

Clean Water Indiana Talking Points for SWCDs

SWCD Basics:

- SWCDs have identified water quality, soil erosion, land use planning, nutrient run-off, and forestry as their priority resource concerns.
- SWCDs cover every watershed in the state and are unique in their ability to create partnerships within agencies and the private sector to leverage funds.
- Supervisors, as unpaid local officials, bring a level of integrity and peer approval that is unparalleled in any other government agency.
- Districts are the only agency whose primary focus is soil and water quality.

The Need:

- According to the 2003 Annual Natural Resources Inventory, Indiana is currently losing 3.5 tons /acre of soil annually (due to wind/water erosion) at a cost of \$275 million (\$6.00 per ton) that is negatively impacting water quality and the ability of our natural resources to provide the ecosystem services that equate to quality of life for Hoosiers.
- Indiana has been identified by the USGS as the third largest contributor to Phosphorus and Nitrate pollution in the 31-state Mississippi River Watershed, while being the smallest state in the watershed.
- With less than 30% of corn acres under no-till systems, Indiana is far from attaining a level of sustainability in the way it practices agriculture.
- In a 2006 District Needs Assessment, an additional \$17 million is needed to adequately address local resource concerns.
- Unfunded IDEM 319 nonpoint source grant requests totaled \$1.96 million in 2008; Unfunded Indiana Farm Bill requests totaled \$32 million in 2005; and unfunded Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant requests over the last 3 years totaled \$2.15 million.

Why Fund CWI?

- Needs addressed above
- Local SWCDs have the ability to work across political boundaries, garner support from a wide range of partners, and engage stakeholders in natural resource planning.
- SWCDs have the ability to move people to voluntarily do the right thing for conservation.
- CWI provides:
 - Local funding for conservation cost-share programs
 - Local monies to leverage private, federal and state dollars
 - Local financial support for landowner technical assistance
 - Local dollars for educating the next generation

Most importantly, please remember to add specific information about **YOUR** experiences and perspectives from national, state, and regional trainings and partnerships that lends to helping solve local resource concerns.