

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
September 10, 2013 9:30 am
Buck Creek Fire Department, Station 71
5809 W. Airport Blvd.
Greenfield, Indiana 46140

Members in Attendance:

Larry Clemens
Warren Baird
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Bill Mann
Scott Ham

Others in Attendance Cont:

Jordan Seger, ISDA
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jim Lake IASWCD Contractor
Logan Garner, ISDA
Julia Wickard, NRCS
Steve Howell, IDEM
Hans Kok, CCSI
Tara Henry, ISDA
Jane Hardisty, NRCS
Scheryl Vaughn, Boone Co SWCD
Geneva Rawlins, ISDA
Brenda Gettinger, ISDA
Harold Thompson, ICP
Glenn Lange,
Ray Chattin, Knox Co. SWCD
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Cindy Newkirk, Hancock Co. SWCD

Others in Attendance:

Mike Johnson, ISDA
Jackie Addison, ISDA
Janice Bullman, IASWCD
Judi Brown, Dubois Co. SWCD
Paul Cummings, Owen Co. SWCD
Jeff Meinders, IASWCD

- I. 9:02 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of June 4, 2013**
Bob moved to approve; Warren second. Motion passed.
- III. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
- a.** Conservation Workload Maps – Deb Fairhurst demonstrated the uses for the Share Point reports by creating maps of practices implemented by ISDA, SWCDs, and NRCS. Deb will update the maps twice a year. Deb states how important for all SWCDs to track projects on the ground. Note: maps only show practices on the ground. These maps do not show technical assistance, MS4, etc. Maps can be found on SharePoint under Soil and Water Conservation Districts>GIS Maps>Conservation Workload. The maps are available by CIT region, the entire state, Clean Water Indiana practices and CREP practices. Additionally, Deb has created a file titled “Ag Program Descriptions” to accompany the maps. We encourage everyone to use these maps to show the impact of the ICP.
- b.** Temporary Supervisor Appointments (See Attachments)
1. Blackford County – Tara Henry - Bob-Motion to approve, Bill-second , Motion approved.
 2. Steuben County –Tara Henry - Warren-Motion to approve, Scott-second , Motion approved.
 3. Vigo County – Laura Fribley - Scott-Motion to approve, Bill-second, Motion approved.
 4. Scott County –Laura Fribley - Scott-Motion to approve, Bill-second, Motion approved.
 5. Tippecanoe County – Geneva Rawlins - Warren-Motion to approve, Nola-second, Motion approved.

6. Larry informed the board of the resignation of State Soil Conservation Board member Brett Glick. Jordan Seger stated the board is looking for a candidate from South East area resident with farming background.

IV. Clean Water Indiana (See Attachments)

a. 2014 Clean Water Indiana Budget – Jennifer Pinkston

The attached chart shows four columns-the shaded columns are numbers from the 2013 budget the board approved last September. Jennifer reviewed the numbers in the soils column and the Clean Water Indiana column. Note: the numbers in the CWI column reflect the Cigarette Tax and the General Funds. ISDA is requesting funds from Clean Water to pay for training and equipment necessities for ISDA conservation staff. The CWI budget includes the following items: Task Force Subcommittee Pilot Program - \$225,000, SWCD Training Grants - \$30,000, and CWI Competitive Grants \$579,000.

Note: Approval of budget was deferred until after the board heard the grants committee proposal and the Task Force Sub Committee presentations.

b. 2014 Clean Water Indiana Grants – Warren Baird (See Attachments)

Warren introduced the proposed 2014 Clean Water Indiana grants guidelines. Like in years past, the application must include at least two districts, be three years in length, and may be up to \$75,000. Adult Education will be limited to \$1,000/year. Changes for this year include: no longer required to be watershed (only multi-district), lead district must meet SWCD deadline requirements as of May 8, districts do not have to be contiguous (however an explanation **must** be included in application), and limits have been placed on cost share incentives. Cost share will be limited to 75% of the total cost of the BMP, with an additional limitation of \$30/acre for cover crops. Cost share for demonstration purposes may be funded at 100%. The training reimbursement program will be limited to a total of \$475/district this year. Instead of having separate reimbursements for supervisors and staff, these will be combined into one request. There is no supervisor minimum requirement. The deadline for CWI Grant applications is Oct 1 and training reimbursements is Jan 31st.

V. SSCB Report - Conservation Beyond 2016 Task Force Subcommittee (See Attachments)

a. Executive Summary-Jim Lake

Jim Lake, contracted through IASWCD, presented the overview of the subcommittee. Jim introduced the members of the committee as follows: Paul Cummings, Supervisor, Owen Co., Ray Chattin-Ass. Supervisor-Knox Co., Jamie Scott, Supervisor-Kosciusko Co., Les Zimmerman, Supervisor-Vermillion Co., Lana Zimmer, Supervisor-Jasper Co., David Caldwell, Supervisor-Fayette Co., Greg Lake, District Staff-Allen Co., Judi Brown, District Staff-Dubois Co., Nicole Messecar, District Staff-LaPorte Co., Bob Eddleman, Member-SSCB, Becky Ross, Area Conservationist-NRCS and Laura Fribley, District Support Specialist-ISDA. Note- Jennifer Boyle Warner (IASWCD), Larry Clemens (SSCB Chairman), Jim Lake (IASWCD Contractor) and Jennifer Pinkston (Grants Coordinator-ISDA) provided support and guidance to the subcommittee. The subcommittee initially convened via conference call to review the charge and purpose. The first face to face meeting was held in June. After defining the current problems and developing an outline for pilots, the group decided to hold a two day retreat in August to prepare the pilot options. The subcommittee identified two options to present today:

- i. Pilot Project Proposal Option A (1) Concentrated District Support Specialist-Judi Brown
Summary: This option includes the Indiana State Department of Agriculture providing a concentrated District Support Specialist for the 2-5 participating districts. This Concentrated District Support Specialist (CDSS) would provide enhanced, hands-on DSS support and services, with the goal of shared staffing, joint operations, and ultimately elevate the individual

districts so they would be able to support themselves on this shared staffing concept. The CDSS will guide and assist the district staff and supervisors in capacity development, local government relations, funding concerns, and related duties. The CDSS will provide human resource guidance to the boards, but will not serve as manager to district staff.

Priorities would be set by the participating districts, and would likely include:

1. Assist SWCDs to develop and carry out long range and annual plans
 2. Assist districts in finding funding resources to address district needs through identifying current funding sources, grant writing assistance, and locating in-kind services
 3. Assist supervisors with human resources
 4. Build staff and supervisor capacity
 5. Establish and/or nourish relationships with partners and county officials by assisting in program development (i.e. staffing plan, working with county and city officials, Indiana Conservation Partnership, park districts, etc.)
 6. Assists in outreach (i.e. media releases, field days, workshops, mass communication)
- Funding Required: The CDSS salary would be in line with the current salary for District Support Specialists.

ii. Pilot Project Proposal Option A (2): Executive Director-Ray Chattin

This option entails 3-5 districts working together to hire an executive director, with the goal of shared staffing, joint operations, and ultimately the individual districts would be able to support themselves on this shared management concept. Executive Director will guide and assist the district staff and supervisors in capacity development, local government relations, funding concerns, and related duties. Participating districts will sign Memorandum of Agreements, whereby agreeing district staff and supervisors will be active participants in the pilot, agree to share staff and talents beyond boundaries, and work together to achieve the common goal of an enhanced conservation delivery model. The Executive Director will be the direct supervisor of all participating SWCD staff.

b. Guidance for Option C-Conservation District and ICP Consolidation on a Watershed or Multi-District Basis

While everyone on the sub-committee felt that Option C-ICP and Conservation District Consolidation on a Watershed or Multi-County Basis was a very viable option that needs to be encouraged, they noted that the district law currently contains a legal process for districts to consolidate. Therefore, the SSCB should offer advisory/legal assistance to any districts who would decide locally to pursue consolidation. In addition, the SSCB should continue to offer the incentive for consolidation outlined in the SSCB's current Business Plan which states for districts who consolidate "an incentive of two times the current state match for each of the merged districts for year one and then 1 ½ times the combined matching grant each year thereafter, if funds are available". In addition, the sub-committee recommended that the SSCB consider developing a grant option in the near future for districts to be able to apply for a one year "planning and feasibility study project" if two or more districts wanted to pursue the possibility of consolidation.

Larry would like additional time for the board to review these proposals. Larry would also like the ICP leaders to review the options and discuss at the next ICP leaders meeting. (Jane Hardisty noted the next meeting is October 22.) The board members will have until the next meeting to review and study these

options. At the next meeting (October 29), the board will tentatively approve RFPs that will likely be due in January. Board members suggested the DSS's poll districts to see which districts are willing to participate in the Concentrated District Support Specialist option.

Bob made motion to approve the budget, the way it was presented. Warren second, motion passed.

VI. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD Report – Jeff Meinders

IASWCD is working on On-Farm Network and attending board meetings.

Annual Conference coming January 6-8, 2014

Need and would appreciate any help from partners for PWQ at State Fair Grounds, Sept 23 – Oct 4th

CCSI-CCSI has successfully completed three field training days.

b. IDEM – Steve Howell (See Attachments)

IDEM written report is available in the attachments.

c. DNR Report –no report.

d. Purdue - no report.

e. FSA Report – Julia Wickard The current farm bill will expire on September 30.

Currently there are 263,000 acres in CRP, 136,000 are general and 126,000 are in continuous.

We continue to see growth.

District employees have to have Link Pass cards as of 11/15/2013.

There will be no bonus pay for USDA employees with a 7.2% cut across the board for Sequestration.

f. NRCS Report – Jane Hardisty (See Attachments) - Jane Hardisty is commitment that she will work with the pilots and assist with the board for training and working with new admin.

Reviewing structure and personnel.

New Dept. Secretary –Christa Harden

New Under Secretary – Robert Bonnie

New Dept. Under Secretary – Ann Wells

New Acting Chief – Jason Weller

The next partners' meeting is Oct 20th.

Jane noted some programs will expire on Oct 1 if Farm Bill does not get an extension. In order to cut costs, all faxes to NRCS will now come in via email, by Fax2Mail.

Note: Additional reports are available in the attachments, however due to special presentations today, not all of these were covered in the meeting.

Jordan Seger made these announcements:

- a. Laura Fribley has been promoted to the DSS Team Leader position, replacing Jim Lake.

ISDA received 52 applications for the vacant DSS position in the northeast.

- b. Ag and Environmental Affairs position posted until Sept. 25th.

Once these positions filled we will be up to full staff.

VII. Public Comment - None

VIII. Next Meetings:

Tuesday, October 29

The Nature Conservancy

Monday January 6, 2014

IX. Adjourn – Bill made motion to adjourn, Scott second. Meeting adjourned at 12:00

X. Tour of CWI Funded Practices

- a. Fortville’s Stottlemeyer Waterway
Invasive removal/management and riparian naturalization - site
- b. McCordsville Town Hall area and Park
Effluent ditch naturalization, salt barn buffer, tree planting, permeable paving system

Minutes Prepared By: Jackie Addison

Approved By:

DRAFT