

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
May 7, 2012 9:30 am
Indiana Farm Bureau
225 S East Street, Hall D
Indianapolis, Indiana

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Brett Glick
Bill Mann

Members Not In Attendance:

Scott Ham

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Jordan Seger ISDA
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Deb Fairhurst ISDA
Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD
Jim Norris ISDA
Hans Kok CCSI
Janice Bullman IASWCD
Tara Henry ISDA
Roger Kult NRCS

I. 9:30 AM: Call to Order

II. Draft Minutes of March 2012

Bob Eddleman moved to approve as presented. Nola seconded. Motion passed.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Budget Update—Jerod Chew

2012 Clean Water Indiana spending is on track and it is anticipated all funds will be spent as approved in previous meetings.

b. CREP and Water Quality Update-Jerod Chew (See Attachment)

Jon Mangles has accepted another position and the CREP/Water Quality position within ISDA is currently vacant. The job will be posted soon. For the time being, Jim Norris, current CREP coordinator in the Upper White Watershed will be providing assistance in CREP leadership.

Since the March CREP report, an additional 75 acres have been completed and there are several more projects in the works, including an 85 acre riparian buffer in Morgan County. We are looking at ways to promote the program, but have had difficulties since we do not have a budget for promotions. Board discussion included the suggestion to target landowners and make personal contact. Jim Norris commented that his most recent contract came from a landowner seeing flooding on his own farm, but not on the neighbor's. The neighbors told him about the CREP program and he contacted Jim to learn more.

c. Grants Report-Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachments)

Jerod commented to the board that we need to hold districts more responsible with regards to reporting. After discussions with Ray Ledgerwood and the DSSs, we would propose doing spot checks on a small sampling of projects funded with CWI grants. We would like to take the opportunity to use the spot checks as a way for the districts to show case their accomplishments. The board agrees and would like to come along for some of these inspections, possibly following a board meeting.

We've been working on a good way to present a summary report of completed grants that really tells the story of how funds are used. We have compiled a draft "wrap up" report for the SSCB review and comments. Nola said she would like to see this report sent to state legislators via email with an accompanying letter from the board. Larry would like "unreported" changed in Chart 2 and would like to add a section for CCSI.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Temporary Supervisor Appointments (See Attachments)

- i. Vermillion County—Approved**
- ii. Johnson County (2 requests)—Approved**

iii. Lake County—Approved

V. **State Soil Conservation Board Report**

a. **SSCB Chairman's Report-Larry Clemens (See Attachment)**

The Conservation Beyond 2016 Task Force sent out a survey to SWCD supervisors and staff earlier this year asking three questions. One of those questions was “What are three things the State Soil Conservation Board could do to help increase your district’s operating efficiency as well as its impact on conserving soil, water and related natural resources?” In addition to the electronic responses, Larry, Jerod, Jennifer Boyle Warner, and Bob Eddleman held sessions at the March regional meetings to have open discussions about these questions. As an overall theme, Larry noted the board needs to be more of an advocate for districts and provide more leadership.

The Task Force has wrapped up the information gathering stage of the process and is beginning to develop a set of recommendations to present to the board this summer. Through the data gathering process, Larry said they have been able to pick out qualities in successful districts.

10:46 Break

10:54 Call to Order

VI. **ISDA Reports**

a. **Water Quality and Technical Support Update-Jerod Chew**

Jerod reported the division is in the process of becoming fully staffed again. Currently, the following positions are open: 2 Resource Specialists (NW and SW), 1 Program Manager (Water Quality), 1 District Support Specialist. Interviews have been completed for the Southern RS position and the DSS position. It is anticipated the other two positions will be posted soon.

The Ohio River Basin Interstate Water Quality Trading Pilot Program moving forward between Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. In this program farmers in watersheds within Ripley, Dearborn, and Wayne SWCDs may be eligible for the installation of BMPs. Nutrient reduction credits will be calculated based on models and then these credits will be offered for point source polluters to purchase and offset potential future investments to meet more restrictive regulations. At this time the SWCDs have been briefed and engaged in this process. The state Agriculture and Environmental agencies are review the draft trading plans and looking at signing this in July, allowing this program to begin.

b. **Agricultural Affairs-Jordan Seger (See Attachment)**

Jordan reported the vast majority of 2011 On Farm Network participants will be involved in the program again in 2012. This year, OFN will add Big Walnut and South Fork Wildcat to OFN, bringing the total to 12 groups with a maximum of 20 farmers in each group. Jordan is using his experiences as an RS involved in OFN to bring improvements to the 2012 program.

c. **District Support Update-Nathan Stoelting**

The DSSs have been working with districts to update their plans of work. Jim Lake has been heavily involved in WLEB and GLRI programs. Nathan and Tara Henry are involved in the IASWCD Annual Conference Task Force. Nathan has been working on the Pathway to Water Quality displays.

d. **Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst**

Deb reported the 2010 SharePoint upgrade is still coming, but some of the larger state agencies have run into issues with the transition. The upgrade will include “ribbon” type controls, similar to the 2007 Microsoft Office upgrade. The upgrade will also bring some ESRI/GIS information and capabilities. Jill, DeeDee and Deb have been working on the ICP web application to upgrade the site with the latest success stories. Deb has also been working with ISDA on the new Indiana Grown program to develop an interactive map of Indiana Grown participants for the ISDA website.

VII. **Partner Reports**

a. **IASWCD Update-Jennifer Boyle Warner (See Attachment)**

IASWCD has applied for a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund the base CCSI project. Jennifer also reported the association applied for a USDA-NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant for an expansion of the program. Jennifer said there has been a lot of positive press lately regarding conservation including a special segment aired on Channel 6 on Rodney Rulon's farm.

b. NRCS Update-Roger Kult

Roger reported that Jane is currently in Washington DC with the Leadership Development class. The class will meet with the Chief and see the national headquarters. NRCS currently has emergency watershed protection agreements in Washington and Clarke counties from the recent tornadoes. Clarke county is nearly done with debris removal. The two more recent tornadoes (in New Ross and in Franklin County) have not spurred any EWP requests. NRCS is currently evaluating their EQIP backlog. Soil Health training is coming up in the end of June at Rodney Rulon's farm in Hamilton County June 26-28, with an SWCD field day on the 29th.

c. IDEM-See Attachment

No IDEM representative present, but written report is attached

d. FSA-No report

e. DNR-No Report

VIII. Public Comment No public comment

IX. Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 17. Location TBD

X. Adjourn 11:46 AM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:
