

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
October 29, 2013
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN

Members in Attendance:

Larry Clemens
Warren Baird
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Scott Ham

Members Not in Attendance:

Bill Mann

Others in Attendance:

Jordan Seger, ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston, ISDA
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Logan Garner, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Tara Henry, ISDA

Mike Johnson, ISDA
Geneva Tyler, ISDA
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA
Harold Thompson, ICP
Dan Wire
Scheryl Vaughn, Boone County SWCD
Susan Hovermale, FSA
Greg Lake, Allen County SWCD
Jeri Ziliak, Posey County SWCD
Erica Burkemper Fisher, Pike County SWCD
Erin Shoup, Vanderburgh County SWCD
Jane Hardisty, NRCS
Cress Hizer, INAg LLC/IASWCD
Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD

- I. 9:15 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of September 2013**
Warren moved to approve; Nola second. Motion passed.
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
- a. Clean Water Indiana Grants (See Attachments)**
Thirty-three applications, representing 68 districts, were submitted for the 2014 Clean Water Indiana Grants round for a total of \$2,142,550. The grants committee and the district support specialists reviewed the grant applications, and recommend funding 10 grants. Bob Eddleman presented the SSCB Grants Committee recommendations. Larry moved to approve the Grants Committee Recommendations. Nola second. Approved.
Larry requested the SSCB form a committee, including representatives from ICP, to look at the future of the grants program, including caps on practice types, technical assistance and cost share caps, leveraging funds, and how we might partner with foundations to leverage funding.
- b. CREP and Water Quality Initiatives (See Attachments)**
Logan reported since lifting certain eligibility restrictions for wetlands, 417.7 acres have been signed up. Current total acreage enrolled in CREP since the expansion: 3,146.3 (includes 880.3 acres under contract, but not completed).
- IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (See Attachments)**
- a. Hancock County-Approved**
- b. Vigo County-Approved**
- V. SSCB Report**
- a. Task Force Sub-Committee Recommendations Discussion-Larry Clemens (See Attachments)**
After reviewing the subcommittee's recommendations, Larry would like to issue the RFP to districts for consideration. Nola suggestion moving the deadline to January. After discussion, Bob moved to approve the RFP, with proposals due February 2014. Larry noted a supervisor

from each participating district must be present to answer questions. Scott second. Motion Approved.

b. Federal Shutdown and District Operations (See Attachments)

Larry presented a draft letter to be sent out to Soil and Water Conservation Districts reminding them to have a plan in place in case of another federal government shutdown. Districts should develop (or update) a SWCD Contingency Plan, which outlines procedures and plans to operate under in the case of a major event or emergency. Scott requested specific emergencies not be listed, rather be more generalized. Scott emphasized districts should train and rehearse these plans. Nola moved to approve, Scott second. Approved.

VI. ISDA Updates

a. Technical Report

Mike Johnson reported on ISDA field staff activities, including 450 acres of tree planting along White River in CREP and an additional 264 acres enrolled in the program but not paid yet. ISDA staff are also working on the Water Quality Trading Initiative with EPRI. Resource Specialists are also busy with EQIP and CRP re-enrollments.

b. Agriculture Affairs (See Attachments)

c. Accountability and Technology (See Attachments)

d. District Support (See Attachments)

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD-Jennifer Boyle Warner

The Association is busy working on annual conference preparations. The National Association will be coming in Indy next year-July 20 thru 22.

b. IDEM-No Report

c. DNR-No Report

d. Purdue-No Report

e. FSA-Susan Hovermale

Susan reported 215,704 Indiana acres currently enrolled in CRP as of 9/30/13 (could change a bit due contracts entered after shutdown); 19,234 acres will expire in Indiana 9/30/2014.

8,150 CREP acres under contract

SAFE acres obligated since 2008– 25,641 acres enrolled under SAFE – some re-enrolls and enhanced over the years from other CRP expiring contracts.

CRP new enrollments are not permitted until authorized by Congress. FSA/NRCS are continuing to service existing CRP contracts

f. NRCS-Jane Hardisty (See Attachments)

Jane reporting NRCS staff returned to work October 17 and began implementing an orderly startup plan. A Continuing Resolution is in place until January 15, 2014 that provides funding to NRCS. NRCS acknowledges and thanks the partnership for their patience and leadership during the shutdown and for working together to keep conservation moving forward in Indiana.

VIII. Public Comment

Harrold Thompson would like to acknowledge everyone in the great job in promoting and implementing cover crop practices across the state this year.

IX. Next Meeting

January 6, 2014

The Marriott Downtown Indy (Annual Conference)

8:00 am

X. Adjourn – Warren made motion to adjourn, Nola second. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston
Approved By:

DRAFT