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IASWCD announces appointment of new CCSI Director

Indianapolis, IN (June 9, 2016) – The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) announced today that Lisa Holscher has been hired as the new Director of the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI). Accepting this new position, Lisa will work with the CCSI Oversight Committee to develop and achieve long-term goals and objectives for this initiative.

Lisa comes with a wealth of experience and expertise in project and business management with a current focus on conservation. She has spent the last four years as the Soil Health Program Manager with IASWCD and the CCSI. In recent past, she has been highly successful in coordinating Regional CCSI Hub Teams, fostering partnerships and collecting trial and yield data from multiple projects. In previous years, Lisa was a Watershed Coordinator, Adjunct professor of Precision Ag at Vincennes University and coordinator of various other management projects.

Lisa has a passion for conservation and helping to improve the sustainability, profitability and soil health of farmers and farms in Indiana. She states, "I'm excited about building on this core CCSI team. When I think about Indiana's growing acreage of healthier, more biologically active soils – I think about the positive environmental impacts, the improved resiliency to extreme weather, and improved profitability for our farmers – it's a win-win-win. And for me, I get to look back and *know* I am part of making that difference."

Jane Hardisty, Indiana Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, expressed "Lisa has been a dedicated leader and a strong voice for the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative over the past several years. As the CCSI soil health program manager, she's demonstrated a strong passion for helping to improve the sustainability, profitability and soil health of farmers and farms in Indiana. While we face many challenges for agriculture in the coming years, it's great to see this very important leadership position filled by someone so capable and committed."

Les Zimmerman, Chair of the CCSI Oversight Committee, states, "We are so excited to have Lisa Holscher moving into this new CCSI Director position. With her many years of involvement with agriculture and conservation, she brings deep agronomic experience to the CCSI Project and her networks are well established. Her keen intellect and her hands on style allow her to move comfortably from farmer's fields to the halls of academia to corporate boardrooms in order to communicate the critical importance of this new agricultural revolution. Above all she has a passion for conservation and the drive to get conservation on the land."

"I congratulate Lisa on becoming the first director of the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative. Her dedication and vast experience makes her uniquely qualified for this position and will serve her well as she leads this critical program. I'm confident that under her direction she will be able to take this nationally recognized program to the next level and expand its reach to improve soil health and water quality statewide," said Ted McKinney, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. Lisa begins this director position on June 13, 2016.

THE IASWCD MISSION *is to represent SWCDs as one voice and assist the leadership of local Districts through coordination and education for the wise use and management of our natural resources.*

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