

# Area IV: Miami County

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*Left to right: Lesley Rigney–District Manager, Lyle Wobker–Chairperson, Merle Kaiser–Vice-Chairperson, Pansy Bigley–Board Member, Mark Peters–Board Member, Eleanor Zuvanich–Treasurer, Shay Hanysak–District Outreach/Education Coordinator, Chrissie Towler–Key Banker, Jose Mendoza–NRCS, Bob Allen–NRCS, Cheryl Reynolds–District Office Assistant, Brian Lueker–FSA, (Jerod Ryckert–Board Member and Susie Atkins–Watershed Educator not pictured)*

The Miami County Conservation District has provided conservation education activities to over 1,000 Miami County students this year - including stream dynamics, soil conservation (erosion/protection), pollinators, and water quality through aquatic macro invertebrates.

The district led a successful \$30,000 NFWF grant proposal to restore 80-acre prairie on public lands and engage local prairie remnant owners in seed collection and preservation efforts. Involved 20 volunteers harvesting 30+ varieties of high-value forbs.

The district also engaged 500 middle and high school students in watershed education program - a one-two week long unit introducing students to water quality monitoring in streams and wetlands, sources and solutions of impairments/pollution. Unit finishes with a day in the field where students calculate stream discharge, dissolved oxygen and saturation, nitrates, turbidity, presence of macro invertebrates and more.

The district hosted seven workshops/field days attended by nearly 300 county residents on conservation topics including soil health, grazing management, community wetlands and prairie management.

Furthermore, the Miami County Conservation District secured second three-year Hillsdale WRAPS grant - \$167,000/year project to reduce nutrient loading of Hillsdale Lake, a water source to nearly 70,000 residents in Miami

and Johnson Counties. Projects include stream bank stabilization, nutrient management, livestock management, soil health and education/outreach.