

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 14, 2010
NRCS
6013 Lakeside Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Members in Attendance:

Nola Gentry
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Warren Baird

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Sara Christensen ISDA
Roz Leeck ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Janice Bullman IASWCD
Paul Hoffman ISDA
Tara Henry ISDA
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Cheryl Vaughn Boone Co. SWCD
Jane Hardisty, NRCS

I. 9:13 AM: Call to Order

II. Draft Minutes of July 2010

Bob Eddleman moved to approve the July 2010 minutes as presented. Bill Mann seconded and the motion carried.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. 2010 and Prior Grants Paul Hoffman— See Attachment

Paul Hoffman reported the 2006 grants are completed. All districts have sent in final reports. One district will be returning funds to us. The 2007 grants are completed. Hoffman reported some of the 2008 grant funds that were unused will be reverting back to Cigarette Tax Fund. Hoffman reported the 2009 grants have a balance of \$8372; 18 districts have sent in final reports and 5 districts with amendments will be submitting final reports ASAP.

i. Grant Requests

No Requests

ii. Grants Extension

No Extension Requests

b. 2011 Grants Program- Nathan Stoelting

Due to many numerous questions regarding the \$1,000 incentive, Nathan requested clarification for districts. Warren Baird and Nola Gentry discussed requirements for the use of those funds and concluded as long as a portion of the incentive is used in a multi district project, the balance could be spent in other areas as listed in the grant, excluding training. As a reminder, the 2011 Grant Requests are due October 15. Bob Eddleman moved the Grants Committee be empowered to receive, review and award grants and report results in November SSCB meeting. Larry Clemens seconded the motion; motion carried.

c. CREP- Sara Christensen—See Attachment

i. CREP Update and Report

All 11 watersheds are now eligible for CREP sign-up. Attached report does not show obligated; only paid contracts, broken down by practice. Sara noted frequency of practices in each watershed are available in attached report. Staff is now using SharePoint for CREP reporting. Noted changes to CREP: CP23 and CP23A will be altered to ensure higher level of wetland protection. CP21 will use the 393 specs.

ii. CREP Local Administration

All SWCDs will be using SharePoint for CREP reporting. Partnership trainings will occur in October with round table discussions broken up by watershed. There will be 2 dates; one north and south. Funding for each watershed will be based on eligible acres

d. CWI Budget- Jerod Chew

Previous staff switch has been approved and implemented. CWI now supports 11 staff. The current appropriation for CWI is 3.6M. The State is requiring a 15% reserve. Clemens asked if reserve can be used if necessary. Pinkston commented that reserves may not be available as Cigarette Tax revenues have been declining.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Ohio County- Tara Henry

Tara reported Brett Glick and Paula Baldwin met with Ohio County Board. Communications from previous Chair and Auditor were not available. Tara noted the information would be available from prior meeting minutes. Tara is now working with Auditor to review AFR, as some issues could be with how expenses are labeled.

b. Upcoming Dates

October 15 – Deadline for 2011 CWI Grant applications
November 1 – Election Committees due
November 1 – Recommendations for Appointments due
December 1 – District Annual Meeting information due

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry

Nola Gentry noted five Ivy Tech campuses have added Agriculture programs and are possibly adding Natural Resources to the two year programs. Gentry and Eddleman discussed Ivy Tech as a resource to the districts for training. This option would not take other staff member's time away from their duties. A review of the Business Plan is as follows:

Solidify Partnerships- Nola noted DNR and IDEM are getting more involved.

Meet with Top Leadership of ISDA and other agencies- Nola noted SSCB has met with Joe Kelsay on a variety of issues including funding, staffing and support.

Discussions with IDEM and ISDH on Septic issues- Nola noted this will be ongoing

Improve District Communication- SSCB will have a regional meeting in the spring. Nola also noted SharePoint will aid in communicating to districts.

Pursue Opportunities to meet with other State/Local governments- Mississippi River Basin Initiative has allowed ISDA to meet with other states.

Priorities: Updated CREP watersheds, more MRBI information

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report

i. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

SharePoint data allows tracking of technical staff numbers

23 Resource Specialists are serving 51 counties, 236 individuals, 16,353 farm land acres, 390 practices, and 2,226 practice acres.

ii. District Support Update – Nathan Stoelting

Leadership Institute- Board Development had 30 participants. Scott Hamm attended to discuss the business plan.

5 Star Score Card group met and discussed upcoming goals. Priority will be ensuring Districts do what they are required to do by law.

LI set for first week of December in Madison. Discussions will be on impacting the community.

Warren Baird inquired about District accounting. SBA has notified at least one District that they are required to maintain physical ledgers, even if they are using QuickBooks. Nathan noted while QuickBooks has never been officially approved, it has been accepted in the past. Due to confusion, ISDA will contact SBA for clarification on this issue.

iii. Water Quality Update – Sara Christensen

1. Gulf of Mexico, Nutrient Task Force

Jerod and Sara will be attending a meeting in Mississippi in September for the Nutrient Task Force

iv. Accountability and Technology Update

SharePoint is still being added to and being used a resource. On Farm Network will be added to SharePoint

v. Agriculture Affairs Update – Roz Leeck

ISDA received CIG grant from USDA/NRCS in the amount of \$150,000 for three years. The pilot will include 17 producers in 41 fields. First sampling has taken place. Roz noted CIG is for Mississippi River Basin areas only. This winter, there will be meetings to find new participants for next year.

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

Jennifer reported there is no new news on the LARE funding reversion. Jennifer noted that future funding for all programs will require bringing all partners together. The 3 District Showcase winners are Allen County, Steuben County and Delaware County.

e. FSA Report

No Report

f. NRCS State Conservationist’s Report – Jane Hardisty

The federal fiscal year is winding down. Jane reported that there are not many changes to the Farm Bill. CREP meetings around the state will help clarify partner roles; FSA will determine eligibility, Districts will administer program, ISDA will have CREP team leaders out in field, NRCS will do technical assistance, planning in the field and verification of implementation.

Partnership has upcoming meeting and will focus on CCSI, CREP, and Water Quality Initiatives. There will be focus on targeted areas. Focus will be geared towards State nutrient.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Next Meeting: November 9 in Indianapolis

X. Adjourn 11:40 AM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:
