

The Conservator

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Steuben County, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation District
1220 N 200 W, Suite L ~ Angola, IN 46703 ~ Phone: (260) 665-3211, ext. 3

Providing leadership and assistance in the proper use and management of soil, water, and related natural resources in Steuben County.

Steuben County SWCD Staff & Board Supervisor Updates

There have been a few changes to the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff and Board Supervisors we would like to share.

In July, Bailey Temple joined the District as the new Resource Conservationist. Bailey recently received her Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from Purdue University's Main Campus in West Lafayette in May (2024). Her studies focused on Environmental Quality and Restoration, and she received a minor in Wildlife Science. Bailey has a great appreciation and awe for the outdoors. She enjoys exploring and hiking, foraging for edible and medicinal plants, primitive camping, fishing, wildlife photography, and spending time tending to her vegetable garden.

Bailey shares: *"I have lived in Steuben County since I was born. Growing up spending most of my time outdoors instilled in me a profound passion for the environment that continues to drive me today. As a child, I spent countless hours exploring forests, climbing trees, and marveling at the natural world around me. These formative experiences encouraged a deep connection to nature and strengthened my appreciation for its beauty and complexity. The outdoors has, and always will be my place of peace. I am grateful to have received my degree from Purdue University in the environmental field and now, starting my professional career with the Steuben County Soil and Water District. It feels*

like I'm making a difference in the world. Every day, I get to tackle real issues and work on solutions that have a positive impact on our planet and within the community I grew up in. It is deeply fulfilling to be part of something that aligns with my passion for nature and sustainability. Knowing that my efforts contribute to preserving the environment for future generations makes the work not just a job, but a meaningful part of my life. It is inspiring to collaborate with others who share this commitment, and it gives me a strong sense of purpose and pride".



LEFT
Welcome to Bailey Temple, the new Resource Conservationist for the Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD).
Photo courtesy of Bailey Temple

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SWCD - NRCS - ISDA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

Board of Supervisors:

Kayleen Hart, *Chair*
Chuck Howard, *Vice Chair*
Beth Williams, *Secretary*
Brad Hamlin
Craig Holman

Associate Supervisors:

Timothy Groosbeck
Daniel Oberst
David Perkins
Ryan Waite

SWCD Staff:

Janel Meyer, *Administrative Coordinator*
Bailey Temple, *Resource Conservationist*

NRCS Staff:

Arthur Franke, *District Conservationist*

Indiana State Department of Agriculture Staff:

Kate Sanders, *Resource Specialist*

steubenswcd@gmail.com

www.steubenswcd.org

www.facebook.com/SteubenIndianaSWCD



**Steuben County
Soil and Water Conservation District**

Learn why the Steuben County SWCD was formed
and how we accomplish our mission at:

https://youtu.be/w8KU_ngsIcY



Scan this symbol with
your smartphone to
link to our website.

Steuben County SWCD Staff & Board Supervisor Updates *(continued from page 1)*

At the June 12, 2024 Steuben County SWCD Board meeting, the Supervisors approved the resignation of Board Supervisor David Perkins and temporarily appointed Associate Supervisor Brad Hamlin to serve the remainder of David's term. Steuben SWCD Vice Chair Chuck Howard (elected member) administered the Oath of Office. Brad affirmed he would support the Constitution of the U.S., the Constitution of the State of Indiana, and would faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Supervisor of the Steuben County SWCD.

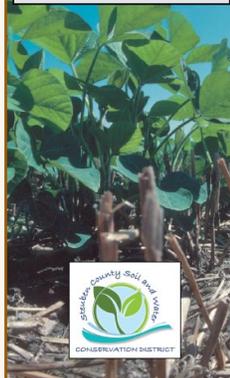
LARE Grants to Benefit Steuben County



Pigeon Creek Watershed
Cost Share Program
Reducing Soil and Nutrient Runoff



Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed
Cost Share Program
Reducing Soil and Nutrient Runoff



The Steuben SWCD was one of the organizations in 12 Indiana counties that received funds to improve local water bodies, thanks to grants awarded by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program. LARE grants are awarded on a competitive basis and are funded through the LARE fee paid annually by boat owners when they register their crafts with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Two Steuben watershed land treatment project grants will be used to help improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient inputs into Pigeon Creek and the Upper St. Joseph River Watershed. Improved water quality helps fish and wildlife populations and improves recreational opportunities. Eligible practices include field windbreaks, filter strips, grassed waterways, pasture/hayland plantings, pollinator plots, and tree plantings, among others. Program sign-up will be on a continuous basis or until the funding has been obligated. Contact the SWCD if you would like additional information or have an interest in these programs.

SAVE THE DATE! 2024 Contractor Workshop



SAVE THE DATE:

2024 CONTRACTOR WORKSHOP

Speaker Information and
Agenda to Follow



Club Z at Trine University
1215 Thunder Dr., Angola, IN



Friday, December 6th
9:00 a.m. to noon



Call with Questions
Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District
Ph. (260) 665-3211 ext. 3

Registration Opens Soon!

2024 Affiliate Members

BRONZE LEVEL

- | | |
|--|---|
| Carper Farm Supply | Niann Lautzenhiser (<i>Hamilton</i>) |
| Jerome & Lynn Chandler (<i>Angola</i>) | Tim Offerle (<i>Fremont</i>) |
| Mike & Sue Claphan (<i>Angola</i>) | Ronald L. Parker (<i>Pleasant Lake</i>) |
| Bill & Diana Clingan (<i>Hudson</i>) | Karen Spake (<i>Angola</i>) |
| Daft Erosion Control, LLC | Stroh Farm Supply |
| Hoham Feed & Seed | Janet Young (<i>Hudson</i>) |
| Thelma Knowles (<i>Hudson</i>) | Peg Zeis (<i>Fremont</i>) |

SILVER LEVEL

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| City of Angola MS4 | Deloris Howarth (<i>Fremont</i>) |
| Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy | Peter Mountz (<i>Garrett</i>) |
| Crowe Forest Management | Kevin Northup Excavating |
| Tom & Alice Filbrun (<i>Angola</i>) | Sandhill Environmental Services, LLC |
| James Holse (<i>Ashley</i>) | John Williamson, Jr. (<i>Angola</i>) |

GOLD LEVEL

- Booth Farms (*Orland*)

PLATINUM LEVEL

- | | |
|--|---|
| Angola American Legion Post #31 | Farm Credit Mid-America |
| Angola Seed & Supply, LLC | Tom Green Engineering |
| Aquatic Enhancement & Survey | Chuck & Nila Howard (<i>Hamilton</i>) |
| Budreau Ins. and Financial Services Inc. | Lake George Conservancy, Inc. |
| Cameron Memorial Community Hospital | Raymond Lauer (<i>Fremont</i>) |
| Catalpa Cove Family Giving Fund | Jim & Jean Parsell (<i>Angola</i>) |
| CMR Family Farm (<i>Fremont</i>) | Dewey & Marcia Powers (<i>Angola</i>) |
| Dailey Farms (<i>Angola</i>) | Steve Schroeder (<i>Fremont</i>) |
| Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC | Ken Shelton (<i>Angola</i>) |
| Edon Farmers Co-Op Association, Inc. | Steuben County Lakes Council |
| | Stoy Farms (<i>Ashley</i>) |
| | Shane & Chanda Swager (<i>Angola</i>) |
| | Lynn Wernet (<i>Angola</i>) |
| | The Wilson Farm (<i>Hudson</i>) |
| | Fred Wooley (<i>Fremont</i>) |

2024 - 2025 Tree Seedling Order

The Indiana Division of Forestry will accept orders for seedlings from Oct. 1, 2024 - May 1, 2025 for standard spring pickup. An individual may purchase seedlings as long as they agree to plant them in Indiana for conservation plantings. Visit www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/tree-seedling-nurseries/instructions/ for ordering instructions. The Steuben SWCD will again offer tree pickup for Steuben County landowners. Visit <https://steubenswcd.org/tree-nursery-program/> for details and instructions how to properly complete the ordering form for 3rd party pickup.

Steuben Strategic Water Quality Monitoring Project (SWQMP) Update



ABOVE
2023 City of Angola Billboard.
Photo courtesy of Kris Thomas,
City of Angola MS4 Coordinator

The Steuben SWCD continues to participate in the Steuben County SWQMP, a strategic water quality monitoring program launched in 2023 in partnership with the Steuben County Health Department (HD), City of Angola MS4, St. Joseph River Basin Commission, Trine University, the Steuben County Lakes Council, and Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) AmeriCorps program. This pilot program focused on 10 stream sites located throughout the county, including two sites in the Upper St. Joseph River Watershed (Ohio). The objective of the program is to develop a more robust dataset for *E. coli*, nitrogen, phosphorus, and other variables to help provide additional insight into the county's water

quality. Data were collected for 19 consecutive weeks (*sampling was planned for 20 weeks, but due to unforeseen circumstances, one week of sampling was dropped*) at the 10 monitoring sites, along with a pilot project to measure the

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Providing Leadership and Assistance in the Proper Use and Management of Soil, Water, and Related Natural Resources in Steuben County.

Please help us **go green** by subscribing to the newsletter via **e-mail**. Visit our website and click on the Newsletter tab, or call the office to change your subscription to *The Conservator* at any time.

All programs and activities of the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and its Partnership Agencies are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Steuben SWQMP Update *(continued from page 3)*



presence/absence of caffeine to determine the feasibility of using it as a cost-effective indicator of potential sewage contamination. This dataset will be used as the foundation for establishing baseline data and analyzing trends in water quality over years and seasons.

The project was funded by a grant received from the Steuben County Community Foundation (SCCF), a grant the Steuben County HD utilized to purchase a portable water quality meter, the HydroLab HL7 Multiparameter Sonde, and monetary support from the partner organizations/agencies. An additional SCCF grant was awarded to the group in 2024 to continue the program through 2026. Eight (8) sites were added to the program in 2024, for a total of 18 sampling sites throughout Steuben. We reached our goal of demonstrating whether caffeine could be a proxy tracer for human waste in surface water. We found that caffeine alone was not sufficient since humans are not the only source of caffeine; therefore, this was not a valid tracer for helping to identify potential human sources of *E. coli* contamination (various commercial chicken/animal feeds may contain caffeine).

Spillover benefits that emerged from launching this program included the recognition the program received for providing authentic learning experiences for college students, which coincided with the development of a new Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science degree program at Trine University. Another bonus of the program is the inspiration it created not just in Steuben County, but in neighboring LaGrange County. Following and modifying Steuben County's model, LaGrange County SWCD launched their version of a new strategic monitoring program in 2024.

To learn more about the 2023 Steuben Co. monitoring results, visit lakescouncil.org/water-testing.