

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

Minutes

April 21, 2020

Conference call

I. 9:30 am.: Call to Order

- a. Brad Dawson called the meeting to order at 9:31 am

II. Approve Minutes of January 2020

Brad had one correction.

Warren moved Kenny seconded it

All in favor, motion carried

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee- Amy Burris

- i. Amy went over the SSCB Grant Committee CWI documents that were in the SSCB packets. Due date for the CWI is 9-11-2020. We removed the restrictions rain barrels, we clarified that lead districts must meet the deadlines outlined in the code and districts must meet all CWI deadlines.
 - ii. There were a few questions and comments regarding flexibility of deadlines. Ray wanted additional flexibility with the deadlines. Warren referenced the statues and SSCB policy. The language was changed that all reports had to be up to date in terms of reporting.
 - iii. Kenny wanted to change pigweed to and all amaranth.
 1. All SSCB were in favor of this change
2. SWCD led grant guidelines and application template
 - i. Amy went over the changes that the grants committee recommended to the SWCD led grant guidelines.
 1. Due date is September 11th.
 2. Removed restrictions on rain barrels.
 3. Clarified that lead districts must meet deadlines as outlined in Indiana Code, and CWI grant reporting must be up to date.
 4. Changed "To verify that seed mixes are free of these species, a district can request the seed lab card from the distributor" to MUST request a seed lab card.
 5. Limited attachments to 3 pages versus 5 pages.
 6. Applications will NOT be blind scored this year.
 7. Removed Preventing Workplace Harassment Training and Success Stories from self-assessment.
 8. Removed Annual Financial Report entered into Gateway from deadline requirement.
 9. Removed Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment: Within 30 days of vacancy from deadline requirement.

Ray moved to approve the changes and Larry seconded the grant committee proposed changes for the CWI SWCD led guidelines.

All in favor, motion carried

3. Non-SWCD led grant guidelines and application template

Amy went over the guidelines and changes that were recommended. These were written in the CWI Grant Committee report.

They recommended that the Non-SWCD led grant would do away with the presentation if you have not received one before and instead applicants would

submit a concept paper to the SSCB. These would be reviewed at the July 21st meeting, and we will notify them if they are allowed to go forward with the rest of it.

Brad wanted to clarify if they don't submit a concept paper then they will not be allowed to submit a CWI application. There was discussion on this: If an applicant received CWI funds in the past they would not need to submit a concept paper. Then during the meeting we can say that we will move forward.

It was decided in the second paragraph that all those interested would have to submit a Concept Paper, and removed the part that if you did not submit a CWI application in the past, that you would not have to submit a concept paper. This is only for non-SWCD led.

Applications would be submitted by conservation groups.

Project dates are now standardized to begin on January 1st.

We changed the lab card for seed cards.

There was further discussion on the seed card/tag. Every bag in Indiana is required to have that tag on a bag of seed.

The applicant must submit the letter of support. Ray had an issue with this. If you take CCSI or SICIM, they can demonstrate support without getting a letter of support. This can be a burden to the non-SWCD led applicants. Amy – this could give background on why the District did not lead these grants. Brad – you don't have to do all 92, but it helps to have a few letters of support. Warren spoke about NRCS requirements for their projects. Jennifer stated that Non-SWCD only needs to have one District serve as a partner.

Kenny moved that we accept the CWI Grants Committee changes to Non-SWCD led grants. Bob seconded the motion

All in favor, motion carried.

b. Reporting requirements

1. Amy we went over those changes already.
2. Tara Wesseler-Henry went over the changes that were made to the reporting that will occur this year. The state will be getting a new reporting system called Grants Management Software (GMS). This is an online-based program, and the reporting would be able to do invoices, see any communications on this. Things might get delayed, going onward with 2021 they will be reporting on GMS. Leah is the lead on this: if you have specific questions, please ask Leah.
3. Clean Water Indiana Grants, 2nd round

Jordan – Similar to years past, there has been a later round of awarded grants on what remains within that CWI budget. Jordan went over this regarding our budget. We still need further clarification on this item before we can land at a specific dollar figure.

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

a. Business Plan- Brad Dawson

1. Brad went over where we are at in the process. Larry commented on it, and we could wordsmith, but the right words are there, they might not be there in the correct order.
2. Should we add the word resources --- under the mission of the SSCB?
3. Brad went through the rest of the document and offered the Board to comment on it.

1. Strategic Plan Vision

- a. No changes
- 2. Proposed High Level Goals and Action
 - a. No changes
- 3. Strategy Plans for CWI funding:
 - No changes

Larry, we did not intend to have LI a requirement, but we should not choose to do so at this time. Brad, we could add that next year if we see fit, since this is a living document.

- **‘Increase local SWCD capacity it be effective partners in the Indiana Conservation Partnership delivery of conservation across the state.**
 - This should say to be effective partners -----
- **Keep elected officials, local to state, informed on conservation progress and needs to reach statewide goals.**
 - Actions:**
No changes or comments
- **Report to IN [larger public] progress and concerns for the priority natural resources concerns.**
 - Actions:**
No changes or comments

Strategy Plans for CWI funding:

CWI Grants goals

No changes or comments

With those changes, is everyone satisfied?

Bob moved, and Kenny seconded to approve the business plan with the changes attached

All in favor

Motion carried

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- a. Benton SWCD- Geneva Tyler
 - Geneva presented the application from Benton for a temporary position **Mark Schulz**. The District missed the SharePoint deadline. The form was not complete. In the past the SSCB has approve them. Bob moved, and Kenny seconded to place this item on hold until we can get further information on Mr. Schulz
 - All in favor, motion passed.
 - Towards the end meeting, Ray made a motion to place this item back on the agenda, and Bob Seconded the motion. Ray moved, and Bob seconded
 - All in favor, motion passed
 - Bob moved to appoint Mark Schulz as the temporary appointment to the Benton SWCD, Kenny seconded this
 - All in favor, motion carried.
- b. Crawford SWCD- Laura Fribley
 - Laura presented the application from Crawford for a temporary position Dean Johnson.
 - Bob moved, and Warren seconded.
 - All in favor, motion carried
- c. Hamilton SWCD- Geneva Tyler
 - Geneva presented the application from Hamilton for a vacant position Amanda Eglar.
 - Kenny moved, and Warren seconded.
 - All in favor, motion carried
- d. Harrison SWCD- Laura Fribley
 - Laura presented the application from Harrison for a temporary position Michael Emellee.
 - Kenny moved, and Larry seconded.
- e. Henry SWCD- Tara Wessler-Henry
 - Tara presented the application from Henry for a temporary position James Turpin.
 - Warren moved, and Kenny seconded.

- f. Jay SWCD-Jennifer Thum
Jennifer presented the application from Jay for a temporary position Jordan Wahll.
Amy moved, and Larry seconded.
- g. Jefferson SWCD- Laura Fribley
Laura presented the application from Jefferson for a temporary elected position Janice Kleopfer
Kenny moved, and Larry seconded.
All in favor, motion carried.
- h. Montgomery SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
Nathan presented the application from Montgomery for a temporary elected position Joseph McCutchan
Kenny moved, and Warren seconded.
All in favor, motion carried
- i. Vermillion SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
Nathan presented the application from Vermillion for a vacant appointed position Angie Riggen.
This was moved by Warren to table it because the public office box was checked. Amy seconded this
All in favor, motion carried.
 - Towards the end of the meeting, Nathan heard from Vermilion that the public office box was check-in error. Warren pulled this from the table and Kenny seconded to vote on this item after the additional information was received.
All in favor, motion carried.
 Warren moved to go forward with the vacant appointment of Angie Riggen, and Kenny seconded this.
All in favor, motion carried.
- j. Vigo SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
Nathan presented the application from Vigo for a vacant appointment of Jeremy Sporer.
Bob moved, and Warren seconded.
All in favor, motion carried.
- k. Wells SWCD- Jennifer Thum
Jennifer presented the application from Wells for a vacant appointment of Jody Nusbaumer.
Warren moved, and Kenny seconded.
All in favor, motion carried.

VI. ISDA Updates

- a. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold
 - i. Julie was able to secure additional CREP support. She was able to get \$500,000 from Indiana wildlife foundation. This was part of an APE settlement.

IX. Public Comment

Ray had a comment on the SICMS – about the first statewide conference. They had to stop reservation at 300. He commented on Senate Bill 99 as well.

Leah we finished up the ICP accomplishments and it's on their website.

Kenny spoke about the CCSI oversight committee and the billboard campaign.

X. Next Meeting:

2020 Meeting Dates

May 19, TBD

July 21, NRCS State Office

September 15, NRCS State Office

October 27, TBD

XI. Adjourn

Kenny moved, and Warren seconded.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.