

LINCOLN HILLS RC&D

resource conservation and development

2010 Annual Report



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our President



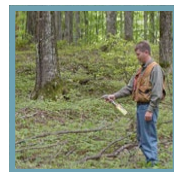
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LINCOLN HILLS COUNCIL

A strong organization is built on a strong foundation. And, the very core of the RC&D program is its connection with people. Organizations in Harrison, Crawford, Perry and Spencer Counties with interest in the region's natural and community resources are encouraged to participate in the planning process as sponsors of the Lincoln Hills RC&D. Board members meet monthly for updates on activities within the district and discuss regional issues impacting the area. Working together, the council addresses natural resources and community needs throughout the RC&D area. Through the participation of an extensive representation of people throughout the region, the RC&D council and staff move forward with an awareness of community and resource priorities.



LINCOLN HILLS RESOURCE

Eric Anderson
Crawford
Member



Chuck Botsko
Spencer
Secretary



Jediah French
Perry
Member



Bev Minto
Perry
Member



Earl McCleerey
Perry
Member



Bob
Ramsbottom
Perry
Treasurer



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As I sit down at the kitchen table and attempt to write this letter, I look out the back window to see a steady snowfall. The weatherman is predicting 3 to 6 inches, then turning colder. Everyone who lives out in the rural areas know how a little snow can make the simplest jobs that much more challenging. Country people almost always attempt their challenges different than their city counterparts.

The RC&D Council's objective is to help our rural neighbors find the answers and the resources to meet these community issues. The majority of work that the RC&D Council assists with throughout the year pertains to our natural resources and agricultural problems. There are positive signs that the farming sector of the economy is showing steady growth. Higher prices for commodities due to worldwide demand caused by extreme weather conditions are putting more dollars in the farmers' pockets in most cases. But, along with high prices for their goods comes higher input costs. Although fertilizer and chemicals fluctuate with the prices sometime, tractors and farm equipment never seem to get cheaper. As the demand for these products increases, hopefully it will mean an increase of workers to help produce the goods which in turn will create more jobs, and we all know that will be great for the national economy.

When you are finished reviewing this copy of our annual report, pass it on to a friend, neighbor, or local community leader that you hope has an interest in our community and our natural resource the same as yourself. The Lincoln Hills RC&D Council is always open to ideas and opportunities to partner with like-minded organizations in *providing local solutions for local concerns*.

Sincerely,

Don Richmer,

Lincoln Hills RC&D Council Chairman



The Lincoln Hills RC&D Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please contact the office at: 812-649-9136 ext 5 or

council@lincolnhillsrkd.org



LINCOLN HILLS RC&D REGION

The Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation and Development region is made up of four counties along the Ohio River—Harrison, Crawford, Perry and Spencer. These counties were chosen to be part of the Lincoln Hills RC&D area because of similar topography, landuse and resource concerns. Washington County was part of the Lincoln Hills RC&D area until 2001 when it formed White River RC&D with Lawrence, Orange and Jackson Counties.

CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

CELEBRATING 48 YEARS

Over 45 years ago, Congress established a unique program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that empowered rural people to help themselves. USDA's focus was to assist local people by providing tools and technical support to stabilize and grow their own communities while protecting and developing natural resources. Thus, the resource conservation and development (RC&D) concept was initiated.

Lincoln Hills RC&D (LRR&CD) was established in 1963, making it one of the first RC&D Councils in the country. LHRC&D's council delivers coordinated resource conservation and rural development assistance throughout the four county regions of Harrison, Crawford, Perry and Spencer. By working together with the Lincoln Hills RC&D council; communities, all levels of Government, and grassroots organizations can work together to develop and implement solutions to widespread problems and to develop opportunities that will help sustain our rural communities, local economies, and natural resources.

Lincoln Hills RC&D can assist local organizations with their community-wide projects and programs. LHRC&D serves as a support system for our communities by providing technical, administrative, and financial assistance to community-wide projects and programs. Lincoln Hills RC&D supports projects which focus on the environment, community development, historical renovation, and economic impact issues.

Kris Vance, NRCS-RC&D Coordinator, and Betsy Wilkinson, NRCS-RC&D Program Assistant, are available to support the Lincoln Hills RC&D Council in assisting your group in developing and initiating your community project. Stop by the office and visit Lincoln Hills RC&D today to discuss what opportunities are available to you!

All programs and assistance of the Lincoln Hills RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientations and marital or family status.



Archie
Sauerheber
Harrison
Vice President



Phil Schmidt
Spencer
Member



Charlie Sell
Harrison
Member



Sam Taylor
Crawford
Member



Jennifer
Thompson
Crawford
Member



Alan Waninger
Spencer
Member

EXPLORE! SOUTHERN INDIANA BROCHURES

The Lincoln Hills - Patoka Lake Recreation Region is a member-supported organization promoting southern Indiana's amazing destination to the world. They offer an amazing website and brochure that outlines everything from shopping and dining to state parks and lodging—and everything in between! The 'Explore Southern Indiana' brochure is developed annually and lists several tourist attractions throughout Dubois, Gibson, Spencer, Crawford, Perry, Orange, Lawrence, Harrison and Daviess Counties. In addition, it also offers valuable coupons that may be redeemed at participating venues. Approximately 150,000 brochures are printed annually and distributed throughout the state. There are currently 68 local businesses and tourist attractions that are a part of this committee.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

fun fact

Approximately 14,000 Explore! Southern Indiana brochures were distributed during the two travel shows.



TOURISM TRADE SHOWS

LHPLRR committee traveled to Indianapolis to set up and man a booth at the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show in February and to the Indiana Flower and Patio Show in March, 2010. Thirteen different members took their turn manning their booth at the Boat, Sport and Travel show and handed out Explore Southern Indiana tourism booklets to the attendees of the show. LHPLRR members returned to the Indiana State Fairgrounds on March 12, 2010 to set up for the Indiana Flower & Patio Show. Eight members rotated turns manning the booth throughout the week until Sunday, March 21st.

fun fact

According to the 2000 Census, the population of Fulda is approximately 38 people—19 male and 19 female.



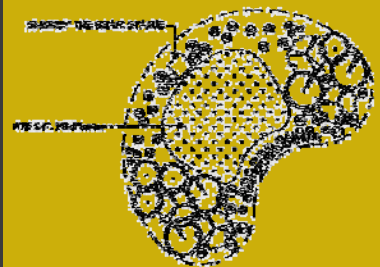
FULDA ARTS AND CRAFTS COUNCIL

The Lincoln Hills RC&D Council worked with the Fulda Sportsman Club to hold their first annual Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, May 22nd. The goals of this fair were to bring local vendors and area-wide residents into the town of Fulda and to raise money to help support the local Fulda Sportsman Club event hall. The Coordinator and Program Assistant worked with the committee to develop a list of vendors, vendor rules, and activities to be held at the fair. In their first year, The Fulda Sportsman Club was able to sell out their vendor space and had more than 2,000 citizens from around the area attend. They plan on making this an annual event.

fun fact

The PC Development Corporation received \$4,501.00 in 2010 from grants from the Perry County Community Foundation and Southern Indiana Power Company

Enhancement Site Sketch



I-64 SCENIC EXIT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The scenic enhancement project at the Interstate 64, exit 79 interchange began as part of the Perry County Development Corporation's Appearance study. The area along the two off-ramps at exit 79 have been targeted, meaning there will be two separate but identical landscape projects installed. The goal of enhancing appearance and identity at this gateway is the help to promote the attractiveness of Perry County to businesses and individuals who are in the process of relocating, along with enticing the recreational traveler to make Perry County a destination location.



DRY HYDRANT DEMO SITE

With the assistance of a Southern Indiana Power “Operation Round-Up” grant, the Lincoln Hills council worked with Hoosier National Forest, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Indiana State Department of Agriculture to install a dry hydrant demonstration site in the Hoosier National Forest, in Oriole Indiana. The goals of this site are to hold annual field days to promote the benefits of the dry hydrant concept to local fire departments and area residents and to encourage the installation of more dry hydrants throughout the four-county region. Additionally, this will be a working dry hydrant, which may be utilized in local fire-fighting. Ten volunteers installed this demonstration site on Friday, August 27th.

WATER MANAGEMENT

ANDERSON RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

The Lincoln Hills RC&D Council is assisting the Indiana 15 Regional Planning District and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in completing the 2010 Upper Anderson River Watershed Management Plan. This plan is being written to help identify critical areas within the Upper Anderson Watershed that could benefit from the installation of best management practices. Once approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the management plan may be used by Indiana 15 Regional Planning District or the local SWCDs to implement conservation practices on the identified areas.



Partner

Perry and Spencer County SWCDs, Perry and Spencer County Purdue Extension, U.S. Forest Service, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division.

INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Lincoln Hills RC&D worked with the Harrison County Regional Sewer District in applying for a 3-year Indiana Department of Environmental Management 319 Grant to implement the Indian Creek Watershed Management Plan. If received, this grant will allow the Regional Sewer to implement a cost-share program to install best management practices around sinkholes and other karst features. In addition, two urban stormwater demonstration sites will be installed to educate the community about urban best management practices and educational activities, both agricultural and urban, will be held throughout the year.



Fun fact

If awarded, HCRSD have approximately \$130,000.00 in cost-share dollars to implement their karst feature best management practices.

NATURAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM WKSP

On August 6th, approximately 20 people joined Lincoln Hills RC&D and The Nature Conservancy at the 2010 Natural Treatment System workshop to find out if natural treatment systems were right their community. Ms. Debbie Barnhizer, Indiana State Department of Health, discussed the advantages of natural treatment systems, took the group on a ‘virtual field trip’ to communities throughout Indiana that are utilizing natural treatment systems, and gave beginners some do’s and don’ts learned through experiences around the state.



Fun fact

For many small communities, natural treatment systems are a viable, low-cost, effective means of treating wastewater.

FORESTRY FIELD DAY

On October 9, 2010 the Forestry Committee sponsored a Forestry and Wildlife Field Day at the forest of Stan and Dan Wehr. Located near Pilot Knob in Crawford County, approximately 320 people attended the field day with programs focusing on Green Certification, Timber Marking for Sale, TSI, Oak Regeneration, Wildlife Food Plots, Controlled Burns, Managing Wild Berries, and How Wildlife and Forestry Management can Co-Exist. Demonstrations were also provided of Chainsaw Carving and a Sorghum Press and the process of making sorghum. This is a project of the Lincoln Hills RC&D Forestry Committee.



LAND MANAGEMENT

fun fact

The Forestry and Fish and Wildlife Committee have been completing TSI for almost 20 years, improving approximately 700 acres of forest land.



TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

The Lincoln Hills RC&D Forestry Committee performed a Timber Stand Improvement service on March 13, 2010. They completed 17 acres of TSI in the Hoosier National Forest on a tract in Perry County, Indiana. Seven members of the Forestry committee provided their own chainsaws and safety equipment. They donated 5 hours of their Saturday to complete the much needed project of removing vines and spraying cull trees in the forest. The Fish & Wildlife committee performed a TSI project on 20 acres of Roy Raider's forest. The 6 committee members that participated met on Saturday, February 13th to complete the task.

fun fact

Over 100 bluebird houses were constructed and distributed at the 2010 Adventures with Nature Program



BIRDHOUSE CONSTRUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Bluebird boxes were built by Fish and Wildlife committee volunteers and donated to SWCDs to be given away as door prizes at their annual meetings. In addition, the committee was active in the Adventures With Nature program. Members participated in the program by providing building materials and assistance for participants to create their own bluebird box. Volunteers discussed the importance of quality habitat for birds to participants at the event. Each participant was encouraged to take home their newly made bird box and install it in their yard to provide shelter for bluebirds.

fun fact

Brad Harth (District 10) and John and Donna Frank (District 9) received Forestry District Awards at the 2010 banquet for their commitment to improving their forestland.



FORESTRY COMMITTEE TIMBER INDUSTRY TOUR

The annual Timber Industry Tour was held at the Lincoln State Park and the property of Steve Grose. Approximately fifty people toured the sites where invasive species are being treated – particularly ailanthus (Tree of Heaven). Following the tour a banquet was held at The American Legion in Ferdinand. Awards were given to Indiana Tree Farm winners, and 4-H Forestry Grand Champions and Reserve Grand Champions. Ron Rathfon from Purdue Extension presented a program discussing invasive species in the forest.



MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

The 8-week Master Naturalist course was held from April 5 thru May 24, 2010 with 17 adults participating. The topics covered were Wilderness Survival, Humans & the Natural World, Bees & Apiary Management, Caves, Tree Identification, Invasive Species, Herpetology, Wildlife, Weather, Soils, Hoosier River Watch and Volunteering. The sessions were held at different locations depending on the topic. The goal of this project is to help nature lovers grow by providing intensive training in natural resource principles. Participants, in turn, share their knowledge by providing volunteer leadership and service to their communities.

LAND CONSERVATION

ADVENTURES WITH NATURE

This family friendly environmental education program is held each year on the 4th Saturday of June at Tipsaw Lake in northern Perry County. In 2010 the attendance reached 275 people. Presentations included Water Safety, Pioneer Life, The World of Bees, Master Gardeners, and Chainsaw Safety. Activities and exhibits that were provided to attendees were Bluebird Nesting Box Building, Nature Games, Owl Pellets, Pioneer Life, Tree Growth, Tree Identification, Wood/Soap Carving, Invasive Species, Master Gardeners, Perry County Tourism, and the Eastern National Forest Interpretive Assoc. The program was held from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 26.



partners

Perry and Spencer County SWCDs, Perry and Spencer County Purdue Extension, U.S. Forest Service, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division.

PERRY COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Council is assisting the P.C. Solid Waste Management District in applying for a USDA-Rural Development grant to develop a strategic plan to help improve the existing recycling program. If awarded, the PCSWMD will also include an educational component where they will work with schools and businesses in developing a "Recycling Pledge" program. local classrooms, schools and businesses will be encouraged to take a pledge vowing that they will recycle in their place of work. As part of their pledge, participants will keep an estimated weight of items recycled to report to the PCSWMD and encourage students and customers to help in recycling efforts.



fun fact

If awarded, the PCSWMD will be distributing approximately 700 recycling bins to local schools and businesses.

SPENCER COUNTY EDUCATION DAYS

The Program Assistant worked with SWCDs on several educational programs. On March 17, 2010 at a program held for 3rd grade students, assistance was given to educate about erosion and water quality. Approximately 150 students attended the program. On Arbor Day, assistance was given in a tree planting demonstration for 5th grade students at William Tell Elementary. Approximately 90 students learned about the benefits of trees and the proper way to plant them. In November and December, presentations were given to 2nd grade students at elementary schools in Spencer County focusing on America Recycles Day. The program on the water cycle and recycling was given to approximately 200 students.



fun fact

Lincoln Hills RC&D assisted with educating approximately 440 students through local SWCD programs.



Lincoln Hill RC&D
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2010 Lincoln Hills RC&D Annual Report

PARTNERS

Lincoln Hills RC&D could not implement the programs it does without the assistance from several key partners. We would like to thank everyone who helped make 2010 a great year for the Lincoln Hills RC&D region!



So. IN Draft Horse and Mule Assoc.
 North Spencer School Corporation
 South Spencer School Corporation
 Perry Central School Corporation
 Tell City School Corporation
 Central Perry Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Fulda Sportsmen Club



All programs and assistance of the Lincoln Hills RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientations and marital or family status.