

Indiana update

Hypoxia Task Force Meeting
Washington D.C.
December 14, 2022



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\$200,000 Assistance Agreements Update

- Indiana Science Assessment
 - Component 1: Determining nutrient load trends using available WQ data
 - Report has been completed showing trend results for loads and concentrations at 20 different locations in Indiana, including pour points and within the basins.
 - Next step is to do a comparison of the basins to determine the watersheds with the highest loads and concentrations, and to show the results online.
 - Component 2: Improving method for determining nutrient load reductions from conservation practices and determining efficiency of conservation practices on reducing nutrient loads.
 - Work on first set of 10 practices is almost complete, and work on the next 15 selected practices has begun.



The Science Assessment will determine the effectiveness of specific BMPs based on available research, and if we know which practices are the most effective, and know which watersheds have the highest sediment and nutrient load trends based on the work of Component 1, then we can better target where more conservation work is needed and with what practices.

<https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/>



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BIL Dollars Update

- Funds are administered by ISDA but will be used for partnership efforts in the state.
- We surveyed ICP members, as well as other partner organizations such as NGOs, Universities, commodity groups, and other partnering organizations to seek input and ideas on how the dollars should be used.
- Focusing 1st and 2nd year dollars in three areas...
 - 1) Expand Staff Capacity
 - 2) Develop Soil Sampling Program
 - 3) Create Indiana Nutrient Research & Education Program (INREP)
 - to continue work of the Indiana Science Assessment



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Staff Capacity

- Nutrient Stewardship Program Manager
 - Will be supervised by WQ Initiatives Program Manager
- Expand staff capacity to:
 - manage the BIL-GHP funds,
 - manage and administer the soil sampling program,
 - support efforts of the Indiana SNRS,
 - support Indiana Conservation Partnership efforts, and
 - work with the on-farm trial programs.



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Soil Sampling Program

- Focus is to increase the collection and use of soil sampling and analysis to provide the necessary information in the development of a nutrient management plan and improve nutrient use efficiency.
 - Proposal includes partnering with Certified Crop Advisors
 - Public meetings and Educational Workshops:
 - Kick-off meeting for CCA engagement
 - Soil fertility and nutrient management workshops for participants
 - Anticipated Outcomes include:
 - a) working toward achievement of IANA goal of 100% of farmers in Indiana regularly performing soil sampling,
 - b) consistent soil testing and 4R Stewardship,
 - c) nutrient plan development with improved nutrient use efficiency aimed at positive impacts for water quality
- Program will be available statewide but will have targeted priority watersheds.



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Indiana Nutrient Research and Education Program (INREP)

- Purpose: Continue and Expand the work of the Indiana Science Assessment
- Goals and Activities
 - 1) Sustain and strengthen the network of scientists and agencies collaborating to provide the scientific foundation for the Indiana State Nutrient Reduction Strategy and related conservation efforts.
 - 2) Lead a continual process of refining and improving the Science Assessment.
 - 3) Increase the availability of data from Indiana research on nutrient loss reduction.
 - 4) Synthesize and deliver the knowledge to conservation partners and the agricultural community.
- Partners
 - Science Assessment Core Team members (ISDA, Purdue, NRCS, IDEM, IANA, TNC)
 - Science Committee (Academic Institutions, USDA-ARS, USGS, etc.)



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Other Indiana Highlights



- In August 2022, ISDA was awarded nearly \$8 million for ongoing efforts to protect and improve water quality in the Kankakee River Basin. This project brings together Indiana, Illinois and 43 partners.
- Indiana's Cover Crop Premium Discount Program enters its third year with a goal of 35,000 cover crop acres across the 35 county project area.
- The Indiana Conservation Partnership and private landowners implemented over 31,000 conservation practices in 2021, reducing 900,000 tons of sediment, 2 million lbs. of Nitrogen, and 1 million lbs. of Phosphorus from entering Indiana's waterways.

