

Update on Adopted IASWCD Resolutions (2013-2017)

Benefits of Working with Indiana Colleges & Universities (2017)

That IASWCD work legislatively to remove the limiting language from Title 14, Article 32, Chapter 5, Number (6) from Indiana Code for Conservation Districts or work out a MOU between parties that addresses the issue/concern without opening Indiana Code.

Update: COMPLETED

- A MOU was drafted and signed by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Purdue University Cooperative Extension, and the State Soil Conservation Board. This MOU clarifies that Purdue University's College of Agriculture does not interpret "cooperation" to require that SWCDs must include Purdue University personnel in order to engage in research or Extension teaching activities with other institutions or agencies.

Revision of State Board of Accounts Policy (2016)

That the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) prepare and advocate legislation for SWCD's to be allowed to purchase food when events are being reimbursed by individuals or sponsors.

Update: COMPLETED

- Language has been updated by the State Board of Accounts to allow Districts to purchase food for events as long as those events fall within the mission of the District. All Districts were encouraged to adopt a policy statement to reflect allowance of food purchases.

Removal of government match rule for \$10,000 base local match (2015)

That the IASWCD submit legislative language to change the match requirement from local Government to any outside funding source.

Update: COMPLETED

- Included in SB 238 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2016/bills/senate/238>

SWCD and Township Cooperative Conservation Objectives (2015)

That the IASWCD help support the efforts to add more conservation funding responsibilities to township government, and help develop and coordinate local conservation partnerships to make more township tax funds available for cooperative watershed conservation projects within counties and within adjacent counties.

Update: In Progress

- Bill submitted during 2015 Legislative Session by Rep. Lucas, but was not heard in Committee.
- Continued discussion; hoping to revive for 2017 legislative session.
- Continued discussion with Association of Townships with possible action in 2018 legislative session.

Economic Impact of Cover Crops, No-till and Improved Soil Health (2014)

That the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. in support of this resolution would draft a proposal to support the collection of economic data to support the premise that improved Soil Health will lead to improved yields, reduced inputs, increased profits, reduced soil erosion, improved water quality, increase water holding capacity and increased resilience of the soil during times of stress. The IASWCD would support this resolution by drafting a letter of request for SWCDs across the state to make voluntary contributions of \$500 per year for period of three (3) years to be placed in a fund to support collection of economic data on the benefits of Soil Health either directly or through other funding sources.

Update: COMPLETED

- Referred to CCSI Oversight Committee
- Letter was drafted and sent to all Districts winter of 2016.

- Presentation made by Vermillion, Parke and Fountain County SWCD's with \$1,500 checks each for purpose of resolution.
- \$7,000 collected as of May 2017
- A full report will be made available each year to the SWCDs on use of funds.

Natural Resources Extraction Tax (2014)

That the IASWCD in support of this resolution assigns the research of this proposal and subsequent creation of draft legislation for the 2015 legislative session.

Update: Referred to SWCD Funding Task Force

Erosion Control Plans and MS4s (2013)*

That the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD), in the form of a letter and follow up meeting(s), will express to IDEM its support of written agreements made between MS4's and Districts, with the cooperation of IDEM in making the designation, for the purpose of construction site plan reviews and inspections in line with **327 IAC 15-13** and **327 IAC 15-5**.

Update: No action taken yet

Woodlands and CRP (2013)*

That IASWCD lobby or advocate to the Farm Service Agency allowing existing forest acreage to be enrolled in specific CRP programs. The conservation results would be more immediate and less monetary investment incurred to establish conservation habitat. The greatest benefit is the conservation of our forests.

Update: In progress

- *Resolution was reviewed by Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to Annual Business Meeting. A change in the legislative language within the Farm Bill would be needed. Jay County SWCD was advised to amend their resolution to include language asking the National Association of Conservation Districts to advocate for the change. This action was not included in the resolution.*
- *No further action will be taken unless Resolution is brought forth again and amended.*

**Resolutions denoted with an asterisk will sunset in 2017 unless they are brought forth for continued action.*