



SCOTT COUNTY SWCD

2017 - 2021

BUSINESS PLAN



Organization: The District was organized in November of 1945 as a legal subdivision of the State of Indiana. It was formed as an independent body under the Indiana Soil and Water Conservation District Law.

Function: The District provides leadership in conserving and protecting soil and water related resources within Scott County. We provide information about soil, water and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; and connect land users to sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

We serve: The District works with rural and urban people, non-agricultural and agricultural groups and organizations, local units of government, groups of citizens, individual landowners and others who request assistance.

Mission Statement: Helping others help themselves conserve and protect the natural resources of Scott County.

Why: To conserve and improve natural resources for future generations.

- Critical Natural Resource Issues:**
1. Drainage and Flooding
 2. Soil Health and Water Quality
 3. Forestry and Wildlife; Invasives
 4. Pasture and Hay Land
 5. Farm Land: Conservation and Preservation

Critical Geographic Areas of Concern: All of Scott County

Statements of Intent for Each Identified Issue through December 2021:

Drainage and Flooding

- Educate land users on drain maintenance through partnership and promotion of Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Work with Stucker Fork Conservancy District, County Drainage Board and other local officials on drainage obstructions.

Soil Health and Water Quality

- Continue to monitor/implement procedures for Rule 5 regulation and urban soil erosion.
- Maintain or increase current levels of acres utilizing no-till.
- Improve soil health and reduce soil erosion on 10,000 acres of cropland by increasing soil organic matter content and implementation of nutrient/pest management plans. Expand the use of cover crops by 250 acres annually.
- Support existing regulations and educate the public on septic system maintenance.
- Educate community on proper disposal of solid waste.
- Promote backyard conservation practices throughout the county.

Forestry & Wildlife

- Increase managed forested acres by 250 acres annually. Increase the number of landowners participating in funded programs by utilizing education and implementation of BMPs on forested land.
- Maintain wildlife habitat through education on noxious and invasive plants & trees.

Pasture and Hay Land

- Improve pasture & hay quality while improving environmental conditions on 1000 acres over 5 years. Promote and encourage BMPs on pasture & hay land.

Farm Land: Conservation and Preservation

- Promote educational activities regarding trust and regarding different methods available to landowners as a resource to help protect agricultural land.

Drainage and Flooding Priority Actions:

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Issue	Action Step	Who	When
<i>Education</i>	Host a drainage workshop.	District Coordinator, Board, Drainage Board, Co. Officials	Fall
	Address drainage issues in newsletter and/or newspaper article.	District Coordinator	Spring (Annual)
	Support Healthy River Initiative	District Coordinator, Board	Ongoing
<i>Drains</i>	Meet with Stucker Fork Conservancy District & Drainage Board to identify Drainage needs.	District Coordinator, Board	Spring

Soil Health and Water Quality Priority Actions:

Issue	Action Step	Who	When
<i>Soil Health</i>	Assist and publicize results of tillage/cover crop transect.	District Coordinator, NRCS, Ag Retailers	Fall and Spring
	Host a Clean Water Indiana field day or workshop to promote multi-county grant. Develop newsletter article.	District Coordinator, Board, NRCS, & Other partners	Fall or Spring
	Promote no-till, cover crops, buffers and Conservation programs/practices at field days.	District Coordinator, Board, NRCS, Other partners	Ongoing
	Promote federal conservation Programs	District Coordinator, NRCS	Ongoing
	Continue to monitor and implement procedures for Rule 5 regulation. Submit newspaper article about Rule 5 and the planning commission.	District Coordinator, Board, Rule 5 Contractor	Ongoing
	Promote cover crops and CWI in newsletter articles.	District Coordinator	Summer (Annual)
	Host a cover crop field day or workshop	District Coordinator, Board, NRCS, Other partnerships	Fall
<i>Water Quality</i>	Update/maintain Septic System Management page on website.	District Coordinator	June

Soil Health and Water Quality Priority Actions (continued):

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Issue	Action Step	Who	When
<i>Water Quality</i>	Cooperate with Health Department and Central Muscatatuck Watershed Project on ways to educate the public on proper septic system maintenance.	District Coordinator, Board	Summer
	Coordinate & promote Hardy Lake Sweep.	District Coordinator, Board, DNR, Jefferson Co. SWCD	April (Annual)
	Promote recycling & proper disposal of Solid waste thru' newsletters & articles	District Coordinator, Board	Summer
	Host a backyard conservation event	District Coordinator, Board, NRCS, Master Gardeners	Fall
	Coordinate & promote INfield Advantage	District Coordinator	Ongoing

Forestry and Wildlife Priority Actions:

Issue	Action Step	Who	When
<i>Forestry/ Wildlife</i>	Create newsletter/newspaper articles to educate landowners on the importance of well-managed forests & wildlife habitats and various programs available.	District Coordinator	Fall (Annual)
	Sponsor a Forestry Workshop	Board, IDNR, NRCS	Fall
	Create newsletter/newspaper articles pertaining to wildlife and habitat, and various programs available to landowners.	District Coordinator	Spring (Annual)
	Promote federal, state & partner conservation programs such as EQIP to benefit forestry & wildlife.	District Coordinator, Board, NRCS, IDNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife	Ongoing
	Multi-District Field Day for CRP practices establishment and maintenance.		
	Purchase trees for Scott County fourth grade students in honor of Arbor Day.	District Coordinator, Board,	April (Annual)
	Promote pollinator plot and habitat.	District Coordinator, Board, USFWS	Ongoing
<i>Invasive Species</i>	Tree & Plant Sale	District Coordinator,	Spring
	Educate public and support programs to eradicate invasives. Investigate a county CWMA (cooperative weed management area).	District Coordinator, Board, SICIM, HHH RC&D Woodland Committee	Ongoing

Forestry and Wildlife Priority Actions (continued):

Issue	Action Step	Who	When
<i>Wildlife</i>	Make wildlife seed available to community for the establishment of wildlife and cover crop food plots.	District Coordinator, Board	Spring Fall

Pasture and Hay Land Priority Actions:

Issue	Action Step	Who	When
<i>Education</i>	Promote federal, state and partner Programs in newspaper/newsletter.	District Coordinator	Summer
	Promote BMPs, and cost-share programs at field day/workshop.	District Coordinator, Board, NRCS, Purdue Ext.	Annual
	Host a pasture, hay and forage workshop.	District Coordinator, Board, Purdue Ext., NRCS	Fall/Spring

Farm Land: Conservation and Preservation Priority Actions:

	Promote local land trust areas at local meetings.	District Coordinator, Board, local Land Trust	February
	Create agricultural land conservation and preservation articles for newsletter/newspaper.	District Coordinator	Fall (Annual)
	Explore development of County Ordinance	District Coordinator, Board	Summer

Other Supporting Activities

	Post activities and information on the SWCD website and other social media.	District Coordinator	Ongoing
	Make conservation educational programs available to local schools and community.	District Coordinator	Ongoing (Annual)
	Host Annual Dinner and Meeting	District Coordinator, Board	February (Annual)
	Participate in community agriculture or conservation activities that promote the SWCD mission.	District Coordinator, Board, Purdue Extension, FFA	Ongoing
	Support National Association of Conservation Districts through continuing Education of Board and staff in workshops and seminars.	District Coordinator, Board	Ongoing

This Business Plan was created by the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District through assistance of supporting agency partners. The plan was adopted on _____.