

**MINUTES**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**8:30 a.m. Monday, January 12, 2009**  
**Hyatt Regency Indianapolis**  
**Cosmopolitan Ballroom C & D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**One South Capital Avenue**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**Members in Attendance:**

Nola Gentry  
Jim Cherry  
Bob Eddleman  
Larry Clemens  
Warren Baird  
Bill Mann  
Gary Conant

Roger Kult, NRCS  
Dan Hovland, NRCS  
Becky Ross, NRCS  
Jane Hardisty, NRCS  
Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Vanderburgh SWCD  
Wayne Fehd, Vanderburgh SWCD  
John Bittner, Vanderburgh SWCD  
Bonnie Bittner, Vanderburgh SWCD  
Gene Weaver, Ohio SWCD  
Glenn Lauge, Marion SWCD  
Jim Martin, Jasper SWCD  
Jon Roberts, Kosciusko SWCD  
Jamie Scott, Kosciusko SWCD  
Dana Hart, Warrick SWCD  
Geraldyn Bradley, Warrick SWCD  
Larry Strole, Newton SWCD  
Brad Dawson, Dearborn SWCD  
Jeff Meinders, Ripley SWCD  
Brian Campbell, Elkhart SWCD  
Tom Crowe, Allen SWCD  
Terry Hinkle, Knox SWCD  
Ray Chattin, Knox SWCD  
Bob Hettmansperger, Wabash SWCD  
Emma Alkire, Morgan SWCD  
Ethel Osborn, Gibson SWCD

**Others in Attendance:**

Jerod Chew, ISDA  
Kelly Gentry, ISDA  
Amy Eizinger, ISDA  
Sara Slater-Atwater, ISDA  
Cris Goode, ISDA  
Jerry Hartley, ISDA  
Laura Fribley, ISDA  
Dan Dunten, ISDA  
Tara Henry, ISDA  
Jim Lake, ISDA  
Kenneth Eck, ISDA  
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA  
Jim Droege, IASWCD  
Ray McCormick, IASWCD  
Les Zimmerman, IASWCD  
Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD  
DeeDee Sigler, IASWCD  
Elizabeth Trybula, IASWCD

- I. 8:40 AM: Call to Order**  
**II. Draft Minutes of December 2008**

*Warren Baird moved to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Cherry seconded and the motion carried.*

**III. Leadership Development**

**a. District Requests – Kelly Gentry**

Crawford County – See Attachment

*Bob Eddleman moved to approve the Crawford County request to add Kenny Sturgeon to the ballot for their annual meeting. Bill Mann seconded and the motion carried.*

Crawford County Vacant Appointment – See Attachment

*Cherry moved to approve the Crawford County vacant appointment request. Eddleman seconded and the motion carried.*

Marion County Vacant Appointment – See Attachment

*Mann moved to approve the Marion County vacant appointment request. Baird seconded and the motion carried.*

**b. CWI Requests – Amy Eizinger**

Dubois County – See Attachment

Eizinger stated the board tabled their request at the last meeting. Dubois County has turned in an application for the second round of ECAP. They will be able to review it with the rest of the applications.

*Eddleman moved to take the Dubois County request off the table and review their application with the rest of the ECAP applications. Cherry seconded and the motion carried.*

Nola Gentry asked Eizinger to contact Dubois County letting them know their decision and they will review their application with the rest of them.

Elkhart County – See Attachment

*Larry Clemens moved to approve the Elkhart County request. Gary Conant seconded and the motion carried.*

Kosciusko County – See Attachment

*Baird moved to approve the Kosciusko County request. Cherry seconded and the motion carried.*

**IV. Division Report**

**a. CREP Update – Sara Slater-Atwater – See Attachment**

Slater-Atwater also reported on the CREP Amendment. She stated the contract is being finalized through IUPUI, Purdue and Schneider for the wetlands work. Geo-Marine is currently working on the Programmatic Environmental Assessment and should be complete around late winter or early spring.

Referring to the CREP report, Clemens asked why there was a lost of contract in the Upper White Watershed. Kelly Gentry explained that was due to landowners who lost interest in the CREP program prior to a contract being signed. Chew reported the Upper White Watershed did receive several large tree-planting contracts that total over 20 acres each.

**b. Clean Water Indiana Grants – Amy Eizinger – See Attachment**

**c. ECAP Report – Amy Eizinger – See Attachment**

**d. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew**

Chew reported over 2000 practices were installed on the ground through the Conservation Implementation Teams. These consist of primarily the practices requiring engineering assistance. Secondly, the DSC Resource Specialists recently traveled to Ohio to learn about how that state delivers, implements, and encourages conservation efforts. Resource Specialists exchanged a wealth of information with their Ohio counterparts. The trip was very worthwhile.

**e. District Support Update – Jerod Chew**

Chew reported the District Support Specialist (DSS) are currently busy working with SWCDs on ECAP programs and ECAP reports. N. Gentry asked if there was any word on more disaster money coming in. Chew replied that he hasn't heard of any additions at this time. He also stated that there will not be a lot of ECAP funds that will be swept back. SWCDs did a good job on getting their ECAP money allocated.

Clemens asked if the ECAP money is reaching landowners that haven't qualified for federal money. Eizinger replied yes, they are aware of who has and has not received federal assistance. Chew also mentioned most of the ECAP funds are going to private landowners.

N. Gentry asked how many districts in the audience have benefited from ECAP. Four districts raised their hands. N. Gentry asked for their input on how it is going. Everyone agreed ECAP has been a great program and has been working well. Some mentioned it works well with current conservation practices, such as 319 grants. No one has had a problem obligating those funds. All responses have been positive. Out of those four districts present all said they have applied for the second round of ECAP funds.

**V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion**

**a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry – No Report**

**b. SSCB Sub-Committee Reports and Recommendations**

**i. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations – Nola Gentry**

1. Executive Committee will be meeting with the shareholder input contractor tomorrow and will report during the next meeting. The Executive Committee will also be meeting with ISDA Director Hazlett later today to get her up to date on conservation.

2. Shareholder Input Gathering Update – Cris Goode – No Report

**ii. CWI Grants Committee Report and Recommendations – Warren Baird – See Attachment**

*Cherry moved to approve the CWI Grants Committee recommendation to sweep the final fifty percent of ECAP funds from those 3 districts who could not allocate all of their initial fifty percent of ECAP funds, totaling \$48,329.48, and to immediately fund 3 districts CWI-ECAP requests based on their letter of intent and justified need in their area. Those districts are LaPorte, Elkhart and Porter County and their award totals \$33,000.00. Conant seconded and the motion carried.*

Eizinger mentioned the next round of ECAP applications are due January 31, 2009. The CWI Grants Committee will meet and score the applications sometime in early February and make their recommendation for approval during next SSCB meeting.

**iii. District Capacity Committee Report and Recommendations – Bob Eddleman – No report**

(The following reports may be submitted in writing to accommodate meeting length)

**VI. Leadership Development Workgroup Update – Jennifer Boyle – No Report**

**a. 2008 Annual Leadership Report – Cris Goode – See Attachment**

**VII. Delivery System Workgroup Update – Jerod Chew – No Report**

**VIII. Funding Workgroup Update – Bob Eddleman – No Report**

**IX. Accountability Workgroup Update – Deb Fairhurst – No Report**

**X. Technology Workgroup Update – Jane Hardisty – No Report**

**XI. Outreach Workgroup Update – Jim Droege**

Droege thanked the SSCB for holding their meeting during the Annual Conference.

**XII. Conservation Partner Reports**

**a. DNR Report – Gary Langell – No Report**

**b. IDEM Report – Marylou Renshaw – No Report**

**c. Purdue Report – Gary Steinhardt – No Report**

**d. IASWCD President's Report – Jim Droege – No Report**

**e. Farm Services Agency Report – Gail Peas – No Report**

**f. NRCS State Conservationist's Report – Jane Hardisty**

Hardisty thanked the ICP for their help and support during the NRCS audit. She reported everything came out well and they learned a lot from it. She went on to report the new Secretary of Agriculture will be Tomas Vilsack, of Iowa. Also, NRCS is still a few months away from having a new Chief. Hardisty also asked the SSCB to consider meeting to discuss the need for technical assistance and their guidance on how to accomplish this with the resources we currently have. Lastly, Hardisty stated NRCS would like to be more involved in CREP and asked how that can be achieved.

Clemens asked when she would like to meet with the board. Hardisty replied the next ICP meeting is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> and suggested they could meet after that meeting. N. Gentry asked if they

could move it up so they can meet sooner. The board suggested February 10<sup>th</sup> at ISDA after the SSCB meeting.

**g. SWCD Foundation Report – Christa Jones – No Report**

**XIII. Sustainable Cropping Systems Initiative - IASWCD Natural Resources Policy Committee – Les Zimmerman**

Zimmerman simply stated his goal for today was to come away with the support from the SSCB and answer any questions they may have. He explained as resolutions for the year get passed most of them end up on the shelf due to limited funds and staff; however, the no-till resolution is one that addresses all of us and every perimeter of conservation. He went on to explained no other conservation practice gives you more bang for the buck. Sustainable Cropping System should be a high priority. He stated we need to recognize we have a bigger and better tool box than we did five years ago. We are asking today for the SSCB to allocate \$58 thousand per year for three years to help fund this program. Zimmerman also explained how they hope to expand this project as time goes on.

Zimmerman reported NRCS has already committed \$58 thousand a year for three year. This will fund half of the program. Clemens asked what the timeline was for the NRCS funding. Jane Hardisty, NRCS, explained the agreement they will sign is good for one year. Their federal dollars are annual; however, they made a commitment for three years.

Baird asked where the office will be located. Zimmerman replied that he hoped the person will work mostly from their truck out in the field. He stated they could house them through NRCS if they have space. IASWCD does not have the space to house an additional employee. He went on to explain this person will report to the Natural Resource Policy Committee.

Baird explained he is not against the program, he believes it is a great program, but is hesitant on allocating those funds right now when they do not know the future budget.

Discussion followed on CWI budget and not taking away the \$10 thousand grants from districts

Clemens stated he supported the Sustainable Cropping System. He believes this could complement our CCI program. When it comes to disasters, like we experienced this year, we see the value of conservation tillage with less damage. He also mentioned the letters they received from districts stating their support and concerns on this program. Most districts supported the program but had reservations when it came to the expense of CWI grants.

Discussion followed on the pros and cons of the Sustainable Cropping System proposal.

Eddleman stated the important thing is to work together and figure out a way to make this program happen.

Eddleman made a motion to support the Sustainable Cropping System for one year in the amount of \$58 thousand beginning July 1, 2009. This program will be administered through a committee made up of the State Soil Conservation Board, Natural Resource Policy Committee and other members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership. Clemens seconded and discussion followed.

Chew mentioned he spoke to the board members prior to the meeting and they all stated they are in favor of this program but are unsure how to fund it. Chew recommended having a working group with the SSCB and Zimmerman to go over all the details.

Zimmerman stated they would ask Barry Fisher to see if he would be available to help start this position and give his guidance. Hardisty said that would be a great possibility.

More discussion followed on funding the Sustainable Cropping System.

Baird made a motion to table Eddleman's motion until they have more time to discuss this proposal and the CWI budget. Motion died due to no second.

N. Gentry had Eddleman reread his motion. Clemens agreed to still second the motion. Conant, Clemens, Eddleman, N. Gentry, Mann and Cherry were in favor of the motion. Baird was opposed. Majority won and the motion carried.

- XIV. Public Comment – No Comment**
- XV. Next Meeting: February 10, 2009 at 9:00 AM at ISDA.**
- XVI. Adjourn 10:50 AM**

DRAFT