

Update on Adopted IASWCD Resolutions (2017-2021)

Supervisor Per Diem (2021)

That IASWCD advocate for an opportunity or option for districts to be able to compensate supervisors at a level the county is willing to pay.

Updated Actions:

- This would require a change in district code. In the 2021 session, this was discussed with other agency partners that may need “cleanup” changes in our Title 14 of the code. With the primary focus of COVID in the 2021 General Assembly, we did not find much support for this change. It will be revisited prior to the 2022 General Assembly.

Annual Meetings – Options for 2020 & Beyond (2021)

That IASWCD advocate moving forward with supporting, developing, and implementing procedures for an “alternate option” to conducting an in-person annual meeting for all Indiana SWCDs.

Updated Actions:

- IASWCD monitored requirements from the state through communications with ISDA.
- IASWCD worked to provide virtual platform (Zoom) to districts for hosting virtual annual meetings in 2021.
- IASWCD monitored legislation that allowed for virtual meetings of special districts in the 2021 General Assembly. Legislation passed, and IASWCD will review to see how it may be used for future meetings.

Conservation Plan Requirement to Receive USDA Subsidizes (2020)

That IASWCD 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 (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) programs.

Updated Actions:

- As a national level topic, the resolution was submitted to the NACD resolution process. During the 2020 NACD annual meeting the resolution was changed to be supportive of the promotion of conservation planning for subsidy programs, but not to require them. More discussion with USDA NRCS and other national level partners are needed, especially as the next Farm Bill is drafted.

Establishment of Legislative Task Force Addressing Invasive Plants (2020)

That the IASWCD 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.

Updated Actions:

- Bill was created during the 2020 legislative session to create a summer study committee. It passed out of committee unanimously in the Senate, but died in the House. The proposed topic may have been a casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic, as not many topics were assigned.
- IASWCD was successful in getting invasive species designated as a topic of a Rural Caucus meeting, with a speaker from the Indiana Invasives Initiative and SICIM.

State and County Soil and Nutrient Loss Estimates (2020)

That the IASWCD 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

Updated Actions:

- No progress was made in 2020, primarily delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is being revisited in 2021.

Seeking additional annual funding avenues for SWCD's (2018)

That IASWCD look into annual funding for the SWCD's by assisting to establish a container tax that can be implemented on all plastic containers manufactured to hold chemical, agricultural and food grade liquid products.

Update: In Progress

- This item was referred to and discussed at the SWCD Funding Task Force meetings held in 2018.
- The Task Force has considered this item along with other possible ideas. However, the main focus has been moved toward water use fees. A similar approach to a container tax did not make it out of committee during the 2019 legislative session.

Feral Swine Eradication (2018)

That IASWCD should partner with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services' Feral Swine task force to keep abreast of the spread and control efforts that are in place. We should continue to provide education to districts about existing laws regarding harboring and hunting feral swine for sport and coordinate eradication efforts with neighboring districts be they local or across state lines.

Update: In Progress

- Feral Swine Eradication has been added as part of the NACD policy book at the national level. NACD and Districts across the nation lobbied for inclusion in the 2018 USDA Farm Bill.
- In the 2018 Farm Bill, \$75 million was designated to establish a "feral swine eradication and control pilot program" over the next five years to help landowners with trapping and to use modern technology to control feral hogs. While Indiana is not one of the pilot states, the program is being monitored for effectiveness and will provide an avenue for future efforts.

Clean Water Indiana Funding Limitation Expansion (2018)

That IASWCD sponsor legislation to revise Indiana District Law to allow Clean Water Indiana funding to be allocated in accordance with the natural resource priorities of the Indiana State Soil Conservation Board.

Update: In Progress

- Bill was created during the 2019 legislative session to change CWI language. The bill did not get a committee hearing.

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.