



Grass Roots for Conservation



Vol. 49

No. 8

August 2024

www.elkcoswcd.org

Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN 46517 ~ Phone: (574) 523-2030 – jhess@elkhartcounty.com

Elkhart County PAY DIRT 2024

Where cultivation & construction meet

IN-field

Schedule

7:00am-9:00am	Vendor Setup
9:00am-10:00am	Registration Stop by the registration table when you arrive. Coffee & refreshments available. All vendors will be available throughout the day, but will be available at vendor booths at this time.
10:00am-10:15am	Introductions
10:15am-12:15pm	IN-Formational sessions (see sessions below) Attendees will break into groups based on interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock/ Crop Producers • Engineers, SWPPP Plan Preparers, Project Managers • Inspectors, Installers, Excavators • Regulators
12:15pm-1:30pm	Lunch & Vendor Expo Free lunch is provided via food trucks
1:30pm-2:45pm	The Water Quality "Why" (all attendees) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macro Biology in the Yellow Creek - What is it telling us? • Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) • Permitting Beyond the SWPPP - Waterway, Floodway and Wetland Permitting Q&A
2:45pm-3:00pm	Conclusions and Final Thoughts

Pay Dirt IN-Field 2024 has been approved for Continuing Certification Hours (CCHs)
Categories I (3 CCH max), 14 (2 CCH max), and RT (3 CCH max)

IN-formational Sessions

These IN-formational sessions will cover best management practices for improving water quality. Attendees will be divided into groups based on their interests. Each group will rotate through the different sessions, though not all groups will attend every session. Please refer to the listing below for more details.

Groups will be organized as follows:

Livestock/Crop Producers (Green)

Engineers, SWPPP plan Preparers, Project Managers (Blue)

Inspectors, Installers, Excavators (Yellow)

Regulators (Red)

Drone Features and Flight

Clay Kusbach, Davey Resource Group
(Green, Blue, Yellow, Red)

Enhanced Field Borders Walk and Talk

Keith Miller, Elkhart County SWCD Supervisor
(Green)

Concrete Washout Demonstration

Indiana Ready Mix Concrete Association and Joe Moore, ECS/Siltworm
(Blue, Yellow, Red)

Stabilization Station

A 150 x 20 foot slope featuring stabilization examples -
Ron Geator, Flexamat; Kevin Boyce, American Excelsior; Joe Moore,
ECS/Siltworm; Nelson Slusser, Slusser's Green Thumb, Inc.
(Blue, Yellow, Red)

Stormwater Skimmer Demonstration

Lynn Ramsey, Rymar Waterworks
(Blue, Yellow, Red)

Stabilized Entrance Installation and Maintenance

Dan Augustyn, FODS/DiStefano Sales Co., Joe Moore, ECS/Siltworm
and Bobcat of Michiana
(Blue, Yellow, Red)

Perimeter Protection Options, Features and Benefits

Joe Moore, ECS/Siltworm
(Blue, Yellow, Red)

SWPPP example for all demonstrated BMPs

Megan Bolyard, BF&S Engineering
(Blue, Yellow, Red)

Managing Your Manure Assets

Melissa Lehman, Agronomic Solutions, Brook Wilke, Associate Director
for Science and Agronomy, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station
(Green)

Soil Health Trailer and Root Pit

NRCS Soil Health Team
(Green)

Pay Dirt IN-Field Speakers

Daragh Deegan

Daragh Deegan is the Water Quality Manager for the City of Elkhart. As part of his responsibilities, Daragh oversees a cooperative biological monitoring effort between the Cities of Elkhart and South Bend to monitor the health of local waterways by sampling fish and other organisms. Daragh led this program as an Aquatic Biologist from 2009 until 2023 but still oversees the program in addition to other duties. He holds a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Goshen College and a Master's Degree in Aquatic Biology from Purdue Fort Wayne.

Dr. Brook Wilke

Dr. Brook Wilke earned a Ph.D. in Agroecology at the Kellogg Biological Station in 2010 and has served KBS in the role of Farm Manager (2013-2020) and Associate Director of the KBS Long-Term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR) Program (Present). Brook oversees agronomy and science activities for KBS LTAR and conducts research on agronomic innovations that enhance efficiency and sustainability of cropping systems. In addition to growing up on a family scale crop and livestock farm, Dr. Wilke has extensive experience in agricultural systems ranging from organic vegetables and local markets to pasture-based livestock and cropping systems, including educational activities related to these systems.

Donovan Wilczynski CESSWI

Environmental Compliance Specialist KERAMIDA Inc.

A Certified Erosion, Sediment & Stormwater Inspector (CESSWI) and Geologist with over 15 years of experience in Environmental Inspections in construction & industry, Mr. Wilczynski holds a B.S. in Geology from Ball State University. As a consultant Mr. Wilczynski lead the eastern Indiana environmental inspection program for NIPSCO as the Environmental Compliance Specialist for the last year. Providing direct feedback to inspection field staff and functioning as a liaison between permitting, engineering, and construction field staff, as well as assisting with updating their Environmental Compliance documents to progress towards their goal of 100% compliance.

Joe Moore

As a passionate outdoorsman and staunch supporter of the Clean Water Clean World initiative, Joe is dedicated to both enjoying nature and protecting it. He is the founder of two companies: Siltworm and ECS. Silt worm produces filter socks made from kiln-dried wood material that achieves over 99% reduction in sediment, distributed across the United States. ECS specializes in the installation, maintenance and inspection of erosion and sediment control measures as outlined in Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) for construction sites.



MIDDLEBURY RIVERFEST

**Keep It Clean,
We All Live
Downstream**

Join us for **Riverfest** at Riverbend Park
511 E. Warren Street, Middlebury, Indiana

Saturday, August 24, 2024

**New Start Time
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Family Fun &
Edu-tainment!**

Event Schedule:

3:00 pm	Electro Fishing	6:00 pm	Live Animal Show
4:00 pm	Explore Riverfest	7:00 pm	Kayak Drawing
5:00 pm	Regatta of Recyclables	7:15 pm	Movie in the Park

Stay for the movie at 7:15 pm
Disney · PIXAR
FINDING DORY

Featured Guests: Bird of Prey—

Red-tail Hawk Owls Bald Eagle

f Find us on Facebook! Facebook.com/MiddleburyRiverfest

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 13th **Changed from the 19th - SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN
- 22nd **PAY DIRT IN Field:** Hess Family Farm 63300 County Road 111, Goshen, IN. Where cultivation & construction meet, working demonstrations, this event qualifies as a prerequisite for the 2024 SWAMP Program, RSVP is appreciated, come and go as you please. RSVP at elkcoswcd.org.
- 24th **Middlebury Riverfest:** Join us at Riverbend Park for entertainment and education about the importance of fresh water and the value of the Little Elkhart River. This will be taking place in the EVENING from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

September

- 9th **Pasture Walk:** John Miller, Shepherd's Campfire - **Monday** 6:00 - 8:30 pm, 10319 County Road 38, Millersburg, IN. **Topic:** Sheep/Grazing.
- 16th **SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN
- 16th & 17th **Sheep & Soil Health School:** Classroom and in the field sessions for hands-on learning with Ray Archuleta and Jeremia Markway. Location at ML Blosser Farm - 25347 County Road 44, Nappanee, IN, cost is \$400 per person includes breakfast and lunch each day, as well as one dinner. To register go to markwayranch.com/school or call (573) 434-9443.

October

- 10th **Pasture Walk:** Jonathan Needham, **Thursday** 1:00 - 3:00 pm, 7775 N 575 E, Fremont, IN. **Topic:** Beef, sheep, poultry & small-scale hay operation.
- 21st **SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN

SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN 46517
Ph. (574) 523-2030 • www.elkcoswcd.org

Printed on paper produced using conservation practices consistent with the Forest Stewardship Council.

Board of Supervisors:

Alex Wait, Chairman Darrell Shover, Vice Chairman
Dale Leer Keith E. Miller Dean Rink

Associate Supervisors:

David Bontrager Gary Kauffman
Tom Kercher Tom Perry

SWCD Staff:

Jim Hess, District Manager
Lora L. Atkins, Secretary/Treasurer
Todd Clark, Conservationist
Jenna Wait, Conservationist

NRCS Staff:

Debbie Knepp - Acting District Conservationist

ISDA Staff:

Sandra Hoffarth - District Support Specialist
Heath Hurst - Resource Specialist Manager

All programs and services of the Conservation Partnership and the Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.