

**Meeting Minutes**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**October 23, 2018**

**Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion**

Board Members Present:

Robert Woodling  
Bob Eddleman

Kenny Cain  
Brad Dawson

Larry Clemens  
Ray Chattin

Board Members Not Present:

Warren Baird

Others in Attendance:

Jordan Seger  
Leah Harmon  
George Reger  
Kim Peterson  
Amy Work

Geneva Tyler  
Becky Daugherty  
Ron Orebaugh  
Jared O'Brien  
Jerod Chew

Julie Morris  
Derek Schmitt  
John Hazlett  
Susan Hovermale  
Walt Sell

**I. 8:34 am CT.: Call to Order:** Robert called the meeting to order.

**II. Approve Minutes of September 2018**

Ray Chattin moved to approve the minutes of the September 2018 meeting. Bob Eddleman seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**III. Clean Water Indiana**

**a. Approve Clean Water Indiana Budget-Jordan Seger**

As approved at the September meeting, CWI grants are allocated \$1.2 million, which is an increase from previous years. After funding the IASWCD and SICIM at the last meeting, \$1.07 is available for distribution today.

**b. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon**

Leah state that she is working on closing out 2016 grants by the end of the year and will be working on getting the AFR spreadsheets ready for districts. ISDA is moving forward with a new grants management software which should be ready to go for next year's grants. It will track the entire process from application to closeout and will replace some but not all of SharePoint reporting. The software is a Salesforce project and will be used throughout the Lieutenant Governor's Family of Business.

**1. Delaware County SWCD- Leah Harmon**

Delaware County is requesting a change to their 2017 CWI grant. Due to the size of the modification it is coming before the entire SSCB per the CWI communications policy. The district is seeking to redistribute \$20,000. Tara and Leah met with the district last week to review details of the project and get clarity on the modification request, as requested by the SSCB at the September meeting.

The modification contains 5 parts.

- i. Removal of the Deer Creek Bank Stabilization project- this project has stalled due to a landowner dispute and will not be completed in the life of the CWI grant.
- ii. Addition of funding to the Walnut Creek Engineering Study. This would raise the total of CWI funds to this project to \$10,860 from \$5,000. This study has been completed.
- iii. Allocation of funds to the Marion Dam Removal Study. This would be a new project to the CWI grant. Grant County SWCD returned LARE funds to DNR due to staff turnover, but partnering SWCDs, agencies and interested parties are still

interested in moving forward with the dam removal project. They are trying to see if DNR will permit a change in sponsorship or reapply. The board voiced concerns regarding how low head dam removal supports the CWI stature and goals of improving water quality and controlling erosion. In support, removal of the dam allows freer water movement and mussel and fish migration. The requested funds would not be for the actual dam removal but will be used for a study and data collection process that will validate the removal of the dam. It is anticipated that funding for the dam removal will come from Fish/Wildlife or other private/public funds.

- iv. Addition of the Walnut Creek Design Project to the CWI grant in the amount of \$5,390. This is the second phase of the Walnut Creek Engineering Study. This study would help to design the solutions to problems identified in phase 1. The drainage board is expected to fund implementation.
- v. The addition of equipment modification and invasive species removal to the grant's existing cost share program. This has been driven by interest in the project. Producers are asking for both practices.  
The board discussed the merits of each proposed item as well as precedent within the CWI program. The board chose to vote on each item separately.

Item 1- Removal of Deer Creek Stabilization: No action needed

Item 2- Walnut Creek Engineering Study: Bard moved to deny the request. Larry seconded. Motion Passed

Item 3- Marion Dam Removal Study: Larry Moved to Deny the Request. Ray seconded. Motion passed.

Item 4- Walnut Creek Design Project: Brad moved to deny the request. Kenny seconded. Motion passed.

Item 5- Addition of cost share practices: Bob moved to approve. Ray seconded. Motion passed.

**c. CWI Committee Report- Bob Eddleman and Ray Chattin**

The grants committee met last week to discuss the ranking of proposals. The program received 31 applications representing 48 districts. The total request was down from last year with a total of \$1.727 million requested. The average request was also lower. The committee recommends funding 20 proposals totaling \$1.05 million. (see handout) Grants that were recommended for partial funding will have 30 days to submit an amended budget. If those partially funded proposals decline to move forward, the committee did discuss the next several proposals in the ranking for consideration. Five grants are recommended for partial funding. Overall, grants were well written and the ranking process was pretty close.

Similar to previous years, the committee also recommended allocating \$30,000 for training reimbursement. Some funds have already been allocated for training in the CWI budget, so the committee recommends to bring that balance to \$30,000. The committee also recommends \$2,750 for grant writing training. The two held in 2018 were successful and the committee recommends duplicating them in other regions of the state.

Brad made the motion to approve the recommendations of the committee. Kenny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

**a. Chairman's Report**

Robert deferred his time to the end of the meeting.

**b. ICP MOU**

Bob motioned to approve the ICP MOU. Kenny seconded. Motion passed.

**V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**a. Sexual Harassment Training for SWCD Supervisors-Jordan Seger**

Jordan presented the board with a draft memo to be approved. He reiterated that this is a proactive measure and not a reaction to a situation. SWCDs will have access to a webinar based training from the State. DSSs will lead this effort. Training completion will be documented and will have a refresher every 3 years.

Brad moved to adopt this strategy. Larry seconded. Motion passed.

**b. St Joseph SWCD- Geneva Tyler**

St Joseph SWCD recommended Dave Craft to replace Stacey Silvers who passed away.

Brad moved to approve. Kenny seconded. Motion passed.

**VI. 10 Minute Break**

**VII. ISDA Updates**

**a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger**

2 SSCB reappointments are still in the pipeline with the Governor's office along with 1 new appointment. Leah will not reach out to all grantees and finalized a press release which will go out soon. Robert will have a chance to review the release and add a quote to it. Jordan reported that with the exception of the director, the Division of Soil Conservation is fully staffed. He also reported that rural broadband and industrial hemp will be big topics in the legislative session. Big topics of discussion for the farm bill are CRP and SNAP. Jordan reported that record yields and production are projected so the state is preparing for storage issues and potential emergency storage.

Jordan, Jeff Cummins, and Bruce Kettler visited Washington, D.C. recently. They met with Undersecretary Northey to discuss aggregation of data, the need for larger basin modeling, and the ICP MOU.

Jordan and Bruce have also met with the IASWCD to discuss legislative proposals.

**b. Technical Report- George Reger**

George presented information from the north northwest and south northwest tech teams. See handout for a breakdown of practices installed and those in construction. Infield Advantage has wrapped up for the year. Resource specialists are gearing up for the fall cover crop transect.

**c. Soil Health-Jordan Seger**

Jordan directed the board to Meg's written report. Corn stalk nitrate sampling should be complete. The annual Infield Advantage appreciation luncheon will be November 8<sup>th</sup>. Meg is working to schedule winter grower meetings. Similar to last year there will be some regional meetings throughout the state.

**d. Accountability and Technology- Jordan Seger**

Jordan pointed to Deb's written report. He stated that the fall transect should be underway and districts will be completing a spring transect in 2019.

**e. District Support-Geneva Tyler**

Geneva stated that the DSS team held one more region meeting and has the Northwest meeting coming up in November. The DSS team will host 2 Leadership Institutes in November as well as a State Board of Accounts workshop on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

Jordan directed the board to Julie's written report. New contracts has been sent to the 10 administrating SWCDs.

Jordan thanked Robert for his service to the board since this is Robert's last meeting.

**VIII. Conservation Partner Reports**

**a. IASWCD Report**

Amy thanked everyone for attending the district showcase. The board discussed the Pathway to Water Quality coordinator position and asked how difficult the organization of Pathway would be without a coordinator. Amy stated it would be very difficult. The board asked Leah to follow up for future discussion.

**b. IDEM Report: No Report**

**c. DNR Report: No Report**

**d. Purdue Report**

Walt stated that the One Water Conference is coming up. It will be December 11-13 in Indianapolis. Walt encouraged anyone interested in water quality to attend.

**d. FSA Report**

Susan Hovermale stated that FSA is on a pause due to the Farm Bill. FSA field offices currently do not have the capacity to issue cost share or incentive payments, even on current obligations or practices installed. FSA has been authorized for some trade assistance. In Indiana, it is affecting primarily soybean and hog producers. FSA is asking for farmers to come in with bushel. The agency is also working on record cleanup including confirming HEL fields.

**e. NRCS Report**

Jerry Raynor sent his apologies for not being able to attend. Jerod presented Jerry's report, which Leah will distribute to the board. SWCDs are currently hosting local working groups which are to be complete by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. EQIP rollout trainings are coming up around the state. NRCS is also waiting on Farm Bill details. They are placing emphasis on ephemeral gullies and how they can be fixed.

**f. CCSI Report**

Lisa sent a written report. Bob stated that he has received a voicemail from Lisa saying that applications for the open program manager position have been strong.

**g. IDEA Report: No Report**

**h. IANA Report: No Report**

### **VIII. Chairman's Report**

Robert is stepping away from the board. His replacement, Amy Burris, is awaiting appointment from the Governor's office. This process has been slow. Larry will run the January meeting at which time there will be a reformation of officers and committees. Robert stated that it has been a pleasure to work with all of the partners and wished them the best moving forward. IASWCD is going for a significant request during the legislative session. Soil is the number one asset of our state and it is a crime not to protect it. Please, make the request and move forward. The farming community and environmental groups are behind you.

### **IX. Public Comment**

Brad asked about the Delaware modification and whether the funding had been reallocated to cost share. The discussion was open ended so that the SWCD could use their discretion for the funding to go into cost share.

### **X. Adjourn 10:38 a.m. CT**