STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

JUNE 7th, 2023

Sure-tech Laboratories 7501 Miles Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46231

Present:

Ray Chattin (board chair)
Larry Clemens (board member)
Brad Dawson (board member)
Kenny Cain (board member)
Jane Hardisty (board member)
Trevor Laureys
Geneva Tyler
Kylie Wheeler

Virtual Attendance:

Gene Schmidt (board member) Amy Burris (board member)

I. 2:05 PM Meeting Start

II. Discussion

- a. Opening Remarks by Ray Chattin, SSCB Chairman
- b. Review & Revise 5 Priorities
 - i. Item 1: Engage Supervisors to be effective leaders in their communities at the state level.
 - 1. Discussion on the end of leadership institute (LI)
 - a. LI ended due to lack of interest and low registration.
 - 2. Discussion on the Board Certification Program
 - a. Largely stood up through IASWCD & ISDA.
 - i. This program is still in draft form, but will debut in some form at 2024 IASWCD Annual Conference
 - ii. Discuss BCP at SSCB meeting in July
 - 1. Provide materials in advance.
 - 2. Discuss how we might incentivize supervisors to attend trainings/events/be more involved
 - 3. Discussion on engaging supervisors
 - a. SSCB needs to establish higher level role and provide actionable steps and guidance for other conservation entities
 - b. How do we support districts in a way that promotes GROWTH of the district longterm to be more self sustainable
 - 4. Need to identify which pieces of SSCB Plan of Work may be better suited for other conservation orgs, i.e. IASWCD, SWCDs, non-traditional entities
 - ii. Item 2: Increase local SWCD Capacity to be effective partners in ICP & cons. Delivery
 - 1. DSS updated the leveraging sheet annually (will include with notes)



SWCD-Spreadsheet -for-Local-Funding-

- 2. -101-Local-Funding-
- 3. Needs discussion
 - a. Administrative assistance vs technical assistance

- i. Can't go after CWI without administrative assistance
- ii. Will match solve this?
- 4. Leveraging is important, but need to assist with narrative beyond leveraged dollars and loads reduced.
- iii. Item 3: Keep elected officials, locals to state, informed on conservation progress
 - 1. Soil loss averages and consideration for other key metrics to tell the story
 - a. Find Total Soil Loss Averages by county via Science Assessment
 - i. Total soil loss and dollars tied in
 - 2. ISDA provides county level conservation reports
 - a. Consider bringing these reports for respective SSCB counties next meeting
 - 3. SSCB "State of the State" report could be lifted, ISDA should provide chair with materials to give a proper state of the state.
 - 4. Discussion on Science Assessment
 - a. Need to properly brief SSCB on Science Assessment
 - b. Namely progress reports and clearer goals
- iv. Report to IN progress and concerns for the priority natural resources concerns
 - 1. Elevate board status and be more public facing
 - 2. We need a picture of the board! Aim For January
 - 3. Work with Regan to complete a Clean Water Indiana press release.
- c. Clean Water Indiana Grants
 - i. CWI Guidance is out how do we further promote?
 - ii. We should not shy away from engaging non-traditional partners, beyond SWCDs and typical awardees.
 - 1. There are groups of conservation organizations out there that can bring new ideas into the
 - a. Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Land Trusts, etc
 - 2. Keep an eye on Watershed Development Commissions
 - a. Potential to stretch CWI and make SWCDs and our work central to the work in flood and water control
 - 3. For existing guidance we need to encourage districts to apply and apply for **what they need**.
 - a. No partial funding this round
 - b. Write Letter from SSCB to Districts
 - iii. We want CWI to prop up long term functionality of districts
 - 1. Build capacity
 - a. Every district should have administrative support covered bare minimum
 - iv. Consideration for guaranteed 3 year match on a position IF the county puts up.
 - 1. How do we pressure the hinges on counties?
 - 2. Consider \$75,000 available per district
 - a. 25,15,10 (year 1,2,3)
 - 3. Consider implementation of matching calculations



- 4. Talent pipeline
- d. Future Discussions:
 - i. Aim to hold a four hour session on just CWI funding for CWI 2025. There is a need to start communicating NOW on next year.
- III. Meeting ends: 4:30PM