

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



Fall 2017/Winter 2018



Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
10165 Oxford Pike
Brookville, IN 47012
(765) 647-2651, ext. 3

www.franklincountyswcd.org

**Due to the nature of our work there will be times the office must be closed. Please call ahead before visiting.*

District Supervisors:

Michael Schwab – Chairman
David Hartman – Vice-Chairman
Louis Schwegman – Secretary
Darin Hodapp – Supervisor
Tim Hofer – Supervisor

Associate Supervisors:

Roger Bommer
Lee Giesting
Clinton McNally
Eugene Meyer
John Selm

Conservation Staff:

Lori Divine – NRCS
Kim Lampert – NRCS
Katie Hardin – SWCD

The SWCD Board of Supervisors meets on the third Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Dec 20 Jan 17 Feb 21 Mar 21

NRCS Staffing Update

Lori Divine will be transitioning to a new position as Soil Conservationist as of 1/8/18 and Kim Lampert will be taking her position as the DC for Franklin County. We would like to thank Lori for all her efforts here and wish her luck with her new endeavors! We would like to welcome Kim, also!

Bio

New SWCD Coordinator

Hello! My name is Katie Hardin, and I took over for Chris as the SWCD Coordinator. I know Chris left some big shoes to fill and will be greatly missed! My background includes growing up helping and watching my parents own/operate Pickering Seed Company in southern Henry County. About halfway through my high school career, my family closed the seed company and moved to Rush County, where I reside today. I was a 10 year 4H member and participated in FFA where I had the opportunity to go on an exchange trip to Brazil. I attended Purdue University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management. Due to some family health and economic reasons, I have not been working in agriculture for the last 8 years, however, I have been in healthcare. I was more than ready and excited for the opportunity to come back home in agriculture and work with producers and the public to protect and conserve our natural resources. I appreciate how welcome everyone has made me feel so far. Let's me know that I made the right decision taking on this opportunity. I hope that I am able to make the Board and Franklin County proud with my efforts with this position!

Bio

New NRCS DC

Greetings! My name is Kim Lampert. I am a born and bred Hoosier originally from Jasper, IN. I attended Vincennes University and then Purdue University where I received my bachelor's degree in Natural Resources & Environmental Science. I started with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as an intern in college and have now been with NRCS for 17 years. Throughout the years I've worked all over Indiana in various positions with a variety of producers, conservation practices and farming techniques. Most recently I worked at the NRCS Greensburg Technical Team as a soil conservationist where I worked in 14 counties throughout the southeast part of Indiana. As a soil conservationist I assisted the District Conservationist in each county with many program aspects, so I'm very familiar with the programs and conservation practices NRCS promotes. Outside of work I enjoy spending time walking my dog, gardening and visiting my family. I look forward to working with the producers of Franklin County and assisting you in your conservation efforts!

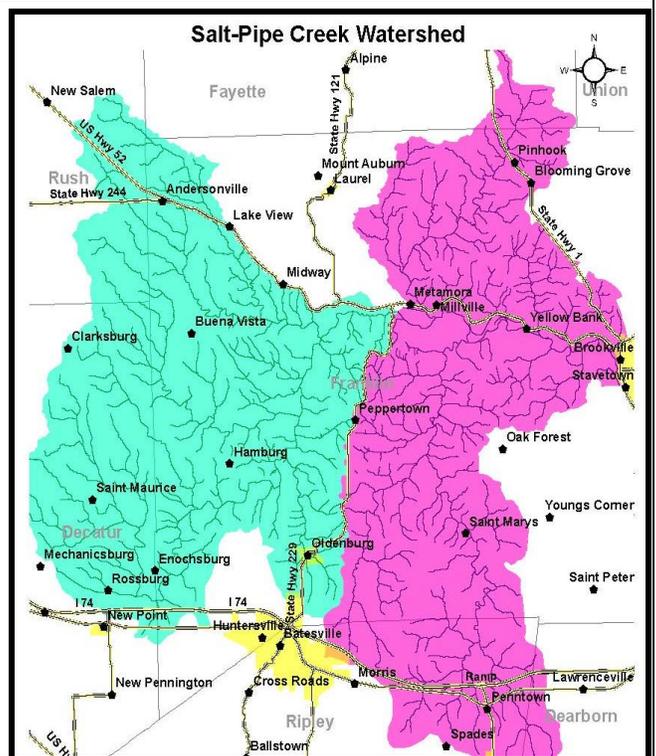
Salt-Pipe Creek Watershed Project Begins

The Decatur County SWCD was recently awarded a 205(j) Grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for the Salt-Pipe Creek Watershed. The \$84,778 grant will provide funds to develop a watershed management plan and do education/outreach for the next 2 years. When complete, the watershed management plan will be a reference for the watershed area. It will contain a lot of data and information about the land and water quality along with identifying problems, causes, sources, and critical areas of the watershed.

The Salt Creek watershed (HUC 0508000305) is located farthest west and comprises approximately 117 square miles (74,880 acres). The tributaries of Salt Creek watershed originate in Rush and Decatur counties and flow east into Franklin County. They include Little Salt Creek, Bull Fork, Righthand Fork Salt Creek, Fremont Branch and Harvey Branch among others. Salt Creek then flows north before its confluence with Whitewater River.

The Whitewater River continues flowing east through Pipe Creek watershed (HUC 0508000306) that covers approximately 118 square miles (75,520 acres) and drains a total of 842 square miles (538,880 acres). The watershed encompasses parts of Fayette, Franklin, Dearborn, and Ripley counties. Whitewater River flows through the middle of the watershed in Franklin County. The tributaries flowing into the Whitewater River from the north include Duck Creek, Little Duck Creek and Yellow Bank River. The tributaries flowing into Whitewater River from the south include Pipe Creek, Clear Fork, Walnut Fork, Snail Creek, and McCartney Run.

The Salt Creek and Pipe Creek watersheds will be combined for this grant project due to their similarities. The Salt-Pipe Creek Project is looking for landowners and individuals who are interested in becoming a member of the steering committee. During the first year of the grant, the steering committee will meet monthly to bi-monthly to get the project off and running and to get the management plan far enough along to apply for an implementation grant next year. The steering committee is the primary decision maker of the project and will be responsible for identifying priority areas in the watershed for any future funding. If you are interested or would like more information about the project or becoming a member of the steering committee, please contact the SWCD office or Heather Wirth, Watershed Coordinator, by calling 812-212-1066 or at heather.wirth@in.nacdn.net



Whitewater River Watershed Project Update

This year the Whitewater River Watershed has begun implementing its watershed management plan that was approved by EPA in August 2016. The management plan contains a lot of data and information about the land and water quality in the watershed. The management plan was made into a hardback book and is available for the public to view at the Brookville and Harrison libraries, Franklin County SWCD office, Franklin County Extension office, and the Franklin County High School. Electronic copies are available on the website at www.dearborncountywatersheds.org under the Whitewater River section.

The main component of the Whitewater River Watershed Management Plan's implementation is its cost-share program. The cost-share program can provide 70% of the funds to install best management practices (bmps) throughout the watershed up to \$8,000. Applications in the high priority areas will be considered first. The project was awarded \$200,000 to use for the installation of bmps and had 3 years to implement it. We are currently wrapping up the first year of the implementation grant. The steering committee has funded 13 applications and allocated \$104,000 so far. The project has paid out \$20,764.90 this year to help install 21.4 acres of hay

(Watershed update continued...)

plantings, 5,656 sq. ft. of gravel HUAPs, 3,300' of pipeline, 3 water tanks, 555' of animal walkways, 35.1 acres of cover crops, and 238' of access roads. The bmps that were installed have saved 745 tons of sediment, 694 lbs. of phosphorus, and 1,392 lbs. of nitrogen from entering the streams in the watershed. If you are interested in installing any bmps on your land or would like more information about the project, please contact Heather Wirth at (812) 212-1066 or email at heather.wirth@in.nacdnet.net

NRCS Update

WRE

The Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) Program provides financial and technical assistance to protect and restore wetland habitat. This program gives private landowners the opportunity to have an everlasting, positive impact on their property by restoring important wetland areas. Wetland Reserve Easements provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improve waterway quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scientific and limited recreational activities. Land eligible for WRE includes farmed or prior converted wetlands that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. To enroll land through WRE, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) enters into a purchase agreement with an eligible private landowner that includes the right for the NRCS to develop and implement a wetland reserve restoration easement plan.

This plan restores, protects, and enhances the wetland's functions and values. It is the landowner's responsibility to prove a clear title. There are two enrollment options for landowners:

- **Permanent Easements** are conservation easements in perpetuity. NRCS pays 100% of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 75-100% of the restoration costs.
- **30-Year Easements** expire after 30 years. Under 30 year easements, NRCS pays 50-100% of the easement value for the purchase of the easement, and between 50-75% of the restoration costs.

EQIP

Indiana's agricultural producers who want to improve natural resources and address concerns on their land are encouraged to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist, announced that December 15, 2017 will be the EQIP application deadline in Indiana.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program available for agricultural producers. Through EQIP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve soil health, improve water and air quality, and create wildlife habitat.

Producers interested in EQIP should submit a signed application to the local NRCS field office.

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Applications submitted by the December 15th deadline will be evaluated for the funding period submitted

Participants in EQIP must meet eligibility requirements. NRCS staff will work with producers to determine eligibility and complete necessary worksheets and rankings in order for the applicant to compete for funding.

For more information about EQIP and other technical and financial assistance available through Indiana NRCS conservation programs, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/programs/financial/eqip/> or contact the Brookville NRCS office.

Acting Franklin County District Conservationist: Lori Divine

Lori.divine@in.usda.gov

765-647-2651 Ext. 3

Dates to Remember

December 20: SWCD Meeting and Christmas Dinner, 6:30 PM, Korner's Kountry Kitchen in Brookville.

December 23: Christmas Eve Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

December 25: Christmas Day Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

2018

January 1: New Year's Day! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

January 8-9: 75th Annual IASWCD annual conference in Indianapolis. *Limited staff available.*

January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday! **Office Closed.**

January 17: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

February 8: 55th Annual meeting & dinner at 6:00pm in the FCHS cafeteria. *Please RSVP.*

February 21: SWCD monthly meeting at 7:30pm.

February 19: Presidents Day! Observed holiday. **Office closed.**

March: 12th Annual Conservation Tillage Breakfast & Workshop (PARP)—Zimmer Tractor.



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10165 Oxford Pike
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Wenning Farms, Inc
Roger Wenning
Cover Crop Specialist
812-593-1148
rwenning@etczone.com

Bounty Ryegrass - Crimson Clover
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Greensburg, IN

Grassed Waterways (NRCS Certified) - Septic
Farm Drainage - Grass Seeding - Ponds

Roger: 812-593-1148

Kevin: 812-528-6512

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