

July 29, 2019

Dear Indiana State Technical Committee Member:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is preparing our Fiscal Year 2020 Farm Bill conservation programs. Part of this preparation is convening Local Working Groups to set local priorities. The Local Working Group provides recommendations to the District Conservationist and State Conservationist on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs.

Under the Farm Bill the Local Working Groups remain a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee, a diverse group of conservation partners that make recommendations on conservation activities and programs to the State Conservationist. The Local Working Groups' role is to provide similar recommendations and advice as the State Technical Committee, but with a focus on the resource priorities of the local community.

Indiana NRCS is currently sending a reminder letter to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to convene local Working Group meetings to prioritize local resource concerns and provide feedback to the Indiana State Technical Committee before October 30, 2019 in preparation for fiscal year 2020 Farm Bill Programs.

This letter is being sent to you to make you aware that invitations to attend the Local Working Group meetings will be sent from the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to your local representative very soon. A copy of the letter to the SWCDs is attached to this letter. As the representative of your group on the Indiana State Technical Committee, I am requesting that you communicate your support of the process and encourage your local representatives to attend and actively participate in these meetings.

Your support is important to the success of the Local Work Group meetings to ensure that local priorities are being addressed.

Thank you for your efforts in leading conservation in Indiana.

/s/

JERRY RAYNOR
State Conservationist

Attachment – Letter to Soil and Water Conservation District Board Chair

