

Indiana Conservancy District Act Indiana Code 14-33

DNR, Division of Water

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What is a Conservancy District?

The Indiana Conservancy District Act, I.C. 14-33 provides a vehicle by which landowners can organize a special taxing district to solve problems related to water resources management.

NRC/DNR Role in Conservancy Districts

- # Water resource experts
 - # Provide guidance to local groups
 - # Publications/brochures
 - # Association of Indiana Conservancy Districts
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NRC/DNR Technical Reviews

- # Establishment
 - # District Plan
 - # Unit of Work
 - # Addition of Area
 - # Addition of Purpose
 - # Dissolution
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Indiana Conservancy District Act

Purposes

- Flood control
 - Recreation
 - Improving drainage
 - Erosion control
 - Irrigation
 - Augmentation
 - Water supply
 - Operation and maintenance
 - Sewage
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Establishing a Conservancy District

Part I

- # Identify purpose(s)
 - # Establish boundaries
 - # File Petition
 - # Public Notice
 - # Circuit Court Hearing
 - # Ruling as to form and content
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Petition to establish a Conservancy District

- District name
 - Boundaries
 - Purpose(s)
 - Need for each purpose
 - Serves public health, safety, and welfare
 - Benefit/cost ratio (unless water supply or sewage)
 - State/Federal grant \$\$
 - Conditions of grant \$\$ are acceptable
 - How O&M will be paid
 - Number of directors
 - Division of district into areas
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Establishing a Conservancy District

Part II

- # Forward petition to NRC/DNR
 - # Public Notice
 - # NRC/DNR Public Hearing(s)
 - # NRC/DNR submits report to Circuit Court
 - # Circuit Court sets final hearing date
 - # Ruling on Establishment
 - # Board of Directors
 - # Preparation of the District Plan
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NRC/DNR technical review on establishment of a Conservancy District

- # Appears to be necessary
 - # Holds promise of economic and engineering feasibility
 - # Benefit/cost ratio or serves the public health immediately
 - # Serves and covers a proper area
 - # Compatible with other districts and projects
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Advantages of Establishing a Conservancy District

- # Ability to tax
 - # Funding availability
 - # Multiple purposes
 - # Election of board members
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Disadvantages of Establishing a Conservancy District

- # Additional taxes
 - # Difficulty finding candidates for board
 - # Perception that additional purposes will be imposed
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Indiana Conservancy Districts

- # Since 1957, over 100 Conservancy Districts have been established
 - # Over 75 remain active districts
 - # Since 2000 eight (8) Conservancy Districts have been established and one (1) is pending
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Contact Information



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