

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2011
NRCS
6013 Lakeside Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Members in Attendance:

Larry Clemens
Scott Ham
Bob Eddleman
Brett Glick

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Jordan Seger ISDA
Roz Leeck ISDA
Geneva Rawlins ISDA
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Hans Kok CCSI
Paul Hoffman ISDA
Laura Fribley ISDA
Dale Sides Jefferson Co SWCD
Scheryl Vaughn Boone Co. SWCD
Jane Hardisty, NRCS
Mike Pittman Jefferson Co SWCD
Linda Pittman
Steve Riley Jefferson Co SWCD
Wes Thomas Jefferson Co SWCD
Joe Ferguson Jefferson Co SWCD
Beth Mason NACD
Bill Lambert NRCS/LDP

I. 9:00 AM: Call to Order

II. Draft Minutes of January 2011

Scott Ham moved to approve the January 2011 minutes as presented. Bob Eddleman seconded and the motion carried.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. 2010 and Prior Grants Paul Hoffman– See Attachment

Paul Hoffman reported 29 districts have submitted their final report for the 2009 grants. Two districts had extended their grant until March 31, 2011. For the 2010 grants, 2 districts have sent in their final reports and have been paid in full. 12 districts have submitted their supervisor training reimbursements and have been paid. 15 districts have submitted their final report on SharePoint and are in the payment process. 63 districts have been extended to March 31, 2011; 6 more requested additional extensions (see below). For the 2011 grant cycle, 85 of the 88 have been paid the initial 75% with the other three in the payment process.

i. Grants Extensions

1. Lawrence Cty – extension for grid sampling due to weather conditions – July 31, 2011. Scott Ham motioned to approve; Brett Glick seconded; motion carried.
2. Owen Cty – extension due to CIT workload, dry conditions for seeding – June 30, 2011 Scott Ham motioned to approve; Brett Glick seconded; motion carried.
3. Franklin Cty – extension for grid sampling due to weather conditions – June 30, 2011 Scott Ham motioned to approve; Brett Glick seconded; motion carried.
4. Perry Cty – extension – June 30, 2011 Scott Ham motioned to approve; Brett Glick seconded; motion carried.

5. Elkhart Cty – extension due to new hire – September 30, 2011 Scott Ham motioned to approve; Brett Glick seconded; motion carried.
6. Hancock Cty –October 31, 2011 Scott Ham motioned to approve; Brett Glick seconded; motion carried.

b. 2011 Grants Program- Laura Fribley

The 2011 CWI Watershed Grant Program applications are due March 25. Laura noted between 11 and 16 applications are anticipated.

c. CREP- Jerod Chew—See Attachment

i. CREP Update and Report

As of February, 793 contracts have been paid. These 793 contracts represent 5,455 acres of practices installed on the ground providing water quality and wildlife benefits. 1.3 Million dollars in state funds through Clean Water Indiana have been utilized.

d. CWI Budget- Jerod Chew—see attachment

The fiscal year 2011 Clean Water Budget allotments were \$3,116,642 which is the \$3.6M less the required 15% reserve. 22% of the CWI budget is for ISDA staff who directly support districts, administer CWI funds, or implement CREP(11 positions-one currently vacant). All spending YTD is on track with initially approved budget.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Supervisor Requests -- Jerod Chew—See attachments

- i. Gibson County—motion approved
- ii. Marshall County—motion approved
- iii. Hancock County—motion approved

b. Jefferson County Election—See Attachments

The Board heard comments from parties associated with the Jefferson County SWCD on the circumstances associated with the Jefferson County Supervisor election. The Board discussed the situation and agreed to seek legal advice/interpretation for the following: Determine what is the State Soil Conservation Board's authority regarding the local election and any other information that may help to bring resolve to this situation with the Jefferson County SWCD?

Recorded information is available upon request

c. Upcoming Dates

The State Soil Board will meet April 12, 2011 at The Nature Conservancy, Efrogmson Conservation Center at 9:00 am.

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Larry Clemens

Larry commented that the Board's focus should remain on its strategic plan and continuing to implement it throughout the State. Larry would also like someone from the State Board of Health to discuss septic issues at meeting in the near future to increase awareness and knowledge of the issue.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report

i. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

Until recently the ISDA-Division of Soil Conservation has had 3 Resource Specialist vacancies. ISDA has been able to fill two of those vacancies and these individuals are on staff and present with us today. Jerod introduced Jordan Seger, who will be working out of Rensselaer, and Geneva Rawlins, who will be working out of Franklin. We are currently working on filing a third vacant position within the Division as well. Sara Christensen's last day with ISDA will be April 1. Sara has been an important part of the team and we wish her the best in future endeavors. We anticipate that we will receive approval to fill her position in the near future. Conservation technical assistance tracking through SharePoint is working well and we hope to continue encouraging SWCD technical input through this system as well for further accountability of the impact of conservation assistance occurring throughout the state.

ii. District Support Update – Laura Fribley

Districts are finishing up their annual meetings with only a handful left this month. New staff and supervisor trainings are scheduled for March 15, 17, 22 and 24. The next Leadership Institute will be in Daviess County at the Gasthof Amish Village in Montgomery. We have 17 supervisors, 1 associate supervisor, 7 staff, and 4 guests signed up.

iii. Agriculture Affairs Update – Roz Leeck

Roz will be presenting with Hans Kok at the upcoming staff and supervisor trainings. On-Farm Network® has been received very well. There is significant interest from SWCDs and farmers. It looks as though there will be 8-10 groups for 2011 crop year. We are continuing to assist in trainings for the Certified Livestock Producer Program.

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

The new officers are Ray McCormick, president; Jeff Meinders, vice president; Jamie Scott, treasurer and; Brian Campbell, secretary. Discussion regarding the Accountability document approved by the SSCB which ties SWCD to statute and what steps are left to take to keep this moving forward.

Each week, Jennifer sends out a legislative update. Here are a few updates on current bills:

- i.** SB 1348-Soil and water conservation districts. Amends the statement of the general assembly's policy on the management of soil and water resources to include the goal of protecting and improving soil quality. Eliminates the condition that, to be an elected supervisor on the governing body of a soil and water conservation district, an individual must occupy a tract of land larger than ten acres. Changes certain voting procedures. Requires the supervisors of a district to provide supervision for employees of the district. Generally authorizes the use of money in the clean water Indiana fund to qualify for federal matching funds. (Under current law, the fund can be used to qualify for federal matching funds only if the federal matching funds are for county soil survey computerization.)
- ii.** HB 1343- (language update) Allows money in the lake and river enhancement fund to be used in projects such as sediment removal, control of exotic or invasive plants or animals, or removal of logjams or obstructions. Passed House and is now at the Senate.
- iii.** SB 375- Sustainable natural resource task force. Establishes the sustainable natural resource task force to: (1) collect programmatic and funding data on current natural resource protection programs in Indiana; (2) perform a needs assessment concerning natural resource programs; and (3) collect information concerning the natural resource protection programs of other states, including information about funding and funding mechanisms for those programs. Establishes reporting requirements. Provides that the task force expires May 1, 2013.– Passed the Senate.

e. FSA Report

No Report

f. NRCS State Conservationist's Report – Jane Hardisty (see attachment)

Staff are currently working to obligate funds from current budget. The President’s FY12 budget has not been finalized yet. Current staffing levels are still well below previous years’ levels, but we are adding 2 easement staff members in the State office to administer these for programs such as WRP and FEP. In the future, there will also be area staff with these responsibilities. Atypical for previous years, not all of the WRP acres are obligated at this time and NRCS is looking at methods for further promoting this program. Seeking assistance from partners for promoting WRP.

See attached report for program updates.

- VIII. Public Comment – no public comment**
- IX. Next Meeting: April 12 Indianapolis—The Nature Conservancy**
- X. Adjourn 12:10 PM**

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:

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