

What is a SWCD?



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
soil and water conservation
DISTRICTS



What is a Soil and Water Conservation District?

A SWCD is your local soil and water conservation district. There are 92 in Indiana, one in every county. Putting effective conservation practices on the ground is the prime goal of each District. SWCDs achieve this by working with other local, state and federal agencies in tandem to provide local implementation of conservation programs and best management practices on urban, rural, and agricultural lands.

How is a SWCD Governed?

Indiana SWCDs are governed by a board of five supervisors who are either elected or appointed officials. In total, 450 supervisors govern our SWCDs. Over 200 local staff assists the boards in accomplishing their missions.

How were SWCDs Formed?

Indiana SWCDs are chartered, legal subdivisions of State Government. They were formed through the Indiana Conservation Act, IC 14-32 and many have been in existence for 50 years.

How are SWCDs Funded?

Although a legal subdivision of State Government, most of Indiana's SWCDs are funded through their local counties for operations and staffing. The state provides a small percentage of funding for operations and cost-share projects. Additionally, SWCDs can take advantage of federal cost-share dollars through the Farm Bill and the 319 Nonpoint Source Program.

SWCDs:

- Identify and prioritize local soil and water resource issues.
- Work with their local conservation partners, community members and land users to develop effective solutions.
- Connect land users to sources of educational, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

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