



Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District

10729 Randall Avenue, Suite 2 – Aurora, IN 47001 – Phone (812) 926-2406, Ext. 3

May 21, 2012

Electric Power Research Institute
Attn: Jessica Fox
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Dear Jessica,

At the May, 2012, Board Meeting the Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors unanimously approved a motion to support and participate in the implementation of the Ohio River Basin Pilot Water Quality Trading Program: Credit generation and transaction process.

It is my understanding that this project will involve cooperation with the Indiana Department of Agriculture, American Farmland Trust and the Electric Power Research Institute, with funding derived from the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Conservation Innovation Grant. Through this partnership the Dearborn SWCD looks forward to a collaborative effort that will result in the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorous inputs within the Ohio River Basin.

The SWCD anticipates working with project partners to implement conservation practices capable of delivering copious environmental services via practices including residue management/conservation tillage, cover crops, pasture and hayland planting, prescribed grazing and stream bank stabilization, as well as other priority best management practices known to benefit soil conservation, water quality and nutrient sequestration.

It is our understanding that a service contract will be synthesized that identifies each partners responsibilities and that the contract will define the best management practices to be implemented, the schedule for project delivery, commitment to follow project protocols, and the associated payment to the Dearborn SWCD for services rendered. I look forward to working with you to advance this project and anticipate that project implementation will result in a win/win scenario whereby soil conservation, water quality and ecosystem service attributes are bolstered.

Please keep the SWCD informed of future meetings and events where we may learn more about the project.

Marshall Alford
Dearborn County SWCD Chairperson

CC: Ann Sorensen, American Farmland Trust
CC: Jerod Chew, Indiana State Department of Ag