

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
March 13, 2012 1 pm
Hamilton County 4H Grounds
Indianapolis

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Scott Ham
Brett Glick

Members Not In Attendance:

Bill Mann
Nola Gentry

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Jon Mangles ISDA
Nathan Stoelting
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
DeeDee Sigler, IASWCD
Scheryl Vaughn, Boone Co SWCD
Angela Garrison, NRCS
Deb Lane, Warren Co SWCD
Mike Cox, NRCS

I. 1:00 PM: Call to Order

II. Draft Minutes of January 2012

Warren Baird motioned to approve. Bob Eddleman seconded. Motion passed.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Budget Update—Jerod Chew (See Attachment)

As fiscal year 2012 has progressed, the Clean Water Indiana expenses are coming in at lower amounts than the original approved budget anticipated. In addition, nearly \$150,000 from designated CREP funds will not be utilized this year. The current actuals vs. budget shows over \$260,000 available in Clean Water Indiana funds. The SSCB Executive Committee met to review this information and opted to let the Grants Committee, along with the District Support Specialists, develop a proposal for the use of these funds.

i. Grants Committee – Warren Baird (See Attachment)

Due to the funds available from Clean Water Indiana, the SSCB Grants Committee is recommending the board fund additional watershed grant applications submitted last fall. The Grants Committee would also like to fully fund three projects that were originally cut down from their proposals. In addition, the committee is requesting \$10,000 be used to purchase Soil Health equipment and supplies. Bob Eddleman motioned to approve; Scott seconded. Motion passed.

b. CREP and Water Quality Update-Jon Mangles (See Attachment)

Jon noted that completed acreage since the December 2011 report has remained flat, but the spring 2012 period is like to exceed original projections reported in October 2011. CP-31 (floodplain tree planting) continues to be the dominant CREP practice.

Indiana is currently developing a Nutrient Reduction Strategy as part of their work with the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force. The strategy report will not include load reduction totals, but will have goals identified to reduce nutrients entering waterways in Indiana. Bob asked if the draft strategy was available. Jon said the draft report is not available to the public at this time, but a large stakeholder meeting in the future will include components of the report. Larry requested a nutrient reduction strategy presentation to be made to the board so that they may possibly steer Clean Water Indiana funding toward projects that could help complete the goals identified in the report.

c. Grants Report-Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachments)

2011 Clean Water Indiana final grant reports were due March 1. Fifty-two final reports have been reviewed and final payments have been made. Fifteen districts have extensions on these grants ranging from 3/31 to 12/31. The remaining 21 districts have been contacted regarding their reports, with either questions or reminders to submit them.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Temporary Supervisor Appointments (See Attachments)

- i.** Hancock County—Approved
- ii.** Pike County—Approved
- iii.** Lake County—Approved
- iv.** Delaware County—Approved
- v.** Owen County (2 appointments)—Approved
- vi.** LaGrange County—Approved
- vii.** Wells County—Approved

b. Switzerland County-See Attachments

Switzerland County SWCD recently contacted the State Soil Conservation Board to receive clarification on the requirements and duties of the election committees. Kyleen Welling, General Counsel for the Lieutenant Governor's Family of Business, responded with the legal opinion that the election committee of Switzerland County SWCD met the statutory requirements outlined in IC 14-32-4-8. The committee is charged with selecting qualified candidates to appear on the ballot, but is not required to seek approval from other supervisors before the submission to the SSCB. The election committee has the ability to pick and choose which individuals are listed on the ballot, as long as they meet the qualifications found in IC 14-32-4-1, and furthermore, the committee is not obligated to put every name submitted on the ballot.

V. State Soil Conservation Board Report

a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Larry Clemens

In October, the board voted to form a task force to look into funding of SWCDs in the future. The "Conservation Beyond 2016" Task Force has met monthly since December. As of the February meeting, Ray Ledgerwood is facilitating the group and is doing research for them as well. The next meeting is the last Monday in March. The group is currently in "discovery" mode and is reviewing the actions other states have taken. In addition, each partner on the Task Force is giving reports on the status of their group/agency and discussing the outlook of funding and programs in the future. In reviewing this data, along with input from district staff and supervisors from surveys sent out earlier this month, the task force has noted the trend of districts struggling to maintain programs. This summer, the task force will deliver a report to the SSCB with recommendations on how to best deliver conservation in the future. Larry strongly noted this task force is not about how to close districts; rather exploring new and/or creative ways of conservation delivery. Larry, Bob, Jerod and Jennifer Boyle-Warner will be attending the upcoming regional staff and supervisor trainings to discuss the task force and accept input from SWCD staff and supervisors.

b. CCSI Oversight Committee-Bob Eddleman

Bob noted that during the last CCSI oversight committee meeting, the question of funding from the state came up. Scott commented that the SSCB business plan includes continued funding of the program through 2015. Despite prior plans of decreasing funding, the SSCB would like to continue funding at \$89,000 per year, contingent upon State dollars being available. Bob made a motion to include \$89,000 for CCSI in the 2013 budget, contingent upon total CWI funds available. Brett seconded. Motion passed.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Technical Support Update-Jerod Chew

ISDA is filling an opening for a Resource Specialist in the Southwest. He is in the process of sorting through the applicants and interviews should be conducted soon. In addition, the interviews for the additional District Support Specialist position in the Northwest will take place next month. Interviews for the Agricultural Affairs position have been completed and an applicant has been selected.

b. Agricultural Affairs-Jerod Chew

All On Farm Network meetings have been completed. Each group was able to view aerial photos and results from the corn stalk nitrate tests. 2012 OFN will include additional groups and have more strip trials.

VII. Partner Reports

a. IASWCD Update-DeeDee Sigler

DeeDee noted the following upcoming events and items of note:

Jennifer and Janice are developing the final request for the CIG, due April 6.

The Pathway to Water Quality exhibit at the State Fair will have a stronger cover crop focus this year.

The regional March trainings will begin this evening. Registration for March 20, 22, and 27 are still open.

April 11 is the next brainstorming session for the 2013 IASWCD annual conference. –Larry Clemens requested a larger room for the Board meeting.

b. NRCS Update-Mike Cox (See Attachment)

Indiana NRCS has created a suite of Soil Health Publications available for field office and partnership use. This suite includes seven 8.5x11 publications and one 3x5 card. Partners can access any of these publications by going to the Indiana NRCS Soil Health website. Several partner opportunities are available. Please see attachments for more information. There are currently DC and soil conservationist positions open with NRCS. Please call the state office HR department or visit USAJobs.com for more information.

VIII. Public Comment

The board would like to thank Hamilton County SWCD for hosting the meeting.

IX. Next Meeting: Monday, May 7 9:30 am. Location TBD

X. Adjourn 2:45 PM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:
