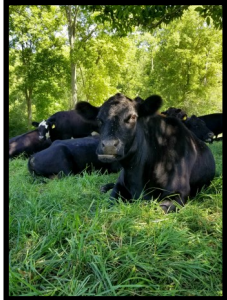


Champaign County
Soil & Water Conservation District

Good Habits



For Planet & Profit



80th Annual Meeting

Friday, February 3, 2023 at 12 pm

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Quick Reference of Our Sponsors

Company	Phone
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Our Gratitude goes out to the Champaign County Board.

We deeply appreciate their financial support,
as well as their support of our vision.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
NICK REINKE, HABI^TERRE



HabiTerre is a farming financial risk modeling company. They help financial institutes, public agencies, and individual producers to quantify, manage, and reduce financial risks in the farming-related business. HabiTerre aims to monitor and model every crop field's financial risks in the United States and worldwide. They have developed revolutionary approaches to rate historical and real-time financial risks for each crop field by integrating advancing technology in three domains: satellite modeling, artificial intelligence, and agricultural finance modeling.

Please join us in welcoming our keynote speaker, Nick Reinke, CEO of HabiTerre. Nick joined the HabiTerre team in March 2022 after working with TruTerra, LLC, and gaining years of experience in consulting, crop insurance, and farm operations. After earning his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of North Dakota, Nick attended the John Hopkins University Carey Business School and graduated with a global MBA degree in 2019. Self-described as "forever a farm kid," Nick now works to enable a more sustainable and profitable future for producers.



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Welcome	Eleanor Williams
Pledge of Allegiance	Lennie Heiser
Invocation	Eric Suits
Luncheon	
Annual Meeting	
Introductions	Steve Stierwalt
Business Meeting	Steve Stierwalt
Minutes from last meeting	
Treasurers Report	
Report of Nominating Committee	
Election of Officers	
Conservation Innovator	Eric Suits
Friend of Conservation	Joe Rothermel
Conservation Legacy.....	Steve Stierwalt
Introduction of Speaker	Joe Rothermel
Speaker.....	Nick Reinke, HabiTerre
Adjournment	

Contact Information

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District
2110 West Park Court, Suite C
Champaign, IL 61821

(217) 352-3536 Ext 3

E-Mail: info@ccswcd.com

Website: www.ccswcd.com
www.facebook.com/champaigncswcd

All programs and services of the Champaign County 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.

DISTRICT BOARD AND STAFF

District Board

Steve Stierwalt, Chairman
Joe Rothermel, Vice-Chairman
Eric Suits, Secretary/Treasurer
Eleanor Williams, Director
Lennie Heiser, Director

SWCD Personnel

Morgan Cauble, Conservation Coordinator
Ivan A. Dozier, Resource Conservationist
Erin Gundy, STAR Operations Manager
Bruce Henrikson, STAR Assistant Coordinator
Renee Weitekamp, Administrative Coordinator
Clay Bess, PCM Operations Manager
Aidan Walton, PCM Specialist

USDA NRCS Office Personnel

John Bell, District Conservationist
Jason O'Brien, Soil Conservationist
Alissa Polz, Soil Conservationist Technician
Nicholas Schneider, Soil Conservationist

Associate Directors

Kenneth Kesler

CONSERVATION LEGACY: IVAN DOZIER



Ivan Dozier has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) since 1983, and he has served as the Illinois State Conservationist since 2012. During his career, Mr. Dozier has been a strong supporter of Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the state of Illinois. With a personal connection to agriculture after growing up on his family farm in Southern Illinois, Ivan has been a long-time supporter of conservation and has assisted with the advancement of sustainable practice adoption throughout his career. Following Ivan's retirement in January 2023 after many years of service in the field, the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to honor the lasting impact and legacy Mr. Dozier's work will have on conservation for years to come.



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FRIEND OF CONSERVATION: CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD

MEMBER, CHRIS STOHR



Champaign County Board Member Chris Stohr has been a valuable advocate for sustainable agriculture at the local level. He is a strong supporter of the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District and has worked to secure funding to implement hundreds of acres of cover crops across Champaign County. Chris is also a member of the local Lincoln Heritage Resource Conservation & Development, which helps optimize the use of natural resources to improve rural economy. As a geologist and agronomist, Mr. Stohr has demonstrated interest in attending District events and continuing to learn about grassroots conservation efforts. CCSWCD appreciates his support, which assists in the implementation of conservation practices locally and beyond.

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COMMITTEES

Salt Fork Watershed

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Alex Nagy | Joe Darlington |
| Beth Whetsell | Kent Krukewitt |
| Brad Bennett | Kevin Green |
| Brad Uken | Lisa Leigh |
| Carmen Franks | Lloyde Esry |
| Carson McNamara | Lowell Gentry |
| Clark Bullard | Mike Daab |
| Danica Hayes | Mila Marshall |
| David Nguyen | Mitchell Killough |
| Dennis Wandell | Monte Cherry |
| Derek Liebert | Morgan Cauble |
| Diana Flanagan | Nathan Dornfeld |
| Eleanor Williams | Paul Terrio |
| Elliot Brinkman | Rick Manner |
| Erin Gundy | Steve Halfar |
| George Czapar | Steve Post |
| Holly Hirchert | Suzanne Smith |
| Ivan A. Dozier | Trent Thomas |
| Jake McCoy | Trevor Sample |
| Jeff Holste | |



Barnhart Prairie

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Amber Barnhart | James Ellis |
| Abbie Frank | Jonathon Manuel |
| Bruce Stickers | Morgan Cauble |
| Erin Gundy | Timothy Voelker |
| Ivan A. Dozier | |

COMMITTEES

Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources (STAR)

Bonnie McGill
Brett Roberts
Bruce Henrikson
Chris Schroeder
Claire Weinzierl
Dan Cekander
David Hughes
David Nguyen
Doug Gucker
Elliot Lagacy
Emerson Nafziger
Eric Miller
Erin Gundy
Gary Schnitkey
Grant Hammer
Helen VanBeck
Ivan A. Dozier
Ivan Dozier
Jason Solberg
Jeff O'Connor

Jennifer Jones
Joe Rothermel
John Whitaker
Kristopher Reynolds
Laura Gentry
Lauren Spaniol
Lowell Gentry
Megan Baskerville
Megan Dwyer
Michelle French
Mike Wilson
Morgan Cauble
Quint Shambaugh
Scott Lagger
Shani Golovay
Sharon Bard
Spring Duffey
Stacy Zuber
Steve Stierwalt
Todd Gleason

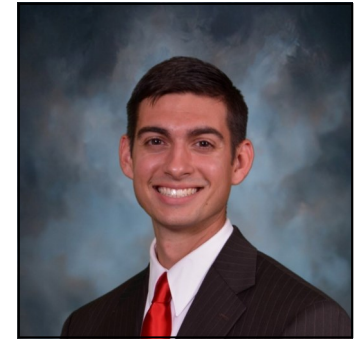


Embarras Grazing Partnership

Erin Gundy
Ivan A. Dozier
Jennifer Jones
Jesse Schaffer
Katie Bell

Kelsey Vergin
Mallory Krieger
Morgan Cauble
Nicole Haverback

CONSERVATION INNOVATOR: RADEMACHER FARMS



The Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce Rademacher Farms as the 2023 Conservation Innovator. Eric Rademacher, his son Frank Rademacher, and their family have shown years of dedication to conservation, soil health, and water quality on their farm near Gifford, IL. CCSWCD board and staff commend their advocacy for conservation, excitement to educate peers, and willingness to participate and partner on District projects. The Rademachers graciously assisted with both the Big Ditch Watershed Cost-Share project and the Farmer-Led Conservation & Watershed Protection field day series in the past year. Rademacher Farms displays a great example of commitment to sustainable agriculture.



Many Thanks to Our Partners:

The Pasture Project

Prairie Rivers Network

The Nature Conservancy

Terra Elossa, LLC

University of Illinois Extension

Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District

USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Village of Mahomet

Village of Saint Joseph



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Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Directors on call: Joe Rothermel, Steve Stierwalt, Eleanor Williams, Eric Suits, Lennie Heiser

Staff on call: Erin Gundy, Morgan Cauble, Renee Weitekamp, Bruce Henrikson

Guests: Bruce Stickers

Joe called the meeting to order on Friday, February 18, 2022 @ 9:45 am.

Minutes – Lennie moved to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes. Steve seconded; motion carried.

Financials – Steve moved to approve the fiscal year 2021 financials. Eric seconded; motion carried.

Accomplishments- The fiscal year 2021 accomplishments were reviewed.

New Business- No new business.

Old Business- No old business.

Eric moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 am. Steve seconded; motion carried.

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Illinois Soybean Association

Illinois Stewardship Alliance

The Land Connection

Magnolia Land Partners, LLC

National Wildlife Federation

Parkland College

*By Building on our Past successful Partnerships,
Together we are Preserving for the Future.*

Many Thanks to Our Partners:

American Farmland Trust

Bureau of Land and Water Resources, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Champaign County Board, Associated Boards and Committees

Champaign County Pheasants Forever

Champaign County Farm Bureau

Champaign County Forest Preserve District

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

City of Champaign Planning and Engineering Departments

City of Urbana Planning

The Conservation Fund

Delta Institute

Illinois Department of Agriculture Partners for Conservation

This is an ongoing program that has provided over \$650,000 in incentives for strip-till, cover crops, nutrient management, and streambank protection.

Nearly 90 abandoned water wells have been sealed under this program, protecting our drinking water.



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Financial Statement

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District
Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022

Receipts:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT	\$14,462
STATE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT	\$87,092
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT	\$34,560
OTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$8,051
SALES (fish, NRIRs, etc.)	\$16,031
MISCELLANEOUS	\$146
RESTRICTED GRANT PASS THROUGH INCOME	\$646,387
<u>SUB TOTAL</u>	\$806,729
Less restricted grant income	<u>\$646,387</u>
District operating income	\$160,342

Disbursements:

PERSONNEL (salary, travel, taxes, etc.)	\$100,113
PUBLIC EDUCATION	\$18,962
GENERAL OFFICE (supplies, dues, taxes, etc.)	\$46,289
DIRECTOR & EMPLOYEE TRAINING	\$2,584
MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	\$2,954
COST OF GOODS SOLD	\$11,225
RESTRICTED GRANT PASS THROUGH EXPENSE	\$491,248
<u>SUB TOTAL</u>	\$673,375
Less restricted grant pass through expense	<u>\$491,248</u>
District operating expenses	\$182,127

The Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank the USDA-NRCS for their support to Champaign County during this past fiscal year. Support includes personnel, equipment and office space operation and maintenance. Additionally, USDA-NRCS provides funds to the county through Conservation Programs, such as EQIP, CSP, and WRP.

STAR UPDATE

STAR released the Crop Year 2021 STAR Annual Report, which features a summary of conservation efforts, environmental impacts, and growth of the STAR initiative. The full report is on the STAR website. Crop Year 2022 wrapped up on January 31, 2023. Keep an eye out for the new report coming later this year!

Several updates have been made to the STAR Web App to improve users' experience. For the farmer app, a 'split fields' function was created to allow farmers and landowners to adjust field boundaries with a few clicks. Adjustments to the Improvement Plan function were made for more accurate scoring predictions. For the admin/licensee app, the dashboard now displays total acres, fields, and participants enrolled in STAR as a live counter throughout the crop year. The STAR Web App offers farmers and landowners an efficient way to evaluate multiple fields seamlessly on their phones, desktops, or tablets. It allows users to create customized field improvement plans, connect with local resources and technical assistance, and easily share their STAR Ratings with their online communities.

STAR continues to work with partners on projects and find funding opportunities. In spring 2022, USDA opened the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities funding opportunity. Although CCSWCD's STAR-focused application was not accepted, STAR Affiliate Colorado Department of Agriculture's application was accepted. Their proposal includes a generous subaward for the CCSWCD to continue building a National STAR support system for STAR Affiliates and partners in and beyond Illinois. Additionally, the University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture proposal included funds for the Missouri Assoc. of SWCDs to lift MO STAR. STAR looks forward to working with partners to continue expanding STAR's impact!

Additionally, STAR is piloting a Pay-for-Performance model with a supply chain partner in Macon and Douglas counties that pays farmers for improved STAR Ratings, or consistent 5-STAR Ratings. We hope that such incentives will grow and be available for more geographic areas in the future as we develop additional partnerships. We hope all farmers participate in STAR now to establish a baseline for potential incentives in the future!

Keep up with the latest STAR info here:

www.starfreetool.com

Facebook: @STARfreetool

Twitter: @STARfreetool

Contact info@STARfreetool.com for questions or inquiries



PLAN OF WORK & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

District Operations Initiative

Objective: Manage NRCS-SWCD operations for the greatest efficiency in meeting resource objectives.

Goal: Enhance and grow the Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources (STAR) initiative

Goal: Plan operations to maximize the use of our assets

Goal: Provide friendly, quality conservation information to the community

Goal: NRCS partnership

- Hired a Survey Aide with funding from NRCS to assist local field office staff with field work including program compliance checks and waterway designs.
- Completed administrative assistance work for NRCS programs such as CSP and EQIP.
- Enhanced the Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources (STAR) initiative. Through funding from The Nature Conservancy, staff and partners developed a Progressive Web Application for farmers and county licensees to interact with STAR online. A full-time STAR Operations Manager was hired through funding from the Walton Family Foundation. In Crop Year 2021, STAR had 472 participants and covered over 85,500 acres. The STAR evaluation system is on track to become a statewide model and has been adopted by 70 other Soil and Water Conservation Districts across Illinois. The initiative has also been adopted by districts in Indiana, Iowa, Colorado, and Missouri.



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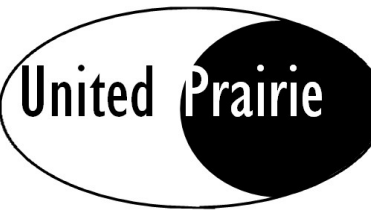
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PLAN OF WORK & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Preface

The Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District is a non-taxing subdivision of County, State and Federal Government. The District programs are administered by a Board of Directors composed of five (5) farmers or landowners who are elected by the owners or occupiers of land in Champaign County.

Our mission is to provide leadership and coordinate programs to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources.

Last year's accomplishments (FY22) are the result of successful partnerships with individual landowners as well as with agencies and organizations dedicated to conservation. The statistics for 2022 are the result of individuals and organizations achieving their conservation goals. By working with both individual citizens and partner groups, the District moves closer to our mission of providing leadership and program coordination to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources.

Water Quality Initiatives

Objective: Improve water resources of Champaign County to meet or exceed the Environmental Protection Agency water quality standards and Nutrient Loss and Reduction Strategy guidelines.

Goal: Reduce the amount of phosphorus and nitrates leaving agricultural fields

Goal: Coordinate, support, and promote water quality efforts and monitor activities in Champaign County

- Assisting with the Boneyard Creek Community Cleanup Day. Staff attended the event in April 2022 to volunteer in the cleanup and provide educational opportunities to participants.
- Through a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, staff worked with landowners to implement best management practices such as cover crops and nutrient management planning.
- Provided technical assistance to install and maintain filter strips along streams and ditches.

PLAN OF WORK & ACCOMPLISHMENTS


Education and Public Information Initiative

Objective: Provide quality natural resource information to the public.


Goal: Outreach – be a dependable resource to media and the public

Goal: Education – provide adult and youth conservation education

- Assisted with the Conservation Cropping Seminar. In 2022, the virtual seminar attracted over 300 attendees.
- Attended the Midwest Ag Expo and the Farm Progress Show.
- Assisted with the local LUC7 and Illinois State Envirothon competitions.
- Attended multiple events to demonstrate the Rainfall Simulator to youth and adults.
- Through an Illinois Clean Energy Foundation grant, an informational sign, a set of binoculars, and pavers were installed at the St. Joseph Wetland Educational Site.



Noel Farm Management



Daniel M. Noel

R. Vincent Noel

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Fax: (217) 351-1621
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PLAN OF WORK & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Watershed Management Initiative

Objective: Prove technical assistance to address natural resource concerns on a watershed basis.

Goal: Work towards development of IEPA approved watershed plans for all watersheds in the County

- Participated in the Salt Fork Watershed Subcommittee.
- The U.S. Geological Survey, Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District, City of Champaign, City of Urbana, and CCSWCD work together to establish a dedicated source of funding to keep the Salt Fork gaging station in operation for years to come.
- Participated in watershed planning and coordination efforts with partners for all 5 watersheds in the County.
- Worked with the Embarras Grazing Partnership to educate conservation professionals and landowners on successful regenerative grazing in the watershed.

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PLAN OF WORK & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Soil Erosion Initiative

Objective: Minimize soil erosion.

Goal: Reduce sediment loss by reducing soil erosion

- Promoted cover crops and reduced tillage in a series of field days funded by Mississippi State University.
- Provided cost-share for producers to implement cover crops, waterways, and strip-till on nearly 1,000 acres through the IDOA Partners for Conservation Program.
- Partnered with Illinois Corn Growers to facilitate Precision Conservation Management, which provides technical support to farmers implementing soil health practices.
- In Partnership with The Conservation Fund and Delta Institute, CCSWCD delivered a pilot Soil Health Incentive Program (SHIP) to provide payments based on greenhouse gas sequestration to Champaign County producers.

Water Management Initiative

Objective: Maintain and enhance surface and subsurface drainage systems to improve rural and urban areas.

Goal: Minimize negative drainage effects on urban and rural areas

Provided assistance to the Municipal Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) group with Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, the University of Illinois, and the County. In October 2021, the CCSWCD assisted with planning and hosting the virtual MS4 Green Infrastructure Conference, which was attended by nearly 100 participants.

- Assisted drainage districts with technical information and cost-share programs to keep soils productive and minimize flooding.
- Provided cost-share for well decommissioning through the IDOA Partners for Conservation program.
- Supported the Village of St. Joseph in pursuing a stormwater management project involving the St. Joseph Wetland.

PLAN OF WORK & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Wildlife Habitat Initiative

Objective: Maintain and establish new wildlife and woodland habitats.

Goal: Increase the area of the county established in wildlife and/or woodland habitat

- Participated in the prescribed burn at the Barnhart Prairie Nature Preserve.
- Assisted with the Keepers of the Prairie membership program to encourage habitat protection at the Barnhart Prairie Nature Preserve.
- Provided a reliable source of fish for pond stocking. In FY22, CCSWCD hosted two fish sales, serving over 50 customers and supplying over 12,000 fish.
- Worked with Magnolia Land Partners, LLC to provide wetland credits to NRCS customers while controlling invasives and planting trees at the St. Joseph Wetland.
- Administered the Headwaters Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) program, which provides NRCS funding to landowners for forest management and invasive removal.

Custom Farming



Wolken Farms

Rick Wolken
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District**
for providing the
beautiful venue for
today's event!

PLAN OF WORK & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prime Farmland Preservation Initiative

Objective: Preserve prime agricultural land through wise land use and development that is compact and contiguous to existing development.

Goal: Apply soil and water expertise to land use issues raised by Champaign County, developers, and residents

- Natural Resource Information Reports were completed for 11 projects covering over 100 acres.
- Performed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) site visits.
- Promoted educational opportunities about land preservation from partner organizations.



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