



Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds

AGENDA NOVEMBER 2-3, 2023 WRIGHT FORESTRY CENTER 1007 N 725 W, WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

A NETWORK FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AMONG AGRICULTURAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS

* All Times are in Eastern Standard Time *

Wednesday, November 1st

5:30 - 8:30 PM Networking event hosted by the Hoosier Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (Ripple & Company, 1007 Main St, Lafayette; 2nd Floor)

All LMW attendees are invited to join SWCS Members and Purdue University students, faculty, and staff at this event. Food is included.

Thursday, November 2nd

8:00 AM Registration and light breakfast (Wright Forestry Center)

9:00 AM Morning sessions:

Welcome and Introductions – *Craig Ficenec, Sand County Foundation*

Drivers of Farmer and Agricultural Stakeholder Decision Making and Actions – *Dr. Linda Prokopy, Purdue University*

Facilitated small group discussions

Assessing Conditions at a Watershed Scale – the White River Report Card – *Kelly Brown, White River Alliance*

12:00 PM Buffet lunch

1:00 PM Afternoon sessions:

Farmer Leadership Presentations and Roundtable Discussions

- *Tony Peirick, T&R Dairy, Wisconsin*
- *Frank Rademacher, Rademacher Farms (IL)*
- *Rodney Rulon, Rulon Enterprises LLC (IN)*
- *Keith Mears, KMears Farm, Indiana*

Streambank Restoration walking tour – *David Heilman and Phil Tevis, Flatland Resources LLC*

“HUC Talk” Watershed Partnership Case Studies

- *Various speakers*

4:30 PM Adjourn

5:30 PM Happy hour

6:30 PM Group dinner (9 Irish Brothers, 119 Howard Ave West Lafayette)

Friday, November 3rd

7:30 AM Light breakfast (Wright Forestry Center)

8:00 AM Morning sessions:

Watershed Partnership Case Studies (cont.)

Incentive Program Updates:

Emerging Opportunities with NRCS Programs – *Jerod Chew, NRCS Indiana*

The Conservation Windfall: How to Leverage It for Your Project – *Seth Harden, The Nature Conservancy*

State Revolving Loan Funds – *Becca Trueman, Quantified Ventures*

Expanding Agricultural Conservation Outreach through Applied Social Science – *Adam Reimer, National Wildlife Federation*

Closing activity

12:00 PM Buffet lunch, and adjourn

Presented by Sand County Foundation and partners, with financial support from North Central SARE and sponsors





Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds

SPEAKER BIOS
NOVEMBER 2-3, 2023
WRIGHT FORESTRY CENTER
1007 N 725 W, WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

A NETWORK FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AMONG AGRICULTURAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS



Kelly Brown - Senior Environmental Coordinator, White River Alliance

Kelly has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Conservation from Murray State University and a Masters in Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management and Applied Ecology from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Kelly has 11 years of experience working with civic, private, and non-profit organizations to provide program evaluation, ecological and water quality sampling, project management, and community engagement.



Jerod Chew - Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (Indiana)

Jerod works with partners to maximize conservation adoption through collaboration, and serves as the Indiana point of contact for Farm Bill programs such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Jerod is a graduate of Indiana State University with a B.S. in Biology/Ecology. He spends his time outdoors as much as possible with his wife and two sons.



Craig Ficenc - Senior Director for Agricultural Conservation, Sand County Foundation

Craig develops projects to improve water quality and wildlife habitat on the agricultural landscape, including the Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds conference series. He previously worked with the NRCS, and led conservation efforts for an organic farming business incubator program in California. Beyond the USA, Craig developed domestic water projects as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, and supported watershed-based development projects with non-governmental organizations in the Peruvian Andes.



Seth Harden - Upper Wabash River Project Director, The Nature Conservancy

Seth leads The Nature Conservancy's freshwater conservation and agriculture efforts in the Upper Wabash River Basin in Indiana, including development of solutions that balance the environmental, economic, and social equations. He graduated with his BS Forestry in 2010 and Masters of Public Affairs with a concentration in environmental policy analysis from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI in 2019.



David Heilman - Professional Landscape Architect, FlatLand Resources LLC

David is a Project Manager and Professional Landscape Architect. With Level II Rosgen training, David has spent the last decade implementing natural stream design methodologies into projects across Indiana and Ohio. David's strengths lie in utilizing various national, state, and local resources to help guide planning efforts and effectively incorporate the client's needs through a careful balance of community knowledge and FlatLand Resource's professional expertise.



Keith Mears - KMears Farm

Keith is a fifth-generation farmer growing corn, soybeans, and wheat near Delphi, IN. After growing up on an organic row crop farm, he and his wife started a conventional farm while he worked full time as an engineer. Keith became a no-till farmer out of necessity because he did not own tillage equipment. He uses extended crop rotations and cover crops, and he strives to have a climate smart farm by minimizing fuel consumption and maximizing nutrient efficiency.



Tony Peirick - T&R Dairy

Tony is the President of the Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soil-Healthy Water Group. He is a partner in T&R Dairy farm near Watertown, Wisconsin, with 200 dairy cows and 1,100 acres of corn for grain and silage, soybeans, and forages. Tony has been experimenting with cover crops for 12 years and has been planting green for the past 7 years. His farm also does custom spraying and harvesting as well as planting cover crops for his neighbors.



Dr. Linda Prokopy - Professor of Natural Resources Social Science, Purdue University

Linda is an interdisciplinary social scientist who is recognized nationally and internationally for her work incorporating social science into the fields of agricultural conservation, agricultural adaptation to climate change, and watershed management. She has published over 140 peer-reviewed articles in consistently high-tier journals, has generated over \$33 million in competitive research funds, and has mentored many graduate students and postdocs.



Frank Rademacher - Rademacher Farms

Frank farms 600 acres with his father in Champaign County, Illinois. He helped transition their farm to 100% no-till with cover crops terminated with herbicides and roller crimping. The Rademachers provide outreach to farmers, ag retailers, farm managers, and non-operating landowners to explain how conservation practices help them maximize profit while minimizing environmental impact. Frank graduated from the University of Illinois in 2018 with a degree in Crop Science. He is also a Conservation Agronomist with The Nature Conservancy.



Dr. Adam Reimer - Outreach & Evaluation Scientist, National Wildlife Federation

After undergraduate training in wildlife management, Adam studied farmer conservation decision making as a graduate student at Purdue University, and as a postdoctoral researcher at Michigan State University. He later joined the sustainable agriculture team at NWF to apply his interdisciplinary background to support conservation outreach. Through social science and evaluation expertise, Adam works in support of conservation practitioners, resource agencies, and farmers and ranchers to expand the use of regenerative agricultural practices.



Rodney Rulon - Rulon Enterprises LLC

Rodney is a partner in a fifth generation family farm near Arcadia, Indiana, where he leads the farm's production system focused on Maximum Economic Yield through conservation and technology. He continues to develop the farms no-till/cover crop program to improve soil health. Rodney has B.S. and M.S. degrees from Purdue University in Agricultural Systems Management. As one of 12 host farms in Indiana's Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, Rulon Enterprises hosts educational meetings as well as cooperative research plots.



Phil Tevis - Principal, FlatLand Resources LLC

Philip Tevis is a trained Landscape Architect and Environmental Designer who has spent the last three decades working on projects throughout Indiana and Ohio to improve water quality. Philip has experience in all levels of water quality improvement projects, from watershed management planning down to operating machinery. With a Level IV Rosgen certification, Phil understands the complexities of environmental and stream restoration and utilizes out-of-box ideas to leverage various resources and partnerships to help projects come to fruition.



Becca Trueman - Watershed Coordinator-Mississippi River Basin, Quantified Ventures

Becca brings nearly a decade of experience in natural resources planning and management to Quantified Ventures. She joined Quantified Ventures because she believes in the potential for collaboration across geographies and industries to create both sustainable and mutually beneficial outcomes. Becca is thrilled to connect with and support the stakeholders of the Mississippi River Basin.

Sand County Foundation thanks the following partners for their assistance in planning this event:

- American Farmland Trust • Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative • Conservation Technology Information Center • The Nature Conservancy • Ohio Department of Agriculture • Purdue University - Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Presented by Sand County Foundation and partners, with financial support from North Central SARE and sponsors

