

## A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT COMPLETED

Completed! The kayak launch/streambank stabilization project in Bremen's Shumaker Park, funded by a Lakes And Rivers Enhancement grant through the IDNR, was installed in early spring of this year, along with additional work on the opposing bank funded by the Kankakee River Basin Yellow River Basin Development Commission. There had been severe erosion at this location for some time, and through this partnership, the District was able to double the scope of the project. The kayak launch was incorporated to allow access to the river for recreation and enjoyment of the river. More locations are being looked at further downstream to allow kayaks and canoes to be launched and taken out at different distances to adjust for trip lengths. The Town of Bremen was an important partner in the project as well. We thank everyone involved in this important conservation practice that will help prevent additional erosion from occurring in the future.



2022 saw the official formation of a Cisma with the acronym SMIPP—St. Joseph and Marshall Counties Invasive Plant Partnership. And what's a Cisma again? (so many acronyms, so little time...) A Cisma is a Cooperative Invasives Species Management Area. Cisma's are being formed all over the state of Indiana. They are working groups of concerned folks that are helping to raise public awareness of the devastation that is caused by invasive, non-native plants in our woodlands. This year the new Cisma hosted two Weed Wrangles®, one in the spring at the Marshall County Memorial Forest and one in the fall at Potato Creek State Park. A Weed Wrangle® is an event held at on public property and involves the actual removal of invasives....this can be a rewarding experience, helping to improve local habitat. Two educational hikes were held, at Ancilla College and at Potawatomi Wildlife Park. Not only can you learn about destructive invasives at these hikes, but also about beneficial native plants that help insects and wildlife. Also, FREE property surveys are available to you, find out which invasives you have and what you need to do to manage them. These are brought to you by an agreement between NRCS and SICIM, the State of Indiana Invasives Management organization. Contact us at the office for more information. 574-936-2026 ext. 3. Joining a Cisma is a GREAT way to participate in local conservation. Watch for new FB page coming in 2023 and join us at an event! Better yet, join SMIPP and help us in the effort to manage invasives in Marshall and St. Joseph counties.

### WE STILL HAVE THE DRILL!

The District still owns the Great Plains drill seeder for county residents to use to install cover crops, pollinator habitat, pastures and pasture renovation. The fee has increased to \$80 for the usage fee and then \$8/acre to cover maintenance for the equipment. Just give us a call early this spring to reserve, installing these important conservation practices is so very important to the health of our environment.



*Educational hike at Potawatomi Wildlife Park, the group is taking a look at the invasive ornamental grass, Miscanthus sp., also known as Chinese Maiden Grass. This is very commonly used in our home landscapes and needs to be removed.*

**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.**

  
Marshall County  
soil and water conservation  
DISTRICT  
2903 Gary Drive Plymouth IN 46563  
574-936-3026 ext. 3

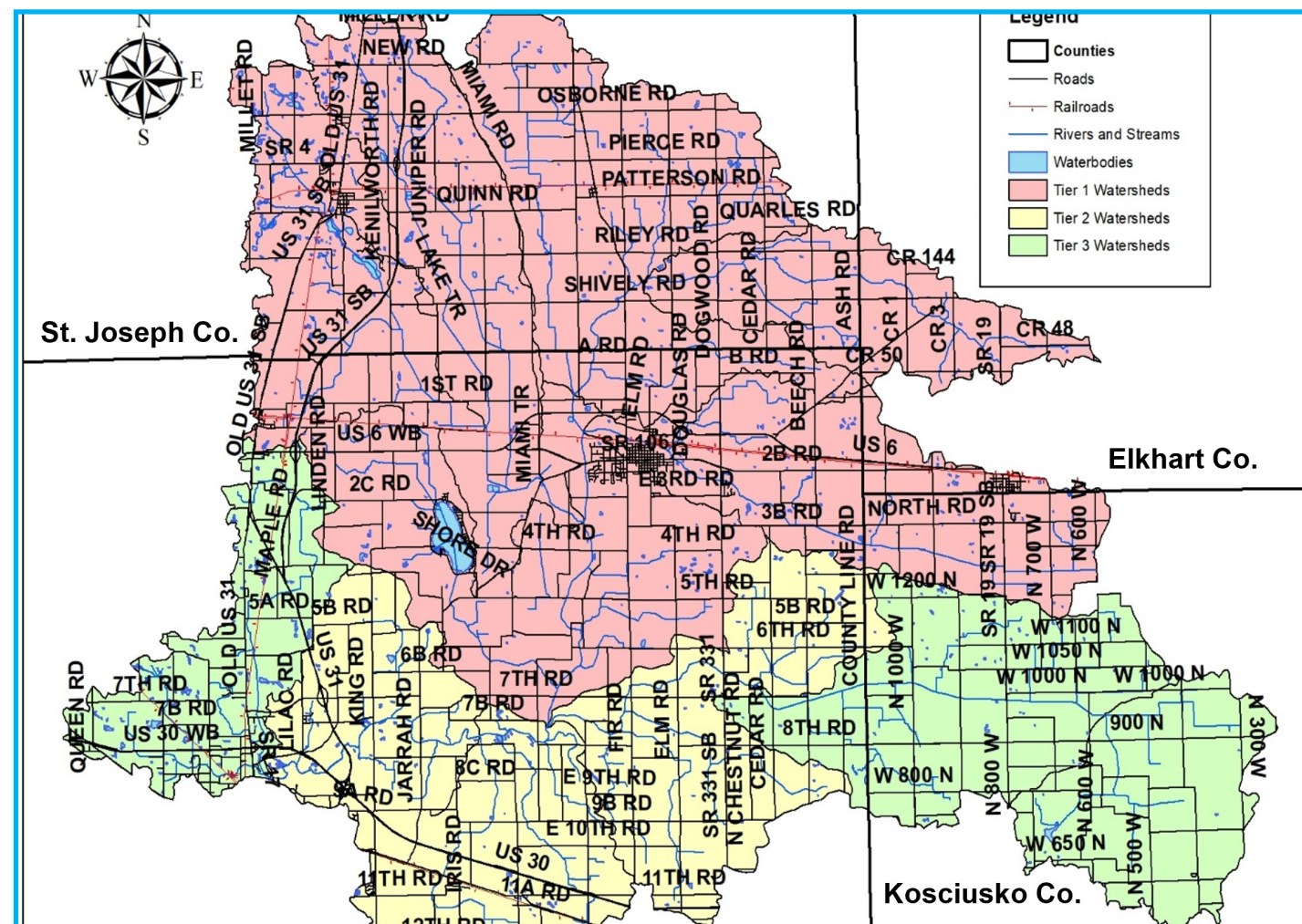
## CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## GRANT MONEY FOR CONSERVATION

In 2016, the Marshall County Soil and Water District received a 319 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to develop a Watershed Management Plan. This plan evaluated the health of the Yellow River and investigated problems and possible sources of pollutants entering the Yellow River from the surrounding land, or *watershed*. To help focus future funding and projects in the most efficient way possible, the watershed was divided into sub-watersheds, and each was prioritized based on the estimated amount of pollu-

nants entering the river from that area. Each sub-watershed was then labeled as Tier 1 (most problematic), Tier 2, or Tier 3. The result is pictured in the map below. Pollutants entering the Yellow River do not only impact water quality locally, but continue to cause problems downstream in the Kankakee, Illinois, and Mississippi Rivers and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico! Sources of pollutants to the Yellow River include both point and non-point sources of pollutants. Point sources are easy to identify, such as a pipe from a factory (continued on page 2)





319 IMPLEMENTATION GRANT -continued-

or sewage treatment plant. Non-point sources are more difficult to identify and quantify as they are pollutants washed off of roads, rooftops, farms, construction sites, and other areas in the watershed. The main pollutants of concern in the Yellow River include sediment, excess nutrients and E. coli bacteria. Last year the District received funding through a 319 Implementation grant. This grant funds three major components to specifically address non-point sources of pollution, and our watershed specialist will help tailor each of these areas to meet the specific needs within the Yellow River watershed. The three components include technical assistance, education and outreach, and a cost-share program to fund specific best management practices to address pollutant sources. The education and outreach component will include workshops and field days on a variety of topics to help stakeholders learn how they can help address problems in the watershed. There will also be a chance to learn how to be a volunteer for water quality sampling throughout the Yellow River watershed. The final-component consists of a Cost-Share program that helps fund specific projects that improve water quality, soil health, and the overall quality of life for people in the Yellow River watershed. Agriculture is a major land use in the watershed, so many of the projects will focus in these areas, but urban and suburban areas also contribute to pollution problems so projects in these areas are eligible for funding as well. Many on-farm best management practices qualify for cost-share funds. This winter, while farming equipment is idle, may be a good time to consider doing equipment modifications to support some of these practices. Some examples that have received funding in the past include:

**For nutrient management:** Variable Rate Technology (VRT), Auto Steer/Auto Trac, GPS systems and displays, Soil Probe software for VRT

**For Cover Crops:** Seeder boxes, air seeder boxes, no-till drill modifications for planting certain cover crop species, modification of highboys for planting cover crops in standing corn

**For Conservation Tillage:** conversion to no-till or strip till, no-till coulters, row cleaner upgrades, closing wheel upgrades, roller/crimpers for planting green.

Most projects that address both soil health and conservation will be considered, so if you have an idea, please let us know and we will see if we can help fund it.

In addition to equipment modifications, there are many other practices that we can help cost share. These include cover crops, filter strips, waterways, fencing and alternative water supplies for pasture rotation, comprehensive nutrient management plans, critical area planting, waste storage facilities, water and sediment control basins with subsurface drainage, heavy use area protection, restoration/creation/enhancement, stream bank and shoreline protection, two-stage ditches, and urban conservation practices such as rain barrels, rain gardens ,vegetated swales, green roofs and others.

Most of these practices are available in the Tier 1 area of the Yellow River (see map). However, we also have a LARE grant (Lakes And River Enhancement grant) and a Clean Water Indiana grant that can cover some of these practices in other portions of the Yellow River watershed and throughout Marshall County. Please call the office if you have an interest in any of these types of projects and are in the service area. The application process is simple and staff are available to help with any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us at 574-936-2024 ext. 3, or watershed coordinator Tim Kroeker at his mobile number 260-766-1104. You can also email us at [info@marshallcountyswcd.com](mailto:info@marshallcountyswcd.com) or [timothykroeker@in.nacdn.net](mailto:timothykroeker@in.nacdn.net).

SUPERVISOR ELECTION AT ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2023

The Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District will elect one supervisor during the Annual Meeting to be held the Dutchmaid Eatery in Bremen (Rentown).on January 26 at 9:00 a.m.,EST The nomination committee has submitted Tim Gochenour for re-appointment and Joel Fisher for election. Joel has served on the board in the past, from 2006-2010, and is stepping up to replace previous chairman Tyson Edwards. Joel is a lifetime resident of Marshall County, working on his family farm near Culver and currently holding a position with Stantec/Cardno in Walkerton as their restoration nursery manager. Outside nominations may also be made at the annual meeting and voting will then take place. 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 within the District. All parties of jointly held property may vote. We request that you either call in to our office at (574) 936-2024 ext. 3 or email us at [info@marshallcountyswcd.org](mailto:info@marshallcountyswcd.org) by

January 20 to reserve your spot for breakfast, which is complimentary. We will be posting our Annual Financial Report on our website [www.marshallcountyswcd.org](http://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. Our watershed coordinator Tim Kroeker will be doing a short presentation about the Yellow River watershed, and district coordinator Jodie Overmyer, along with invasives species regional specialist Mandi Glanz will be speaking about the importance of managing invasives on our properties along with the incorporation of native plants in our landscaping. We hope to see you there!

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 as a wildlife biologist. He has also worked with Cardno as an Ecolog-

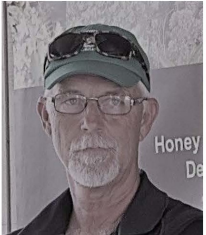
ical Resource Specialist and is currently employed at Corteva as an agronomist and is also a CCA certified crop advisor. Tyson and his wife Heidi live in Center Township with their five kids: Josie, Blake, Winston, Graham and Lincoln. They enjoy raising chickens and sheep and gardening on their hobby farm. Tyson just completed his 11th year as a supervisor after being re-elected in 2020 He serves as the Board Chairman.



Craig Hawley

Craig 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 19 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 in his 3rd term as an elected 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 his grandchildren, hunting, fishing and riding his motorcycle. Tim was appointed in 2016 to fill a term, re-appointed in 2020 and is up for re-appointment this year.



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 elected in 2018, and 2021. Mike currently serves as vice-chairman of the MCSWCD.



Joe Skelton

Joe has served as an associate supervisor for a number of years and moved up this past year as an associate supervisor to replace Rance Glangle. Joe and his wife Carol moved to Lake of the Woods after he retired as a Captain of the fire department in Calumet City. He is the past president of the Lake of the Woods Property Owner's Association and also past President of the

Lake of the Woods Regional Sewer District. He is currently the vice President of both the Marshall County Lakes and Waters Council and the Arrow Head Country Resource Conservation and Development Area. Joe firmly believes in protecting and preserving the environment and says he is honored to be serving on board of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Board meetings are normally held the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., times can vary depending upon the month. Meetings are open to the public and are generally held at the USDA Service Center at 2903 Gary Drive in Plymouth. Check our website to determine exact location and times. We hope to see you in '23!



2022 NRCS REPORTING YEAR

Farm Bill	\$ for 2022	Conservation Practice		Planned Amt.	Applied Amt.
Program	Fiscal Year				
EQIP	\$96,426.59	Brush Management (314)(Ac)		318	186
		Brush Management to improve wildlife habitat (E314A) (Ac)		53	0
WRP/WRE	0.00	CNMP Design & Implemtation Activity (101) (#)		1	0
		Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102)(#)		1	0
CSP 2014	\$1,500.00	Conservation Cover (327)(Ac)		10	11
		Conservation Crop Rotation (328)(Ac)		5	0
CSP 2018	\$1,527.00	Cover Crop (340)(Ac)		701	122
		Early Successional Habitat Development Mgmt. (647)(Ac)		21	40
CREP	\$31,597.00	Fence (382)(ft.)		0	6,080
		Filter Strip (393)(Ac)		10	0
CRP	\$478,188.00	Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)(Ac)		6	3
		Integrated Pest Management Plan - Written (114) (#)		0	1
Total	\$609,238.59	Livestock Pipeline(516) (ft.)		3,140	0
		Nutrient Management Plan - Written (104)(#)		0	1
		Pasture and Hay Planting (512)(Ac)		32	40
		Prescribed Grazing (528)(Ac)		63	0
		Shallow Water Development & Management (646)(Ac)		0	0
		Subsurface Drain (606)(Ac)		0	40
		Watering Facility (614)(#)		2	0
		Tree and Shrub Establishment (612)(Ac)		39	5
		Upland Wildlife Habitat Management(645)(Ac)		70	56
		Wetland Restoration (657)(Ac)		1	10
		Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)(Ac)		29	0
		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment & Renovation (380)(ft)		1,344	0

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