

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2010
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Members in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Deb Fairhurst ISDA
Jerod Chew ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Paula Baldwin, IASWCD
Sara Christensen ISDA
Roz Leeck ISDA
Jim Lake ISDA
Tara Henry ISDA
Paul Hoffman ISDA
Laura Fribley ISDA
Hans Kok CCSI
Janice Bullman
Cheryl Vaughn Boone Co. SWCD
Shannon Zezula NRCS

I. 9:41 AM: Call to Order

II. Draft Minutes of May 2009

Bob Eddleman moved to approve the May 2010 minutes as presented. Larry Clemens seconded and the motion carried.

III. Clean Water Indiana

- a. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Update – Sara Christensen**— See Attachment
Sara Christensen presented the CREP report. As of July 8, there are 681 completed contracts with 4613.63 completed acres. An additional 230 contracts and 1862.43 acres are obligated. The CREP expansion amendment is signed. Ceremonial kickoff is expected to be around State Fair time. To date, 7 SWCD's have applied to be CREP administrators, but deadline isn't until August 1. More are expected to come in. Sara noted the current applicants are spread out in different watersheds. After deadline, District Support Specialists will review applicants and send recommendations to Board for approval.
- b. Clean Water Indiana Update – Jerod Chew** – See Attachment
Jerod Chew reported all 88 districts have received initial 75% of 2010 CWI grants. 2 counties, Daviess and Martin, have submitted their final report and have received all funds. Scott Hamm asked about the midyear report. Chew clarified the mid year reports are due September 30, 2010.
- c. Clean Water Indiana Budget—Jerod Chew—See Attachment**
Jerod reported the 2011 CWI budget has not been finalized due to pending staff funding switch between the Clean Water Indiana fund and the Division of Soil Conservation fund. ISDA is still waiting on approval from State Personnel Strategic Hiring Committee. Nola Gentry requested Board approve budget information via conference call or email after the staff switch has been approved. Jim Lake discussed the 2011 CWI Grant Guidelines. Highlights include \$5,000 for general grant, \$1,000 for staff training (with 30% designated for supervisor training), and additional \$1,000 incentive for partnering with another

SWCD. The maximum amount that can be requested is \$7,000. Board tentatively approved CWI grants, based on staff switch approval.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Supervisor Requests – Jerod Chew

Marshall County request for new appointee with waiver request for 10 acre rule

Hamm moved to approve Marshall County's request. Mann seconded and the motion carried.

Henry County request for new appointee

Eddleman moved to approve Henry County's request. Glick seconded and the motion carried.

b. CWI Grants Requests – Paul Hoffman

Paul Hoffman reported on current CWI grant status – See Attachment

2009 SNRG Grants- Of the 31 districts receiving this grant, 19 have received their final payments. 4 have extensions past June 30, but remainder will be submitting final reports in the next few days. To date, \$279,115 has been paid to districts. Remaining balance is \$5,772.

2008 Grants- Only 2 districts have remaining balances. Program will be ending soon. 2008 Grants balance is \$20,000.

2007 Grants- All have been completed. All reports have been received and all funds have been distributed.

2006 Grants- 2 Districts still have open grants. Hamilton County SWCD still has \$40,000 that has not been distributed, which expired on June 30 with an additional \$5400 on hand. The District would like to make the board aware of their upcoming plans to meet with the other districts involved to make plans for spending the funds. The Board discussed previous extensions and Hamm asked why the project is still not completed. Gentry stated she received an email on June 24 from Hamilton County SWCD. At that time, they still had \$5700 remaining due to not being able to hire a staff member full time, rather had two part time employees. They currently have one of the part time staff working on wetland determination. The District is requesting to use the balance make that position full time, and relinquish remaining \$40,000 back to ISDA. Clemens suggested pulling back the \$5400 balance and closing out grant, releasing all fund back to the Cigarette Tax Fund. Nola noted the District had almost a year without staff. **Hamm motioned the 2006 grant be done for Hamilton County on June 30 and all unspent funds be returned to Cigarette Tax Fund. Clemens seconded the motion. Motion carried.** The other District has \$8750, which expires on July 31.

Huntington County requests extension of 2009 CWI grant of wetlands installation due to weather. **Motion was made and seconded. Motion Carried.**

c. Ohio County SWCD AFR—Jerod

Each year, Ohio County SWCD struggles to find dollar for dollar match. The letter submitted justifies expenditures via in-kind, non cash distribution (rental space by the county). Space is in the extension office which funds also route through for practices on the ground. Tara Henry met with Ohio County SWCD to look at where the funds are being spent. Currently, there are no employees. \$2625 from the County budget pays for a contract employee to do their books. Ohio SWCD is requesting \$7375 of the \$10,000 count as the in-kind contribution. Tara confirmed that they do have physical office space. Nola expressed concerns about the rent amount being too high. Formally, this amount went to education. Eddleman asked if the educator was still on board, but Tara has not seen the final education report. Glick and IASWCD representative will attend the next Ohio County SWCD meeting to explain where the Board stands.

d. 2011 CWI Grant Guidelines/Application—Jim Lake

The 2011 CWI Grant Guidelines are very similar to the 2010 CWI grants, but future grants may take a different direction based on the business plan for the board. For the 2011 grants, each district may apply for the following: \$5,000 for Adult Education, Outreach, Cost Share/Demonstration Incentives, and Capacity Building. \$1,000 for Training. \$1,000 Multi District incentive for working with at least one other District on a project or initiative. Eddleman questioned whether \$1,000 was enough for training.

Gentry suggested this be changed to state 50% of training incentives must be for Supervisor training. The Board has tentatively approved these based on final Budget/State Personnel changes, but may change final dollar amounts. **Motion was made to approved guidelines based upon Budget decisions and changing training incentive to 50/50. Motion was seconded and carried.**

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry

Gentry noted groups scrambled to get partners for Mississippi River Basin and Great Lake Restoration Initiative proposals. She stated a conservation forum could facilitate this. Jerod noted prior Livestock forums have gone well and Conservation could do the same to encourage outside partners to come together and network. Chew said DSC volunteers could take lead on setting up forum.

Glick asked if funding would be available for future MRBI requests. River friendly farmer day is August 18, Ag Day, at the State Fair.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report – Jerod Chew

i. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

Field Staff, Larry Osterholz, is retiring at the end of the month, putting DSC down to 23 technicians around the state. Hamm asked if this position would be filled. Chew stated ISDA will be requesting it to be filled. Chew said field staff will be organized to help out with CREP as much as possible, having at least one staff per watershed as CREP lead. Staff priorities are 1) CREP 2) LARE/319 3) Farm Bill requests and other needs.

ii. District Support Update – Jim Lake

Leadership Institute on June 25 held in Rensselaer. 35 individuals participated, with 22 taking the course. Discussions were lead by DSSs and other participants. Evaluations showed Fair Oaks was interesting, but needed more time allotted. Level 2 of Leadership Institute will be September 10-11 in Wabash.

iii. Water Quality Update – Sara Slater-Atwater

Gulf of Mexico, Nutrient Task Force

Indiana is now an official member of the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force. There are now 11 states involved. Our current needs are to present annual plan and operating plan. Sara will work with outside groups and partners to gather information for operating plan, including nutrient reduction strategies and our upcoming plans including goals.

iv. Accountability and Technology Update – Deb Fairhurst

Fairhurst demonstrated SharePoint website, including ISDA-Environmental Stewardship and SWCD pages. SSCB will be given login information to access pages. CWI grant forms will be online in the future. Online tools will include District elections, photo libraries, directories, and grant information. The goal is to have this launched in the end of July or early August.

v. Agriculture Affairs Update – Roz Leeck

Leeck reported On Farm Network remains the top focus. Leeck was in DC last week with several other states using On Farm Network where discussions were about sharing information across state lines, rather than just watershed lines. CCSI will have a big role in implementation. Hans noted 80% farmers in the first 2 years of participation will change their practices to reduce sediment and nutrient run off. 5 producers have been identified for the Red Gold Stewardship award. 2 are in Ohio, 2 in Michigan and 1 in Indiana. Winner will be announced July 28th on field day.

vi. CCSI—Hans Kok

Kok reported almost every metric set by the oversight committee has been met. Kok attends meetings with the districts and NRCS and is seeing synergy starting to work with mutli counties/partners.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

- a. **DNR Report** – No Report
- b. **IDEM Report** – No Report
- c. **Purdue Report** –No Report
- d. **IASWCD President’s Report – Jennifer Boyle-Warner**
IASWCD is finishing up website training for districts. About half of districts still do not have a website. Finding cheap software has been the most common problem.
- e. **Farm Services Agency Report**– No Report
- f. **NRCS State Conservationist’s Report – Shannon Zezula**
Zezula reported NRCS is entering in to 27 agreements with local districts for technical assistance.

VIII. Public Comment

- IX. Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 9:00 AM in Indianapolis at NRCS office
- X. Adjourn: 12:25 PM**

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston
Approved By:
