

# 2023 Drainage School

## *Speaker Biography*

### **Al Tinsley**

#### ***Natural Resources Conservation Service***

Al was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1959 but the family moved to Bloomington within a couple of years. Al has also resided in Spencer, Muncie, Shoals, Corydon, Goshen, Dubois, Kentland, New Salisbury, Plymouth, West Lafayette, and presently in Indianapolis. He is married since 1981 to his wife, Leann, and has two grown children.

Al Tinsley has been a lifelong employee of Natural Resource Conservation Service. Al began his career with NRCS before he actually graduated from college, having worked as a student trainee his last two summers in 1979 and 1980 with the Soil Conservation Service, as it was known back then. He graduated from Ball State University from 1981 and worked in offices all over Indiana as a Soil Conservationist and then a District Conservationist in Newton and Crawford until 1992. Al spent the next seven years as an Area Biologist in Southwest Indiana, which gave him the opportunity to become more involved in making wetland determinations when they were truly a joint agency effort.

In 1999 Al accepted the position of a Wetland Specialist in Plymouth IN and then relocated to Rensselaer IN in 2006, which involved being solely responsible for making wetland determinations for NRCS in the northwest quarter of the state. In 2013 Al filled in for the retiring State Forester who was responsible for wetland determination policy and procedures in Indiana at that time. In 2015, Indiana NRCS created the position of State Compliance Specialist and Al moved into that position.

Al is responsible for developing guidance and training that NRCS employees use to carry out their responsibilities related to Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation provisions. That includes the proper application of HELC and WC determination procedures and conducting the annual status reviews to ensure program participant compliance with the provisions. Al also conducts the appeal procedures that involve the state office. Al also conducts quality assurance reviews of the work of the employees conducting the annual status reviews.

