

2016 Participants

1. Carolyn Ahler is the Watershed Outreach Coordinator at Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District. She is participating in the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy to learn all about watershed management.
2. Clair Burt is a Wildlife Biologist and Environmental Planner at Flatland Resources LLC, and assists with the development of watershed plans for the Mississinewa and White Rivers in East Central Indiana. Her responsibilities also include assisting with invasive species management, construction and bioengineering projects, and water quality sampling. Prior to this job, she was a gardener at Minnetrista. She studied biology at Ball State University, where her favorite classes were Aquatic Entomology and Aquatic Botany. Her love of the outdoors and her desire to help protect it are part of her motivation for learning more about watershed management.
3. Edward Dobrowolski is a Hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey at the Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. His responsibilities include leading and conducting water quality, hydrology, and biology studies in watersheds throughout Indiana.
4. Jessica Faust is a Watershed Specialist at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. She graduated from Northern Kentucky University with a BS in Environmental Science and a BA in Geology, and has 15 years of experience working within the environmental field, including work with the Ripley County Health Department, the Northern Kentucky Water District, the Environmental Services Branch of the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), as well as the Office of Water Quality (OWQ) and the Office of Program Support (OPS) within the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Most recently, Jessica's experience working within the environmental field included program and project management, assisting customers to understand and come into compliance with environmental rules and regulations, as well as developing and sharing environmental rule and policy summaries with the regulated community, IDEM management, and IDEM staff. As a Compliance Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) staff member, she focused on water rules, regulations, and compliance issues.
5. Kevin Feder is a Stormwater Coordinator/CRS Coordinator for the City of Jeffersonville, Indiana. His responsibilities are stormwater education and outreach, construction site erosion/sediment control, illicit discharge detection, post construction BMP's and CRS program tracking. Previously he work for the Floyd County SWCD for ten years as an urban conservation specialist mainly dealing with erosion/sediment control. He has a bachelor's degree from Ball State University in Natural Resources and Environmental Management.

6. Dan Fee is a business executive for Nalco, a water treatment chemical company. His responsibilities include the management of 400+ technicians and operators in multiple countries. He is also the lake committee chairman for Lake Louise in Valparaiso, a 240 acre private lake. Dan is interested in learning watershed and lake management best practices.

7. Roy Francis is an Engineering Project Manager with Indiana American Water. He has managed the construction of water towers, ground storage tanks, pump stations and treatment facility improvements. His responsibilities include coordinating with local district staff to assure that all the key project technical requirements have been identified so that new facilities will meet operational expectations. Prior to this job, Roy served as an NDPEs Compliance Inspector in Southwest Indiana, evaluating impact of treatment facility performance on receiving water quality. Roy has a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Evansville, is registered as a PE in Indiana & Illinois, and is a certified Project Management Professional by the Project Management Institute.
8. Indra Frank serves as the Environmental Health and Water Policy Director for the Hoosier Environmental Council. She works with local communities reviewing environmental exposures and their links to health. After practicing as a board certified pathologist, she shifted her career to environmental health in 2004 and has since worked in environmental health programs, education and policy with Indiana-based nonprofit organizations including Improving Kids' Environment, the Health by Design Coalition, and the Indiana Environmental Health Summit. She teaches environmental health and environmental toxicology at the IU Fairbanks School of Public Health as an adjunct member of the faculty. She has a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Pomona College, an MD from Johns Hopkins University, and a master's degree in public health from Indiana University.
9. Christina Gates is the District Resource Specialist at the Shelby County Soil and Water Conservation District where she is responsible for coordinating with landowners to promote the implementation of conservation practices. Before taking the position as Resource Specialist, Christina was the office manager of a privately owned crop consulting business and is a graduate of Purdue University where she majored in Agricultural Economics. She has a deep appreciation for our natural resources as she spends most of her free time in our state parks and enjoying the outdoors.
10. Amy Hagerdon is a Teaching Assistant for Limnology at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She is pursuing a dual degree, M.S. in Environmental Science and Master in Public Affairs, with a concentration in Water Resource Management. Prior to this job, she worked for the Indiana Clean Lakes Program testing water quality in lakes throughout Indiana.
11. Miranda Hancock is a Senior Environmental Manager at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. She works in the Office of Water Quality and is responsible for writing stream modeling and wasteload allocation reports as well as issuing Industrial NPDES Permits. Prior to this job, she was a GIS Analyst at the Polis Center where she worked on Flood Inundation Map. Miranda recently finished her Master's Degree in Geographic Information Science. Her thesis covered monitoring nutrients in Indiana Reservoirs using Landsat 8 data.
12. Kelly Harris is an independent consultant for Reconnecting to Our Waterways (ROW) a collaborative initiative focused on making Indianapolis' waterways a community asset. Kelly received her B.S. in Conservation Biology from Murray State University, and a Master of Environmental Science and Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University SPEA. Kelly has focus her career endeavors on fostering education and stewardship of the natural environment.

As consultant of ROW, she is responsible for the collection and management of a broad range of watershed metrics including, but not limited to stream assessments, habitat surveys, and surveys of neighborhood residents.

13. Bridget Harrison is the Conservancy Director for the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. Her responsibilities include admin tasks, outreach and education, water quality monitoring and reporting, volunteer coordination, event planning, and fundraising. Bridget is the first paid staff member for an all-volunteer organization that works to protect, preserve, and enhance the watershed and Township of Clear Lake. Prior to this job Bridget was working at Cardno JFNew in Chicago. She is really enjoying her new position and the area!
14. Daniella Hunt is a recently graduate of Indiana University where she studied environmental management and business foundations. During her undergraduate career she interned with her hometown's (Shelbyville, Indiana) engineering and MS4 departments and the EPA Region 6 external affairs department. She is passionate about protecting nature and is eager to start her career keeping the watersheds of Indiana healthy.
15. Matthew Jones is the Water Resource Education Specialist with the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality. Among his responsibilities in representing the partnering MS4 groups within the ACPW, he is also the facilitator of Hoosier Riverwatch and Project WET in Allen County. When Matt isn't conducting trainings or workshops he is typically found representing the ACPWQ at fairs, schools and festival in one of his interpretive characters, "Dr. I.C. Coldwater" or "Cap'n Sam Read." Along with this job, he is a married father and grandfather and enjoys water time kayaking with his wife. When not doing that, he is sometimes found leading tours on or around the rivers or working as a professional storyteller in one of many other interpretive characters.
16. Len Kring is the Fish Biologist on the Hoosier National Forest and is responsible for the management of the pond and stream habitat on the Forest. His duties include monitoring and inventorying fish and amphibian communities, controlling aquatic invasive species, developing habitat restoration projects, and assisting other disciplines on the Forest. Before joining the US Forest Service, Len was a biologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers out of the Rock Island, IL and Walla Walla, WA Districts. Prior to that, Len was the Aquatic Biologist for the City of Elkhart, IN. The Hoosier National Forest encompasses a myriad of watersheds in southern IN and Len hopes that what he learns from this experience will assist the Forest in enhancing and protecting many of these watersheds.
17. Julie Loehr is Watershed Coordinator for the Lower Patoka in Gibson and Pike Counties. Her responsibilities include education and outreach efforts as well as getting BMPs that address water quality on the ground by working with individuals and communities in the watershed. She and her husband farm and have five children. Julie is also the Gibson County Envirothon team coach. As a coach, she knows that there is always something more to learn about the world around us and how to protect it or improve it.
18. Trisha McClain is a Conservation Resource Specialist for the SWCD Clinton County, and coordinates the South Fork of Wildcat Creek Program and Brown's Wonder Creek Watershed Program. Her responsibilities include implementation and managing rural and urban BMPs, developing a watershed management plan, coordinate additional ongoing projects within the

area and coordinate educational efforts. Prior to this job, she was a field teacher for the University of Maine 4-H Learning Center in Bryant Pond, Maine and the previous Environmental Studies Scholar for Manchester University.

19. Janel Meyer joined the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District in April 2015 as the Resource Conservationist, stepping into the Administrative Coordinator's position in August. She previously worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Pokagon State Park at the new Trine State Recreation Area (2013 - 2015) and as the Assistant Lake Michigan Fisheries Biologist for the Division of Fish and Wildlife (1994 - 2012). She began her career as a Fisheries Technician with Duke Energy (formerly PSI Energy in Plainfield, Indiana) in 1993 after receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Science and Wildlife Science from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.
20. Eileen Oaks is the Marketing and Outreach Specialist for the Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation. Her responsibilities include producing marketing and public relations materials that translate water issues and science to the public, lake residents, and farmers. She also writes news releases, creates promotional items, and updates the social media accounts. Eileen lives on the lake with her dog, and often has family and friends visit. Sharing her love of the lakes is important, so that other people can also grow to understand how important they are to protect and love too.
21. Debbie Palmer is Assistant Administrator at the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District. Her responsibilities include education and awareness of soil and water quality issues. As a new employee she has already gotten involved with Hoosier Riverwatch and Clean Water Indiana and is working at getting more volunteers involved in both programs. Marshall County was recently awarded a 319 and LARE Grant to study the Headwaters of the Upper Yellow River Watershed so she feels like it is important to understand what everyone is talking about. She is a marathon runner, triathlete and grandmother.
22. Vanessa Rainwater is the Solid Waste Specialist for the Tippecanoe County Solid Waste District and the Urban Educator for the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality. Her responsibilities include maintaining the proper operations of the Tippecanoe County household hazardous waste pick-up as well as educating the public on proper disposal practices of household hazardous waste. She is also coordinates educational efforts for proper storm water conservation practices for the community. Prior to holding this position Vanessa worked for two years as an environmental consultant, and has conducted research on the impacts of iron ore mining in the Boundary Waters watershed of Minnesota. Vanessa also held an internship with Save the Dunes honing her skills with native planting, native plant management and invasive species eradication. Vanessa's passion for her career is driven by her love and nature and outdoor recreation.
23. Jen Rankin is the Executive Director of the Wabash County Solid Waste Management District. This position requires Jen to develop and maintain her County's recycling programs to reduce the amount of trash entering Indiana landfills. She is also responsible for environmental education programming and household hazardous waste disposal - landfill diversion. Jen also serves as the President of the Northern Indiana Recycling Initiative and the Vice-President on the Board of the Wabash River Defenders.

24. Grace Roman is a junior geography and biology double major at Valparaiso University. On campus she is involved in Greek Life as well as Mortar Board, a national college senior honors society. Over the summer she had an internship with Dupage County Division of Transportation doing land surveying and GIS work. While in school she works as a lab aid for the Valparaiso University Geography and Meteorology Department. Her main motivation for enrolling in the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy was to increase her understanding about watersheds in the hopes of doing work with watershed management in graduate school.
25. Theresa Sailor is the MS4 for the City of Warsaw and the Chairperson for the Steering Committee of the Tippecanoe Walnut Creek Watershed Initiative. Her responsibilities include the development and implementation of the water quality plan for the City of Warsaw and the management of the storm sewer system. She has a spouse and two boys. She is passionate about protecting water quality and believes that many small steps can lead to great things in protecting water quality.
26. Paul Schriver is the Blackford County Surveyor. His office mainly deals with agricultural drainage, with production agriculture being the largest economic engine in the county, drainage is important to the well-being of the county. Water from Blackford goes to either the Salamonie or Mississinewa River. / Paul has been involved in production agriculture and agricultural education most of his life. He and his wife have four sons one daughter and one grandson. His concern with protecting the environment and maximizing agricultural production are a top priority.
27. Walt Sell is the Purdue Extension Ag and Natural Resource Assistant Program Leader for Soil Health, Water Quality and Nutrient Management. In this position, Walt works closely with ANR Extension Educators and Purdue Extension Specialists to strengthen Extension programming in soil health, water quality and nutrient management across the state. Walt is also working with Extension Educators in the Western Lake Erie Basin to assist with educational efforts to address the water quality concerns specific to that watershed. Walt also represents Purdue Extension at various meetings, workshops and activities across the state that deal with soil health issues. He represents Purdue Extension at the Indiana Conservation Partnership meetings and the State Soil Conservation Board meetings.
28. Randy Sexton is the technical advisor to the Noble County Drainage Board and have the responsibility of overseeing the maintenance and reconstruction work that needs to be completed on approximately 900 miles of regulated drains throughout Noble County. I also am responsible for maintaining all of the section corners located throughout the county and size all structures that are placed in regulated drains. I review and approve all of the development projects within Noble County with respect to the Noble County Storm Drainage and Erosion Control Ordinance, the Noble County Pond Ordinance and complete all IDEM MS4 reviews for the City of Kendallville.
29. Brad Shoger is a Project Manager with KCI Technologies, Inc. His responsibilities include oversight of natural resource projects in Indiana focusing on stream and wetland restoration, stormwater management, and wildlife ecology. Brad earned a BS from Indiana University in Environmental Management and a MS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida. His past experience includes extensive research in wetlands throughout Florida and riparian restoration in Idaho. He is currently on the Amos Butler Audubon Board

of Directors. Brad hopes to gain further insight into watershed management for integration with restoration design focusing on urban watersheds.

30. Phil Woolery is the Ag and Natural Resources Educator in Starke and Pulaski Counties. He is a part of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of both counties. While attending Iowa State University, he helped with riparian buffer research.