Long Range Plan 2019-2023

This plan was approved by the seated Board of Supervisors on September 18, 2018
The Birth of Conservation District’s

April 8, 1935 - FDR approves the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, which provides $525 million for drought relief, and authorizes creation of the Works Progress Administration, which would employ 8.5 million people. April 14, 1935 - Black Sunday. The worst "black blizzard" of the Dust Bowl occurs, causing extensive damage. April 27, 1935 - Congress declares soil erosion "a national menace" in an act establishing the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture.

The Formation of Monroe County’s Conservation District

In May 1943 with 575 of 793 landowners present, 98% of those voted in favor of the creation of a soil and water district in Monroe County, Indiana. The original Board of Supervisors included: Turner Wiley, Walter Duncan, Jonathan Turner, Milt Hite and Felix Goble. Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District constitutes a governmental subdivision of the state and a public body corporate and politic exercising public powers (IC 14-32-5).
The Mission
To provide information about soil, water and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; and connect land users to sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

The Vision
An Environmentally Strong Monroe County with....
- Healthy and Resilient Soils
- Clean and Unimpaired Streams, Creeks and Water Bodies
- Strong and Productive Forested Areas
- Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture
- Informed and Involved Conservation Minded Residents
- For Monroe County to be a leader in Individual Conservation Practices on private property in the State of Indiana
Driving along the roads of Monroe County the natural forested area is visible from all angles. The SWCD Board of Supervisors has seen a growing concern with regard to loss of hardwoods. An the Distract and Board of Supervisor is supportive of the planting of native hardwoods such as oaks and hickory’s is a main focus for the Soil and Water Conservation District and Board of Supervisors.

Mention water quality in Monroe County and the first thing people think is we have the largest lake in the state. Yet most people are not aware that a large portion of the counties streams are impaired. People are also not aware that they live in a watershed or how their daily lives affect the quality of the water within a watershed.
Soil Health and Erosion

Soil is one natural resource that is critical for human life. The human body is composed of and relies upon many of the same basic elements found in good soil. Elements such as: Calcium, Phosphorus, Iron, Potassium and Magnesium. Since these elements are vital to good health then it is sound reasoning that we need healthy soil. Since there is less than 1% of the earth’s surface that is usable soil, it is also important that we need to do all we can to protect this natural resource.

Land Use

Land use changes are occurring in Monroe county. In the 1940’s there were 173,293 acres in agricultural production. As of the 2017 Agricultural Statistics there were 52,762 acres in agricultural production. That is 120,531 acres converted to Urbanization in the past 70 years. Drive down any county road and you can see some type of land development. With these changes comes an enormous responsibility for the public to ensure we protect our natural resources to be the best of our ability. The loss of and health of our soils, water quality and wildlife habitats all have a direct impact of the quality of human life.
Agricultural Educational Presentations (youth & adult)
Cover Crop seed for gardens
No-till drill - Soil test analysis - Tree seedling giveaway

Consultation options:
Invasive plant identification & control
Livestock: Rotational grazing, heavy use area pads, pasture improvement, watering facilities, etc.
Specialty & Organic Crop Production
Hoop House Installation
Crop land: Erosion control, cover crop, no-till, etc.
Rain Garden installation
Forestry timber stand improvement and invasive species control
Wildlife: Pollinator and upland habitat, wetland restoration, etc.

Financial Assistance
Conservation efforts are continually changing as are the financial opportunities that may be available through Local, State or Federal programs. Contact the SWCD for current availability.

2018 Board of Supervisors
Dallas Conder, Chair
Shelby Hovious, 2nd Chair
Rick Routon, Fiscal Officer
Keith McConnell, Supervisor
Bill Williams, Supervisor

Local SWCD’s are a critical and dynamic component of Indiana’s Conservation Partnership (ICP). The partnership provides leadership, information, technical assistance and education on conservation resource issues at a State level. MCSWCD is a member of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts an agency of the ICP.
Areas of Concern identified by the SWCD Board

- Soil Health
- Erosion
- Invasive Plants
- Land Use
- Water Appreciation

Possible ways to address the identified concerns

**Soil Health**
*Cover Crop Workshop*
*Videos Series*
*Soil Workshop*
Cover Crop Cost Share

**Erosion**
*Partner on the Contractors workshop with County Stormwater Utilities*
*Video Series on concerns and BMPs*

**Invasive Plants**
*Partner on a field day with McIRIS about identification, control and/or chemical use*
Cost share funding

**Land Use**
Promote Urban Conservation
Mini grants funding
*Education with planning/zoning*
Forestry focus with planning/zoning

**Water Appreciation**
*Partner and participate in the Lake Shore Clean Up’s at Lake Monroe and Lake Griffy*
LARE – Log Jam Removal

**Indicates Educational in Nature**
It’s all about Partnership’s

Working with multiple agencies, organizations and programs to promote and accomplish the conservation needs’ of the residents of Monroe county, Indiana. Listed below are just some of the many partners that Monroe County SWCD collaborates with to accomplish the goals and objectives of the SWCD.

This business plan for Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District was voted on and approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 15, 2018. The Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District is a sub division of the state of Indiana government. Our purpose is to provide the Monroe County residents a link to local, state, and federal conservation programs. The SWCD is part of a partnership which includes: USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation District, Purdue Cooperative Extension, USDA’s Hoosier Heartland RC&D, Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation and Local Government Agencies. Equal Opportunity Provider.