

# President's Message

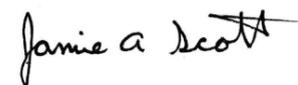
Every day we are creating a **Legacy**. We spend our time, our energy and our finances working to make a difference for future generations. We labor to make our soils healthier and protect our natural resources. Collaboratively, we plan field days, educate others through outreach in our communities, host workshops for local landowners, and attend workshops to learn more ourselves. We want to teach, model and assist with conservation best management practices.

The IASWCD Funding Task Force and the Staffing Task Force continue to work towards determining appropriate funding and capacity for districts and conservation efforts. Please keep updated on the legislator meetings via the IASWCD website over the next few months.

The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) added one new position and two new staff in order to better serve the districts and landowners across the state.

In March, I had the privilege of representing the IASWCD and joining over 150 conservation leaders from across the nation for the National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) annual Spring Fly-In in Washington, D.C. Along with Indiana Assistant State Conservationist, Jill Reinhart, as well as Roger Wenning, Sarah Delbecq, and Gene Schmidt, we were able to meet with our representatives and senators to share the success of conservation and soil health in Indiana.

Please take the time to read this annual report and learn how the IASWCD is working to serve you, the Districts, and the state of Indiana. Take encouragement from the fact that you are part of something bigger, a **Legacy**, that is making a difference in soil health and water quality. I've appreciated the opportunity to serve you these past few years and look forward to many more.



Jamie Scott  
IASWCD Board President

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
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Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

## 2018 IASWCD Board of Directors & Staff

<b>Jamie Scott</b> President	<b>Roger Wenning</b> Vice President	<b>Kerry Ames</b> Secretary	<b>Jeff Baker</b> Treasurer	<b>Jeff Meinders</b> Past President
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<b>Jame Krieger</b> N-SW Asst. Director	<b>Denny Simpson</b> S-SW Asst. Director	<b>Vacant</b> N-SE Asst. Director	<b>Pat Larr</b> S-SE Asst. Director	
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INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF  
**soil and water conservation**  
DISTRICTS

# 2018 Annual Report

The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization that supports the efforts of the soil and water conservation districts 460 supervisors and more than 200 staff in 92 local offices through training, communications, contribution agreements, partnership building, and advocacy.

## IASWCD Accomplishments in 2018

### Working for our Members

### Communications & Outreach

IASWCD used various communication tools to inform our members and the public about soil and water conservation issues. 2018 Accomplishments:

- Delivered 24 “Conservation Insight” eNewsletters with timely conservation information.
- Communicated District successes and accomplishments through media and news releases.
- Continued updates of the resource-packed association website at [www.iaswcd.org](http://www.iaswcd.org).
- Promoted District and partner job vacancies in the eNewsletter and on the website
- Promoted outstanding conservation efforts through various awards:
  - River Friendly Farmer - 49 recipients
  - Friend of Conservation Awards (3) –Vincennes Sun-Commercial (Knox County);The Center at Donaldson (Marshall County); Sharon Watson (White County)
  - Conservation Farmer of the Year – Mike and Susan Brocksmith (Knox County)
  - District Showcase Awards – Adams, Bartholomew, Marion and Porter County SWCDs
  - SWCD Supervisor of the Year – Announced at Awards Luncheon at Annual Conference
- Communicated news releases and other important natural resource information to a broader audience through posts on Twitter and over 250 Facebook posts. Increased Facebook following by 19% over past year.

- Provided registration and administrative support for all ICP training events in 2018.
- Contracted for a Coordinator for the ICP Pathway to Water Quality committee and successfully completed the 26th year of PWQ at the Indiana State Fair. Began discussions with ICP partners and State Fair to support a Coordinator for future years of PWQ.
- Conveyed important NRCS information to Districts through a contribution agreement for communication services.
- Participated in a water quality related podcast for Hoosier AgToday’s Soil Health podcast series, co-sponsored by CCSI.

### Policy & Advocacy

IASWCD works with legislators during session for SWCD conservation policy and funding. 2018 Accomplishments:

- Maintained the Clean Water Indiana general fund appropriation budget at \$1 million per year (although we advocated for an increase). Updated SWCDs on a weekly basis during the 2018 legislative session.
- Four SWCD supervisors advocated for Indiana’s conservation issues with all Congressional members during a visit to Washington, DC in March.
- Actively participated on the Indiana Conservation Alliance as a steering committee member.
- Communicated with all Congressional offices on the importance and meaning of conservation technical assistance.
- Attended and participated in Water Infrastructure Taskforce Committee summer meetings, and testified on behalf of soil and water conservation.

### Capacity Building

IASWCD works with partners to build the capacity of soil and water conservation districts to carry out locally led conservation. 2018 Accomplishments:

- Continued the NRCS Program Support agreement for Districts to provide administrative and technical assistance with Farm Bill programs. Over \$800,000 total in payments were made to Districts under this agreement in 2018. Over 70 Districts have signed contracts to do this work.

- Successfully garnered \$30,750 in sponsorships for the 2019 SWCD Annual Conference. These sponsorships help offset the cost of conference.
- Provided a Supervisor Scholarship Program, worth over \$5,000, offering assistance to supervisors to attend the 2019 SWCD Annual Conference.
- Partnered with ISDA, IDEA and NRCS to provide information and training at regional meetings.
- Collaborated with NACD to implement technical assistance grant opportunities for Districts.
- Convened several meetings of the Natural Resources Policy committee to discuss possible coordination between Districts and Townships, specifically in the realm of local invasive species management.
- Convened several meetings of the Funding Task Force to determine District financial needs, and develop a long term plan to work toward sustainable funding for Districts.
- Collaborated with The Nature Conservancy and ISDA to hold a cross-state border meeting with Indiana and Illinois Districts in the Wabash River basin to determine barriers to soil health adoption.
- Supported Districts with the development of Clear Choices, Clean Water outreach resources.
- Provided liability insurance coverage for Districts.

### Leadership

The IASWCD Board of Directors and its staff strive to provide consistent and quality leadership for Districts. 2018 Accomplishments:

- The Board and staff led a thorough campaign to interview candidates for, and hire, a new Executive Director.
- Hosted the 75th Annual Conference of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, January 8-9, 2018. Over 375 conservationists were in attendance.
- Represented SWCDs on the State Technical Committee; in the Indiana Conservation Partnership Leaders meetings, State Soil Conservation Board meetings, Indiana Family of Farmers, and other state level committees.
- Represented the SWCDs on the newly formed Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance (IANA), collaborating with

other agricultural partners on nutrient reduction.

- Represented SWCDs at the National level on various NACD committees.
- Worked with NRCS and other ICP partners on new Cooperative Agreement/MOU language, and collected and aggregated comments from SWCDs and provided to NRCS.

### Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

The IASWCD helps to administer the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI). Highlights in 2018 include the beginning of a new contribution agreement, which now supports two newly hired Program Managers; funding from Purdue University and CWI to retain the CCSI Agronomist; securing a \$10,000 grant from the Perdue Foundation to support education and training events; and, receiving a SARE grant for \$75,000 to adapt the CCSI agency-focused curriculum to an ag retailer audience. For an update on CCSI, please view the 2018 Highlights report.

### IASWCD Fiscal Summary

