

**INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICTS, INC.  
RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM (PLEASE TYPE)**

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Title of Resolution: State and County Soil and Nutrient Loss Estimates

Submitted by: Knox Co. SWCD

Contact Person: Ray Chattin

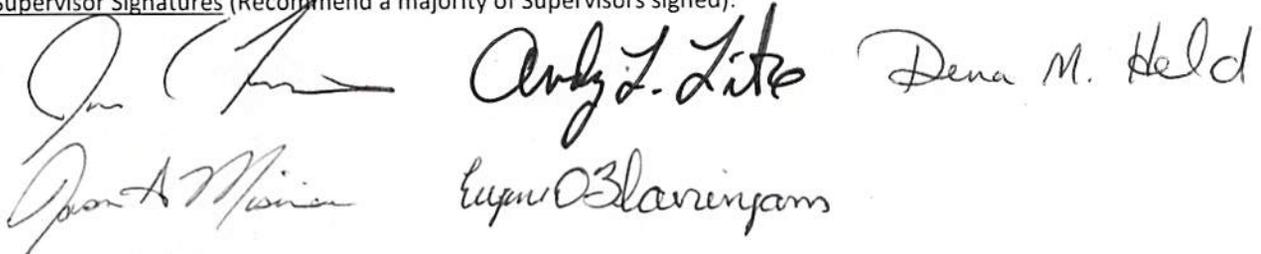
Explanation of Problem(s) or Need(s): Soil loss is a critical resource concern in Indiana. Although several metrics are being developed and utilized to report soil and nutrient savings, nothing is being done to report what is being lost on an annual basis at the county or state level. Such information is critically relevant in providing the kind of context that will make existing data truly meaningful.

Proposed Solution: ICP partners work cooperatively to formulate combined soil loss estimates that occur as a result of agricultural, urban and streambank erosion at the state and county levels.

Benefits Expected: Public awareness of the magnitude of the problem soil loss would be raised. This data could be used to extrapolate monetary consequences. Justification for CWI funding and local county funding for SWCDs would be validated.

Action Requested (Please specify the action you would like the association to take if this resolution passes): Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. request the ICP (NRCS, ISDA, IDEM and USGS to work cooperatively to formulate annual soil and nutrient loss estimates at the state and county level.

Supervisor Signatures (Recommend a majority of Supervisors signed):



Date Signed: 8-27-19

**Note: Please email this form to [joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org](mailto:joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org)  
Due on Friday, September 6, 2019**

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Long Explanation: Soil loss in Indiana continues to be a paramount natural resource priority that has been magnified by the unprecedented rainfall totals and numerous disastrous rainfall events that occurred in 2019. Significant emphasis has been placed on documenting soil and nutrient savings in recent years, particularly on the part of ISDA. Although this data is useful in demonstrating the efficacy of conservation programs and practices, the overall relevance of this data is limited when not considered within the context of total annual soil and nutrient loss. If streambank erosion estimates were to be included, the numbers would be multiplied to great effect.

The rationale for this resolution is that if the technology exists to estimate soil and nutrient savings, it also should permit the formulation of a reasonable estimate for soil **and nutrient** loss.

It is a given that this resolution will place an additional burden of our partners, but given the fact that capital is already being expended toward the gathering of data documenting soil and nutrient savings, it does not seem unreasonable to attempt to provide the proper context for such information.

It is also understood that estimating streambank erosion is a "black box" in that technology and existing data are relatively limited, however, few soil scientists or others who have studied the problem would deny that streambank erosion is by far the leading cause of soil loss in Indiana.

Efforts to gain meaningful conservation funding in Indiana at the state and county level have historically met with minimal success. A large reason for that failure can be attributed to the fact that those making those funding decisions have no clue as to the quantity or value of soil and nutrients currently being lost on an annual basis.

Any soil **or nutrient** loss estimate should not be intended to be precise, but it can be informative, rational and above all credible given the technology now available and the history and integrity of the Indiana Conservation Partnership. There is also the pervasive and indisputable physical evidence for all to see.

**Note: Please email this form to [joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org](mailto:joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org)  
Due on Friday, September 6, 2019**

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## IASWCD Resolution Submission Form - 2020

Resolutions must be submitted by Friday, September 6, 2019. The IASWCD business meeting will take place January 14, 2020. A SWCD Delegate must be present at the business meeting if submitting a resolution for consideration.

### Email address \*

charles.ring@in.nacdnet.net

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### Title of Resolution \*

Establishment of legislative task force to consider state's role in addressing invasive plants on private land.

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### Submitted by (SWCD name) \*

Knox Co.

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### Contact Person and email \*

Ray Chattin    chattin2265@gmail.com

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### Explanation of Problem(s) or Need \*

Invasive plants represent a catastrophic threat to the biodiversity of Indiana's native plant communities. Private landowners are tremendously underserved by DNR and Purdue Extension when it comes to education, technical assistance and training. Apart from the Indiana Invasives Initiative there is very little help available. NRCS funding support for the III will end in 2022. SWCDs continue to be key strategic partners in the establishment of new CISMAs statewide. Long term sustainability of the III staff and support system will be crucial. Additionally, the Indiana Invasive Species Council has never received any state funding. It is imperative that the legislature determine what their role will be.

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## Proposed Solution \*

Create a task force to assess the role of the legislature in the fight against invasive plants in Indiana, particularly on private lands.

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## Benefits Expected \*

The Indiana Invasives Initiative will not have to rely on grants and private donations to maintain its staff and programs. SWCDs will be recognized as key partners. The Indiana Invasive Species Council will be provided with an executive director to facilitate its role.

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**Action Requested (Please specify the action you would like the IASWCD to take if this resolution passes). Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc..... \***

Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. will assume leadership in establishing the formation of a Legislative task force to determine the legislature's role in addressing invasive plant species, particularly on private land.

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**Below please provide a detailed explanation of this resolution: \***

Invasive plants are degrading Indiana's forests, wetlands and natural areas as well as threatening the biodiversity of native plant communities. In 2017, SICIM entered into a 5-year contribution agreement with NRCS with \$917,000 being provided. With financial support from the State Soil Conservation Board, the IASWCD, grants and individual donors, SICIM has been able to generate over \$1.5 million to create the Indiana Invasives Initiative. The main goals of the III are to establish 60 sustainable CISMAs at the county level as well as providing education and technical assistance to private landowners and training for ICP staff.

SWCDs are recognized as key partners in this process due to the credibility and history with local landowners and the fact that their local staff and infrastructure can help support the creation and sustainability of local CISMAs.

SICIM now employs 5 full time regional specialists and a part time state coordinator carry out the goals of the III.

This is filling a tremendous void in addressing the resource needs of private landowners in both urban and rural communities.

With the exception of State Soil Board funding, the legislature has very little invested in the effort to address invasive plants. DNR Division of Forestry Staff have been cut. District foresters have major backlogs with traditional forestry programs and policy forbids them to assist landowners with 10 acres or less.

The role of the Indiana Invasive Species Council in assessing the status of existing invasive plants and monitoring the introduction and proliferation of new species is critically important. They have had to perform these duties without any staff, which is unacceptable.

Invasive plants are a problem that cannot heal itself and is rapidly getting worse. Without help from the state, the progress that has been made will be in jeopardy. Passage of this resolution will provide a teachable moment for legislators and will enhance the visibility and importance of local conservation delivery systems.

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**Supervisor Signatures (By typing in names, signifies Supervisors approval of submission) \***

Jim Farris, Gene Flaningam, Andy Like, Dena Held, Jason Misiniec

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Date signed \*

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09 / 05 / 2019

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## IASWCD Resolution Submission Form - 2020

Resolutions must be submitted by Friday, September 6, 2019. The IASWCD business meeting will take place January 14, 2020. A SWCD Delegate must be present at the business meeting if submitting a resolution for consideration.

**Email address \***

lois.mann@in.nacdnet.net

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**Title of Resolution \***

Conservation Plan Requirement to Receive USDA Subsidizes

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**Submitted by (SWCD name) \***

Fulton County SWCD

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**Contact Person and email \***

Lois Mann lois.mann@in.nacdnet.net

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## Explanation of Problem(s) or Need \*

Each county in the United States is served by a Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) whose primary purpose is to promote the wise use of our soil & water resources: and

The USDA, through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has as part of its mission the conservation of our natural resources, including our soil and water; and

The USDA subsidizes agricultural producers through such programs as PLC (Price Loss Coverage), ARC (Agriculture Risk Coverage), and Crop Insurance Premium Reductions (CIPR) with no current requirement for a conservation plan. Nitrogen and phosphorus have contributed to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico and harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. Sediment Pollution in excess amounts has decreased water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Conservation plans are needed to protect the future of farming and to preserve soil health and to address nutrient pollution. The proposed requirement would change federal contracts with producers to encourage the implementation of additional conservation practices.

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## Proposed Solution \*

Short term solution: The Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the State Soil Conservation Board shall establish a task force to evaluate the procedures necessary for Indiana to adopt proposed changes to USDA subsidized agricultural payments which would require proof of a current conservation plan to receive PLC, ARC and CIPR. Long term solution: Receipt of PLC, ARC and Crop Insurance Premium Reduction Subsidies shall be dependent upon proof that the acreage covered by those subsidies has in place a current conservation plan. This proposed solution could eventually change USDA programming regarding such payments.

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## Benefits Expected \*

By following an approved conservation plan, the producer will make progress towards reducing soil and water degradation, thereby promoting soil health. Additional benefits of implementing a well written conservation plan include increase water quality and quantity, reduced sediments which can cloud water and harm underwater grasses, fish and other aquatic life, reduce nutrients which cause harmful algal blooms, protect topsoil from erosion, and increase habitat for wildlife. Numerous conservation practices, programs and plans are available through NRCS with technical assistance and funding opportunities.

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**Action Requested (Please specify the action you would like the IASWCD to take if this resolution passes). Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc..... \***

Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. advocate for a requirement in the State of Indiana that all agricultural producers requesting PLC, ARC and Crop Insurance Premium Reduction Subsidies meet with their local NRCS District Conservationist and Soil and Water Conservation District to establish a conservation plan. A task force shall be created to determine the feasibility of implementing a conservation plan requirement for the aforementioned subsidies, similar to the current requirements to participate in Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) programs.

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**Below please provide a detailed explanation of this resolution: \***

Government is a big part of American agriculture, providing billions in financial assistance. Smart public policy can empower farmers to preserve our natural resources for future generations. Establishing conservation plans for agricultural land can increase a farmer's bottom line by creating healthier soils, reducing erosion, and conserving critical natural resources.

A conservation plan requirement would utilize NRCS conservation programs already in place to establish a conservation plan for each farm/field to which subsidies are paid. Producers requesting PLC, ARC and crop insurance premium reduction subsidies would meet with their local NRCS District Conservationist and Soil and Water Conservation District to establish a conservation plan for the farm. Many conservation programs come with additional funding for implementation of practices/structures and no-cost technical assistance. Even in least productive years like the wet spring of 2019, producers can store carbon by establishing a pollinator habitat or planting cover crops. Covered soils will further benefit soil microbes while protecting the soil from erosion.

Requiring a conservation plan for PLC, ARC and Crop Insurance Premium Reduction subsidies will conserve soil and water resources. NRCS technical teams and programs already exist and are tried and true environmental services. We advocate their use through a Conservation Plan for all PLC, ARC and Crop Insurance Premium Reduction subsidies.

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**Supervisor Signatures (By typing in names, signifies Supervisors approval of submission) \***

Matt Harsh - Chairman, Dustin Zellers - Vice-Chairman, Ross Burdge - Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Norman - Supervisor, and Austin White - Supervisor

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Date signed \*

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08 / 27 / 2019

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