

2021 NRCS
REPORTING YEAR



| Farm Bill Program | 2021 Fiscal Year |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| EQIP | \$37,223.18 |
| WRP/WRE | \$9,142.50 |
| CSP 2014 | \$3,000.00 |
| CREP | -0- |
| CRP | \$521,501.00 |
| TOTAL | \$570,866.68 |

Marshall County SWCD
2903 Gary Drive
Plymouth, IN 46563
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

| Conservation Practice | Planned Amt. | Applied Amt. |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Brush Management (ac.) | 107 | 105 |
| Conservation Cover (ac.) | 14 | 38 |
| Cover Crop (ac.) | 211 | 650 |
| Early Successional Habitat Development Mgmt. (ac.) | 26 | 13 |
| Forest Management Plans Written (no.) | 0 | 2 |
| Forest Stand Improvement (ac.) | 36 | 0 |
| Fence (382) (Ft.) | 6957 | 0 |
| High Tunnel System (sq ft) | 0 | 2,368 |
| Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (ac.) | 95 | 95 |
| Filter Strip (393) (ac.) | 42 | 0 |
| Field Border (386) (ac.) | 8 | 0 |
| Tree and Shrub Establishment (ac.) | 10 | 18 |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (ac.) | 75 | 4 |
| Wildlife Habitat Planting (ac.) | 3 | 1 |
| Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft.) | 1,854 | 0 |
| Wetland Restoration (ac) | 13 | 0 |

NON-PROFIT OR
US POSTAGE PAID
PLYMOUTH IN 46563
PERMIT NO. 240

Conservation: the careful maintaining and protection of something valuable especially in its natural or original state

SUPERVISOR ELECTION AT SWCD ANNUAL MEETING

The Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District will elect one supervisor during the district’s Annual Meeting on January 13th at 9:00 a.m. These Supervisors each serve a three year term. The nomination committee has submitted Craig Hawley for re-election, he has served as an SWCD supervisor for 9 years. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting. An eligible voter is a person of voting age, a representative of a firm, company or a corporation that owns or rents a tract of land properly located with the District. (Marshall County) All parties of jointly held property may vote. This year’s annual meeting will be a breakfast meeting at Christo’s Restaurant but there will also be a Zoom link that can be used so that everyone may attend. We request that you either call in to our office at (574) 936-2024 ext. 3 or email us at in-fo@marshallcountyswcd.org by January 12th so that we may send you the link to the ZOOM meeting and or reserve you a spot for breakfast! We will be posting our Annual Financial Report on our website www.marshallcountyswcd.org for the public to view. It may also be picked up at our office at 2903 Gary Drive or sent by request. We encourage producers and interested homeowners in Marshall County to attend our Annual Meeting and meet our Supervisors and staff. It will be an opportunity for you to express your interests and concerns for conservation in our district and to hear about the new programs and projects that the district will be introducing and implementing in the coming year. The SWCD Annual Meeting is a bit earlier than in previous years, make sure to mark it on your calendar and drop us an RSVP!

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And Here We Go....
319 Implementation Grant for 2022

Last year we announced that we had been awarded a Section 319 Implementation grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The grant will provide funds to implement conservation practices in the Headwaters Yellow River Watershed (HYR). There will be a robust cost-share program available for landowner/operators in the HYR which will include both urban and ag conservation practices. The contract was just recently signed and our new watershed coordinator

Tim Kroeker will be contacting landowners, municipalities and organizations that have properties directly affecting this watershed in the early months of 2022. The grant will be ongoing for three years, which will give the district time to organize outreach, offer educational programs, and work with its partners in St. Joseph and Kosciusko counties to implement important best management practices that will reduce nutrient load, e-coli contamination and sediment in this important watershed.



LARE GRANT ‘21 - MORE WORK TO DO!

In 2021 MCSWCD was awarded \$25,000 from Indiana Division of Natural Resources (IDNR) through their Lakes and River Enhancement (LARE) grant program. These funds will be available to additional landowners in the Yellow River Watershed that may not be included in the 319 grant area (which targets the headwaters of the river, in the northern-most part of the county). Cost share programs will be available to help with practices focused on reducing sediment in the river and reducing e-coli. Pasture and hay land planting, French drains, filter strips, and grassed waterways are practices that will be included, as well as fencing, HUAP (heavy use area protection), watering facilities, and waste management practices for livestock. We will be reaching out to members of the Amish communities, hoping it can help them as well. More money for more conservation practices....perfect!

WINTER 2020/2021



ANNUAL REPORT

Introducing Watershed
Coordinator Tim Kroeker

Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to introduce our new Watershed Coordinator, Mr. Tim Kroeker. This position is funded through the 319 grant that we received and Tim will be managing the new programs that will be protecting and improving the quality of the Headwater Yellow River Watershed. Tim comes to our district with an extensive background in watershed management and conservation. He received his bachelor’s from Taylor University in Biology and then went on to get his Master’s degree from Indiana University in the field of Applied Ecology and Water Resources. He has also attended the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. Tim has held positions with both the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and then founded his own consulting business. He has done extensive work in several watersheds in the northern half of the state, including the Salamonie and Upper Wabash Rivers, as well as Lake Wawasee and Bass Lake. Tim brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the district that will help us as we proceed with the new grant. Join us as we welcome Tim to Marshall County, hopefully many of you will be meeting him in 2022!

2021 HAPPENINGS

MARSHALL/ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CISMA

A CISMA? What's that? A Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area. And Marshall and St. Joseph counties have been working together in '21 to form their very own CISMA! Guided by a regional specialist with the Indiana Invasives Initiative, which is a collaboration between the NRCS and SICIM, the Southern Indiana Cooperatiave Invasives Management organization, our counties hope to engage a group of people who can collectively manage the problem of invasive plant species spreading across our local landscapes. CISMAS have been formed all over the state, with Indiana helping to lead the way in invasives management nationally. This year we held a Weed Wrangle® at the Marshall County Memorial Park, and have met for educational hikes at Prairie Winds Nature Farm in Lakeville and the new Marshall County Park, The Trails at Millpond. Once you see the damage invasive plants can cause, you can't "unsee" it. We hope you will consider joining our hardworking group! Sign up on our webpage to receive more information.



WORKING ON THAT KAYAK LAUNCH

Last year we reported that we had been awarded a LARE (Lakes and Rivers Enhancement) Grant from the DNR to do important streambank stabilization work on the Yellow River near Bremen that included a kayak ramp for the Shumaker Park. That is still happening, but it took a bit longer than anticipated to get the required permits from several agencies which delayed the bidding process for the project. In addition to the east bank work, which the LARE grant will cover, the KRBDRBDC (Kankakee River Basin Yellow River Basin Development Commission) has stepped up to do additional work on the opposite bank, which also is in need of stabilization. This work will be completed in 2022, and we look forward to having pictures of the kayak launch and the stabilized streambanks in next year's Annual Report. This project will be reducing the sedimentation in the Yellow and Kankakee Rivers, improving water quality in these watersheds. It is also our hope that residents will enjoy the kayak launch for years to come!



'YAKING FOR CONSERVATION!

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." - Baba Dioum

In an effort to teach young people to love and appreciate the beautiful lakes and rivers of our county, the District provided 6 kayaks to the Plymouth Parks Department in 2021. The parks department is currently working on policy for use, and they will be available in the spring of '22. We hope that families will take the opportunity to experience the enjoyable sport of kayaking, possibly creating life-long interest and concern for the health of our waterways. Currently there are two kayak launches within the city park which makes a short, introductory float easy to experience. The new kayak launch in Bremen will give county residents another place to put the kayaks in if they choose to make a longer trip down the Yellow River. 'Yaking for Conservation, sponsored by your Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District. Enjoy!



MCSWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Tyson Edwards

Tyson is a graduate of Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science Wildlife Science. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and has worked with the Indiana and Michigan DNR's as a Wildlife biologist. He has also worked with Cardno as an Ecological Resource Specialist and is currently employed at Corteva as an agronomist and is also a CCA certified crop advisor. Tyson and his wife Heidi live in Center Township with their five kids: Josie, Blake, Winston, Graham and Lincoln. They enjoy raising chickens and sheep and also garden on their hobby farm. Tyson is competing his 11h year as a supervisor after being re-elected in 2020. He serves as the Board Chairman.



Craig Hawley

Craig Hawley resides in Bourbon Township with his wife Serena and their five daughters: Cheyenne, Sierra, Savannah, Sabrya and So-roya. The Hawley family enjoys their days spending time outside on their family farm while raising horses and pigs. For 18 years, Craig has successfully operated his construction business, specializing in new home construction, pole barns and frame work. He is an owner of Farmer's Drainage, LLC, which actively provides all tiling and farm drainage needs throughout the community. Craig is up for election in '22 for his 4th term as a supervisor.



Tim Gochenour

Tim is a 1992 graduate of Purdue University with a B.S.. In electrical engineering. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force where he achieved the rank of TSgt. With his wife Stacha, they currently farm 800 acres in Bourbon and Tippecanoe Townships where they employ soil conservation practices such as no-till and cover crops. They also have a farm seed business selling a variety of seeds including corn, soybeans, wheat, cover crops, deer/wildlife food plot and bee/butterfly and wildflower pollinator mixes. Hobbies include traveling to visit grandchildren, hunting, fishing and motorcycling. Tim was appointed in 2016 to fill a term and was re-appointed in 2020.



Mike Large

Mike graduated from Bethel College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. He owns and operates Large Farms, LLC and lives with his wife Terri and their four boys Connor, Caden, Colton and Camden. . Mike is the treasurer of the Camp Creek Church and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Marshall County REMC. Mike was appointed in 2016, was then elected in 2018 and again in 2021. Mike currently serves as vice-chairman of the MCSWCD.



Rance Gling

Rance graduated from Purdue University in 2002 with an Agribusiness Management degree. He is employed at Wholesome Grain Solutions in Milford. Rance and his wife Kelsey reside near Bremen with their two children and operate a small farming operation utilizing cover crops and no-till practices. He is also active on the family farm with his dad and brother. He enjoys spending time in the outdoors hunting and cutting wood. Rance and his family attend the Nappanee Missionary Church where he serves on the Safety Team. He is completing his 10th year as a supervisor for the District.

Board meetings are normally held the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm, times can vary depending upon the month. Check our website to determine location and times. Meetings are open to the public, and we are also making Zoom links available for those who choose to attend virtually. Call or email us to request a link, we will be happy to get that to you so can you participate.

PRETTY INVASIVE PEARS BOUNTY!

Through the generosity of the Arrow Head RC & D, the Marshall County SWCD was awarded a grant to educate homeowners about invasive ornamental pear trees. A bounty was offered that would pay residents to remove a pear tree and replace it with a beneficial native tree. An educational article was printed in the Plymouth Pilot in the spring, along with several Facebook posts on the district's page. (don't forget to follow us on FB!) A few applications were submitted, but we still had funds left to distribute. A second post was made in October and it was shared over 230 times and reached over 26,000 people! We are happy that we helping to educate folks statewide about how much trouble this pretty plant is causing in our woodlands and open ground. Our district has been contacted by other districts in the state about this program, and it is our hope that creating awareness about invasive ornamental pears will keep them out of our lawns and properties in the future. Unfortunately, this tree is still able to be sold in the nursery and landscaping industry, having been left off of the Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule list (do not grow, sell or trade in the state). We ask that you continue to help us get the word out.....Ornamental Pears, Pretty but Pretty Invasive!

USDA and the Marshall County SWCD prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

OFFICE STAFF



Jodie Overmyer
SWCD District
Coordinator



Timothy Kroeker
SWCD Watershed
Coordinator



Troy Manges
NRCS District
Conservationist



Chris Gardner ISDA
Resource Specialist
CREP Leader Tippecanoe CREP