

Tippecanoe County Urban Conservation Planning Committee

10/04

“To develop a proactive approach to urban conservation issues”

Committee Participates:

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**Long Range Planning
2005-2010**

Statement of Intent

By 2010, the Tippecanoe County SWCD will have an urban technical assistance program in place.

Background

The *National Water Quality Inventory: 1998 Report to Congress* identified urban runoff as one of the leading sources of water quality impairment in surface waters (USEPA, 2000c). Of the 11 pollution source categories listed in the report, urban runoff/storm sewers was ranked as the sixth leading source of impairment in rivers, fourth in lakes, and second in estuaries. Careful stewardship of the non-agricultural producing land is essential to the protection and health of the water resources of Tippecanoe County.

Geographic Area

- Tippecanoe County

Audience

- Non-USDA program participants
- Development, building, & contracting communities
- City, county, town agency personnel

Key Individuals to help meet goal successfully

- SWCD Board of Supervisors
- County Commissioners
- County Council
- IDNR-Partnership

Needs

- Defined SWCD roles in regards to MS4 development & procedures
 - Continue cooperation/ support for MS4 committees
 - Role clarification from County Commissioners, Area Plan, Surveyor & MS4 Steering Committee
- Updated MOU's with local governing agencies, non-government organizations, universities, etc.
 - Inventory educational and technical support needs
 - Establish new partnerships
 - Long term commitment to support MOU agreements
- Conservation Partners' technical support
 - Involve all State & Federal agencies relative to urban conservation issues
- County Environmental Resource Protection/Enhancement Plan
 - Survey/Inventory critical resource areas and digitally map
 - Develop plan with community input/support
 - Work with other environmental professional staff
 - Publish document & market item
- Minimum 1 full time staff member
 - Competitive Salary
 - District vehicle
 - Office space
 - Job description, outlining duties, responsibilities, etc.
 - Funding for continued education

Statement of Intent

By 2010, the Tippecanoe County SWCD will have increased homeowner education by 80%.

Background

Stormwater runoff from construction activities can have a significant impact on water quality. As stormwater flows over a construction site, it picks up pollutants like sediment, debris, and chemicals. Polluted stormwater runoff can harm or kill fish and other wildlife. Sedimentation can destroy aquatic habitat and high volumes of runoff can cause stream bank erosion. A finite amount of fresh water exists on the planet, and everyone needs to take actions to protect our water resources.

The NPDES Stormwater program (a component of the Clean Water Act) requires operators of construction sites one acre or larger (including smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development) to obtain authorization to discharge stormwater. Tippecanoe County SWCD is cited in the Indiana Code 327-15-5 as an agency responsible for carrying out specific duties of the NPDES permitting program.

Geographic Area

- Tippecanoe County
- Townships with higher development occurring

Audience

- Homeowner Associations
- Individual homeowners
- Building Inspectors

Key Individuals to help meet goal

- Area Plan Commission
- Building Inspectors
- Local Builders Association
- Cooperative Extension Service

Needs

- Develop an educational program
 - Research other community programs & establish new partnerships
 - Discuss/research the educational needs in community
 - Develop resources on the internet for homeowners
- Support for the development of Homeowner Associations
 - Research legal issues
 - Assist developers with the creation of an Operational Plan for Homeowner Associations
- Contact list of Homeowner Associations
 - Work closely with Area Plan and developers to develop a list of resources for use by Homeowners Associations
 - Encourage Homeowner Associations to work together
- Financial support for program (printing, material, & other costs)
- Develop a method for tracking measurable progress
- Cooperation of local building permit agencies

Statement of Intent

By 2010, the Tippecanoe County SWCD will have increased K-12 urban education by 80%.

Background

“The rationale for environmental education during the early childhood years is based on two major premises. First, children must develop a sense of respect and caring for the natural environment during their first few years of life or be at risk for never developing such attitudes. Second, positive interactions with the natural environment are an important part of healthy child development, and these interactions enhance learning and the quality of life over the span of one's lifetime.” *Ruth A. Wilson for the ERIC Clearinghouse for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education.*

Geographic Area

- All Tippecanoe County Schools

Audience

- All students, K-12, in Tippecanoe County
- Community clubs and/or organizations for children

Key Individuals to help meet goal

- SWCD Board of Supervisors
- Cooperative Extension Service
- MS4 Entities
- Local school boards, principals, teachers, etc.
- Parents
- Tippecanoe County SWCD Water Quality Educator & Stormwater Stencil Coordinator
- Boy & Girl Scouts of America, & other youth community groups

Needs

- Research and implementation of state standards for educational content
- Research of existing water quality programs locally & nationally
- SWCD Water Quality Educator support to incorporate urban conservation in existing programs
- District vehicle
- Develop a method for tracking measurable progress

Statement of Intent

By 2010, the Tippecanoe County SWCD will have six different types of urban conservation awards.

Background

The Tippecanoe SWCD presents conservation awards locally at the SWCD Annual Meeting, in addition to some state and national recognition. Historically, however, these awards have been limited to farm producers for the installation of conservation practices on their farms, and have not included recognition for those individuals/entities who have installed conservation practices on urban lands. Awards are a great marketing tool for the SWCD and promote positive relations with clients. Implementation of the following awards would benefit relations with the urban community: Community Leader, Developer, Builder, Contractor, Individual Homeowner, & Engineering Consulting firm for stormwater conservation efforts.

Geographic Area

- Tippecanoe County

Audience

- Tippecanoe residents
- SWCD Board of Supervisors
- Annual SWCD meeting participants
- Development community and agencies or groups working in the development/construction field

Key Individuals to help meet goal

- SWCD Board of Supervisors
- IDNR, Division of Soil Conservation staff

Needs

- Financial support for awards
 - Consider sponsorships (EPJ, NuTec, Loews, Home Depot, Menards, etc.)
 - Consider donations
- Develop criteria/methods for program
 - Research other community programs
 - Need input from development community
 - Develop urban directory and find way to keep updated