

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 12, 2012, 9:30 AM
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Scott Ham
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Brett Glick

Members not in Attendance:

Larry Clemens
Bill Mann

Others in Attendance:

Deb Fairhurst ISDA
Jordan Seger ISDA
Jim Lake ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Geneva Rawlins ISDA
Tara Henry ISDA
Logan Garner ISDA
Laura Fribley ISDA
Janice Bullman-IASWCD
Roger Kult-NRCS
Julie Harrold-ISDA
Susan Hovermale
Andrew Pursifull-NRCS
Chad Schotter-NRCS
Tony Bailey-NRCS

- I. 9:31 AM: Call to Order**
- II. NRCS Update-Roger Kult**
Roger gave an update on Jane's status-Jane's 120 assignment is up on December 21, although she has been asked to stay until at least January. In the interim, Kimberly will return to Ft Wayne to her normal duties and Roger will be the Acting State Conservationist until Jane returns. In addition, Teresa has taken a position out of state and Jill will be Acting Assistant Conservationist until Teresa's position is filled.
- III. Draft Minutes of September and October 2012**
Nola moved to approve the September 2012 minutes; Warren seconded. Motion passed.
Nola moved to approve the October 2012 minutes; Bob seconded. Motion passed.
- IV. Clean Water Indiana**
- a. Budget Update**—Jennifer Pinkston
We are on track with approved spending plan; \$660,000 has been encumbered for the CREP amendments and 2013 CWI grants are in the signature process.
- b. CREP Report**-Logan Garner (See Attachments)
Logan reported several completed practices since the last report. No new agreements have begun due to lack of a farm bill. We are working with DNR to remediate a conservation easement violation. Updates to come as we move forward with this situation.
- V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
- a. Supervisor Appointments**-Jim Lake (See Attachments)
Several districts have supervisor appointments this year. List of names is attached. Some districts did not submit names prior to the November 1 deadline. Those districts are Owen, Jennings, and Hendricks. In addition, Greene and Morgan were not able to find anyone before the deadline. These five districts will submit temporary appointment requests after the first of the year. Bob made a motion to approve all listed (with the above mentioned exceptions); Nola seconded. Motion approved.
- VI. SSCB Reports**
- a. SSCB Chairman's Report**-Scott Ham
Scott extended his thanks to those who attended and presented at the fall region meetings. Bob presented as a representative of the task force and facilitated discussion. The overall discussions were not in great detail, but many people recognized financials situations are changing and there

is a great need to look at the future for new ways to do business. Nola noted the good supervisor and staff attendance at the northwest meeting. Lake and Newton counties discussed the logistics of sharing staff.

b. SSCB Attendance at Annual Meetings

The signup sheet is available for board members to sign up for district annual meetings. Deadline for board members to sign up is December 19th, but signup sheet will remain online afterwards.

c. Committees

After discussions with board members, Nola is recommending Larry and Scott serve an additional year as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Bob moved to approve. Brett seconded. Motion passed.

VII. ISDA Reports

a. Technical Assistance, Accountability & Technology Report-Deb Fairhurst

Deb announced the division has hired two new staff that will work under our 319 grant. Debra Jimison will work out of the Winamac office in the Tippecanoe watershed and Nick Alles will work out of the Huntington office in the Upper Wabash watershed. Nick is a recent graduate of St Francis College in Fort Wayne with a BS in Ag Science. Debra has a great background in conservation and will be able to hit the ground running. Both will start on December 31. Deb shared maps illustrating practices completed over the last year using data from the Region 5 load reduction model. The maps clearly show the “holes” where we do not have staff in the area. Brett asked how the drought affected the maps. Deb noted there were about 100 less practices this year than prior, but that could also be related to less staff. Future maps will also show the SWCD technician practices.

b. Agricultural Affairs Report-Jordan Seger

This year, OFN’s 12 groups represent a total of 162 growers, an increase of 55 from last year. Jordan has scheduled grower meetings for all 12 groups, including a general session that will take place at the Fort Wayne farm show. Next year, a new group in Pulaski county will join the program.

c. District Support Update-Laura Fribley

Recently, the DSSs have started tracking their work in SharePoint. The new format allows them to easily track their efforts and makes reporting easier for central office. The new Leadership Institute will be in February in Wabash. Participation includes a ticket to the Clint Black concert. This afternoon, the DSSs will put on a webinar for districts. Todd Austin from State Board of Accounts will present information on Gateway and the 100R form.

d. Water Quality Update-Logan Garner

Logan attended the SWCS conference in Iowa recently. He reported there was good attendance and lots of good information presented. Logan is waiting on some figures to finalize the Nutrient Reduction Strategy draft for Indiana.

VIII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD Report-Janice Bullman

Annual conference is schedule for January 7-9.

b. IDEM Report-No Report

c. DNR Report-No Report

d. Purdue Report-No Report

e. FSA Report-Susan Hovermale

Susan reported the national office is trying to prepare in case of fiscal cliff. Internally, FSA is experiencing a 2.3% reduction in staffing through attrition (8 employees). As of right now, there are no plans to fill these positions. Susan also reported the CREP totals for the year (1200), which brings the current state total to 82,067. FSA is currently going through a modernization in the offices. The go live date is scheduled in January.

IX. Public Comment

- X. **Next Meeting: January 7, 2012 8:30 am**
Location-Indianapolis Downtown Marriott Room 7
- XI. **Adjourn**
Adjourned 11:24 am

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston
Approved By:

DRAFT