

**State Soil Conservation Board  
January 22, 2017  
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown**

**Members in Attendance:**

Bob Eddleman  
Nola Gentry  
Robert Woodling  
Larry Clemens  
Warren Baird  
Ray Chattin  
Rex Blanton

**Others in Attendance:**

Jordan Seger	Jennifer Boyle-Warner	Deb Barnett
Leah Harmon	Dan Hovland	Stacy White
Jamie Scott	Judi Brown	Eric Shideler
Darci Zolman	Jan Came	Carrie Parmenter
Stan Moore	Kristi Kennedy	Ann Ice
Kimberly Newman	Shane Johnson	Terry Ault
Jennifer Thum	Scheryl Vaughn	David Rust
Laura Fribley	Jeri Ziliak	Tom Crowe
Jane Hardisty	Susan King	Kerry Ames
Mary Lou Musselman	Don Rekeweg	Susan Chattin
Taylor Lord	Jon Roberts	Joe Rorick
Meg Leader	Marc Roberts	Ashley Brucker
Lisa Holscher	Bobby Hettmansperger	Jeff Meinders
Julie Harrold	Allison Shoaf	Rita Sharr

**I. 3:01PM Call to order by Ray Chattin**

Ray welcomed and introduced the SSCB to the crowd.

**II. Draft Minutes of October 2016**

Eddleman moved; Gentry seconded to approve the minutes.

All in favor, motion passed

**III. Clean Water Indiana**

**a. Clean Water Indiana Grants – Leah Harmon, ISDA**

- a. Harmon stated that they started finalizing the grant agreements on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and the process is moving along quickly. The new system is working. The grant reports for 2016 are due January 31<sup>st</sup>. Harmon mentioned that in the SSCB packets is a copy of the amended communication policy that the grants committees suggested that any modification in final year would have to be submitted before the final SSCB of the year. That is the only change to the communication policy.

- b. AFR – Harmon stated that the AFR templates have been submitted to the Districts. For the training reimbursements, the grants committee talked in December, and disbursed \$12,000 and about 35 people have taken advantage of those.
- c. Harmon stated that she was able to conduct two grant reviews since the last meeting. The two reviews went well. In total 10 grant reviews were conducted in 2016. She has 10 grant reviews planned for 2017.

#### **IV State Soil Conservation Board Business**

##### **a. Appointment of Chair/Committees**

- a. The SSCB members discussed the next chairperson and vice chair. After some discussion Gentry moved to nominate Robert Woodling for Chairperson and Rex Blanton to Vice Chair; seconded by Eddleman.  
All in favor, motion carried
- b. The SSCB next discussed the representation on the Pathway to Water Quality committee.  
Eddleman moved to nominate Blanton to serve on the committee; Gentry seconded.  
All in favor, motion carried
- c. Chattin sent out a query to the SSCB member to see where they would like to serve. He mentioned that he would like to serve on the grants committee. Chattin stated that the grants committee should be Bob Eddleman, Nola Gentry and himself.  
Blanton moved to have the grants committee be made up of Chattin, Eddleman and Gentry; seconded by Clemens  
All in favor, motion carried.

##### **b. SSCB Chairman's reports,**

- a. Chattin discussed that he has been attending partnership meetings, IASWCD meetings, regional trainings in the SW and SE and two district showcases, and it has been very good. He stated that as chair of the SSCB, he has had more of a voice for the districts. The most significant item since the last SSCB was his trip to Westmoreland, PA to visit their SWCD. He spoke about his most recent trip and his vision for the Indiana's partnership. He is hopeful that Indiana can do things similar to PA. His vision is to have a similar economic budget to what they have.

##### **c. CCSI Update – Lisa Holscher and Les Zimmerman**

- a. Les Zimmerman spoke about what CCSI has been doing since the SSCB was able to give them \$25,000 a year for three years. In addition, he wanted to discuss what they have been doing with the challenge to find the remaining funds to hire another position. The SSCB funds were used to hire a director. The IASWCD stepped up for the remaining funds to hire a communication person; this past June Lisa Holscher moved into the director

position and has been doing a wonderful job. Zimmerman has the confidence that CCSI will now be able to deliver one of the finest outreach programs in the nation. Les acknowledged Jennifer Boyle-Warner, who has been working with CCSI since 2008. Mrs. Boyle-Warner has been working behind the scenes and developing things for CCSI. Zimmerman thanked Jennifer Boyle-Warner for her continuous commitment to CCSI and without her dedication they would not be where they are today

b. Lisa Holscher – CCSI Director.

Holscher stated that she would talk about the previous year and then highlight some things that are coming down the pipeline for 2017. Holscher stated that CCSI is fully staffed. Lisa spoke about each of the new employees. In addition, Stacey Zuber, a post –doc, has been digging into the data that CCSI has been gathering for the past two years.

Holscher stated that since 2009 CCSI has reached over 3,000 ICP staff, farmers and ag professionals.

In 2016 – CCSI has reached out to 3000 people throughout these efforts. They are adding a few new things in 2017 including a train the trainers session in partnership with SARE. Taylor will be doing live streaming so that if the farmers or agency folks cannot make it to the workshop, then they can still receive the information.

In the world of research, we are pulling many samples every year, and in 2016 we added conventional tilled sites, which are close to the fields that are farmed with the conservation cropping systems.

Things to look forward to in 2017 – They are working on providing a more in depth analysis of what CCSI has been collecting. They are working on providing interim reports of what Stacey and Lisa have been doing with the soil health tests. Holscher wrapped up her presentation with Indiana’s cover crop success.

Chattin thanked Lisa and CCSI for all their hard work.

#### **IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

a. Approval of Recommendations for Appointment – Laura Fribley

The SSCB reviewed the excel document that list the SWCD county names and their suggestions for SSCB appointment to their Board of Supervisors. This information was gathered from the data that the districts imputed onto SharePoint.

Clemens moved that the board approved the names in your packet and Woodling seconded this motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

b. Floyd County – Laura Fribley

Fribley stated that Brad Hutchison resigned from Floyd SWCD. The district has recommend that Dennis Konkle be appointed as a temporary replacement.

Eddleman moved to accept the resignation and the appointment of Mr. Konkle to the board, seconded by Baird.

All in favor, motion passed.

c. Knox County – Laura Fribley

Fribley stated that Ray McCormick has resigned from Knox SWCD and the district has recommended that Eugene Flaningam be appointed as a temporary replacement.

Clemens moved to accept the resignation and the appointment of Mr. Flaningam to the board, seconded by Gentry.

All in favor, motion carried.

d. Ohio County – Laura Fribley

Fribley stated that Curtis Dugle has resigned from the Ohio SWCD board and the district has recommended to appoint Beth Terrill to complete the vacant term.

Gentry moved to accept the resignation and appoint Ms. Terrill to the board, seconded by Blanton.

All in favor, motioned passed.

e. Starke County – Laura Fribley

Fribley stated that Phillip Brown has resigned from the Starke SWCD board and the district has recommended to appoint Jeff Fosler to the district board. Baird moved to accept the resignation and appoint Mr. Fosler to the board, seconded by Woodling.

All in favor, motioned passed

## **VII. ISDA Updates**

a. Director's Report – Jordan Seger

Seger stated that he provided a written report and will be brief and highlight a portion, and then take questions. Seger went over his handouts and directed the board and audience to look at the big chart that shows our year-end goals. We have goals that are tied to Indiana CWI funds and DSC that come from cigarette funds. Seger stated that we have met all of our main goals in six of our project areas and that we far exceeded them, especially CREP which saw a record year in enrollment. Seger thanked those districts that update their data in SharePoint and calculate load reductions. He noted those counties that really stepped up and the ones that work with the INFA.

It is a long legislative session, the division does not have any specific bills, but we are tracking a few that could affect us. One is to increase the tax on cigarettes by

\$1.50. CWI funds are derived from the cigarette tax, and the State is also looking at increasing the legal age to smoke.

Seeger spoke about staffing. Currently, ISDA have one vacancy to fill.

**b. Technical report – Jennifer Thum**

Thum stated that a technical report was provided in the board packets. She stated that she wanted to recognize the ISDA Resource specialist and district staff for all of their hard work in 2016. They are the ones that really have the boots on the ground and are getting the conservation practices implemented. Thum discussed some of the numbers that were on the written report. This year, Thum wanted to know what projects the staff was most proud of, and our staff had many good examples. Thum highlighted one that Mike Johnson worked on in Harrison County, and one that RS Jill Krause worked on in Allen County. Jill Krause worked with a multi-generational conventional tilled farm. She built a relationship with family and sampled for the first time in 30 years. They are starting to implement conservation.

**c. Soil Health– Meg Leader**

Leader spoke about INFA and stated that it is funded for another year. They have added two additional groups, one from Steuben County and the other one from Rush County. She spoke about the upcoming trip to Iowa. Leader spoke about the recent National No-till conference, where six Indiana farmers and individuals received awards.

**d. Accountability and Technology – Jordan Seeger**

Seeger stated that he would be presenting Deb Fairhurst's report, and that she provided a written report to the board. Seeger highlighted the DSC KPI and program measure numbers. The division passed the green targets again this year. Seeger then went over the 2016 conservation workload.

**e. District Support Specialist – Laura Fribley**

Fribley stated that she provided a written report to the board. She stated that the written reports are going to appear different than they have in the past. For this board meeting, she will highlight a few projects that Nathan and she have been working on. She then spoke about the upcoming March region meetings.

**f. Water Quality and CREP – Julie Harrold**

Harrold stated that she provided a written report to the board, and that she would only highlight a few items. She mentioned that they had a record year with CREP. The annual CREP report can be viewed online. The total number of enrolled acres was 13,175.59. They are still awaiting word from EPA if the state's nutrient

reduction stagey has been approved, which is also available online. Harrold spoke about the Wester Lake Erie Basin Domestic Action Plan.

## **VIII Conservation Partner Reports**

### IASWCD – Jaime Scott

Scott stated that the IASWCD provided a written report. He did want to mentioned that they are pleased to have CCSI is up to full staff. The IASWCD has a proposal to the state legislature asking for an additional \$1 million for CWI funding. Lastly, Scott spoke about the one resolution that will be voted on by the members.

### IDEM

Provided a written report

### IDNR – No report

### Purdue – No report

### NRCS – Jane Hardisty

Hardisty stated that they had another great year, and thanked the SSCB for their leadership. Every year we are getting more and more conservation on the ground. Hardisty stated that the CSP is up and is becoming the biggest component of the farm bill programs. They are encouraging landowners to sign up for client gateway. The farmers can log in and see their plans, applications, and sign up on things; it is a new way to do business to make sure landowner have complete access to their information. We do not have a chief right now. Jason Weller has resigned. Hardisty spoke about the change in administration and that she is excited for good things to happen this year.

Chattin thanked Hardisty for all of her hard work and dedication to the partnership.

### **IDEA - Mary Lou Musselman**

Musselman spoke about the IDEA poster contest, specifically the vision and purpose of them. She then talked about the silent auction, and what the money is used for.

### **Public Comment**

Before Chattin opened the floor up for public comment, he handed his gavel over to Woodling. Chattin spoke about where the gavel came from.

Chattin opened it for public comment. There was no public comment.

Baird moved to adjourn the meeting, Blanton seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22pm.