

TIPPECANOE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



SUPERVISORS AND STAFF

The official governing body of a Soil & Water Conservation District consists of five supervisors. Three supervisors are elected (one each year for a three year term) at a district annual meeting. Two are appointed (also for staggered three year terms) by the State Soil Conservation Board based on recommendations of the current supervisors in the district. As a result, the selection of all five supervisors is based on local input and through election of the local people they serve.

2012-2013 SWCD Board of Supervisors:

Roger Strasburger, Chairman ~ Elected - Term Expires 2014
Gene Kroeschen, Vice Chairman ~ Appointed -Term Expires 2014
Curt Vanderkleed, Supervisor ~ Elected - Term Expires 2015
Josh Cox, Supervisor ~ Elected - Term Expires 2013
Natalie Gilbert, Supervisor ~ Appointed - Resigned 2012
Mary Kate Dufair McKenna ~ Appointed -Term Expires 2016

2012 SWCD Staff:

Chris Remley, District Administrator
Megan Benage, Rural Conservationist
Rick Parsons, Natural Resources Solid Waste Specialist

2012 Partnership Staff:

Mark Eastman, District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Sue Gerlach, Resource Specialist
ISDA Division of Soil Conservation

We are pleased to reflect on our accomplishments of 2012 and hope that you enjoy your fellowship with others who share our commitment to Tippecanoe County's natural resources. These resources sustain our economy and provide the quality of life we seek in clean air, water and soil.

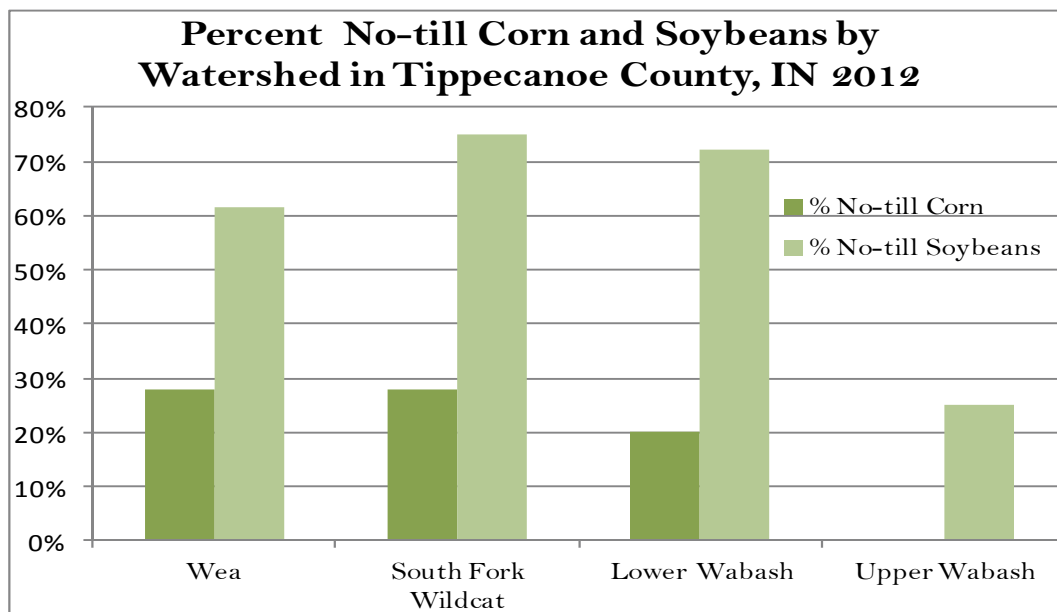


STABLE SOILS AND SOIL QUALITY

RESOURCE CONCERN — SOIL EROSION & SEDIMENTATION

Our Goal: No till practices shall be increased by 2,500 acres in the Upper Wabash and Wildcat Creek watersheds by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- Conducted site visits with landowners promoting conservation systems on ongoing basis
- Hosted no-till workshop in 2010 and 2012 partnering w/Greater Wabash River RC&D
- Hosted no-till/cover crop breakfast in 2011 partnering w/Greater Wabash River RC&D
- Planted Clean Water Indiana Cover Crop Trial Acreage in 2012
- Hosted Cover Crop Demonstration Workshop @ Verhey Farms in 2012
- Performed annual tillage transect 2010, 2011, and 2012
- Allocated \$781,460 on best management practices within the Wildcat Creek watershed affecting 830.3 acres in Tippecanoe County through a \$2.25 million dollar Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) grant passed through Greater Wabash River RC&D



To account for crop rotation as well as seasonal differences during planting seasons (wet vs. dry spring), an overall trend is being calculated through the end of our strategic plan.

Upper Wabash Watershed No-Till Acres: Corn Increased 973 from 2009

Upper Wabash Watershed No-Till Acres: Beans Increased 2,499 from 2009

Wildcat Creek Watershed No-Till Acres: Corn Increased 9,259 from 2009

Wildcat Creek Watershed No-Till Acres: Beans Increased 9,694 Acres from 2009



STABLE SOILS AND SOIL QUALITY

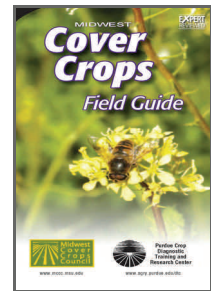
RESOURCE CONCERN — NUTRIENT & PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Our Goal: The SWCD will educate 20 landowners in high manure application areas on best management practices for manure application by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- Educated 7 landowners on manure application through Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) in 2010 and 2011
- Partnered with various entities to identify water courses where pesticide and nutrient levels are high on an ongoing basis by using ArcGIS to create a comprehensive map of all practices that will aid in water quality improvements

Our Goal: Cover crops shall be increased by 2,500 acres in Tippecanoe County by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- Installed 1,679 acres of cover crops in 2010 and 2011
- Installed 2,761 acres of cover crops in 2012
- Hosted no-till/cover crop workshop in 2010 and 2012 partnering w/ Greater Wabash River RC&D and the Midwest Cover Crop Council
- Hosted no-till/cover crop breakfast in 2011 partnering w/Greater Wabash River RC&D
- Installed a cover crop demonstration area approximately one acre in size utilizing nine different species and two different planting methods in 2011
- As part of a multi county Clean Water Indiana (CWI) effort, installed nine replicated research plots with two species mixes of cover crops in 2012
- Partnered with the Greater Wabash River RC&D on an USDA MRBI Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) grant that included cover crop as a best management practice for the Wildcat Creek watershed in 2010
- Created a contractors list August 2010 specific to cover crop seeding
- Currently developing inventory of acres utilizing cover crops in rotation. Including and defining highest nutrient loading areas.



RESOURCE CONCERN — STREAMBANK STABILIZATION

Our Goal: The SWCD will increase streambank stabilization awareness & education through ten partnering opportunities by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- Improved working relationships with the County Drainage Board and city engineers through SWCD representation at County Drainage Board meetings and discussions relative to ditch banks in 2010, 2011, and 2012
- Staffed a display at "Discover the Wildcat" event in 2011 & 2012
- Developing a resource Homeowners Guide to advise individuals about streambank stabilization among other conservation best management practices



CLEAN STREAMS & WATER RESOURCES

RESOURCE CONCERN — NEED FOR BUFFERS AND WATERWAY PROTECTION

Our Goal: 125 Acres of Buffers will be installed in the Wea Creek and Wildcat Creek watersheds by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- Encouraging buffer installation as part of a conservation system on an ongoing basis
- Installed 110 acres of buffers in 2010 and 2011
- Currently identifying & mapping areas using ArcGIS a for comprehensive inventory of conservation practices

Our Goal: The SWCD will educate 150 landowners about the benefits and installation of two-stage ditches by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- Partnered with the Tippecanoe County Surveyor and The Nature Conservancy to install a two-stage ditch in 2012 and co-sponsored a workshop on benefits of two-stage ditches

RESOURCE CONCERN — LAWN FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION

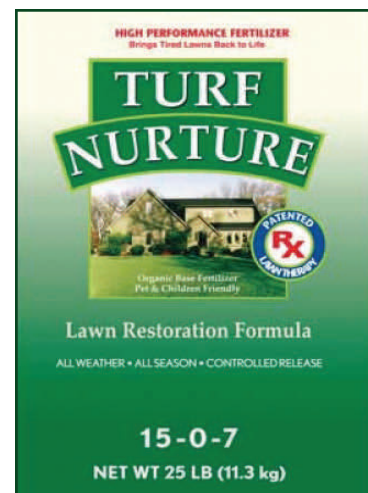
Our Goal: The SWCD will provide 10 educational and/or outreach opportunities on the environmentally wise use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- Prepared and distributed a letter in 2010 to 15 retail garden centers specific to the sale and use of no/low phosphate lawn fertilizers



Please use
Phosphorus Free
Fertilizer

23-0-2





SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ~ LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

RESOURCE CONCERN — WILDLIFE HABITAT LOSS & FRAGMENTATION

Our Goal: The SWCD will educate 750 landowners about beneficial native plants and the negative impact of invasive plants on the environment by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- *Partnered with NICHES Land Trust to host two Natural Area Field Days in 2010 about the benefits of native plants and invasive plant control*
- *Educated approximately 1,000 landowners through workshops, group/civic presentations, and the 4-H Fair in 2010, 2011 and 2012*
- *Co-Sponsored three Forest Management/Forest Biology Field Days in 2011*
- *Distributed information and 4,200 tree saplings at Ag Days event in 2010, 2011 and 2012*
- *Hosted/Participated in two Invasive Plant Workdays in 2011*
- *Partnered with NICHES and Tippecanoe County Parks Department to host two invasive species removal field days at the Tippecanoe Battlefield and Amphitheater in 2011 and 2012*

Our Goal: 350 acres of wildlife habitat will be installed in Tippecanoe County by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- *Installed 279 acres of upland and wetland wildlife habitat in 2010 and 2011*
- *Installed 306 acres of upland and wetland wildlife habitat in 2012*
- *Received USDA MRBI-CCPI grant funding in 2011 with a native plant buffer component*
- *Continued Mid-Contract Management Research Plot in 2011*
- *Partnered with specific wildlife groups to install habitat to increase connectivity on an ongoing basis*

RESOURCE CONCERN — STORMWATER RUNOFF

Our Goal: The SWCD will work to reduce stormwater runoff by facilitating programs to establish 250 best management practices by 2014. **What we've accomplished...**

- *Worked w/Lafayette & W. Lafayette to establish rain garden cost-share program in 2010*
- *Installed two rain garden sites at Regency Place and the Lilly Nature Center in 2010*
- *Conducted 12 rain garden and 13 rain barrel workshops for homeowners and businesses in 2010 & 2011*
- *Staff hosted Master Naturalist classes for the Greater Wabash River RC&D in 2011*
- *Sold 167 rain barrels in 2010, 2011 and 2012 to encourage water conservation*
- *Promoted and sold native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and sedges to encourage water absorption in the natural landscape in 2010, 2011 and 2012*
- *Provided Rule 5 administration on submitted Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) in 2010, 2011 and 2012*
- *Coordinated with 38 organizations to promote Wabash Riverfest to approximately 3,500 attendees in 2010, 2011 and 2012*
- *Partnered with WREC to conduct 165 site visits regarding urban stormwater practices, installing 132 best management practices including pervious pavers, tree planting, native plants, rain gardens, bioswales, rain barrels and a green roof.*



TIPPECANOE COUNTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

*Summary of Conservation Practices Provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Fiscal Year 2012 ~ 10/01/11 through 09/30/12*

Summary Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Access Control (472) (ac)	50	50
Access Road (560) (ft)	1015	0
Brush Management (314) (ac)	45	69
Conservation Cover (327) (ac)	9	2
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)	1,143	2,487
Cover Crop (340) (ac)	6,445	4,716
Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)	2	0
Denitrifying Bioreactor (747) (ac)	8	1
Drainage Water Management (554) (ac)	50	0
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647) (ac)	6	2
Fence (382) (ft)	1020	0
Field Border (386) (ac)	2	5
Forage and Biomass Planting (512) (ac)	110	183
Forage Harvest Management (511) (ac)	100	125
Forest Management Plan - Written (106) (no)	5	1
Grade Stabilization Structure (410) (no)	5	10
Grassed Waterway (412) (ac)	20	34
Heavy Use Area Protection (561) (ac)	2	0
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (595) (ac)	394	749
Lined Waterway or Outlet (468) (ft)	0	202
Mulching (484) (ac)	2020	1,923
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	281	267
Pond (378) (no)	1	0
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	14	32
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345) (ac)	84	237
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329) (ac)	611	1,956
Subsurface Drain (606) (ft)	30,000	25,839
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)	18	47
Tree/Shrub Pruning (660) (ac)	8	4
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)	314	306
Waste Facility Closure (360) (no)	5	1
Waste Recycling (633) (ac)	243	295
Wetland Enhancement (659) (ac)	2	26
Wetland Restoration (657) (ac)	126	153
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (ac)	113	17
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) (ft)	230	375



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 2012

March 8, 2012

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at the Tippecanoe County Cooperative Extension Office, 3150 Sagamore Parkway South, Lafayette, Indiana. After dinner being served at 6:00 p.m., participants were provided information on the meeting's agenda, and supervisor and staff introductions were made.

Following introductions, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chair, Gene Kroeschen. Kroeschen recommended that in the interest of time, the actual reading of the 2011 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. Kroeschen reported that both nominees on the ballot had withdrawn for personal reasons and entertained a motion for nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded that Curt Vanderkleed be added as a nominee for the elected position of supervisor with motion carrying unanimously. A motion was then made and seconded that nominations be closed. Motion carried unanimously, and the election committee collected the ballots.

At this time, SWCD District Administrator, Chris Remley provided an update on the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan and a progress report of 2011 accomplishments.

Conservation awards were then presented, beginning with the 2011 River Friendly Farmer award being presented to John Hack. The Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Roger Strasburger. Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award for 2011 was next presented to Dean Craig who was also selected as the State of Indiana Overall Winner. Finally, Susan Ulrich received the Friend of Conservation award.

The election results were then announced, with Curt Vanderkleed being elected to serve a three-year term, expiring in 2015. Nathan Stoelting of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil Conservation then came forward to assist with swearing in newly elected supervisor, Curt Vanderkleed.

With no further business, a motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Meeting attendance – 50

Minutes recorded by Chris Remley.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

Checking Balance Brought Forward	\$ 28,335.57	\$ 28,335.57
RECEIPTS		
State—CWI Matching Grant for District Operations	10,000.00	
County for District Operations	15,000.00	
Federal Funds	11,196.50	
Total Intergovernmental Receipts		36,196.50
Equipment Rental & Farm Income	5,352.50	
Other Charges for Services - NPDES Phase II & Solid Waste	2,221.99	
Total Charges for Services		7,574.49
Sale of Used Equipment	7,000.00	
Reimbursements & Refunds	1,245.31	
Sales Income	27,292.37	
Sales Tax Collected & Finance Charges	865.31	
Total Miscellaneous Revenue		36,402.99
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$ 80,173.98	\$ 80,173.98
TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)	\$ 108,509.55	\$ 108,509.55
DISBURSEMENTS		
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	23,478.00	23,478.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	664.37	
Conservation Education Programs	4,107.19	
Dues & Subscriptions	4,255.00	
Office Supplies	1,137.78	
Other Services & Charges	553.10	
Postage & Delivery Expenses	457.10	
Printing & Copying Expense	1,312.80	
Rent	2,957.56	
Repair Expenses & Fuel	3,030.15	
Sales Tax Paid to Ind. Dept. of Revenue	941.21	
Supplies for Resale	31,309.33	
Telephone or Other Utilities	1,354.03	
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	1,101.16	
Other Disbursements - Awards	737.45	
Other Disbursements - Advertising & Marketing	841.30	
Other Disbursements - Insurance	1,733.00	
Other Disbursements - Training	2,155.00	
Total General Government Disbursements		\$ 58,647.53
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$ 82,125.53	\$ 82,125.53
Purchase of Investments (CDs, savings accounts, transfers)	\$ 9,948.89	\$ 9,948.89
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)	\$ 92,074.42	\$ 92,074.42
CHECKING BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2012	\$ 16,435.13	\$ 16,435.13
PETTY CASH & SAVING ACCOUNT	\$ 30,317.32	\$ 30,317.32
TOTAL SOIL & WATER FUNDS	\$ 46,752.45	\$ 46,752.45
CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY - Salaries + Fringe	\$ 157,195.49	



AWARDS



RANDY GESWEIN IS THE RECIPIENT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY'S 2012 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.

Randy Geswein served on the Soil & Water Conservation District board for a total of six years completing his second term in 2012. He also served as Chairman of the board for the last 2 years and assisted in the development of two strategic plans for our district, weighing in on county resource concerns, and very seldom missing a board meeting.

Randy practices no-till, nutrient and pest management, installs buffers, utilizes cover crops, has managed woodlands, and will install two bioreactors this fall. He has always been willing to assist the District with its many activities, whether it be speaking at a field day, hauling equipment to and from, or just being on hand to assist. He has worked diligently to keep the organization on track and become even more productive. Finally, he has worked closely with the County Surveyor's Office, Farm Service Agency, and NRCS Area Office to ensure effective partnerships. Congratulations and many thanks to Randy Geswein, our 2012 Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award winner!

TIPPECANOE COUNTY'S 2012 CONSERVATION FARMER OF THE YEAR IS NORRIS "BUD" DOWDEN

Bud and his son Dwaine make up Dowden Farms. Together, they farm in southern Tippecanoe County and in parts of Montgomery as well. Bud's father taught him to always be respectful of the soil and to be conscious of our water resources as well and Bud is passing it on down the line. Bud's farm has a number of conservation practices installed, including contour farming on highly erodible acres to keep soil out of grassed waterways. The Dowdens are farming 1100 acres of corn and soybeans with an additional 400 acres of pasture and hay. They've been no-tilling since 1973 and have been 100% no-till since 1980. In addition, they've been using cover crops annually since the 1960's!



Bud recently visited South Korea and said he was overwhelmed. He indicated that we really need to appreciate the land we have and give careful thought to what we do. Bud stated that he was humbled and honored to receive this award since conservation is important to their farming operation and has always been a #1 priority for Dowden Farms. He also gave credit to his son and reinforced that it's truly a true family farming operation and everybody needs credit.

Thanks for sharing your love of the land with future generations! Congratulations Bud!



AWARDS

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

2012 RIVER FRIENDLY FARMER—BRIAN BUCK

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.

Brian Buck's first contact with the Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District occurred when he took advantage of the USDA Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) program back in 2010. Brian had never participated in a USDA program before and was excited that this cost-share program would allow him to try conservation best management practices while having some of the risk absorbed. He began by trying waste utilization and cover crops on just a few fields and no-till on only one field.



On that same no-till field today, he is now utilizing a full conservation system that includes no-till, pest management, waste utilization followed by a cover crop, buffers adjacent to the ditch, and coming soon, drainage water management. Brian said, "The money was available and that got me started, but after trying it and seeing the benefits on my farm...it works for me even if the money wouldn't be there in the future."

If you ever want to meet a true River Friendly Farmer, Brian Buck's your best bet!



MARY CUTLER IS TIPPECANOE COUNTY'S 2012 FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER

The Friend of Conservation award promotes & recognizes conservation efforts by community or civic leaders, homeowners, businesses, volunteers, teachers, students, and student organizations.

Mary Cutler is the Naturalist with the Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation Department. She provides environmental education programs to audiences of all ages, with 300-400 programs being offered annually, reaching close to 10,000 people. She has initiated several annual environmental education programs including "Make A Splash Water" Education Day for 3rd and 4th grade students, "Wednesdays in the Wild", a natural history series now in its 12th year, and The Mind BOGgling Event" which is a celebration of wetlands and the Celery Bog.

Mary is a facilitator and instructor of many state education programs such as Project Wet and Hoosier Riverwatch to name a few. She has also been a frequent presenter at Cole Pond Day that is organized and coordinated by the Tippecanoe SWCD. She is currently partnering with the SWCD and the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality to develop and host the first annual Earth Fair to take place at the Tippecanoe County Fair in 2013. We are proud to have Mary Cutler as a colleague helping us get the word out on the importance of natural resources in Tippecanoe County.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Monthly Business Meeting Calendar 2013

January 16, 2013

July 10, 2013

February 13, 2013

August 14, 2013

March 13, 2013

September 11, 2013

April 10, 2013

October 9, 2013

May 8, 2013

November 13, 2013

June 12, 2013

December 11, 2013

All business meetings are held at the USDA Service Center, are open to the public, and begin at 7:30 a.m. All programs and services of the SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, marital status, or handicap.