

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 9, 2008
Indiana State Library
History Reference Room #211
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Attended

Warren Baird
Gary Conant
Jim Cherry
Nola Gentry
Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann

Others in Attendance

Tammy Lawson, ISDA
Jerod Chew, ISDA
Kelly Gentry, ISDA
Cris Goode, ISDA
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Sara Slater-Atwater, ISDA
Amy Eizinger-Otto, ISDA
Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD

- I. 9:10 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of November 2008**

Bill Mann moved to approve the minutes as presented. Warren Baird seconded and the motion carried.

III. Leadership Development

- A. District Requests – Kelly Gentry – No Request**
- B. CWI Requests – Amy Eizinger – No Request**
- C. SSCB Chairman’s Report – Nola Gentry – No Report**

IV. Division Report

A. CREP Update – Tammy Lawson – See Attachment

1. CREP Amendment and Timeline – Tammy Lawson

Lawson reported there will be a preliminary meeting with USDA and GeoMarine this afternoon to discuss the CREP Environmental Assessment that will be ready by early March to fulfill the requirements to agree to the amendment. The process is moving along as planned.

B. Clean Water Indiana Grants – Amy Eizinger – See Attachment

Along with Amy’s comments, Lawson reported the Indiana Certified Crop Advisors have an annual meeting on December 17th and the Division of Soil Conservation has been asked to present the CCI Program to a breakout session.

1. ECAP report and Recommendations – Sara Slater-Atwater – See Attachment

Slater-Atwater reported about 100 dam and levee issues through our assessments, DNR, the disaster hotline, and Office of Rural Affairs. Assistance for these structures is typically not covered by any federal programs. She also reported we have received a few cost estimates ranging from \$10,000 to several million. Most of these structures are private, but it is unclear exactly how many.

C. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew – See Attachments

Chew reported our Team Leader in the Southeast Region, Frank Hodges, has left to work for NRCS. Mike Johnson will be taking over as acting Team Leader in that region. Cassandra Vondran is serving as the Team Leader in the Central Northeast Region as well as replacing Ross Egenolf in the Western Lake Erie Basin Project.

Chew also reported examples to elaborate on the approximate value of the Division of Soil Conservation's Resource Specialists in terms of the leveraged financial benefits to the state of Indiana as well as the environmental benefits. He also mentioned he has received comments of appreciation for the work that our technical field staff has accomplished especially in light of this year's disaster recovery efforts.

Lawson stated the Division recognizes how accepting, trusting and flexible our staff have been, all while maintaining positive attitudes and high spirits. She also mentioned that the partnership accountability and tracking system has been insufficient and challenging over the past four years and hopes to improve the process over the next four years.

D. District Support Update – Tammy Lawson

Lawson reported Sara Slater-Atwater will continue to stay on as central staff until the end of the year. Jim Lake has helped address the role the DSC plays in the Great Lakes Region. She also mentioned DSSs have had SWCD staff meetings in their region. She will get the dates of those meeting to the SSCB so they can attend.

Leadership Institute – Cris Goode

Goode reported this year's Leadership Institute workshops are complete. They have been focused on levels 1 and 2. She is currently working on an overview report for the next SSCB meeting. This will include attendance numbers and comments made about the workshops. She also mentioned they are working on getting a Leadership Institute promo DVD out to all SWCDs.

N. Gentry mentioned she attended the November Leadership Institute workshop in New Harmony. She reported nearly 50 people were in attendance. She stated there was a nice mixture of SWCD supervisors and staff. She believes everyone got something out of the workshop and it gave them a chance to network with each other. N. Gentry went on the thank Cris Goode for all of her work on the Leadership Institute.

E. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

1. SSCB Sub-Committee Reports and Recommendations

a. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations – Nola Gentry

i. Shareholder Input Gathering Update – Cris Goode

Goode reported there has been a delay in the contract process. It is currently in the final signature process. She stated in the meantime they have been working on research. Once the contract is complete we will meet with the vendor and get everyone up to speed.

b. CWI Grants Committee Report and Recommendations – Warren Baird – See Attachment

Lawson reported 14 of the 35 counties have allocated the first fifty percent of their ECAP funds and some have allocated the seconded fifty percent. Those counties that have not allocated their first round of funds (50%) by January 1, 2009 will have the second round of funding swept back to CWI.

Lawson also mentioned \$20K of the remaining \$260K was used for a radio campaign to exhaust all efforts on getting help to landowners. There were less than twenty calls or emails from that campaign. We still have the \$240K left to invest.

N. Gentry asked if we will know how much will be swept back by January 10, 2009. Eizinger replied yes. Lawson also mentioned we will work with SWCDs until the spring to help them allocate the original 50% of the money. Our goal is to help them allocate that money so that a sweep will not be needed.

Baird made a motion to approve a Grants Committee recommendation to allocate the remaining \$240 thousand CWI funds to the ECAP program. These new funds will go to SWCDs that did not receive prior ECAP funds or those counties that already exceeded their initial ECAP funds and need more. The new ECAP funds may include levee and dam repairs and non-urban land. The CWI Grants Committee and ISDA will oversee the new funds along with input from DNR. Cherry seconded. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

The board came to an agreement to table the recommendation to sweep ECAP funds until they have a report in January.

c. District Capacity Committee Report and Recommendations – Bob Eddleman – No Report

V. Dates for 2009 SSCB Meetings – Nola Gentry

The board decided to schedule one meeting per month for 2009 with the intentions of canceling those that are not needed. The board decided to schedule three of the meetings throughout the state. Those locations include Rochester, Richmond and Terre Haute

- January 12, 2009 at 8:30 AM during Annual Conference at the Hyatt downtown Indianapolis.
- February 10, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- March 10, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- April 14, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- May 12, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- June 9, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- July 14, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- August 11, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- September 8, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- October 13, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- November 10, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD
- December 8, 2009 at 9:00 AM. Location: TBD

VI. Leadership Development Workgroup Update – Jennifer Boyle – No Report

VII. Delivery System Workgroup Update – Jerod Chew – No Report

VIII. Funding Workgroup Update – Bob Eddleman – No Report

IX. Accountability Workgroup Update – Deb Fairhurst – No Report

X. Technology Workgroup Update – Jane Hardisty – No Report

XI. Outreach Workgroup Update – Jim Droege – No Report

XII. Conservation Partner Reports

A. ISDA Report – Tammy Lawson

1. New Director – Tammy Lawson

Lawson reported the new ISDA Director will be Anne Hazlett. Hazlett will be coming in on the 19th of this month for an ISDA staff meeting. She plans to be full time after January 12th. Hazlett has been in Washington D.C. for the past two years working on Senate Ag Committee for the new Farm Bill. Prior to Washington, Hazlett was the Chief of Staff for the Lt. Governor Skillman. She knows the history of ISDA and will help finalize our strategic plan. ISDA is excited to Hazlett to come on board. We will greatly miss Andy Miller and Ken Klemme and acknowledge what a great job they have done.

2. State Budget Restrictions – Tammy Lawson

Lawson mentioned that “pay for performance” is the employee performance review done each year on every state employee. The State has not announced what the pay increase may be. For

the past 3 years the average raise was 4%. This year will be tight so it is anticipated that there may not be any performance raises.

Lawson also mentioned the State of Indiana is in a hiring freeze. Indiana is one of 9 states with a positive budget and reserve. ISDA will follow the hiring freeze.

- B. DNR Report – Gary Langell**
- B. IDEM Report – Marylou Renshaw**
- C. Purdue Report – Gary Steinhardt**
- D. IASWCD President’s Report – Jim Droege**
- E. Farm Services Agency Report – Gail Peas**
- F. NRCS State Conservationist’s Report – Jane Hardisty – See Attachment**
- G. SWCD Foundation Report – Christa Jones**

XIII. Public Comment –

Baird asked the board to allocate \$1500 to the Pathway to Water Quality. PWQ is ready to make the display open to other events, not just the state fair. This will allow districts to promote their programs beyond the fair. Baird also mentioned the funds will help cover the extra seven days of the fair. Lawson suggested putting together a proposal from the PWQ committee explaining what they need. This will help Eizinger on an accountability aspect. N. Gentry asked to table the issue until the next board meeting once a proposal is received.

XIV. Next Meeting: Monday, January 12, 2009 at 8:30 AM at the Hyatt Downtown Indianapolis during the Annual Conference

XV. Adjourn: 11:40 AM