

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/Project Name:	Indiana State Technical Committee		
Date of Meeting:	July 18, 2024	Time:	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Minutes Prepared By:	Celeste Gross	Location:	Indiana USDA State Office (in-person) and Microsoft Teams (virtual)

1. Meeting Objective

To discuss current events, projects, problematic areas, and to strategize future endeavors.

2. Attendees

In-Person:

- Shannon Zezula
- Curtis Knueven
- Jerod Chew
- Damaris Mortenson
- Chaz Rhoutsong
- Jenny Vogel
- Kevin Allison
- Mike Brocksmith
- Josh Griffin
- Lisa Holscher
- Rex Blanton
- Jeffrey Keifer
- Monica Pohler
- Kris Reynolds
- Dan Shaver
- Anthony Sipes
- Michael Spalding
- Brianne Lowe
- Kristen Bean
- Beth Clarizia

Virtual:

- Katie Fagan
- Stephanie Frischie
- Stacy Herr
- Elizabeth Jackson
- John Jamerson
- John Kinney
- Keegan Kult
- Steve Obert
- Liz Rice
- Christina Magers
- Joe Rorick
- John Siefert
- Sam Stroebel
- Landon Yoder
- Andrea Huntington
- Becky Joniskan

3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues

Topic	Discussion
Opening & Welcome Shannon Zezula	- Shannon welcomed the committee to the meeting and opened with an introduction of Damaris Mortenson, the new State Conservationist.
STC Comments Damaris Mortenson	Damaris welcomed the group and introduced herself sharing her current time in the role and the value of the ISTC. She took a moment to reiterate to the group the purpose of the committee and the value of the feedback from the group. National website with the policy/purpose can be found here: State Technical Committees Natural Resources Conservation Service (usda.gov) and Indiana's web site Indiana State Technical Committee Natural Resources Conservation Service (usda.gov)
FY24 Programs Curtis Knueven (Jenny Vogel Chaz Rhoutsong)	Total State = 1501 contracts; \$64M total obligation and 271,752 acres contracted ➤ EQIP = 93% obligated – 8 th in the nation with over 1200 contracts - \$51M total obligation and 186,670 acres contracted. Farm Bill obligation \$24M. IRA obligation \$26M ➤ CSP = 59% obligated – 9 th in nation with over 250 contracts - \$13M and 85,082 acres contracted ➤ IN RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Projects) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tri-State WLEB (currently 6 preapproved applications) - Big Pine Watershed Partnership (currently 1 preapproved application) - Farmers Helping Hellbenders (currently 5 preapproved applications) - Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds Initiative (currently 7 preapproved applications) Starting next year – Kankakee – Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape - See the attached presentation
FY25 Programs Curtis Knueven	Best guess for 2025 ➤ \$93M in programs being delivered to landowners ➤ \$40M agency for 10 to 15 years and a lot has been accomplished Shared Farm Bill Act passing dates to provide information about 2025 trends. Trends included possibilities forum in an election year. INNRCS has a plan if there are major changes Entered into an agreement with AFT for the next 3 years to add positions and pushing for 100% to show the need to obtain

Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership Dan Shaver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dan gave a presentation of Indiana's Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership funded proposal - <i>See the attached presentation</i>
FY24 Initiatives Update Jerod Chew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Conservation Partnership Program – proposals are currently being reviewed that had a closing date of July 2nd. - GLRI (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative), historically we have asked for 2M for EQIP practice implementation. We are currently doing DEMO Farms project to inform more individuals about conservation - NWQI (National Water Quality Initiative) 3 active implementation projects currently. - MRBI (Mississippi River Basin) 3 implementation projects currently in Indiana. - Recently the Indiana Conservation Partnership had an accomplishments webinar to share with the IN team how well we're doing. Discussion continues sharing the conversation efforts and projects; especially the Conservation Tillage Transect survey that has 1.7M acres of farmland under living cover across all crops in IN. This accomplishments information can be found at https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-conservation-partnership-funding/ - <i>See the attached presentation</i>
Upcoming sub-committee meeting needs Shannon Zezula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Source Water Protection Areas - Food Security Act of 1985, as amended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mitigation process - Minimal effect process
Partner Updates Indiana State Technical Committee (ISTC)	<p>Members of committee (and guests) provided brief area updates and follow-up questions regarding information presented.</p>
Closing	<p>Next meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full Indiana State Technical Committee meeting = October 10, 2024 (1:00 – 4:00 eastern). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-person and virtual - Meeting invitation and other information will be sent soon - Source Water Protection Areas sub-committee = August 13, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-person and virtual - Please let Shannon Zezula (shannon.zezula@usda.gov) know if you are interested to attend and he will share the details.