

The Benefits of Starting a Watershed Project



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What are some of the issues you're facing in your SWCD?

- Lack of involvement from board members
- Lack of involvement or knowledge of SWCD from community members
 - Lack of exposure to local businesses and industries
 - Difficulty raising funds
 - Difficulty starting projects

While Watershed Projects aren't always the answer – they can assist in addressing some of these issues.

WONDER HOW?

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Benefits of Starting a Watershed Project

1. Brings \$\$ into your community for activities
2. Combine SWCD efforts already put forth
3. Gets SWCDs name out there.
4. Addresses local issues and creates a good picture of the state of your community
5. Brings partnering agencies together to tackle issues
6. Empowers local community to create change
7. Improves the quality of life for people in the watershed by helping ensure clean water and healthy natural resources.
8. Great PR for SWCDs trying to get more funds from County Council
9. Puts conservation on the land
10. Opportunity to get your board ENERGIZED and INVOLVED!

Understanding Funding Opportunities

IDEM 319 Grants

- 60/40 Match
- Funds Management Plan and Implementation Phases

IDEM 205J Grants

- No Match
- Funds ONLY Management Plan Phase

LARE (Lake and River Enhancement) Grants

- Match varies but it typically 10% for Phase 1 and 10-50% for Phase 2
- Funds Management Plan and Implementation Phases

Local Funding

- Match and funding varies

Management Plan Phase 1 – What is Involved

Land Inventory

- **Geology, Climate, Landuse, Soils, Topography, Hydrology, Cultural Resources, Endangered Species, Recreation, Urban, etc.**

Water Quality Study

- **May be volunteer, professional, or both**
- **QAPP is required!**
- **Typically test for chemicals, biological, and habitat**

Management Plan Development

- **a compilation of all data gathered and analyzed**

Education/Outreach Component

- **Youth and Adult Education**
- **Service Programs**

Management Plan Phase 1 – Be Prepared for...



- It is **EXTREMELY** important to put together an accurate Management Plan.
- In-Kind/Match Dollars – Not getting enough can stall your project
- Make sure to get key players involved in the process
- Decide whether to go local or to hire a firm.
- Typical office space issues
- Up front money to pay for salary, etc.

Implementation Phase 2 – What is Involved

Cost-share Program

- Can pay up to 75% of conservation practice
- Must follow NRCS specifications

Education/Outreach Component

- Youth and Adult Education
- Service Programs
- Demonstration Sites

* Although there may be some exceptions, water testing is typically not paid for during the implementation phase



Implementation Phase 2 – Be Prepared for...



- **NRCS Specifications means NRCS assistance. Make sure your local NRCS representatives are on board with the program!**
- **Sending your Technician to LOTS of training!**
- **Payment is arrears – make sure your landowners are aware that payments could take up to 6 weeks.**
- **Cost share program is based on your Management Plan and the critical areas you've identified.**

RECAP

Watershed Projects provide many benefits to local SWCD offices and communities. However, they should not be taken lightly.

While they provide SWCDs with ample funding to administer programs and put conservation on the land, most are still GRANT FUNDED.

There is a great deal of work that is involved with administering a grant and you should make sure to know all the details before applying for a watershed grant.

WHEN IN DOUBT CALL....

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IDEM WATERSHED SPECIALIST AREAS

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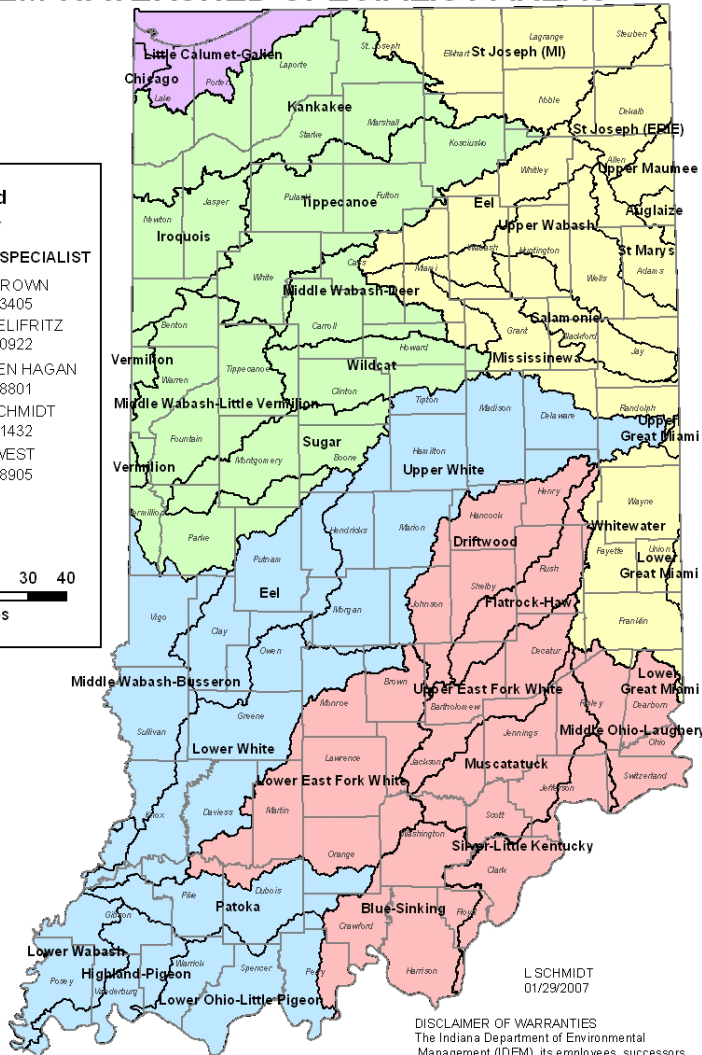
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