

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
8:30 a.m. Monday, January 11, 2010
Indianapolis Hyatt Downtown
One South Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Members in Attendance:

Nola Gentry
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Scott Ham
Brett Glick

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew, ISDA
Roz Leeck, ISDA
Sara Slater-Atwater, ISDA
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Kelly Gentry, ISDA
Paul Hoffman, ISDA
Jim Lake, ISDA
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Tara Henry, ISDA
Linda Powell, ISDA

Others in Attendance:

Jane Hardisty, NRCS
Roger Kult, NRCS
Dan Hovland, NRCS
Josh Richardson, NRCS
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Paula Baldwin, IASWCD
Ray McCormick, IASWCD
Scheryl Vaughn, Boone Co. SWCD
Bonnie Bittner, Vanderburgh Co. SWCD
Ray Chattin, Knox Co. SWCD
Les Zimmerman, Vermillion Co. SWCD
Brian Campbell, Elkhart Co. SWCD
Troy Hinkle, Knox Co. SWCD
Larry Strole, Newton Co. SWCD
Sherry Whetston, Vermillion Co. SWCD
Rita Sharr, Greene Co. SWCD
Wayne Fehd, Vanderburgh Co. SWCD
Jay Ballinger, Union Co. SWCD
Alice Bogemann, Hancock Co. SWCD
Ray Helms, Hancock Co., SWCD
Jim Droege, Posey Co. SWCD
John Bittner, Vanderburgh Co. SWCD
Jeff Meinders, Ripley Co. SWCD
Deb Lane, Warren Co. SWCD
Davie Sue Wallace Litov, Vanderburgh Co. SWCD
Bob Hettmansperger, Wabash Co. SWCD
Leah Harden, Clinton Co. SWCD
Judy Bengochea, Sullivan Co. SWCD

I. 8:38 AM: Call to Order

II. Draft Minutes of December 2009

Bob Eddleman moved to approve the December 2009 minutes as presented. Bill Mann seconded and the motion carried.

III. Clean Water Indiana

- a. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Update – Sara Slater-Atwater** – See Attachment Sara Slater-Atwater announced the 2009 Annual CREP report is finished. It will be published to the ISDA website under *CREP Annual Reports* in the next few days. Some of the highlights from the 2009 report include over 3,600 paid acres totaling \$832,197.00 in state funds. There are an additional 2,160 obligated acres that are not yet complete.

Larry Clemens asked if there are any new updates from FSA on the expansion of CREP. Jerod Chew replied that there are none at this time.

b. Clean Water Indiana Update – Jerod Chew – See Attachment

Chew announced there is no update on the status of the 2010 CWI grants. We are hopeful they will be approved. At this time there is no word on if this will affect any other CWI funds. There are a lot of other state projects on hold.

Scott Ham asked if there is any word on when State Budget will make a decision. Chew replied that there is no word, but it is possible that they are waiting to see the next revenue report.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Supervisor Requests – Kelly Gentry

Ohio County Recommendation for Vacant Appointment – See Attachment

Clemens moved to approve Ohio County's request. Brett Glick seconded and the motion carried.

b. CWI Grants Requests – Paul Hoffman – No Request

Paul Hoffman reported on current CWI grant status – See Attachment

Clemens asked if the 2006 CWI grants balance is for multiyear grants. Hoffman replied yes, but there is one district that may not finish. Last fall you granted this district their last extension.

Chew also reported some districts are sending back ECAP and 2009 grant funds that were not utilized. Those funds will go back to the CWI general fund. Clemens asked how much has already come back. Hoffman replied most of the funds coming back are ECAP totaling over \$70k.

Nola Gentry stated it is important for districts to utilize all of the funds received. Eddleman asked Chew, once those funds come back to the CWI general fund, do we loose control of those funds and have to ask to get them back. Chew replied that is correct. More discussion followed on getting unused CWI funds back.

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry

N. Gentry announced tomorrow at 8:30 AM during conference, the ICP leaders will be the signing a new partnership agreement. The agreement will be adding FSA, IDEM and DNR to the partnership. During the ICP meeting last month, the leaders came up with priorities and a shared plan of work. Those priorities include CREP, MRBI, Blue/Green Algae and CCSI.

b. SSCB Sub-Committee Reports and Recommendations

i. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations – Nola Gentry

1. SSCB Business Plan – See Attachment

N. Gentry stated the board is excited to have a business plan. This process started with public input sessions, web survey and the listening sessions last fall. N. Gentry thanked Jim Lake and the other District Support Specialists for facilitating the board through this process and the SWCDs for their input. N. Gentry went through the highlights of the business plan.

Clemens stated he liked the business plan and believes this will provide guidance for the CWI Grants Committee.

N. Gentry stated the board will annually report our development. We will need a way to track our progress and hold ourselves accountable. It would be nice to create a common reporting tool that we can utilize as well as SWCDs.

Eddleman moved to approve the proposed State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan. Ham seconded and the motion carried.

ii. **CWI Grants Committee Report and Recommendations – Larry Clemens – No Report**

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

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report – Jerod Chew

Chew announced today is the launch of the Farmers Feed Us campaign. This is a 90 day campaign that allows people to register for free groceries for a year, as well as learn about Indiana farmers. There are 8 Indiana farmers representing 8 areas of agriculture: beef, corn, soybean, poultry, pork, fish, dairy and sheep. People can register 8 times a day, one per farmer. Farmers ask trivia questions while you register and invite you to take an online tour of their farm. Other states that have done the Farmers Feed Us campaign include Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin. Each state had great success.

Chew also reported the Division is busy putting together year end reports. The ISDA report will be ready in the next week so SWCDs can use them in their own reports.

Chew also stated the Division is meeting with IDEM and DNR on a reporting tool called SWIMS. This is a web based tool with a mapping component. The division along with our counterparts in Michigan will be submitting a grant proposal for SWIMS through GLRI for 3-4 years. Proposals are due by January 29th.

i. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

Chew reported we are down to 24 Resource Specialist (RS). Nathan Adams left ISDA and will be working with farm loans for FSA. We have submitted proposals to the State to fill 2 RS positions and at least one District Support Specialist (DSS) position. Of the 24 RSs, two are funded and obligated to work with the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB).

Chew gave rough estimates of technical staff time: 80% on federal programs, 10% on state programs and 10% on general assistance, such as local projects, field days and SWCD assistance.

ii. District Support Update – Jim Lake

Jim Lake stated now there are four DSSs, compared to the eight we had less than two years ago. We are doing our best to meet everyone's needs, but districts will see less of us. Last month we had a DSS retreat to plan and create a schedule for the 2010 year. This plan will feed into the SSCB business plan. We have also created a tool to track our time and workload.

1. Leadership Institute Report – Laura Fribley – See Attachment

Fribley went over the highlights. The awards banquet tomorrow will recognize the Leadership Institute graduates that completed all four workshops.

iii. **Water Quality Update – Sara Slater-Atwater – No Report**

iv. Accountability and Technology Update – Deb Fairhurst

Fairhurst reported if our GLRI application is approved; it will not take place until 2012. During that interim period we will be using SharePoint, which will be set up in February. It will not be as detailed as SWIMS, but will get us in the right direction. Fairhurst also stated she is working with Hans Kok and Dan Towery on CCSI website.

v. Agriculture Affairs Update – Roz Leeck

Leeck reported she is working with Kok and Towery on CCSI. She also met with Red Gold about the grower's stewardship program and they intend to continue this year.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

- a. DNR Report – Gary Langell** – No Report
- b. IDEM Report – Marylou Renshaw** – See attachment
- c. Purdue Report – Gary Steinhardt** – No Report
- d. IASWCD President's Report – Paula Baldwin** – See Attachment
Paula Baldwin reported IASWCD will be meeting with Legislators and State Budget and providing them with testimonies from SWCDs if the CWI grant funds were not released. Baldwin reviewed some of these statements.
- e. Farm Services Agency Report – Gail Peas** – No Report
- f. NRCS State Conservationist's Report – Roger Kult**
Kult announced NRCS is still operating on the April 1st deadline. Also, information on MRBI is in the conference packet. There will be two meetings and we encourage everyone to come.

VIII. Public Comment

Ray McCormick invited the board to the Goose Pond dedication which will be held in either February or March.

IX. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 9:00 AM in Indianapolis. Kelly Gentry will work on a location.

X. Adjourn: 10:07 AM