

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 9, 2010
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Members in Attendance:

Nola Gentry
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Scott Hamm
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
Paula Baldwin IASWCD
Jim Lake ISDA
Laura Fribley ISDA
Hans Kok CCSI
Teresah Caire NRCS
Sarah Simpson ISDA
Deb Lane Warren County SWCD

I. 9:41 AM: Call to Order

II. Draft Minutes of September 2010

Nola Gentry moved to approve the September 2010 minutes as presented. Larry Clemens seconded and the motion carried.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. 2010 and Prior Grants Paul Hoffman– See Attachment

Paul reported for the 2009 SNRG \$282,244 paid to districts. 3 Districts have been extended to December 31 2010. By the next board meeting 2009 grants should be completed. Of the 88 counties awarded CWI Grants in 2010, two districts are complete and have been paid and 9 have sent in final reports, but payment has not been processed yet. The remaining districts have been given 3 month extensions, which are in the signature process. 32 districts have submitted training reimbursement requests as well. Paul noted SharePoint is working effectively for grant reporting.

i. Grant Requests and Extensions

Tippecanoe County has requested to modify the 2010 CWI Grant by removing the \$3,000 funding from the rain garden cost-share incentive and utilizing it for a two-stage ditch and wetland cost-share and to extend the deadline to November 2011. Scott Hamm motioned to approve; Bob Eddleman seconded. Motion carried.

b. 2011 Grants Program- Warren Baird (see attachment)

The Grants Committee convened via conference call to review grant proposals. Brett, Warren and the District Support Specialists went over the requests which included many options for how to spend the funds to improve water quality (up to \$5,000), a \$1,000 incentive for districts to work together on projects and initiatives, and \$1,000 for training reimbursements. Eighty-eight of the 92 counties applied for a total of \$574,408. Fifty-nine applied for the entire \$7,000, 69

applied for multi-district incentives, and 81 applied for the training reimbursements. The Grants Committee only had changes to five of the 88; all others were approved as requested. Motion to approve Grants Committee suggestions carried. Grant, Floyd, Ohio and Noble counties did not apply for any grant funds. Jim Lake requested SSCB write a letter to the chairperson of each of those counties emphasizing the available funding opportunities and the funding other districts were awarded. Nola Gentry appointed a special committee to discuss options for unused grant funds. Larry (representing executive committee), Warren (representing grants committee), and Scott (representing district capacity) will work together to form a proposal which utilizes the funds on action items from the Board's business plan before the January board meeting.

c. CREP- Sara Christensen—See Attachment

Two area CREP meetings (north and south) were held in October for technical updates and watershed based breakout sessions. Each district received CREP information and media materials. Each session included watershed based breakout sessions.

While the total amount of CREP contracts paid has not changed much since the September report, several contracts are currently coming in. Easements in the Tippecanoe watershed are in the works and will appear on the January report. The SWCD admin contracts are in the State signature process.

d. CCSI-Hans Kok—See Attachment

Hans Kok noted several actions have occurred that were beyond the current CCSI plan. Some Districts have put on field days with innovative ideas. Other Districts have started no till groups with breakfast or lunch meetings with farms to promote participation.

Hans is working on a five year budget beyond NRCS and Clean Water funding.

e. CWI Budget-Jerod Chew

Clean Water Indiana budget is moving forward as outlined with no surprises. Spending is on track with projections.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Supervisor Appointments-Jennifer Pinkston—See Attachments

- i.** LaGrange County-Board approved appointment
- ii.** Ripley County- Board approved appointment
- iii.** White County- Board approved appointment
- iv.** Jackson County- Board approved appointment

b. 5 Star Committee—Jennifer Boyle

The 5 Star Committee and the District Visits Committee have merged. The committee is working on an evaluation tool for District assessments including areas such as staff/supervisor development, conservation effectiveness, strategic plan, and accountability. One purpose of the evaluation tool is to determine any areas a District may be struggling and provide tools for improvement. (Note: Evaluation tool and "scorecard" are one in the same.) The first area of focus is Level I: Minimum standards. The minimum standards are based on District Law, and these requirements will be tied to the Annual Financial Report with districts who do not meet the minimum standards receiving less than those which do. Nola noted this form should be discussed and completed at a local board meeting. She also requested examples of a "long range plan" or "business plan" should be included in the tool. Executive Committee will review and prepare for implementation in 2012.

The District Visits program is on hold while this tool is being developed.

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry

Nola appointed Bob Eddleman to chair the nomination committee with Warren Baird and Bill Mann for the next meeting in January. Board has requested to be notified when District annual meetings are set.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report

i. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

July 1 to September 30 highlights: 23 Resource Specialists have 227 completed practices affecting 33,661 field acres of farm land, 562 instances of providing technical assistance, and assistance in 538 farm bill practices providing direct leverage back to the State. Work has been done in at least 65 counties in the last three months, including 132 miles of grass waterways. Jerod noted these figures could be used to help explain our impact to officials.

ii. District Support Update—Jim Lake

December Leadership Institute registration is full, many participants will be graduating. March Supervisor trainings will occur March 15 (southwest), March 17 (southeast), March 22 (northwest), and March 24 (northeast) from 6 to 9 pm. A representative from State Personnel Department will be there to provide personnel management training.

iii. Water Quality Update – Sara Christensen

Jerod and Sara attended the Gulf Hypoxia meeting in Mississippi with USGA, Army Corps, EPA and other participating states. Several good contacts were made with these groups for further nutrient reduction strategy implementations.

Core parts of ICP will be meeting with IDEM in December to discuss the task force's annual operating plan.

iv. Agriculture Affairs Update – Roz Leeck

The ISDA photo contest has ended. Selected winners in the four categories will be featured in a calendar. HAT will be creating the calendar, which has been underwritten, to be given out for free.

Roz will be making a presentation to Soybean and Corn Marketing Council to secure match dollars for On Farm Network for future. At Annual Conference, there will be a presentation on On Farm Network. The OFN SharePoint site is set to launch in the near future.

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

Annual Conference is coming up in January. Sponsorships have been secured for conference already, ahead of previous years. These dollars will help Districts attend.

e. FSA Report

No Report

f. NRCS State Conservationist's Report-See Attachment

NRCS is working on ABC data, which is a workload analysis tool performed every three years. This tool captures what each employee does and provides information used to evaluate staffing, performances, and budgeting. The new fiscal year has begun; program applications are in the works.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Next Meeting: January 10 in Indianapolis

X. Adjourn 11:44 AM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:

DRAFT