

MINUTES

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

September 20, 2022

Indiana Farm Bureau Building
225 S East St, Indianapolis, IN 46202
MS Teams

Present

Kenny Cain (board member)
Larry Clemens (board member)
Amy Burris (board member)
Brad Dawson (board member)
Ray Chattin (board member)
Laura Fribley
Joe Schmees
Les Zimmerman
Trevor Laureys
Geneva Tyler
Nathan Stoelting
George Reger
Tara Wesseler-Henry

Present Virtually

Bob Eddleman (board member)
Jerry Raynor
Amy Work
Deb Barnett
Eric Shideler
Brandi Frazier
Leah Harmon
Julie Harrold
Sandra Hoffarth
Lisa Holscher
Heath Hurst
John Hazlett
Kelly Kent

Rebecca McClellan
Walt Sell
Jennifer Thum
William Ward
Judi Brown
Mary Lou Watson
Ken Gunkel
Amanda Robbins
Nelly Peffley

- I. 9:31 am: Call to Order** by Kenny.
- II. Approve Minutes of May & July 2022** Brad moved to approve April minutes. Second by Amy. Motion passed
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
- a. CWI Grant Modification Request-
 - 1. 2020 Vermillion- Nathan summarized grant modification for Vermillion/Parke. Amy moved to approve modification. Ray seconded. Motion passed.
 - 2. 2020 Warrick- Susan King summarized grant modification regarding a plan to possibly move funds in case current employee would find other employment. Ray moved to approve modification. Brad seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Jerry Raynor was then given an opportunity to give NRCS updates ahead of schedule so that he could attend another meeting. He then gave his update. Ray asked follow up questions regarding capacity to handle the potential for available funds that may become available in the coming years. Jerry addressed the questions.
 - c. Tara was then asked to summarize CWI grant applications for 2023. These applications will be scored and brought to the board for funding recommendations at the October meeting.
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
- a. IASWCD Resolution- Trevor Laureys reported to the board on IASWCD resolution. Trevor gave the summary, and the board discussed the memo that was passed out. Bob Eddleman then announced his plan to resign from the board at the end of the year. Kenny then announced he would entertain a motion to accept the memorandum. Brad moved to accept the memo with grammar changes. Seconded by Amy. Motion passed.
 - b. Deadlines and Election Committee Policy- Geneva gave an update on deadlines and election committee policy. A committee has been formed and a meeting date will be set soon. Larry Clemens and Brad Dawson volunteered to sit on the committee as well.
 - c. FY23 Budget- Trevor gave an update on budget for 2023. Report was included in directors report. Ray then asked if there would be any consequences if SSCB would vote “no” to approve budget. Trevor then explained that budget could not be increased, but we do have wiggle room for moving into other areas

around the budget. Ray then asked if governor has approved this budget as the total dollars received from the state. Trevor answered this question. Ray then commented on a sub-committee meeting with the lieutenant governor and the request to increase total budget. Trevor explained that the budget being discussed was for a different fiscal year than the budget they were discussing at that meeting. Larry then asked about filling vacant positions with CWI dollars. Trevor then explained that those dollars would be taken from competitive grants, and he supports money getting into districts hands. The board expressed concern that this may limit our opportunity to receive some of the federal dollars that Jerry Raynor referenced in his update if we don't have the capacity to use that money. SSCB then discussed setting aside \$100,000 to hire positions needed to provide more technical assistance in the state. Ray then made a motion to amend budget to withhold \$100,000 from CWI grant money to be moved to salary funding. Kenny then asked if funds "leftover" could be used for this piece. Trevor explained that those dollars are already accounted for in the budget submitted. Larry seconded the motion. Larry then asked how fast these positions could be filled. Kenny asked what this staff position might look like. Trevor then explained his thoughts on what this might look like, that with additional funding the Division could explore hiring administrative support to assist with current grant administration as well as future grant administration. Trevor reminded the board that by approving this motion they are taking money from districts. The board discussed their hopes that by doing this they hope to eventually put more money in districts hands. Kenny then pointed out that he did not recognize Larry's second earlier and the original motion by Ray then died due to a lack of second. Discussion continued that perhaps \$150,000 could fund 2 staff positions, for the purpose of increasing the capacity of current staff to concentrate on securing additional grant dollars, which ultimately putting more conservation on the ground. Ray then made a motion that \$150,000 be withheld from CWI grant dollars to be directed to Division of Soil Conservation for the purpose of increasing capacity for pursuing grant opportunities. Larry seconded motion. Motion carried.

Trevor then asked for clarification of budget. Brad made a motion to approve budget with approved amendment. Ray seconded. Motion carried.

- d. FY23 Division Staffing Plan- Trevor gave an update on fiscal year 2023 division staffing plan.
- e. IDEA proposal- Kenny asked for an update on the IDEA CWI proposal. Eric Shidler provided that update. Kenny asked for any questions. Brad responded that he heard an update on this at July meeting and thought it was very well presented. Ray said he would agree with that. Then there was discussion on whether this should be scored with other applications or funded with CWI training dollars. Brad then asked Eric if the program would be available for all district staff or just IDEA members. Eric said that would not be a restriction in this program. The only restriction would be that it would be available only to employees in their first 1-3 years of employment. Ray then responded that he thought using training dollars might be a good way to fund this proposal. He then made a motion to use the \$5,000 from CWI training dollars to fund the IDEA proposal. Larry seconded. Kenny then asked for any discussion. Tara then gave details on the contracting details regarding this motion. Motion approved.

V. Break

VI. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Temporary appointments

Kenny asked for a summary of Cass County supervisor change. Geneva provided that update and the change requested.

Kenny then asked for an update on Fayette SWCD supervisor change. Tara provided that update. She also provided details for two supervisor changes in Ohio County. Documentation and details were provided for all three supervisor changes.

Geneva then shared that Tipton County had a late request for a change in supervisor. Geneva provided the details on this change as well

Amy made a motion to approve all supervisor temporary recommendations. Seconded by Brad. Motion carried.

VII. ICP Reports

- a. ISDA- George Reger gave an ISDA update for work completed this summer.

Julie then gave a report on CREP. She provided update on numbers and acres added to program for this past year. Current contracts for administration counties will expire this year. New contracts will be made up by the end of December. She also gave details on gulf hypoxia work plan that was approved by EPA.

Jennifer Thum then provided an update on current federal grant projects.

Laura then provided a summary of the DSS report. Laura explained that we have some leftover funds from the old LI program. Those funds can be used for trainings with similar purposes in the future. Brad asked about the number of trainings that might be able to be provided with funds available. Laura explained that it would be dependent on cost of those trainings and more details will be discussed and planned.

- b. IASWCD- Joe Schmees provided an update for the IASWCD. Les Zimmerman also provided an update as the legislative chairman of IASWCD. Les provided details on a funding initiative. He provided documents on the details of the proposal they have presented to Indiana legislators. Ray then advocated for the extra budget dollars being requested by the IASWCD. Amy asked about CWI being the “vehicle” to deliver funds to districts. Discussion was held regarding Minnesota funding to districts. Joe broke down what recommendations could be made with these additional appropriations.
- c. FSA- Julia Wickard of FSA then gave an update for Farm Service Agency. She introduced other FSA staff that was with her and provided what changes FSA are dealing with right now.
- d. CCSI- Lisa Holscher gave updates for CCSI. New training this summer with Byron Seeds. Many of these trainings were attended very well by the Amish community.
- e. Purdue- Purdue updates were provided virtually by Walt Sell. He provided details on Ag Informatics Labs. He provided more details on this with a document on the program. Link for that documentation was provided in the chat for the online meeting option.
- f. IDEA- IDEA report was provided by Eric Shideler. He mentioned new staff currently joining the state as we have seen a high rate of staff turnover recently. Also provided details on upcoming IDEA fall conference and agenda topics.

VIII. Public Comment & October Meeting Date- Kenny then asked for any additional comments and questions. Hearing none, Amy then asked for next meeting dates. Next meeting date is October 25. Meeting location is TBD.

IX. Adjourn- Brad moved to adjourn. Amy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm.