



State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA – Strategic Planning Summary

September 19, 2023

June 7th Session Items Identified and Completed

This meeting primarily focused on communicating strategies for CWI 2024 priorities and funding availability.

- ✓ Further discussed Board Certification Program at July SSCB meeting
- ✓ Drafted & Sent CWI Press Release for more visibility (CWI Release went out August 22nd)
- ✓ Letter to districts from SSCB (sent July 31st)
- ✓ Scheduled and held four-hour CWI funding session on July 6th
- Continued discussion on match for FY2025
- We need a picture of the full board.
- Generate talking points on soil loss from Indiana Science Assessment
- Explore equitable matching calculations further

Note: memorandum of this meeting is attached.

July 6th Session Items Identified and Completed

This session focused on matching scenarios, CWI 2025, and the Board's role in district development.

- Draft several Indiana specific matching calculations to determine additional match
- Draft a scenario in which additional match is requested and approved by board
- Assist chair where necessary in a "State of the State" address from SSCB
- ✓ Continue development of Board Certification Program

Note: memorandum of this meeting is attached.

July 21st SSCB Meeting & Strategic Planning

This session primary focused on continued communication of SSCB priorities, CWI 2025, and next steps.

Refer to minutes <https://www.in.gov/isda/files/SSCB-7.18.2023-draft-minutes.pdf> for board meeting

- ✓ Board to attend all IASWCD/ISDA partnered "Summer Summit" events
- ✓ Draft talking points for summer summits and provide to SSCB
- Explore option for creating internships for FY2025 CWI
- Schedule another meeting after October Grant Awards/Process to continue pursuing discussion for FY2025 Grants

Note: see SSCB website for recording of this strategic planning session:

<https://www.in.gov/isda/boards/state-soil-conservation-board/>

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

JUNE 7th, 2023

Sure-tech Laboratories
7501 Miles Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46231

Present:

Ray Chattin (board chair)
Larry Clemens (board member)
Brad Dawson (board member)
Kenny Cain (board member)
Jane Hardisty (board member)
Trevor Laureys
Geneva Tyler
Kylie Wheeler

Virtual Attendance:

Gene Schmidt (board member)
Amy Burris (board member)

I. 2:05 PM Meeting Start

II. Discussion

- a. Opening Remarks by Ray Chattin, SSCB Chairman
- b. Review & Revise 5 Priorities
 - i. Item 1: Engage Supervisors to be effective leaders in their communities at the state level.
 1. Discussion on the end of leadership institute (LI)
 - a. LI ended due to lack of interest and low registration.
 2. Discussion on the Board Certification Program
 - a. Largely stood up through IASWCD & ISDA.
 - i. This program is still in draft form, but will debut in some form at 2024 IASWCD Annual Conference
 - ii. **Discuss BCP at SSCB meeting in July**
 1. Provide materials in advance.
 2. Discuss how we might incentivize supervisors to attend trainings/events/be more involved
 3. Discussion on engaging supervisors
 - a. SSCB needs to establish higher level role and provide actionable steps and guidance for other conservation entities
 - b. How do we support districts in a way that promotes GROWTH of the district longterm to be more self sustainable
 4. Need to identify which pieces of SSCB Plan of Work may be better suited for other conservation orgs, i.e. IASWCD, SWCDs, non-traditional entities
 - ii. Item 2: Increase local SWCD Capacity to be effective partners in ICP & cons. Delivery

1. DSS updated the leveraging sheet annually (will include with notes)



SWCD-Spreadsheet
-for-Local-Funding-

- 2.
3. Needs discussion
 - a. **Administrative assistance vs technical assistance**
 - i. Can't go after CWI without administrative assistance
 - ii. Will match solve this?
 4. Leveraging is important, but need to assist with narrative beyond leveraged dollars and loads reduced.
- iii. Item 3: Keep elected officials, locals to state, informed on conservation progress
 1. Soil loss averages and consideration for other key metrics to tell the story
 - a. **Find Total Soil Loss Averages by county via Science Assessment**
 - i. Total soil loss and dollars tied in
 2. ISDA provides county level conservation reports
 - a. Consider bringing these reports for respective SSCB counties next meeting
 3. SSCB "State of the State" report could be lifted, ISDA should provide chair with materials to give a proper state of the state.
 4. Discussion on Science Assessment
 - a. Need to properly brief SSCB on Science Assessment
 - b. Namely progress reports and clearer goals
 - iv. Report to IN progress and concerns for the priority natural resources concerns
 1. Elevate board status and be more public facing
 2. **We need a picture of the board! Aim For January**
 3. **Work with Regan to complete a Clean Water Indiana press release.**
- c. Clean Water Indiana Grants
 - i. CWI Guidance is out – how do we further promote?
 - ii. We should not shy away from engaging non-traditional partners, beyond SWCDs and typical awardees.
 1. There are groups of conservation organizations out there that can bring new ideas into the fold
 - a. Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Land Trusts, etc
 2. Keep an eye on Watershed Development Commissions
 - a. Potential to stretch CWI and make SWCDs and our work central to the work in flood and water control
 3. For existing guidance we need to encourage districts to apply and apply for **what they need.**
 - a. **No partial funding this round**
 - b. **Write Letter from SSCB to Districts**
 - iii. We want CWI to prop up long term functionality of districts
 1. Build capacity
 - a. Every district should have administrative support covered bare minimum
 - iv. Consideration for guaranteed 3 year match on a position **IF** the county puts up.
 1. How do we pressure the hinges on counties?

2. **Consider \$75,000 available per district**
 - a. **25,15,10 (year 1,2,3)**
3. **Consider implementation of matching calculations**



FY23 MATCH
PROJECTION APPRO

(ohio example)

4. Talent pipeline
- d. **Future Discussions:**
- i. Aim to hold a **four hour** session on just CWI funding for CWI 2025. There is a need to start communicating NOW on next year.

III. Meeting ends: 4:30PM

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION MEMORADUM FOR RECORD

July 6th, 2023

Buck Creek Community Room
5809 W Airport Boulevard Greenfield, IN 46140

Present:

Ray Chattin (board chair)
Brad Dawson (board member)
Gene Schmidt (board member)
Kenny Cain (board member)
Jane Hardisty (board member)
Amy Burris (board member)
Trevor Laureys
Geneva Tyler
Kylie Wheeler

Virtual Attendance:

Larry Clemens (board member)

I. 8:00 AM Meeting Start

- a. Meeting is not called to order as there will be no formal board action today.

II. Discussion on CWI communication strategy

- a. Recap of last meeting action items
- b. Open Discussion on CWI 2024
 - i. Communication improvements needed
 - 1. **Draft letter ahead of July 18th SSCB Meeting**
 - a. Communicate the following:
 - i. Note on realistic dollar figures in applications
 - ii. Re-iterate lead on multiple grants
 - iii. Mention survey efforts and feedback
 - 2. include link to budget table.
- c. Discuss CWI Press Release ahead of August, soon after July 18th SSCB Meeting
- d. Letters received from districts regarding CWI match and use of CWI funds

III. Discussion on District Staffing

- a. Board's role is not to carry districts, but to lead and support
 - i. What come's first, the staff or the dollars?
 - ii. Discussed potential CWI 2025 application types
 - 1. Idea for an easier staffing application
 - a. CWI Competitive for programmatic pieces, CWI staffing for staff?
 - b. Idea for tiered staffing grant designed to taper off if funded for second time.
 - i. Incentivize county relationship development.
 - 1. Ex. Y1 75,000, Y2 50,000, Y3 25,000

IV. Discussion on SWCD board training

- a. Board certification program, and what an incentive to meet a “standard of excellence” might look like?
 - i. Is this a job for IASWCD? SSCB? IDEA?
 1. IASCWD & ISDA already working on BCP
 2. **Share information about BCP at July 18th SSCB meeting**
 - ii. As BCP is completed, and content gathered would it makes sense to provide a financial incentive using CWI?
 1. i.e. structure similar to PARP points
 - a. a part of non-statutory \$10,000 match eligibility
 2. Look into the goodyear evaluation process as potential example

V. Lifting Districts & Board Status through District Showcase awards

- a. Get back to holding SSCB meeting at district showcase winner
- b. **Chair give state of the state address.**
 - i. Always inspiring to see how creative and capable districts are

VI. Discussion on additional \$10,000 or future match

- a. Ohio has a formulaic way of calculating what match goes where
 - i. Equitable
 1. Tailored to give districts with low/no local funding a higher rate of match (200%)
 2. Sets a % cap for districts with high levels of local/other funding, but doesn't disincentivize as districts bring in more funds, even a small % match still garners a significant state investment
 - a. Ex. County x only has \$10,000 but matched at 200%
 - i. \$30,000 total
 - b. Ex. County has \$100,000 and is min match cap threshold only matched at 20%
 - i. \$120,000
- b. Idea for a match request form that defines what additional match may be used for and asks for what it will be used for.
 - i. 10k guaranteed by statute
 - ii. 10k requested
 - iii. X dollars for supervisor engagement or hitting “standards of excellence”
- c. AFR data can play a role in decision making process as well
- d. Reviewed AFR data

VII. Discussion on Lifting SSCB, being more engaged.

- a. Strategic Planning Sessions help tremendously with creative and innovative ideas.
- b. Board does sessions at IASWCD, should board present at IDEA?
 - i. Are there other conferences, events that the board needs better representation at?
- c. Utilize board platform to celebrate conservation
 - i. i.e. send congratulatory letters
 1. Master Gardner's?

VIII. Meeting Ends: 12:00PM