



Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District 2010 Annual Report

Indianapolis, Indiana

Chairman's Report

For forty years the Marion County Soil and Water District (SWCD) has helped people make good land use decisions. Working with the City of Indianapolis, homeowners and businesses, the District helps set the priorities and guidelines for the local conservation needs. The District provides the technical, financial and educational assistance for urban and agriculture needs.

The District is a locally-led organization whose mission is to serve the citizens of Marion County. I would like to share some of our accomplishments and work this past year, by listing them from various sources.

Financial - First and foremost the District brought in \$1.25 for every dollar budgeted for it. Partnering with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the State Department of Agriculture, we will continue to serve the county in a cost effective manner.

The District hosted a spring and a fall tree & rain barrel sale to encourage planting trees in the county, conserve water and to help fund some of our outreach programs. From the fall 2009 and spring 2010 sales 664 plants and 47 rain barrels were sold.

Workshops, Demonstrations & Outreach

Education - The District is involved with creating and hosting practical and educational workshops on natural resource issues, often teaming with Hoosier Heartland RC&D. We assisted with preparations for the annual "Contractor Storm Water Management Workshop" and a "Landscaping with Rain Gardens" workshop in February. We helped sponsor the "Gardening for Life: An Evening



Improved erosion control on construction sites is just one of many goals met by the SWCD this year.

with Doug Tallamy" workshop which was very well attended by 1200 people.

In addition to the workshops, the SWCD created or helped to create a number of educational fact sheets including "Soil Issues in Rain Gardens", a much needed resource especially for our area.

The District was active in outreach and exhibited at several events including the Indiana State Museum's "Going Green" event in March, "Earth Day" at the City Market and the "Earth Day Indiana" festival in April.

Another means of outreach was by assisting in implementing a Watershed Awareness program through a Clean Water Indiana grant which funded over 50 talks to Homeowner Associations and other community groups on water quality issues.

The District works with Upper White River Watershed Alliance by sharing technical information and posting information on our website.

We have received grants and assisted with rain gardens at the Marion County Fairgrounds, the State Fairgrounds, and Indianapolis Art Museum.

(Continued on page 2)

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District works to provide technical, financial, and educational services to help Marion County land users conserve soil, water, and related natural resources.

This 2010 SWCD Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of our friends and co-workers for conservation Stanley Smith, John A. Kitley, Carroll White and Norm Rogers.

More 2010 Highlights from the Chairman

(Continued from page 1)

The District received a Clean Water Indiana grant from the State Soil Board, to address watershed and water quality issues to neighborhood associations and other community groups. We also worked with SustainIndy, RebuildIndy, and the Indiana Wildlife Federation and Hoosier Aquatic Management, Inc.

The District promoted Backyard Conservation projects in urban gardening and composting, tree planting starting rain gardens, and removal of invasive species.



Technical Assistance - The SWCD actively assists residents with drainage problems on small private lands. We assist landowners with site surveys and making recommendations for minimizing or alleviating drainage and flooding problems. This year the SWCD assisted 120 landowners with natural resource needs.

Working with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management on Rule 5 dealing with sedimentation pollution of our waterways, we assist the city with the formal reviews and onsite visits for Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan compliance inspections for all projects disturbing one acre or more on development projects. During the year 339 construction sites were assisted with soil and erosion control information. District staff reviewed 27 Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) and 71 erosion plan inspection reports were developed from a total of 311 site inspections made. Compliance at construction sites



improved over the 2009 report. Last year 50 percent of all construction sites inspected were out of compliance and not following their SWPPP. This year only 23% were out of compliance – a huge gain especially considering that inspections were increased from 222 in 2009 to 311 this year.

As you can see from this partial list the District is very busy with a variety of jobs and works with many government departments and community organizations. In our ever expanding role as a leader in conservation, our dedicated staff and board will continue to promote and implement conservation projects for the county.

Mark Kautz, Chairman

Thank You 2010 Affiliate Members!

Corporate Conservation Partner
Marion County Farm
Bureau, Inc.

Corporate Conservation Donors
Christopher Burke
Engineering, LTD.
Herman & Kittle Properties, Inc.
Hoosier Aquatic Management,
Inc.

Individual Conservation Donors
Rick Bein
Mark Kautz

**Community/Nonprofit
Organization
Conservation Donor**
Nora/Northside Community
Council, Inc.

Individual Conservation Leader
Ron & Cindy Lauster

**Bob Eddleman
Beth Mason**

**Become a 2011 SWCD
Affiliate Member**

**Contact the SWCD
office at
317-786-1776
or check out more
information at our
website:**

www.marionswcd.org



Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2010 Annual Activities Report October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a unit of state government, supported primarily by the City-County Council with some funds from state government. The SWCD was established to provide technical assistance to Marion County residents and land users concerning the proper management of soil, water and other related natural resources. We work closely with local government, community organizations and residents on such items as water quality and drainage issues, soil erosion and sedimentation control, green space and wildlife habitat, conservation planning and education to help create a better quality living environment for everyone in the county.

This 2010 annual report was developed to keep city, county, and federal level legislators, government agency directors, and various community leaders informed of our on-going activities. This is just a snapshot of our activities, anyone with any questions or comments are encouraged to contact our Marion Co. SWCD office at 6960 S. Gray Rd., Suite C, Indianapolis, IN 46237 for more details. Our phone number is 317-786-1776, and our web site is www.marionswcd.org



Helped Install Rain Garden & Rain Barrel at Marion Co. Fairgrounds w-RC&D grant



Utilized SWCD Display at Earth Day & Other Events



Assisted with RC&D Green Site Planning Workshops & Other Technical Sessions

I. 2010 Major Natural Resource Projects Summary

In addition to on-site visits, additional SWCD educational and outreach efforts were completed to help the SWCD program communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with others on conservation needs and solutions for landowners and landusers in the county. The efforts can take a minimum of 2-4 hours to several days depending on the type of activity needed.

Project Summary	Numbers	Date	Comments
• Fall tree & shrub sale	386 trees	10/11/09	83 cost shared w-\$4,980
• Indianapolis South Side Landfill Inspection	1 review	10/15	Done jointly w-IDEM
• Helped host "Gardening for Life Workshop" at Clowes Hall	1025+	11/3	National speaker provided
• Work with-DPW & DMD on MOU & NPDES Report	3 items	11/30	MOU, budget, and report
• Indiana Association of Conservation Districts Conference	3 days	1/11-13/10	Board & Staff attended
• Conservation Day at the State House (staff on personal time)	75+	1/26	Informed state legislators
• Central Indiana Stormwater Workshop (w-HHRC&D & others)	400+	2/10-11	Helped coordinate event
• Central Indiana Rain Garden Workshop at St. Fairgrounds	70+	2/16	National speaker provided
• Marion Co. SWCD Annual Meeting w- Annual Report	80+	2/16	Reported accomplishments
• State Museum Green Conference	50+	3/20	State level outreach
• Helped plan & install Co Fairgrounds Rain Garden & Barrel	1 prj	6/24	w-\$8,000 HH-RC&D grant
• Marion Co SWCD Strategic Planning Retreat with Partners	16	4/16	SWCD, City & St agencies
• Earth Day at City Market Downtown	200+	4/22	Hosted SWCD booth
• Indianapolis Earth Day at White River State Park	400+	4/24	Hosted SWCD booth
• Spring tree, shrub, & rain barrel Sale (sold 47 rain barrels)	278 trees	5/15	42 cost shared w-\$2,520
• 2010 CWI Presentations Project (up to 50 talks w-grant)	\$7,000	Initiated 5/24	w-2 City agencies & 3 Gps
• SWCD Bd. proactively requested clarification Rule 5 from City	1 ltr	6/21	to DPW & DCE
• SWCD Bd. supported consideration of Tall Grass Ordinance	1 ltr	6/22	to DPW, DCE, & MCHD
• Attended Pleasant Run Watershed organization meeting	35+	6/22	Watershed Group formed
• Green Site Planning Workshop with Hoosier Heartland RC&D	75+	7/29	Helped coordinate event
• Attended NRCS Urban Conservation Standards Meeting	14+	9/15	Prioritized standards
• Affiliate Member Program (and other Donations)	\$1,680	during year	Seeking local \$ support
• Continued Lower Fall Creek & Indy Watershed websites	2 sites	during year	Watershed info shared
• Work with Eagle Creek, & Upper White River Watershed	10 mtgs	during year	Assisted locally led efforts
• Actively support Hoosier Heartland RC&D & Committees	26 mtgs	during year	Including Plant A Million
• Assists Indy Clean Streams Team, Tree Bd., & SustainIndy	10 mtgs	during year	SWCD Bd & Staff involved
• Mtgs. w-Indpls DPW, DMD, Indy Parks, & Bd. of Health	10 mtgs	during year	Worked on joint issues
• Maintain Marion Co. SWCD website w- avg. monthly hits-of-	9,225	during year	Shares info about SWCD
• Distributes newsletter on activities & watershed programs	4 / yr	during year	2,100+ on mailing list
• Distributes news releases on variety of conservation topics	45 / yr	during year	35 media+250 others

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District is working every day to help people care for the land and provide a better quality of life in our community.

TOTAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT LEVERAGED THROUGH THE SWCD - EACH CITY/COUNTY TAX DOLLAR IS MATCHED BY \$1.25 FROM OTHER SOURCES

II. Natural Resource Technical Requests, Contacts, & Visits with Landusers

Through on-site visits, telephone calls and written recommendations, the district assists landowners with drainage, water management, erosion control, vegetative management options, and other related natural resource topics. These assistance efforts take an estimated amount of hours shown below depending on the type of assistance provided to schedule, inventory available site data, visit the site, plan recommendations, and respond to the request with written comments to the land user or landowner. The Mayors Action Center routes many assistance requests to our office.

Township	# Technical Assists Provided (@ 1 hr)	# Site Visits Made (@ 2hrs)	# Letters or Reports Provided (@ 4 hrs)	# Conservation Plans or Surveys Provided (@ 6 hrs)
Center	9	6	3	1
Decatur	1	1	1	0
Franklin	12	11	2	4
Lawrence	25	17	8	0
Perry	21	17	6	2
Pike	5	2	0	0
Warren	16	12	3	1
Washington	14	11	8	0
Wayne	17	14	3	0
TOTAL	120	91	34	8

III. On-Site Development, Erosion Control and Stormwater Reviews, Contacts & Reports

Following state law requirements and through a joint agreement with the City of Indianapolis, the Marion County SWCD assists developers and contractors by reviewing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) for government sponsored projects and providing compliance inspections for SWPPPs during development for county construction sites with one acre or more of site disturbance. These assistance efforts take an estimated amount of hours shown below depending on the type of assistance provided to schedule, inventory site data, visit the site, make additional follow-up visits as needed, and write review or inspection reports. Most sites need 2-4 visits to close out a review or conduct inspections during the construction process. At any one time during the last year, the county has had at least 100 of these construction sites that should be inspected. Due to funding and manpower limitations, the district was able to inspect only about 80% of the sites in past 12 months before the project was completed.

Township	# Construction Sites Assisted (@1 hr)	# Provided Soils or Other Information (@ 1 hr)	# SWPPP* Reviews Provided (@ 3 hrs)	# Erosion Plan Inspection Rpts (@ 2 hrs)	# of Site Inspections Made (@ 2hrs)
Center	81	0	12	8	51
Decatur	6	1	1	1	2
Franklin	54	3	0	21	47
Lawrence	25	1	1	6	17
Perry	38	0	1	4	46
Pike	36	1	2	8	70
Warren	16	0	0	3	12
Washington	58	0	5	13	51
Wayne	25	1	5	7	15
TOTAL	339	7	27	71	311

* Note: SWPPP = Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

IV. State and Federal Cost Share Projects- SWCD brought into county additional \$80,082

The SWCD is always looking for ways to assist landowners via a variety of county, state, and federal cost share funds to assist with the installation of conservation practices in the county. Funds are often limited for the SWCD assistance with funding on land improvement or land protection conservation measures. The projects can take a minimum of 2-4 days to several months depending on the type of activity needed. Most of this support activity on this matter are being provided through our joint- cooperative efforts with the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assigned to assist the Marion County SWCD.

Participating Townships	Projects	# Visits Made	\$ Provided & Source	Type of Projects
Franklin	April & David Camps	4	\$126	WHIP (FED \$)
	David Craig	4	\$2,334	WHIP (FED \$)
Pike	Traders Point Organics	18	\$7, 377	EQIP (FED \$)
	Traders Point Organics	9	\$27,940	CSP (FED \$)
	Traders Point Organics (Sutphin)	9	\$42,305	EQIP (FED \$)
TOTAL	4 different land units	44	\$80,082	3 Programs

Meet Your SWCD Supervisors & Staff

Elected & Appointed Supervisors

Mark Kautz, is the Chairman of the Board. He manages Camp Dellwood for the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana Council. His conservation practices include stream bank erosion controls, timber stand improvement, and wildlife habitat areas. Mark has been a Supervisor for 17 years (and Associate Supervisor for 7) and is dedicated to soil & water conservation.

J. Dennis Slaughter, SWCD Vice-Chair, is a Center Township resident, is a Senior Planner with the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD). He is Vice-Chair of the Urban Committee for the Hoosier Heartland Resource and Conservation Development (RC&D) Council and has helped with numerous training workshop efforts on erosion control, trees preservation, and site design. Dennis is an active member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and the Indiana Planning Association.

Paula Baldwin has served on the Board of Supervisors for approximately 13 years. She is a graduate of Butler University and helps manage her family's 450 acre cattle and grain farm in Decatur Township. Paula utilizes no-till, grass waterways, and haying of erodible lands to conserve soil and water on the family property. Paula is a member of the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council, President of IASWCD & represents the district on the Indianapolis/Marion County Tree Board.

Marvin Brethauer, Board Treasurer, manages conservation & wildlife issues at the Indianapolis International Airport and has implemented practices like woodlot planting, riparian buffers, grey water reuse, carbon sequestration, sustainable fertilizer use, wetland creation and preservation, and endangered species habitat conservation. He is active with the East Fork of White Lick Creek Watershed Management Steering Committee and the Indianapolis Airport Greenways Planning group. Before becoming a full Supervisor, Marvin was an Associate for 6 years.

Brian Neilson, a Perry Township resident, and Environmental Resources Engineering graduate of Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, is a civil engineer and senior project manager for EMH&T in Indianapolis. Brian is active in the Water Environment Federation, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Indiana Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers, Indiana Water Environment Association, Hoosier Heartland RC&D, the Upper White River Watershed Alliance, and the American Public Works Association.

Associate Supervisors

Rick Bein

Heather Buck

Bob Eddleman

Bob Kleinops

Mark Mongin

Supervisor Emeritus

Pete Baldwin

SWCD Office Staff

Ron Lauster, Director

Marilyn Hughes, Administrative Assistant

Glenn Lange, Resource Conservationist

Julie Haxton Farr, Resource Conservationist & Editor (PT)

NRCS Staff

Henry Wallis, District Conservationist

Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District
6960 S. Gray Road, Suite C
Indianapolis, IN 46237
(317)786-1776
marionswcd.org

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Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District

Welcoming Indy Star's Jane Lichtenberg, SWCD Annual Meeting Speaker - Tuesday, February 15th



Jane Lichtenberg is a helping hand to many Indianapolis residents who have contacted her with infrastructure problems they did not know how to solve. Jane, the Community Conversations Coordinator for the Indianapolis Star, has been able to find over 3,000 answers to readers' problems – from potholes to animal threats, abandoned properties to flooding problems. Marion County SWCD staff has become well acquainted with Jane over the years as together we have worked to resolve some of those problems.

We hope that you will join us on Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Primo Banquet Center for dinner and our 41st Annual meeting and enjoy hearing the frustrations and triumphs of serving the citizens of Marion County. Tickets for the event are only \$17 per person. Reservations are requested by February 4th.

The Primo Center is located at 2615 E. National Avenue, which is just south of the I-65/ Keystone exit, north of Hanna and east of Keystone Avenue. The meeting will include a brief update of the local

Conservation District's annual activities promoting the wise use of soil, water, and related natural resources in Marion County. To learn more about the Marion County SWCD visit their website at www.marionswcd.org.

SWCD Supervisor Election and Appointment

At the 2011 SWCD Annual Meeting the SWCD board will be appointing Marvin Brethauer as our Appointed Supervisor. Mark Kautz is running for another 3 year term as Supervisor.

The Mission of the Marion County SWCD is to assist Marion County land users in conserving soil, water and related natural resources by providing technical, financial and educational services.