



JASPER COUNTY

**Soil and Water
Conservation District**

211 East Drexel Parkway
Rensselaer, IN 47978
219-866-8008 Ext. 3
219-866-5507 Fax

Clean Water Indiana Grants Awarded

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture announced the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) recently awarded more than \$400,000 in Clean Water Indiana Grants to 49 Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) across the state. Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District received a grant for \$13,800.00 to implement a project entitled the *Jasper County Water Quality Awareness Project*.

Recognizing that the demographics of Jasper County has changed dramatically in recent years and will continue to do so, the Jasper County SWCD developed the *Jasper County Water Quality Awareness Project*. The goals of the project are to seek ways to protect drinking water, improve water quality, and assist the citizens of Jasper County in gaining awareness and knowledge about the impacts of land use on precious water resources. Working closely with other local and county agencies, the project is set to begin in January 2007.

The CWI Grants Program provides financial assistance to SWCDs to implement conservation practices to reduce non-point sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training and cost-sharing programs. The SSCB funded projects that demonstrate cooperative conservation by connecting their local business plans to the statewide Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) Strategic Plan. SWCDs were encouraged to work together across county lines and to leverage local, state and federal resources to put more conservation on the land and bring more funds home to Hoosier landowners.

Statewide, this round of CWI projects brings together approximately 100 local organizations, governments and communities, as well as state and federal agencies, to showcase what Hoosier conservationists can do when given the resources to make a difference. Proposals concentrated on unique partnerships; regional technical assistance; centralized office coordination of state, federal and local agencies; and marketing conservation programs to landowners.

“Our land and water are our state’s most precious natural resources and conserving what we have is critical to our Hoosier environment and economy,” said Agriculture Director Andy Miller. “We are committed to working with our partners to develop more conservation practices and get the necessary funding into the hands of Indiana landowners as quickly as we can.”

“Water in Indiana will be cleaner and the soil more productive as 49 local SWCDs carry out plans funded by the recent CWI Grants. SWCDs, directed by a board of local people, know best how to meet the conservation needs in their communities,” said SSCB Chairman Bob Eddleman. “CWI grants provide the opportunity to boost their local efforts. Technical help to implement the grants will come from district staff, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture’s Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC), the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and many local businesses and conservation groups. Many of

the grants will help SWCDs and local land users accelerate the implementation of federal and state conservation programs as well."

Administered by the SSCB, the CWI Program is funded through the CWI initiative created in 1999 and funded in 2005 by a unanimous vote of the Indiana General Assembly.