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New Permit for Erosion Control

By Alena Jones, Urban Conservationist

Since 2003 the SWCD's construction pollution prevention program has worked with IDEM, BNS, and DPW to inspect construction sites for erosion and sediment control compliance under Rule 5. Rule 5 was the permit-by-rule written into Indiana code detailing how developers and contractors must protect Indiana's soil and water during the process of construction. However, in December of 2021, Indiana transitioned from Rule 5 to a new method of permitting, the **Construction Stormwater General Permit** (CSGP). The CSGP brings changes to the requirements that safeguard natural resources during construction projects, as well as changes in how permit applications are submitted and managed.



Key changes to the permit conditions include shorter soil stabilization timelines, stricter self-monitoring requirements, new methods of dewatering sediment basins, and a new buffer requirement. These conditions bring Indiana into compliance with the EPA's permit requirements around protecting soil and water during construction.

To apply for a construction stormwater permit, you must submit a Notice of Intent for the project to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management through their online portal. If you are working on a site that previously had a Rule 5 permit, the project must submit a Continuation of Coverage form within 90 days to ensure that the permit remains active and the site is compliant with state and federal regulations.

To learn more about this transition and for detailed information about new requirements, go to [IDEM Stormwater Resources](#).

If you have questions about the process or continuation of coverage, please feel free to reach out to your local [SWCD staff](#) and we can assist you with finding answers!



Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas Forming

The Bloodroot has emerged and Spring is here! Time to start thinking about native plants (and invasives too). Did you know that Indiana landowners and managers spend more than \$8 million annually to manage invasive plants in our state? CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) are forming all over the state through the Indiana Invasives Initiative (<https://www.sicim.info/cisma-project>) and our district is a member of Circle City Cisma here in Marion County. Learn more about how to fight invasives locally through various resources on the Circle City Cisma website: <https://circlecitycisma.org/resources/>



Hamilton County SWCD is holding an invasives landowner basics workshop the morning of Saturday 4/2 and Marion County residents are welcome to attend. More information is available at this link: <https://hamiltonswcd.salsalabs.org/Invasivesbasicsustainabilityworkshop2022/index.html>

Upcoming local invasive plant volunteer and education events include the following:

Saturday 3/26 from 10 AM-12 Noon, volunteers from Friends of Fort Harrison State Park and DNR personnel will remove Asian Bush Honey-suckle from the 5 acre pond area around the dog park located at 8725 Fall Creek Rd. Please contact Patty Batesole if you wish to volunteer or have questions at pbatesole@gmail.com

Check out this article on how Indiana SWCD's are working toward eradicating invasives with CISMAs:

[SWCD working through Cisma](#)

Support
Urban
Conservation
Become a
SWCD Affiliate
Member!

[Click Here to
see details on
our website.](#)

Local Native Plant Sales

Don't miss upcoming native plant sales being held by two awesome local partners:

Indy Urban Acres Plant Sale

Native Plants Unlimited





Spring Gardening Workshops

Learn how to terminate cover crops and plant no-till vegetables!
Join Kevin Allison for an in-depth tour of:

- ◆ Cover crop termination
- ◆ Use of tarps for bed preparation and weed control
- ◆ Use of compost and mulches
- ◆ No-till vegetable planting
- ◆ Growing Biodiversity

In-Person Sessions:

Let's get together! Sign up for free sessions [HERE](#).

Location: The SWCD Demonstration Garden, located within the larger community Mayor's Garden at West 56th and Reed Road

Thursday, April 14: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Thursday, April 14: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Thursday, May 12: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Thursday, May 12: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Virtual Session:

Terminating Cover Crops in a No-Till Garden

Presentation via Zoom. Sign up [HERE](#).

Friday, April 8th 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Spring Clean for Better Drainage

It's time to get outside on these nice early spring days to catch up on our outdoor maintenance. One task that can easily be overlooked is cleaning out our drainage swales and storm drain inlets. Many homeowners have shallow channels in their backyards called drainage swales which allow storm water to pass through yards on its way to a storm drain inlet, larger ditch or stream. It is each homeowner's responsibility to maintain these swales by clearing out any debris, limbs or leaves which may accumulate in them. The Indiana drainage law states that we must allow surface water to drain across our properties as it follows its natural topographic direction. You should never pile leaves or limbs in swales nor build any structures over the top of them.

If your yard contains a storm water inlet, or if you have a storm drain along the curb in front of your home, it is also your responsibility to keep those cleaned off so that leaves and debris do not keep stormwater from entering the drain. This is vitally important in order to keep roads and yards from flooding.

If you have a ditch along the road in the front yard be sure to keep it cleaned out also. Check the condition of your driveway culvert to be sure it is clean and in good repair.

Once we begin mowing our lawns it is also important to keep lawn clippings off of the streets. Wet lawn clippings can cause accidents. Lawn clippings left on the roadways can also be washed down into the storm drains causing drainage and water quality problems. Keep lawn clippings on your lawn to help fertilize your soil or bag the clippings, then compost them or dispose of them properly.

Maintaining our drainage facilities is vitally important to alleviating flooding problems and keeping mosquitos at bay.

For more information on improving drainage around your home check out our website: <http://marionswcd.org/drainage/> or email Julie from our [Contact Us](#) page.

If there is a problem with the condition of city storm drain structure beyond standard surface cleaning please contact Citizens Energy Group at 317-924-3311.



Keeping drainage facilities clean helps prevent flooding

For a more information on who is responsible for drainage maintenance visit:

[DPW's Drainage brochure](#)



SOIL HEALTH IN HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP

AGENDA

April 22nd, 2022
10:00 am – 12pm

- 10:00 am–10:15 am – Soil Health in High Tunnel Challenges
- 10:15 am – 11:00 am – Construction and Crop Rotations
- 11:00 am –11:30 am – Cover Crop Management
- 11:30 am – 12:00pm – Porter Farm Tour

Speakers:

Sarah Creech, Blue Yonder Organic Farm

Bree Ollier, Hendricks Co SWCD

Marian M. Rodriguez Soto, IASWCD

Location:

Porter Farm at Hendricks County
4680 US 36, Danville, IN

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soil-health-in-high-tunnels-tickets-225319706307>

Register for Spring Workshops [HERE](#)



New Opportunity To Join Our Farmer Learning Community

Be part of a new opportunity to meet and network with local farmers about voluntary conservation practices, led by area farmers.

WHEN:

Tuesday, April 19
11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Pa and Ma's
Backyard BBQ
3469 N College Ave.
Indianapolis, IN

HOSTED BY:

Sharrona Moore &
Lawrence
Community Gardens

REGISTER NOW:



WHY:

Across America, farmers are working hard to implement conservation practices that are unique to their operation, and this group will help you identify opportunities. We're assembling conservation-minded farmers – regardless of where you are at today in your conservation journey – to provide support, experiences and actionable ideas for your operation.

WHAT:

- Information and knowledge-sharing about how conservation has affected the agronomics and financials of operations around you and your community.
- The opportunity to mentor and share your successes, lessons learned or ambitions with a close-knit group of like-minded farmers seeking continuous improvement.
- Friendships, perspective and support for your farming operation.
- Learn how to market your efforts and leverage the resources of Farm Journal and America's Conservation Ag Movement.

ABOUT THE MEETINGS:

- We'll start with a facilitated roundtable discussion to share your current practices and our plans for 2022.
- Will include a white-board conversation that identifies your local resource concerns and farmer-led solutions to guide the learning group to focus on your biggest conservation priorities and opportunities.
- Lunch provided



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



[Register Here](#)



MARION COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
—CONSERVATION DISTRICT—

1200 S. Madison Ave., Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Phone: 317-786-1776

Find us on the web: www.marionswcd.org

The Mission of the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District is to assist Marion County land users in conserving soil, water, and related natural resources by providing technical, financial and educational services.

**** PLEASE NOTE****

Our office hours are limited as staff may work remotely and are often in the field. Use the [“Contact Us”](#) tab on our website to leave a message & we will get back with you as soon as possible.

LARE Grant for Buck Creek Logjam

The Marion County SWCD has been awarded a Lake and River Enhancement project grant to help remove a large log jam in Buck Creek in Franklin Township. The goal of the Division of Fish & Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Program is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, and to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams for multiple uses, including recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through measures that reduce non-point sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards.

The log jam has grown substantially over the last several years and has caused excessive erosion of the streambank, has created an obstruction to drainage, and it restricts the accessibility of the stream for recreational opportunities. Landowners in the area are cooperating to make this project possible.

For more information on the Lake & River Enhancement program visit the IDNR website link [HERE](#).



SWCD Election Results and Board Positions

At our 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting in February the Board of Supervisors election resulted in Maggie Goeglein being elected and Brian Neilson being appointed for another 3 year term.

New board positions were established as follows:

Olivia Speckman, Chairperson
Maggie Goeglein, Vice Chairperson
Tyler Gough, Treasurer
Heather Buck, Secretary
Brian Neilson, Member

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SWCD Staff

John Hazlett,
District Manager

Kevin Allison,
Urban Soil Health
Specialist

Alena Jones, Urban
Conservationist

Julie Farr,
Resource
Conservationist, PT

Jerod Chew,
NRCS District
Conservationist

