

IN AWSoME

Vital resources for data-driven stewardship, safety, and economic success

OBJECTIVES

- Increase engagement in Indiana's environmental monitoring activities.
- Highlight who monitors, what data they collect, and how it's used.
- Identify monitoring gaps and inform stronger funding partnerships.
- Foster stakeholder collaboration for statewide monitoring strategies.

AGENDA

Time	Item	Facilitator & Presenters
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome	Beth Hall, Indiana State Climate Office
9:15 - 9:45	Regional drought monitoring, assessment, and research	Molly Woloszyn, NIDIS
9:45 - 10:15	Agriculture applications and needs for monitored data	Dennis Today, Midwest Climate Hub
10:15 - 10:30	Break	
10:30 - 11:35	Indiana's monitoring efforts	Austin Pearson, Indiana State Climate Office Purdue Mesonet – Beth Hall Indiana Water Balance Network – Garrett Marietta USGS – Jeff Woods IDNR – Garth Lindner IDEM Groundwater Quality – Kevin Spindler IDEM Air Quality – Brian Sandstrom National Weather Service – Earl Breon
11:35 - 12:20	Ag nutrients and the importance of monitoring	Hans Schmitz, Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance Office of the Indiana State Chemist – Matt Pearson IDEM – Kristen Arnold ISDA – Julie Harrold Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance – Ben Wicker
12:20 - 1:20	Lunch Importance of environmental monitoring	John Gordon, Kentucky Mesonet Advisory Board
1:20 - 1:40	Break	
1:40 - 2:25	Public health and safety	Beth Carpenter, IDHS IDEM BeachAlert – Nicole Messacar IDEM Air Quality – Brian Sandstrom National Weather Service – Mike Ryan Franklin Co EMA – Amy Lindsey
2:25 - 3:10	Government initiatives and activities	Garth Lindner, Indiana Department of Natural Resources DNR – Ryan Mueller Indiana Finance Authority – Sarah Hudson Indiana Emergency Alert Task Force – Jonathan Whitham
3:10 - 3:30	DISCUSSION: Next steps	Beth Hall, Indiana State Climate Office
3:30 - 3:45	Final Comments	Beth Hall, Indiana State Climate Office

Alphabet Soup

NIDIS: National Integrated Drought Information System
USGS: US Geological Survey
IDNR: IN Department of Natural Resources
IDEM: IN Department of Environmental Management

ISDA: IN State Department of Agriculture
IDHS: IN Department of Homeland Security
IDoH: IN Department of Health



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Keynote Speakers



*Molly Woloszyn
NIDIS*

Molly Woloszyn is a Senior Associate Scientist with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She serves as a Regional Drought Information Coordinator with NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), and is the program point of contact for the Midwest Drought Early Warning Systems. The Regional Drought Information Coordinators with NIDIS strengthen integrated systems for drought monitoring, forecasting, and planning and preparedness jointly with federal agency partners, tribal nations, states, municipalities, academic institutions, and other organizations. While the Program Office for NIDIS is located in Boulder, Colorado, she is remotely located in her region in Champaign, Illinois. Molly holds an M.S. in Atmospheric Science from Colorado State University and a B.S. in Meteorology from Northern Illinois University.

Dennis Today is the Director of the Midwest Climate Hub in Ames, Iowa. He is a native Iowan with his BS and PhD from Iowa State in Meteorology and Agricultural Meteorology. He has spent two stints in South Dakota, first completing his MS at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and most recently as Associate Professor and State Climatologist for South Dakota at South Dakota State University. He is well known regionally as a speaker and media source on various climate issues and is the former president of the American Association of State Climatologists.



*Dennis Today,
Midwest Climate Hub*



*John Gordon,
Kentucky Mesonet
Advisory Board*

John is a proud graduate of Saint Louis University, where he earned a B.S. in Meteorology, and Mississippi State University, where he completed a master's degree in Geoscience Teaching. He spent 21 years with the National Weather Service, including leading the Louisville office and guiding a 22-member team through major high-impact events such as the 2021 Bowling Green and 2012 Henryville tornado outbreaks, the 2009 Ice Storm, and the 2009 Louisville flash flood. John's passion for weather began at age six after learning about Tropical Storm Agnes and the Air Force Hurricane Hunters. That interest led to service with the Air Force and later the Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters, where he served as a Flight Mission Director and flew missions into powerful hurricanes, including Isabel, Ivan, and Katrina. In 2025, he joined WHAS-TV as an extreme weather specialist. Outside of work, John enjoys hiking, golfing, flying his drone, and traveling to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.