

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
March 10, 2014
The Nature Conservancy
620 East Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

Members in Attendance:

Scott Ham
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Warren Baird

Gaye Caplinger, ISDA
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Meg Leader, ISDA
George Reger, ISDA
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA
Jane Hardisty, NRCS
Sheryl Vaughn
Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD
Jason Kischton, FSA
Hans Kok, CCSI
Gary Strinhardt, Purdue
Ray Chattin, Knox SWCD

Others in Attendance:

Jennifer Pinkston, ISDA
Logan Garner, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Nan Hammel, ISDA
Tara Henry, ISDA
Geneva Tyler, ISDA

- I. 10:05 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of February 2014**
Bob moved to approve; Nola second. Motion passed.
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
- a. 2013 Clean Water Indiana grants report – Jen Pinkston (See Attachments)
Jen reviewed the 2013 Clean Water Indiana grant program: For 2013, the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) voted to hold a grant program similar to the 2012 CWI grant program. The focus for this round of grant funding included: Cost share Incentives/On Farm Demonstrations, Increase direct Technical/Professional Assistance to Land users and Adult Education. The total amount awarded was \$612,000.
- 2013 Clean Water Indiana Grants – Year 1 Report
- \$413,927.65 funds and in kind spent on projects
 - \$194,031.28 CWI Funds (balance of CWI Funds: \$417,968.72)
- IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
- a. Franklin County SWCD recommendation not complete; tabled for June 3rd meeting
- V. State Soil Conservation Board Reports**
- a. Bob Eddleman met with Warren Baird and Jen Pinkston about CWI grants. \$145,000 of the funds are not yet obligated and they are looking at recommendations. Fayette SWCD, the SSCB and other key individuals are still in discussions regarding their proposed pilot project. It was suggested that action

not be taken until further discussions could take place. Bob moved to approve. Nola seconded. Motion carried.

- b. Scott Ham to meet with Deb Fairhurst and will look at some of the gaps demonstrated on GIS maps.
- c. The Board will notify Geneva Tyler which annual meetings they attended if they wish to submit a travel voucher.

VI. ISDA Updates

- a. **Technical Report** – George Reger provided a workload map the SSCB members and discussed the workload in NW Indiana and that the Resource Specialists are getting out there doing surveying and designing so that when the Farm Bill is ready and CRP is available, the landowners can hit the ground running. They are also following up on old practices to check their maintenance needs and also to maintain communication with landowners and farmers.
- b. **Agriculture Affairs Update** – Meg Leader (See Attachment)
On Farm Network - Finished all 16 of the On Farm Network Winter Grower Meetings as of March 7, 2014. Making arrangements for new 2014 OFN Groups and restarting the Eagle Creek Watershed group. Working with the DSSs on other regions that might have an interest in an OFN group. Attended the Iowa OFN conference in Ames, IA.
Developing a brochure to assist group leaders and producers on the requirements needed to participate successfully.

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

Assisting CCSI team with management of data collection from the different hubs.

Red Gold Environmental Stewardship Program

Updating the application form. Working with aerial imagery company AirScout, to explore the benefits Red Gold and their growers will have from receiving imagery of their fields.

- c. **Accountability and Technology** – Deb Fairhurst (See Attachment)
SharePoint Efforts – Began discussions with NRCS regarding Region 4 Model analyses. Continuing to work with Doug Nussbaum, LARE to incorporate their conservation efforts into the statewide nutrient load reduction data.

GIS Efforts – Provided Clean Water Indiana and Western Lake Erie Basin conservation practice data to Cadmus Group.

Additional Efforts – Deb and Logan Garner coordinated efforts to enter Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program information onto the CTIC Watershed Implementation and Innovation website.

- d. **District Support** – Laura Fribley (See Attachment)
Laura noted upcoming events – March SWCD Region Meetings: March 6, 11, 13 and 18. Nathan has been coordinating DSS Facilitation Training with Dr. Janet Ayers. Nathan assisted Monroe County with a Storm Water Board presentation. Nathan has been asked to serve as Chair of a new Pathway to Water quality Ag committee. Jennifer was appointed to serve on the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership Leadership Team. She is also working on the Tri-State Conservation Expo. Tara has been working with the Water Quality Trading project on an ongoing basis. Tara assisted the Wall Street Journal on an article about the initiative. Laura has been working with both the Indiana Training & Certification Program and the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. Laura, Jennifer and Geneva attended IN Cover Crop and Soil Health Forum in various locations.
- e. **Water Quality and CREP** – Logan Garner (See Attachment)

With the new Farm Bill, CREP enrollment can begin once CRP is opened back up. No significant changes are expected to CREP or the state/federal CREP agreement.

The Ohio River Basin Water Quality Trading Program received national headlines in the Wall Street Journal.

Jordan, Deb and Logan have been working toward a wider adoption and use of the Region 5 Model by the members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

- a. IASWCD Report- No Report
- b. IDEM Report- No Report
- c. DNR Report-No Report
- d. Purdue Report- Gary Steinhardt that the 20 year old 4-H curriculum for Soil Conservation is being updated and will be based more on soil health. He also reported on various research efforts within the Agronomy department at Purdue University: Tony Vyn continues his research on strip-till and delayed release of Nitrogen. Brad Joern is concentrating on nutrient waste management, Frankenberger on biofilters, Steinhardt is working on an on-site inspector certification program. Eileen Kladviko continues working closely with cover crops and soil health meetings with the ICP.
- e. FSA Report- Jason Kischton reported that FSA they are currently concentrating on livestock and the Farm Bill's emergency livestock program. Susan will be in Washington DC in the summer (2014).
- f. NRCS Report- Jane Hardisty reported that it may be mid-May before rules are distributed and funds can be obligated. Jane also commended Tara Henry and the Districts for their role in the Water Quality Trading project and the interstate cooperation is has taken to make it happen.
- g. IDEA- Scheryl Vaughn reported that IDEA is collecting emergency contact information for district employees in case of future federal government shutdowns or other emergency situations. They are also planning a training for district employees regarding Rule 5 plan reviews.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Next Meeting:

June 3, 2014
9:30 AM
Location: TBD-Johnson County area

July 31, 2014
9:15 AM
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN
October 28, 2014
9:15 AM
Location: TBD

X. Adjourn: 11:30 AM

Minutes Prepared by: Gaye Caplinger and Geneva Tyler

Approved By:

	
	
	