ac)		35
Grade Stabilization Structure (no)	2	5
Grassed Waterway (ac)	25	3
Heavy Use Area Protection (ac)	22	
Lined Waterway or Outlet (ft)	1,300	60
Mulching (ac)	20	5
Nutrient Management (ac)	2,844	1,032
Pasture and Hay Planting (ac)		38
Pest Management (ac)	2,622	437
Pipeline (ft)	1,300	140
Prescribed Grazing (ac)	111	111
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (ac)	1,754	765
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (ac)	5,040	1,963
Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (ac)	3	11
Roof Runoff Structure (no)	1	
Subsurface Drain (ft)	23,066	6,095
Tree/Shrub Establishment (ac)	18	18
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (ac)	233	283
Waste Utilization (ac)		390
Watering Facility (no)	6	
Wetland Creation (ac)		1
Wetland Restoration (ac)	23	63
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (ac)	23	63
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft)	3,076	2,656

2009 SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Roger Verhey, Chairman

Randy Geswein, Vice Chairman

Jim King, Supervisor

Gene Kroeschen, Supervisor

Larry Underwood, Supervisor

2009 SWCD STAFF

Chris Remley, District Administrator

Megan Benage, Rural Conservationist

Don Emmert, Water Quality Educator

Sean Rock, Urban Conservation Technician

Joe Avram, Urban Conservation Technician

Dan Dunten, Urban Conservation Technician

Brad Abplanalp, Water Quality Education Assistant

2009 PARTNERSHIP STAFF

**Mark Eastman, District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Nathan Stoelting, District Support Specialist
ISDA - Division of Soil Conservation**

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

**TIPPECANOE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1812 Troxel Drive, Suite C3

Lafayette, IN 47909-7367

PH: 765-474-9992, Ext. 3

FAX: 765-474-1266

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.**