

**State Soil Conservation Board
October 31, 2017**

Randolph County Fairgrounds

Members in Attendance:

Ray Chattin
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Robert Woodling

Members absent – Rex Blanton

Others in Attendance:

Jordan Seger	Geneva Tyler	Amy Work
Leah Harmon	Tara Wesseler-Henry	Bill Richmond
Jennifer Thum	Kimberly Neumann	Randy Maggart
Dave Lefforge	Jane Hardisty	Cindy Newkirk
Nick Alles	Matt Williams	Jason Kishton
Walt Sell	Scheryl Vaughn	Jennifer Boyle Warner
Julie Harrold	Stacy White	Eric Hall

- I. **9:30AM Call to Order – at 9:35 – Robert called the meeting to order**
 - a. **Chairman’s report** - Robert thanked the Randolph County for hosting the meeting today. He has been fortunate to visit Pike and Knox counties for their showcases and has been impressed with their work. They have shown what dedicated group of people can accomplish.
- II. **Draft minutes of September 2017**

Nola moved; Bob second.
Motion carried.
- III. **Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon

Leah spoke about the 2018 CWI competitive grants and the process that is involved to get the contracts to the recipients. She is working with Deb Fairhurst to get quality control on the CWI SharePoint entries. The AFRs are due Jan 31st. The SICIM contract is awaiting signatures at this time. Leah plans to work on the marketing of CWI and the one-pagers.
 - b. Grants Committee Report – Ray Chattin

The committee met last week to make recommendations for the 2018 competitive grants program. As a team, he felt that the committee did a good job to use funds as best they could. Ray went through the handouts that Leah provided. This year CWI had \$1.097 million total available for grants. From that total, the board has already approved \$89,000 for CCSI, \$25,000 for the CCSI director, \$60,000 for SICIM. The committee proposes \$30,000 for SWCD training reimbursements, which leaves \$893,000 for the competitive grants. The committee ranked these applications blindly, so we did not know what districts were submitting the grants. Out of 26

grants, there was only one grant that requested funds for administrative staff, and this is a concern to Ray. Administrative staff can leverage new programs.

Ray hopes that we can come together to talk about what district capacity and leadership means and what the board's vision is. Ray proposed to have this conversation at the IASWCD annual conference.

Nola complemented on how the writing has improved.

Robert – we have a recommendation here for what grants would be proposed for recommendation by the grants committee. We need a motion

Warren moved to accept the CWI grants put forth for funding by the grants committee, and Larry seconded the motion

All in favor, motion carried.

Larry – did we spend all the money made available?

Leah – We spent all, but about \$800.00.

Jordan - The grants that are starred on the committee report were recommended for partial funding. We will now go back to those districts to get the approval to move forward with partial funding.

c. CWI Budget Report – Jordan Seger

Jordan went through the DSC budget, which was provided in a handout. At the top, you can see where the revenues based budget is forecasted for this FY. He went through the sheet and took questions from the SSCB.

No questions from the board or audience.

Jordan then moved to Clean Water Indiana budget, which was also available on a handout. We have the dedicated portion that OMB is not charging a 3% reserve on. General funds do have a 3% reserve charged. Jordan went through the sheet explaining what each line item is for. Jordan noted that he needs approval on all items.

- Jordan proposed moving the Surety bond from the DSC budget to the CWI budget since it covers SWCD supervisors

For every dollar the state invests in CREP, we get a \$7.00 – \$10.00 match from the feds. 10% goes to the ten districts that administer the program.

Supplies and material – this is for the DSS team, they cover more counties and have vehicle gasoline and maintenance costs and need other supplies.

The point that is probably of most interest to the board is the grants Point 7,

- \$920,000 is the AFR per state statute to each district. Typically we see a little over \$900,000 claimed. Last year every district got something. If the full amount is not utilized, we will roll back into the bottom line of the competitive grants.
- Then the next line there is the \$89,000 for CCSI that has been an annual commitment which pays program manager and general support for CCSI to match federal funds
- The \$60,000 in grants is for SICIM that was made a recent board meeting
- The \$24,000 agreement is with the IASWCD for CCSI to help fund the Director position

- The bottom line for competitive grants is \$907,219.84 which is slightly higher than when the grants committee discussed due to the updated forecast of 2018 funding.
- The competitive grants line will get an additional \$74,000 this FY only which the DSC is allocating from a fish kill/field days fund. This 74k is not accounted for in the CWI budget because it's a separate fund
- Jordan discussed all the expenditures the DSC proposes to draw down the entire Fish kill/field days fund

When you do the math there is \$54,000 in the competitive grants line, we don't have allocated towards grant projects. The SSCB will need to make a decision on how to best use these funds.

Jordan went through the Administrative and Operating expenses. Then he took questions.

The SSCB discussed what to do with the action item and the fish kill funds that were mentioned.

Jordan stated that he is looking for approval on each line item that he went over.

Bob moved to approve each recommendation that Jordan sought, and Larry seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

Regarding the \$54,000, Jordan and the SSCB discussed this remaining amount. If any of the districts did not want to receive partial funding, then that money could go to the next proposal on the CWI grant ranking list.

Robert – in the past we have spent every dime and then what happens if we get a proposal. Is there some merit to hold some of the money back as a reserve? We don't have to spend it right now. We can look at them in another 3 to 4 months, which would give us time to get contracts done by mid-April. Ray supports having something in reserve.

Warren moved to wait for three months to allocate the \$54,000 and then for the potential to add that money to the grants next on the list that did not get funded.

- Warren withdrew his motion.

Ray thinks the Grants Committee needs to go back to the drawing board to look at what to do with those funds and then maybe leave some in reserve too.

Nola wanted to leave some for LI, potentially \$5,000 for the year.

Nola moved that we reserve \$25,000 for Leadership Institute and then use the remaining to fund CWI applications next on the list.

- Nola withdrew her motion.

Larry expressed interest in waiting until the January meeting, and we can get the number firmed up. The grants committee can determine what the number is and make a recommendation of what to do with the funding. If we don't spend the money, it would just roll over into next fiscal year. Jordan suggested that any carryover should be limited to 2% of the total budget or under.

Nola proposed to fund the soil tunnel, which was the next grant on the ranking list. The tunnel could be used by counties beyond the two participating in the grant.

Ray moved to fund the soil tunnel proposal for \$4912.50 and refer the balance of the 54,000 to the grants committee. The committee will have discussion of the remaining funds and bring recommendations to the January meeting. ISDA staff will keep the committee up to date on what the partial grants counties had decided. Seconded by Larry.

All in favor, motion carried.

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

a. Executive Committee Report

The executive committee did not meet since the last meeting.

b. Funding Committee Report

The committee did not meet in person, but there were several emails exchanged. They found out that they can accept funding from outside sources. Larry stated that we won't learn the guidelines and any potential conflicts until we try.

Fundraising takes attention and capacity. He feels that is the next step for the committee and should work with Jordan to see what this means, and have some discussion with ICP. There are plenty of groups that are raising money for soil, land, and water. Can we contribute towards raising those funds? The committee is to come up with a plan to see if we move forward.

There was further discussion from the board and Jordan on the feasibility of raising funds. The SSCB is not a 501 (c) (3), but a donation to CWI would allow for a federal income tax write-off but is not deductible on state taxes.

Larry- is it feasible for the board to do this? He would like to talk more with the department and come back to the board with a recommendation.

Robert – asked if we have volunteers to serve on a committee to look at the mechanics of outside funding for CWI –

Sub-committee- Nola, Larry, and Jordan to look at the feasibility and mechanics to look at outside funding and report back in the spring.

Larry will chair that committee.

c. CCSI Oversight Committee Representative

Bob – they are adopting bylaws, and each partner organization will be allowed to have two representatives on the oversight committee. It would be time to think about a second member from SSCB to sit on that committee. The SSCB needs to determine what two people will serve on the committee. CCSI would like to have members named by the end of January.

Bob would be one representative, and the SSCB will determine the other member at their January meeting.

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Blackford County- Jennifer Thum

Ray moved to accept the resignation of CJ Chalfant and accept the appointment of Aaron Lechein, and Bob seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion is carried.

b. Martin SWCD – Geneva Tyler

Larry moved to accept resignation of Tom Parker, and accept the appointment of James Kurtis, and Ray seconded the motion

All in favor, motion carried

Bob moved to accept the resignation of Kevin Qualkenbush, and the appointment of Jonathan Richer, and Larry seconded the motion

All in favor, motion carried.

Larry moved to accept the resignation of Kevin Fuhrman, and accept the appointment of Kyle Turpin, and Bob seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion carried

c. Montgomery SWCD – Geneva Tyler

Warren moved to accept the resignation of Rob Durret, and accept the appointment of Kenny Cane, and Larry seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion carried.

VI. ISDA Updates

a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger

The new ISDA director is expected to be named in mid-November. Jordan spoke about the County salary website.. He gave an update on the harassment training for SWCD supervisors. There will be an expenditure for this item. There was further discussion between the board, Jennifer Boyle- Warner and Jordan on the County Salary website/gateway: .

https://gateway.ifionline.org/report_builder/Default3a.aspx?rptType=employComp&rpt=EmployComp&rptName=Employee%20Compensation Jennifer spoke about the

Indiana Counties Handbook and stated that Districts are not currently listed in that guide. Jordan indicated that ISDA is working on a few different financial agreements. There is a lot of paperwork that is in progress.

b. Technical Report- Jennifer Thum

Jennifer pointed to her written report. She introduced Dave Lefforge and Nick Alles. The NE team has been busy with INFA sampling and special projects associated with the WLEB. She gave a shout of appreciation to Nick and Dave for stepping up to the plate to help out a few additional counties.

c. Soil Health – Jordan Seger

Jordan stated that Meg Leader provided a written report. Corn stalk sampling is at 99% complete. Four regional meetings are scheduled at the request of Indiana Corn and Soy. These four meetings will include a morning agenda that is open to the public.

d. Accountability and Technology – Jordan Seger

Deb – honed in her reports to be relevant to CWI and the programs the SSCB oversees.

e. District Support Specialist – Tara Wesseler – Henry

Tara stated that a written report was provided. She highlighted the upcoming SBOA training and the Leadership Institute. There was further discussion on the funding levels for the Leadership Institute. The DSS are meeting next week to update their annual plan of work.

f. Water Quality and CREP – Julie Harrold

Julie stated that she provided a written report. CREP going strong and as of Sunday, we have over 2,350 acres enrolled into this year. FSA has put a hold on continues CRP except for CREP. Julie then discussed her additional handouts.

VIII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD – Jennifer Boyle-Warner

Jennifer indicated that she does not have a written report this month. CCSI provided one, and they have changed the format to match their strategic plan. Fall/Winter region meetings are being planned, and CCSI is to be highlighted. Jennifer mentioned the ICP leaders visits with Knox and Dubois Counties. Five resolutions were submitted. The IASWCD had to work with some groups to restructure the language. Boone County showcase will be this Thursday.

b. IDEM Report – No report

c. DNR Report – No report

d. Purdue Extension –Walt Sell gave his report. Walt had handouts and talked about the Purdue soil health website for teachers and high school youth. It has learning experiences, data, and photos. The link is live, but not completed. Walt went through his report.

e. FSA Report – Jason Kishton- Continuous CRP enrollment has been shut down due to the acreage cap. This is a good thing, so we can figure out where we are actually at. It does not affect CREP.

f. NRCS Report – Kimberley Neumann –

A written report was provided. They are taking EQIP applications. This year there is a new deadline, and participants must meet eligibility requirements by January 26th If they do not meet this deadline, their application will be in the pool but won't be considered for funding until they meet the eligibility requirements.

RCPP – There is a new project with DNR for forestry projects in the southern part of the state.

Talked about the earth team volunteer hours. Very impressive.

g. IDEA Report – Cindy Newkirk

Went through the handout. Cindy spoke about the IDEA hosted region meetings.

h. SICIM – Ray Chattin

Ray gave an update on the status of their project. They should be able to hire the first two positions, which they received 14 applications for. Troy is putting the final touches on a Lilly Foundation grant proposal.

VII. Public Comment

a. No public comment

b. Robert wants to know how many staff (administrative and technical) started out on soft money on CWI funds. Then we can determine to see if they were able to stay on paid for by the County. ISDA will create a survey to gather this information

X. Next Meeting:

2018 Meeting Dates

January 7, 2018: IASWCD Annual Conference

Nola moved to adjourn at 12:05 pm and Larry second it.