

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
8:30 am Monday, January 9, 2012
The Marriott
Denver Room
Indianapolis, Indiana

- I. 8:30 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of October and December 2011**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Budget Update-Jerod Chew
- IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Temporary Supervisor Appointments
 - i. Lawrence County
- V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion**
 - a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Larry Clemens
- VI. ISDA Reports**
 - a. Division of Soil Conservation 2011 Accomplishments Report-DSC Staff
- VII. Conservation Partner Reports**
 - a. IASWCD President's Report
 - b. NRCS State Conservationist's Report
 - c. IDEA Report
 - d. FSA Report
 - e. Purdue Report
 - f. DNR Report
 - g. IDEM Report
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Next Meeting: TBA**
- X. Adjourn**

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Instructions for submitting this form:

STOP! If you haven't read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit forms, please do so before proceeding.

If you opened another Recommendation for Temporary Appointment form by mistake, click on the Close button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Then read the SWCD SharePoint Tutorial on how to submit new forms and update/save previously submitted forms.

If you are submitting the Recommendation for Temporary Appointment form for the first time, click on the Save As button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. **Uncheck Overwrite Existing File.** Enter the **name of your county followed by the date** in the File Name box. For example Allen County would Enter **Allen03.12.12** Click Save. Click Close.

If you previously submitted the Recommendation for Temporary Appointment form and re-opened the form to make some changes or additions, click on the Save button located in the menu bar at the top or bottom of this form. Click Close.

NEVER open another SWCD's form and modify it.

ELECTED SUPERVISOR, VACANCY: IC 14-32-13

Sec. 13

(a) If a vacancy in the position of elected supervisor occurs during the district's operating year:

(1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position;

(2) at the first board meeting held after the board receives a recommendation under subdivision (1), the board shall act upon the recommendation and appoint an individual to temporarily fill the vacancy; and

(3) the board shall notify the supervisors of the appointment made by the board.

(b) The individual appointed to temporarily fill a vacancy under subsection (a) shall serve until the district's next annual meeting.

(c) At the annual meeting immediately following the appointment of an individual to temporarily fill a vacant elected supervisor's position, the position shall be filled through the regular election procedures set forth in sections 6 through 9 of this chapter.

("Board" as used in the state statute refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)

The Supervisors of the County Soil and Water Conservation District certify that (name) maintains a permanent residence within the district and is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that are imposed on supervisors by law.

Address

City, State and Zip

IN

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

Resignation of

YOU MUST SUBMIT THE RESIGNATION LETTER TO YOUR DISTRICT SUPPORT SPECIALIST AS WELL AS KEEP A COPY IN YOUR DISTRICT RECORDS.

Death of

No election held

We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of supervisor.

We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS (signatures)

Curtis McBride (typed)

Date 12/12/2011

Keep a signed copy of this form in the District office. Do not send to your DSS.

IC 14-32-4-1

(b) To hold the position of elected supervisor, an individual:

- (1) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is located within the district;**
- (2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district; and**
- (3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.**

NAME

Kyle Mason

PHONE NUMBER

812-279-1044

DATE OF BIRTH

7/17/1974

ADDRESS

2604 G. Street

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Bedford, IN 47421

EDUCATION

Graduate of Bedford-North Lawrence High School

OCCUPATION OR TYPE OF BUSINESS

Excavating contractor and farmer

LIST CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

As an excavating contractor, Kyle works extremely close with landowners on a daily basis installing many different types of conservation practices on the land including; access roads, HUAP; spring developments; pipelines, waterways, and drainage issues repairs, etc. Kyle was a member of FFA in high school and on the soils judging team.

LAND OWNERS OR OPERATORS ONLY

If applicable, list some of the soil and water conservation practices you have installed or performed

He has completed variable rate fertilixer applications, nutrient management pasture plantings, HUAPs, access roads, and pipelines on his farm.

TEMPORARY APPOINTEE

Have you previously served as an SWCD supervisor?

Yes

What was the date of last service?

What was the reason for termination of last service?

How many years did you serve as a supervisor? # Years #Months

No

I currently hold a public service position/office

Yes

I have been informed about "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide

Yes

No

No

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

APPOINTEE:

Kyle Mason (typed)
12/12/2011 Date

Keep a signed copy of this form in the District office. Do not send to your DSS.

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December 12, 2011

Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District

1919 Steven Ave

Bedford, In 47421

Dear Marsha,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that I will be resigning from my supervisor position effective immediately.

Unfortunately, raising a family, working full-time, and farming part-time does not leave me much time and therefore I cannot commit to making the monthly required meetings.

It has been a true pleasure to work with you and the rest of the team. I appreciate the knowledge you have shared and the experience I've gained here.

Thank you again for all you have done. I wish nothing but the best for The SWCD.

Sincerely,

Jon Scott Hoffman

Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Division of Soil Conservation
2011 Accomplishments Report

Clean Water Indiana Grants

Soil and Water Conservation Districts utilized nearly \$550,000 from the 2010 CWI Grants to support over 250 adult education events, 453 cost-share projects, and training for 365 staff and supervisors. \$222,624 of these grants funded district cost-share incentives and impacted over 30,000 acres across the state. For 2011 CWI Grants, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded \$573,408. Each SWCD was given the opportunity to apply for up to \$7,000 in the following categories: Adult Education, Outreach/Marketing, Cost Share, Multi District Incentive (\$1,000 for participating in a multi-district event and/or initiative), and Capacity Building—includes staffing and leadership development training. Additionally, in the spring of 2011, the SSCB awarded \$84,000 for 5 watershed-based grants. Each three year project is comprised of at least two districts, and offers funding for cost share and/or technical assistance. The SSCB awarded \$828,000 to 17 SWCDs, who are partnering with 47 other SWCDs for the 2012 CWI Grants. Each three year project offers funding for cost-share, technical assistance and adult education (up to \$1,000 per year).

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI)

In 2011, the ISDA, DSC and State Soil Conservation Board as part of the Indiana Conservation Partnership continued support of the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative. This program continues to grow in demand amongst the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and agricultural community. The ISDA maintained and continues to make improvements to the CCSI website and outreach calendar. Primary outcomes of the CCSI are the on-the-ground technical training and farmer workshops provided:

- Provided direct technical assistance to 96 farmers – topics included cover crops, no-till, etc.
- Assisted in organizing or conducting 76 events (field days, conferences, workshops, etc.).
- Coordinated 35 speakers for various events.
- Provided technical materials to 24 SWCDs and numerous farmers.
- Disseminated additional materials through the website.
- Over 12 articles appeared in local and regional publications (*Indiana Prairie Farmer, Indiana AgriNews* and *Hoosier Ag Today*).
- Delivered 85 technical presentations – reaching over 4,700 people.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

2011 marked the first anniversary of the expansion of CREP from three to 11 priority watersheds. A 102.6 acre bottom land tree planting along the Wabash River in the Middle Wabash-Busseron watershed was the first practice installed. Vermillion County SWCD held a celebratory event overlooking the Wabash River and presented the landowner with the check.

At the end of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 (October 1, 2010-September 30, 2011), CREP had awarded more than 1.5 million dollars in State funds to landowners, representing 6,118 acres of farmland (i.e. a 35 percent increase from FFY 2010). In addition, CREP added four permanent conservation easements in the Tippecanoe River watershed, bringing a total of 13 easements on 733 acres. In the Upper White

River watershed, CREP enrolled two additional easements for a total of three easements protecting 72 acres of land.

In September 2011, ISDA completed a numerical modeling application to simulate the effectiveness of CREP conservation practices at the immediate location of an adjacent stream, river or body of water. The modeling tool predicts that currently installed CREP conservation practices reduce sediments by 8×10^6 pounds per year, phosphorus by 6×10^3 pounds per year, and nitrogen by 13×10^3 pounds per year. Although the model only predicts rough approximations, this data will provide additional metrics when evaluating CREP accomplishments in Indiana.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy

At the request of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), each state draining into the Mississippi River Basin was charged with creating a comprehensive state-wide nutrient reduction strategy. ISDA accepted the role of leading and developing the State of Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Members of the ICP (Indiana Conservation Partnership), in conjunction with additional stakeholders, formed the State of Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy Workgroup (NRSW) to develop the roadmap of the Strategy. The workgroup met in January and in August 2011. ISDA started developing the first draft framework of the strategy in September 2011 and continued consultations with key stakeholders. The framework is being developed based on significant data analyses and interpretation, review of a substantial number of documents, and frequent meetings with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), EPA and other states. Launching the development of the State of Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy represents an important milestone in regard to ISDA's commitments with EPA and ICP.

Conservation Tillage Program

The District Support Specialist worked very closely with NRCS State Technical Staff to plan, over-see and analyze the results of the 2011 cropland transect survey used to determine the level of adoption of conservation tillage practices in each county and statewide. NRCS State Staff developed an updated version of the excel spreadsheet used to collect transect survey information so that results of the survey could be determine right off the spreadsheet once the survey was completed. The district support staff took the lead in developing updated instructions for the conducting the survey as well as getting the completed survey forms back from each county and proof reading the data. State NRCS staff then ran calculations for the final results for each county as well as statewide. The statewide survey results showed that 28 % of the corn was planted using conservation tillage with 23% of that being no-till corn. For soybeans 63% of the beans were planted using some form of conservation tillage with 59% being no-till soybean. More results of the survey are available at the ISDA website <http://www.in.gov/isda/2354.htm>.

District Support

The ISDA –DSC District Support Staff and IASWCD Staff jointly planned and conducted four SWCD Training Workshops during March, 20011. One workshop was held in each of the four areas of the state. Each workshop started with a kick-off session for all attendees, and then specialized breakout sessions were offered after dinner. The kick-off session covered a number of ways to help educate and influence agricultural producers to adopt important agronomic practices that help improve both soil and water

quality, including no-till cropping and the use of cover crops. The On-Farm Network® program was highlighted as an excellent way to help farmer make adaptive management changes to improve their nitrogen management for corn production. After dinner, three separate training sessions were held including orientation for new supervisors and staff conducted by the District Support Specialist from the respective area of the state, use of the new web based SharePoint site as a district tool to for sharing information between districts, accessing forms for conducting district business including annual meeting elections, supervisor appointments, and CWI Grant reporting and tracking conservation practice accomplishments on the land. For advanced supervisors, attorney Jeff Beck presented information on managing district personnel. His topics included developing job descriptions, conducting staff performance reviews and how to properly handle difficult situations such as disciplinary action or terminating an employee when justified. The District Support Specialists also planned and facilitated several partner meetings and trainings including IASWCD regional meetings, regional staff meetings, and many other educational events around the state. The District Support Specialists continue to provide direct assistance to districts for developing and/or updating their respective District Business Plans and Annual Plans of Work. In 2011 the four District Support Specialists helped nearly 20 districts with this task. On December 14th, over 100 SWCD employees representing 82 counties were trained at the “SWCD Financial Management Workshop” in Plainfield. Topics included E-Verify, the new Annual Financial Report, and IRS requirements. Speakers Bob Ash and Chuck Hibberd also presented on leadership. District Support Specialists presented key SWCD support topics at the 2011 National Association of State Conservation Agencies conference held in Columbus, Ohio.

Leadership Institute

Three Leadership Institute workshops in the Cornerstones of Leadership series were held throughout the state, with a total of 71 participants. These workshops are geared toward SWCD Supervisors and key staff. 96% of respondents said the workshops were worth their time. After the December workshop, 20 more individuals completed the workshop series. Including these individuals, 73 people statewide have now achieved this success. This includes 39 supervisors/associates, 23 staff, nine partners (including District Support Specialists), and two spouses. Three workshops are also being held in 2012.

On-Farm Network®

The Indiana On-Farm Network is a key initiative for ISDA as it represents the importance of not only continued support and promotion of conservation practices, but also the utilization of technology to improve farm efficiencies, as is done within the CCSI. In 2011, Indiana’s On-Farm Network expanded to nine groups across the state. The nine groups encompassed over 120 farmers.

- 265 Guided Stalk Sampling Fields
- 26 Replicated Strip Trial Fields

Pathway to Water Quality

The District Support Staff co-chaired the Pathway to Water Quality Committee this past year. Several

changes were made to the exhibit this past year including changes in the education area and signage around the paths. Division of Soil staff worked over 30 shifts to support the exhibit during the 2011 State Fair. Thousands of visitors tour the exhibit each year to learn about the efforts made by the ICP Partnership each year to protect and improve our water resources in Indiana.

Technical Assistance

The Cornerstone to ISDA's technical assistance is center around the service provided by our 25 Resource Specialists located across Indiana in various locations. ISDA was fortunate enough to receive an EPA 319 Grant through the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management in 2011. We have utilized these funds to hire 3 additional Resource Specialists to cover 3 high priority watersheds, the Tippecanoe River, Upper Eel, and Upper Wabash. In 2011 Resource Specialists began a shift which includes more direct SWCD support and attention in addition to other responsibilities associated the Conservation Implementation Teams, CREP, Western Lake Erie Basin, CWI, etc. Resource Specialists helped to install over 2800 acres and nearly 250,000 feet of conservation practices and assisting hundreds of individuals annually with various conservation issues.

Professional Development

This spring, ICP employees were surveyed to determine their current technical training needs. 300 employees (including 95% of ISDA Resource Specialists) returned the "Individual Development Inventory" spreadsheet. This information will be used to identify ICP training needs, potential trainers, and areas of the state these trainings are most needed. Based on these responses and the intent to target a variety of Partnership employees, the following nine priority training needs were selected and ranked: Highest priority: Cover Crops, RUSLE Evaluation, Nutrient Management, & Urban (Construction Erosion & Sediment Control, Stormwater Management, Rain gardens), Medium priority: Soils (Properties & Interpretations, Testing & Interpreting Results, Hydric Soils for · Wetland Delineation), & Filter Strips, and Lower priority: Conservation Planning, QuickBooks, & Tree & Shrub ID. A Technical Review Board (TeRBo) was created to thoroughly examine each of these technical training opportunities. The group subsequently determined what level of training would be needed for each of the topics (Awareness, Application, Certification). All topics were determined to need a training curriculum geared towards Awareness and Application. It was further decided that the Nutrient Management and Urban topics also warranted a Certification level.

Great Lakes Commission Sediment Control Program

One of our District Support Specialists serves a Chairman of the Great Lakes Commission Sediment Reduction Task Force (representing 8 states in the Great Lakes Basin) has a number of responsibilities including the review of grant proposals for sediment reduction projects in the US Watersheds of the Great Lakes. In 2011 two grant proposals for watershed based sediment reduction projects submitted from Indiana were funded. Allen SWCD received a grant for \$353,372 for their Upper Maumee Watershed Project and the Elkhart River Restoration Association received \$397,920 for their project that will be administered in close cooperation with the Elkhart and Kosciusko SWCDs.

Technology and Accountability

Through ISDA's SharePoint site, districts have utilized the technology to coordinate calendars, edit and share documents, and receive important notifications and updates. In addition, districts now complete grant reports, grant applications, annual meeting and election documentation on a "web-based" form which is as easy to use as on-line shopping. SharePoint allows users to store these forms in a secure location that allows the users access at any time should they need to update, recover, or print the document. In a central location, districts now update staff and supervisor directories in one location eliminating the need to report these changes to all of the conservation partners every time a change is made. The discussion boards allow staff to ask a question that can be seen instantly by every conservation partner; giving them the opportunity to receive immediate feedback.

Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership

ISDA-DSC continues to be actively involved with the Western Lake Erie Basin partnership efforts to help reduce sediment and nutrient loading from the Maumee River and its tributaries. During 2011 our District Support Staff representative help plan and conduct three multi-state educational conferences/workshops. These included the Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo held in Montpelier, Ohio, the Rivers Summit held in Ft. Wayne and the Agriculture and Lake Erie Conference held in Perrysburg, Ohio. Particular attention was given to best management practices to help reduce soluble phosphorus loading in to Lake Erie. Soluble phosphorus has been linked as a significant contributor to the increasing size and scope of algae blooms found in the western basin of Lake Erie the last several summers.

State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan 2010-2015

The mission of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is to provide information, advice and consultation to soil and water conservation district supervisors to assist them in carrying out their powers and programs. The SSCB will also provide policy and funding direction to the Indiana Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation (ISDA-DSC) on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana Program (CWI), to help address statewide natural resource concerns.

The SSCB has identified the following as statewide priority natural resource concerns to be addressed

over the next five years:

- **Soil Quality Degradation** which includes the loss of top soil due to erosion, the depletion of organic matter, as well as soil compaction and other soil biology impacts that degrade soil quality.
- **Water Quality Impairments** including sediment, nutrients, pesticides, *E-coli* and other non-point sources of water pollution found in our streams, rivers and lakes.
- **Other soil and water related natural resources concerns** including forest lands, wildlife habitat areas, pasture and forage lands and air quality.

There are geographical areas within all watersheds of Indiana that have critical natural resource concerns related to soil and water conservation. The SSCB will work with the ISDA-DSC, districts and all partners to address these. The SSCB will give special attention and assistance to initiatives in the following priority watersheds:

- **Tippecanoe, Upper White and Pigeon Highland** - The SSCB will continue to support the existing

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in these watersheds.

- **Wabash River Watershed** - In a special effort to help address the national concern about nutrient loadings which are causing the hypoxia problems in the Gulf of Mexico, the SSCB will assist in the start-up and implementation of an expansion of CREP into the Wabash River Watershed. We will also assist USDA with the new Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) which includes a portion of the Wabash River Basin in Indiana.
- **Western Lake Erie Basin** - We will continue to assist the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership and our conservation partners in efforts to reduce sediment entering Maumee Bay. Sediment in the bay must be removed at a high cost every year to keep the Port of Toledo open to shipping (including grains). We will also support efforts to reduce blue-green algal blooms in the bay. Several districts and partners will be utilizing special funding available under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to implement projects that will reduce sediment and nutrient runoff from entering the bay from Indiana.
- **Other Watersheds** - We will continue to monitor other watersheds across the State of Indiana for future inclusion into SSCB priority watersheds.

In a strategic effort to address the top three resource concerns identified above both directly and through local soil and water conservation districts, the SSCB has developed the following goals and strategies. These goals and strategies are consistent with the board's general authority and duties outlined in the District Law as well as its specific authority to provide direction to the department on the administration of the Clean Water Indiana Program:

- ✓ **By 2011 work with IN Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and other water quality monitoring agencies and organizations, as well as the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to share baseline data of current pollution load conditions.**

- ✓ Share data with Districts to help them identify priority areas.
 - ✓ Help to gauge the environmental impact of soil and water conservation efforts.
 - *IDEM is a regularly contributing agency within the Indiana Conservation Partnership therefore the SSCB and ISDA interact with them regularly.*
 - *The Division of Soil Conservation along with IDEM have been developing the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy. As part of this effort we are gaining a better understanding of trends and watershed treatment priorities through study of models and communication with USGS.*
- **By 2012 have a tracking tool/model in place for measuring load reductions as practices and technologies are applied on the land.**

- ✓ Work with the ISDA-DSC to establish mechanism for tracking load reductions.
- ✓ Strongly encourage the ISDA-DSC to have all their technical staff using the reduction tracking tool.
- Require districts to use the same tracking tool for reporting practices applied with CWI grant funding assistance.
- Encourage districts and other partners to use the reduction measuring tool for practices and technologies applied with assistance from other programs.
- *We now have a model in place to estimate load reductions within the CREP watersheds and this expands our ability to communicate bmp effectiveness.*

For example: CREP has contributed (on average) to the estimated reduction of sediments by 8 Million pounds/year, and nitrogen – 13,000 pounds/year, and phosphorus – 6,000 pounds/year (estimated assumption... this equates to potentially 2 Million pounds of algae that did not form/or over 65 tri-axle dump truck loads of algae).

- ✓ **By 2012 provide districts with a standardized reporting procedure for reporting income and expenses, accomplishments, federal, state and local dollars leveraged as well as state and district program needs for the coming year.**
- *ICP accomplishments report*
- *New SBOA reporting system*

- **By 2012 the State Soil Conservation Board and ISDA-DSC staff will work with the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) and other Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) partners in developing a reporting format.**

- ✓ SSCB will annually provide a consolidated report to the general assembly including program and funding needs (not this portion).
- *25% complete thru sharepoint tracking system. Need to move this into generating a report*

- **By 2013 there will be a measurable increase in the number of district supervisors actively engaged in district program planning and development, community outreach, local, state and federal conservation policy and legislative affairs.**

✓ Continue to support the Leadership Institute four Corners of Leadership Workshops series.

✓ Work with the Leadership Institute Program Committee and the ICP Leadership Development Workgroup to identify additional training needs and assist with implementing additional training based on needs identified and prioritized.

- Continue to work with the ICP Leaders to develop and implement the draft 5 Star Program proposed by the ICP Leadership Workgroup.

- Develop a score card for recognizing districts that increase their local program capacity, accomplishments and accountability, and in turn incrementally increase their state match over and above the \$10,000 currently provided for operations based on their scorecard results.
 - **3 LI scheduled for 2012; 20 graduates in 2011**
 - **5 Star Program/Scorecard on hold until Task Force completes their information gathering**

- **By 2014 there will be a measurable increase in the number of districts employing district staff with skills in program development and revenue enhancement (ie; grant writing and project management), adult education, technical assistance, marketing and public relations**
- Provide special training targeted to the training needs of district program managers.
 - ✓ Work with the ICP to continue to develop and implement the technical training program initiated by ISDA-DSC with assistance from Ray Ledgerwood in 2009. This training program will be based on the plan laid out in the timeline developed in our ICP planning meeting and subsequently developed "white paper" developed by a sub-committee for this initiative.
 - **Ongoing with a coordinator position to be hired to run this.**
- Pursue opportunities for joint training with partners as well as opportunities to utilize trainers from other partners and states.
- Investigate and evaluate training programs already in place in other states that could be modified for use in Indiana.
- Provide CWI incentive grants to districts for the purpose of developing or adding staff capacity for program development, revenue enhancement, etc. if funds are available.
- Offer specific CWI incentive grants to limited resource districts willing to share program development and/or technical staff if funds are available.
 - **Training and Certification program (skills inventory)**
- **By 2015 there will be a measurable increase in the number of joint sediment and nutrient reduction projects among districts.**
 - ✓ Offer specific CWI grants for joint district projects targeted at sediment and nutrient reduction if funds are available.
- Work with ISDA-DSC, IASWCD, and local districts to Increase in the number of cooperative conservation projects with non-governmental organization and private industry. **Each grant is awarded more for additional partners.**
 - ✓ Continue to support the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI).
- Explore opportunities to work with Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) and private sector to help promote agronomic conservation practices and technologies.
 - ✓ Provide opportunities for division employees to increase their proficiency and assistance in promoting agronomic conservation practices and technologies. **Division staff are attending trainings and gaining proficiency.**
 - **2011 and 2012 CWI Grants have begun this process**

- **By 2015 SWCD's with limited resources are actively pursuing the benefits of and opportunities to consolidate.**
- Provide education to districts regarding benefits and opportunities of merging.
- Provide special CWI incentive grants to limited resource districts that are willing to merge to increase program capacity and effectiveness. Consider offering an incentive of two times the current state match

for each of the merged districts for first year and then 1 ½ times the combined matching grant each year thereafter if funds are available.

- *SWCD Coordination Task Force has been formed to address this goal.*

○ **By 2015 annually increase federal leveraged funds by an average of 5% per year for conservation implementation in the state**

- ✓ Continue to commit state matching dollars for CREP from CWI funds.
- ✓ Continue to work with the partners to leverage federal funding from all federal sources.
- ✓ Work with our partners to develop a strategic plan to expand CREP to other areas of the state.
- ✓ Work with the ICP and other traditional and non-traditional partners to enroll 26,250 acres into CREP.

- *Ongoing items*

○ **Key actions for 2010 to make progress in implementing each the goals.**

- Continue to solidify partnership.
 - ✓ Make a concerted effort to help IDEM and DNR become fully vested partners in the ICP.
- Met with top leadership of ISDA and other state government officials as appropriate to discuss district needs and Clean water Indiana funding.
 - ✓ Support the division in filling critical vacant positions that impact district assistance.
 - ✓ Initiate discussions with IDEM and ISDH about septic issues.
 - ✓ Continue to help resolve the role of districts in the implementation of Rule 5.
 - ✓ Continue to improve communication with districts by occasionally holding board meeting out in the regions areas of the state and by the use of the ISDA-DSC websites, partner newsletters, webinars, etc.
- Pursue opportunities to meet with other state and local government organizations and agencies and others dealing with soil and water issues.

○ **Desired Outcomes for the State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan**

- Clean drinking water
- Clean rivers, lakes and streams
- More productive soils
- Enhanced quality of life
- Increased cooperation with partnership
- Improved soil and water quality
- Districts have increased capacity to deliver conservation programs locally
- Stronger state economy
- Expanded partnerships and conservation partners

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
January , 2012 8:30 am
Marriott
Indianapolis, Denver Room

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Nola Gentry

Members Not In Attendance:

Scott Ham (Participated via Telephone)
Brett Glick

Others in Attendance:

Ray McCormick, IASWCD
Tony Ekovich LaPorte SWCD
Amanda Burks, SWCD
Rita Sharr, Greene SWCD
Sharon Watson, SWCD
Ray Chattman, SWCD
Bill Peterson, SWCD
Jamie Scott, SWCD
Josh Bittner
Mike Starkey, IASWCD
Bruce Shepherd Jasper Co SWCD
Jay Ballinger, Union Co SWCD
Jeff Meinders, IASWCD
Priscilla Kelly, Posey Co SWCD
Glenn Bryard, Kosciusko Co SWCD
Logan Garner, ISDA
Tom Crowe, SWCD
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Nan Hammel, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA

Others in Attendance Cont:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Jon Mangles ISDA
Hans Kok CCSI
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Jim Lake ISDA
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Roger Kult, NRCS
Tara Henry, ISDA
Jane Hardisty NRCS
Jim Droege, Posey County SWCD
Brenda Gettinger, ISDA
Lois Mann
Meg Leader, Vermillion SWCD
Geneva Rawlins ISDA
Michelle Howell, FSA
Les Zimmerman
Lou Renshaw, IDEM
Mike Schwab, IASWCD
Bonnie Bittner, SWCD
Jim Martin, Jasper County SWCD
Allen Paddock, Union Co SWCD
Larry Strob, Newton Co SWCD
Tom Knapke
Brian Campbell, Elkhart Co SWCD
Larry Burkart, Posey Co SWCD
Jeri Ziliak, Posey Co SWCD
Bobby Hettmansperger
Julie Harrold, ISDA
Nathan Houk, ISDA

- I. 8:30 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of October and December 2011**
Minutes approved as presented
- III. Clean Water Indiana Budget—Jerod Chew**
Spending is on track with approved budget. The fifth District Support Specialist position (to be located in the northwest area of the state) request is still pending. Jerod noted there are several stages of approval for a new position. At this time, the request has been approved by Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. The request is now with the Strategic Hiring Committee, which is made up by the State Personnel Department and the State Budget Agency. Upon approval, the position will be posted to the State's Job Bank.
- IV. Temporary Supervisor Appointment**
 - a. Lawrence County-Warren motioned to approve, Nola Seconded. Motion approved
- V. State Soil Conservation Board Report**
 - a. **Chairman's Report-Larry Clemens**
The State Soil Board continues to look at ways to deliver conservation in the future with budget cuts. In August, the board formed a task force to look at how to improve efficiency and effectiveness in

conservation. The task force, made up of Indiana Conservation Partnership members, had their initial meeting December 19, 2011. The next meeting will be January 23, 2012. It is anticipated the process will take 8 months and will conclude with a set of recommendations to be given to the board for consideration. In the next two weeks, Larry will be sending a letter out to district employees and supervisors with more information.

b. State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan Update—Larry Clemens and Jim Lake(See Attachment)

The District Support Specialists have reviewed the SSCB's business plan and noted several accomplishments. Highlights include:

By 2011 work with IN Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and other water quality monitoring agencies and organizations, as well as the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to share baseline data of current pollution load conditions.

IDEM is a regularly contributing agency within the ICP, therefore, the SSCB and ISDA interact with them on a regular basis.

The Division of Soil Conservation, along with IDEM, have been developing the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy. As part of this effort, we are gaining a better understanding of trends and watershed treatment priorities through study of models and communication with the USGS.

By 2012 provide districts with a standardized reporting procedure for reporting income and expenses, accomplishments, federal, state and local dollars leveraged as well as state and district program needs for the coming year.

Completed through the ICP accomplishments report and the new State Board of Accounts "Gateway" system which replaces the old Annual Financial Report.

Note: The full text of the State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan with noted accomplishments and updates are included in the attachments.

VI. ISDA Reports (See Attachment)

Clean Water Indiana Grants- Soil and Water Conservation Districts utilized nearly \$550,000 from the 2010 CWI Grants to support over 250 adult education events, 453 cost-share projects, and training for 365 staff and supervisors. For 2011 CWI Grants, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded \$573,408. Each SWCD was given the opportunity to apply for up to \$7,000 in the following categories: Adult Education, Outreach/Marketing, Cost Share, Multi District Incentive (\$1,000 for participating in a multi-district event and/or initiative), and Capacity Building—includes staffing and leadership development training. Additionally, in the spring of 2011, the SSCB awarded \$84,000 for 5 watershed-based grants. The SSCB awarded \$828,000 to 17 SWCDs, who are partnering with 47 other SWCDs for the 2012 CWI Grants.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative- Dan Towery, Barry Fischer, and Hans Kok led CCSI effort for second year. Additional funding for year 3 has allowed the group to hire additional consultants. The website has been updated with additional information.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)-August marked the first anniversary of the CREP expansion from the original three to the current 11 watersheds. At the end of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 (October 1, 2010-September 30, 2011), CREP had awarded more than 1.5 million dollars in State funds to landowners, representing 6,118 acres of farmland (i.e. a 35 percent increase from FFY 2010).

Nutrient Reduction Strategy- Members of the ICP (Indiana Conservation Partnership), in conjunction with additional stakeholders, formed the State of Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy Workgroup (NRSW) to develop the roadmap of the Strategy. The workgroup met in January and in August 2011. ISDA started developing the first draft framework of the strategy in September 2011 and continued consultations with key stakeholders.

Conservation Tillage Program- NRCS State Staff developed an updated version of the excel spreadsheet used to collect transect survey information so that results of the survey could be determine right off the spreadsheet once the survey was completed. Results from the 2011 Tillage Transect include 28 % of the corn was planted using

conservation tillage with 23% of that being no-till corn, and 63% of the soybeans were planted using some form of conservation tillage with 59% being no-till soybean.

District Support-In addition to the March Area Trainings and the December 14 Statewide Training, the District Support Specialists also planned and facilitated several partner meetings and trainings including IASWCD regional meetings, regional staff meetings, and many other educational events around the state. The District Support Specialists continue to provide direct assistance to districts for developing and/or updating their respective District Business Plans and Annual Plans of Work.

Leadership Institute-3 workshops were held in 2011. 71 participants attended, with 20 graduating. 2011 brought the new program total to 73 graduates. Three workshops are scheduled for 2012.

On-Farm Network®-Nine groups are participating in the program this year. Results from nitrogen stalk sampling continue to come in. Small group meetings will be held in the end of January.

Pathway to Water Quality-The District Support Staff co-chaired the Pathway to Water Quality Committee this past year. Several changes were made to the exhibit this past year including changes in the education area and signage around the paths. Division of Soil staff worked over 30 shifts to support the exhibit during the 2011 State Fair.

Technical Assistance- ISDA-DSC Resource Specialists helped to install over 2800 acres and nearly 250,000 feet of conservation practices and assisted hundreds of individuals annually with various conservation issues. In addition to the 25 Resource Specialists around the state, ISDA-DSC recently received a 319 grant to hire additional staff. The three new staff members are located in the Tippecanoe, Upper Eel and Upper Wabash watersheds.

Professional Development-In the spring of 2011, over 300 ICP employees completed a skills inventory survey. This information will be used to identify ICP training needs, potential trainers, and areas of the state these trainings are most needed. A Technical Review Board (TeRBo) was created to thoroughly examine each of these technical training opportunities. The group subsequently determined what level of training would be needed for each of the topics (Awareness, Application, Certification).

Great Lakes Commission Sediment Control Program- In 2011 two grant proposals for watershed based sediment reduction projects submitted from Indiana were funded. Allen SWCD received a grant for \$353,372 for their Upper Maumee Watershed Project and the Elkhart River Restoration Association received \$397,920 for their project that will be administered in close cooperation with the Elkhart and Kosciusko SWCDs. District Support Specialist Jim Lake serves as the chairman of the Great Lakes Commission Sediment Reduction Task Force.

Technology and Accountability-2011 was the first full year of SharePoint. Districts have now utilized the technology to coordinate calendars, edit and share documents, and receive important notifications and updates. In addition, districts now complete grant reports, grant applications, annual meeting and election documentation in SharePoint.

Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership- During 2011, our District Support Staff representative helped plan and conduct three multi-state educational conferences/workshops.

VII. Partner Reports

- a. NRCS Report-Jane Hardisty
Soil Health will be the focus in 2012. Indiana is being looked at as a national leader in this area. NRCS is close on finalizing information to districts for office space and official policy on rent reimbursement. 2012 NRCS budget remains level. Cuts in all agencies and departments are anticipated in 2013.
- b. IASWCD Report-Ray McCormick
IASWCD continues to work with districts to find permanent solutions to funding problems. Local support from county councils is important for district success.
- c. IDEA—Sharon Watson
Several district employees have retired recently. Districts are working hard to get new employees trained.
- d. FSA Report-Michelle Howell
CRP celebrates 25 years of improving conservation in Indiana. Last year, CRP incentives totaled over 44 million. Over 300 offers were accepted in General CRP sign-up, totaling nearly 7,000 acres.
- e. DNR Report –No Report

- f. IDEM Report –Mary Lou Renshaw
319 funds may decrease by as much as 25% in the upcoming grant cycles. Currently IDEM has \$7M in requests with only \$3M available in funding. Under the recent reorganization in IDEM, the Watershed Planning and Watershed Assessment groups merged under the Division of Water Quality.
- g. Purdue Report –No Report

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Priscilla Kelly, of Posey County SWCD, noted for conservation to be embraced across the state, it is imperative that it be lead at the local level with districts taking charge.

IX. Next Meeting: March 13 Location TBD

X. Adjourn 10:28 AM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:

DRAFT