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
NRC/DNR Technical Reviews

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

Purposes

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

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

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

- Additional taxes
- Difficulty finding candidates for board
- Perception that additional purposes will be imposed
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
Contact Information

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