

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 17 2012, 1:00 PM
Community Center at Hummel Park
1500 S Center Street
Plainfield, IN 46168

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Bill Mann

Others in Attendance:

Sarah Simpson ISDA
Jordan Seger ISDA
Jim Lake ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Deb Fairhurst ISDA
Jim Woody ISDA
Logan Garner ISDA
Laura Fribley ISDA
Tara Henry ISDA
Geneva Rawlins ISDA
Cress Hizer
Angela Garrison, NRCS
George Reger, ISDA
Sarah Wolf ISDA
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD
Jessica Norcross, Hendricks SWCD
Harold Thompson, ICP

- I. 1:00 PM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of September 2012**
September minutes to be approved at December 2012 meeting
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
- a. Budget Update**—Sarah Simpson (See Attachments)
Currently, we are on track with spending with a couple noted exceptions. The first line (Personal Services) is under budget due to the open positions of WLEB and Upper White Watershed CREP leader Resource Specialists. Both of those positions are in the works with SPD. The \$660,000 for CREP (Contracted Services line) will be encumbered soon. The Administrative & Operating Expenses are low, but the busy season is January to March. Deb Fairhurst asked where new computers for staff would be paid from. Jennifer Pinkston said that expense would come from the Division of Soil Conservation operating budget.
- b. CREP Report**-Logan Garner (See Attachments)
Since the last CREP report, ten additional practices have been completed, totaling 140 acres. See attached CREP report for additional details. The Healthy Rivers Initiative has generated interest in the program. Logan is working with FSA to push more local promotion of the program. The CREP steering committee will meet at the end of October.
- c. 2013 Grant Applications**-Grants Committee (See Attachments)
The District Support Specialists and the grants committee met to review the 25 applications last Due to budget decreases, the grants committee is recommending reducing the maximum amount for each grant to \$70,000. The DSSs identified the top 11 applications and use a score card to rank each one. With the reduction in total funding amounts, and removing some equipment requests, the grants committee recommends funding nine grants. Bob Eddleman asked what kind of verification we have that all participating districts have reviewed and agreed to be a part of the project. Jim Lake said this is a trust issue with the districts. Warren suggested we consider adding a signature page for all districts to sign in the next round. Nola suggested requiring all

boards, or committees with representatives from each board, meet to review application prior to submissions.

Nola moved to approve the 2013 CWI Grants Recommendations. Warren seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Temporary Supervisor Appointments-Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachments)

i. Fayette SWCD

Tara reported Fayette County SWCD did not hold an election last year because they were unable to find a candidate. They have now found a candidate. Bob moved to approve appointment. Bill seconded. Motion approved.

ii. Vanderburgh SWCD

Laura reported the current supervisor had to resign due to personal reasons. The requested candidate works for Fish and Wildlife and is excited about the new opportunity. Nola moved to approve. Bill Seconded. Motion approved.

b. Election Dates and Reminders-Jim Lake

November 1-Deadline for election committees to be formed and posted on sharepoint
December 1-Deadline for nominees for election.

V. SSCB Reports

a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Larry Clemens

Larry requested board members review the draft letter from the board to the legislators. This letter will accompany the 2011 CWI Grant report reviewed and approved earlier this year. The board will work with IASWCD to see the letter is distributed. At the end of the year, Larry's two year term as chairman will end. Nola volunteered to work with Larry to select new officers and committees. The Task Force Report is circulating around with districts. Some feedback has been received, but still looking for more from districts. The report will be a topic of discussion at region meetings. Two task force members will moderate a round table session at IASWCD annual conference as well. Bob noted there have been discussions at SWCD board meetings about the report. Bob said the Marion County SWCD chairperson has asked all supervisors to review the report and will devote time at their next meeting to discuss it.

b. SSCB Attendance at Region Meetings

State Soil Board members will attend region meetings to further discuss report with districts.

c. IASWCD Annual Conference

All members present will attend annual conference. Board members will register for conference themselves and notify Jackie Addison at ISDA if they require hotel reservations. ISDA will book the rooms and pay for them directly.

VI. ISDA Reports

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

Sarah Wolf is the newest Resource Specialist to join ISDA. She is located in the Jasper county office. On September 24, the division held an all staff meeting at Eagle Creek Park to recognize the 25 year anniversary for eight field staff. This year also marks the 35 year anniversary for one staff member. In an effort to reflect the nutrient load reductions resulting from conservation practices installed by Division field staff and calculated with the Region 5 model, Deb is creating maps which feature the sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen savings by HUC 8 watersheds. Once the data is revised and the maps are completed, Deb intends to share these maps with Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD Director, so Jennifer can feature the Division's impact on water quality during CWI and DSC budget discussions with legislators in the upcoming 2013 session. Deb, as per Joe Kelsay's request, conducted an analysis and compiled a list of the top conservation practices for reducing sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus, based on conservation practices installed by Division field staff. Deb is awaiting feedback from the Team Leaders in regards to the outcome.

b. Agricultural Affairs Report-Jordan Seger

Jordan gave a phone interview with WFIU related to cover crops, drought, and soil health. Joe Kelsay put out op/ed piece on cover crops particularly, related to drought, that has been widely read and appreciated. Jordan reported the last replicated strip trial was completed yesterday. Jordan is currently scheduling winter group meetings for December and January.

c. District Support Update-Jim Lake

The District Support Specialists have been working on updating a district self assessment tool. The tool allows supervisors to review the strengths and weaknesses in their district and use this information to update business plans and/or plans of work. Posey County SWCD is administering the disaster grant in the D4 designated counties. Several requests for cost share were received-many more than could be funded. Orange County SWCD was able to use their CWI grant funds to offer cost share to those in their county not funded through WHIP or other cost share programs. Laura noted Jackson County has completed their audit and that report has been released. Due to findings, Larry would like a letter sent to supervisors to remind them of their duty to carefully review expenditures to ensure funds are being spent appropriately.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD Report-Jennifer Boyle Warner

Jennifer Boyle-Warner reported the region meetings are coming up. This is a good opportunity to get feedback for the task force. Registration is now open for annual conference. All supervisors listed in SharePoint were mailed a brochure as well as information on the scholarships available. IASWCD will offer \$5,000 in scholarships (full or partial) for supervisors to attend. The association signed the contract for years four and five of CCSI. The Conservation Innovation Grant started September 1. They are currently advertising for the program manager position. IASWCD is finalizing their platform for the upcoming legislative session. Included will be a \$1M general fund request for Clean Water and an additional general fund request for Division of Soil Conservation operating funds. The 1M request is intended to cover programs that have already been cut or reduced.

b. IDEM Report-No Report

c. DNR Report-No Report

d. Purdue Report-No Report

e. FSA Report-No Report

f. NRCS Report-Angela Garrison (See Attachment)

The NRCS Soil Survey Regional Offices are being restructured. Now, they will fall under the nation Soil Science and Resource Assessment Division. Since the Indiana leader, Travis Neely, also served as the Indiana NRCS State Soil Scientist, Indiana NRCS has hired a new State Soil Scientist on the State Conservationist's staff. Gary Struben began in this position on October 7.

VIII. Public Comment

Harrold Thompson, coordinator of the training and certification team, presented updates for the program (See Attachments).

IX. Next Meeting: December 12, 2012 9:30 am at The Nature Conservancy (620 E Ohio St, Indianapolis)

X. Adjourn

Warren moved to adjourn. Nola seconded. Adjourned 3:18 pm

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:

--	--

DRAFT