

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
March 12, 2024

Indiana Corn and Soy, 8425 Keystone Crossing #200. Indianapolis, IN 46240
MS Teams

Present

Jane Hardisty (board member)
Ray Chattin (board member)
Larry Clemens (board member)
Brad Dawson (board member)
Kenny Cain (board member)
Amy Burris (board member)
Julie Harrold
Meg Leader
Breegan Anderson
Amy Work
Julia Wickard
Jared Thomas
Kylie Wheeler

Tara Wesseler-Henry
Jennifer Thum
Sandra Hoffarth
Nathan Stoelting
Cress Hizer
Jason Kishton

Virtual Attendees

Gene Schmidt (board member)
Andrea Gogel
Kristen Latzke
Colson Doyle
Damarys Mortenson
Laura Fribley

Julie Morris
Chad Shaw
Lisa Holscher
Dale Walker
Toby Days
Jewel
Courtney McFall
Leah Harmon
Nathaniel Warenski
Lindsey Bluhm
Mary Lou Watson
Nellie Peffley
Walt Sell
Eliana Blaine

- I.** Jane called the meeting to order at 9:31am ET.
Jane announced that the meeting is being recorded.
- II.** Minutes were reviewed. Larry made a motion to amend the January minutes to add board member names who were present. Brad moved to approve minutes as amended, Kenny seconded. Motion approved.
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee report was given by Brad Dawson. Brad reported that the committee met and reviewed all the grant information. He noted a couple of changes in the guidance and provided a report to explain the changes. One of the changes includes the number of SSCB members that can serve on the committee. A ruling from the state has changed the number of allowed members to meet from 3 to 2. Therefore, Ray has offered to step down from the committee. A discussion was held regarding the intent of the MOU addition to the guidance. Larry was concerned on the amount of time it may take to develop and sign off on a MOU. There was discussion among several regarding the use of a MOU or could they get by with a similar document that would serve the same purpose. Some changes were proposed. These changes and the guidance will be reviewed by the board. Guidance will be approved at the May board meeting.

White County CWI Match. Geneva gave an update on the issue with White County not receiving their \$12,000 match from 2023. Ray made a motion to approve getting them this money now. Amy seconded. Brad asked if there was any kind of “safe guard” this from happening again in the future. Motion carried.

Nathan presented the modification from Vigo County to expand the watershed focus area of the existing grant. Brad asked a question regarding if Nathan believed this grant would have scored differently with this change originally. Nathan gave his opinion that he didn’t believe it would have scored differently. Kenny made a motion to approve the modification. Seconded by Brad. Motion carried.
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**

Gene then gave the chairman's report online.

CWI Grant Committee Appointment. Jennifer gave an update on what constitutes a "quorum" for state boards. These boards are considered majority with 1/3 not 1/2. Therefore, the recommendation is made to reduce the grant committee to 2 SSCB members rather than 3. Jerod Chew has been asked to serve on the grant committee as an "at large" member. Larry Made a motion to change the committee members for the grant committee from 3 to 2 and appoint Jerod Chew as the "at large" member. Motion was seconded by Kenny. Gene then offered a suggestion to have an alternate member as well in case someone couldn't attend. Questions were then asked and researched. Motion was approved with the understanding that an alternate member of the committee may be added later if this is allowed.???

Jennifer gave an update on Conflict of Interest/Ethics statement. The board can review this document and take action at the May Board meeting. Discussion was then held regarding this document.

CREP update. Julie provided an update with the CREP expansion. Discussion was held regarding a press release and "kick off" event to get the project rolling. Julie is excited about the program and the progress that's been made to get it to this point.

V. Presentations

Julie Harrold gave a presentation on the Hypoxia Task Force.

VI. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Nathan gave the recommendation for Clay County for the appointment of Bryliee Riddell.

Geneva gave the update on a recommendation for Howard County. Emily was presented as the temporary appointment.

Brad made a motion to approve the temporary appointments. Kenny seconded. Motion carried.

VII. ICP Reports

a. ISDA

Jennifer Thumb gave the directors report. She submitted a handout for the report and also highlighted a few items as well.

Tara gave a partnership update. NASCA will be in Indiana this year. She also discussed WLEB.

Julie provided some information on CREP sign-ups. Also provided budget information on total payouts to date. Details were provided in her report as well. She also explained the tracking component of the program and how this will be managed going forward.

Breegan gave an update regarding the nutrient stewardship including the budget information and the intern program.

Laura gave an update online. A written report was provided. Laura did highlight the DSS work on new supervisor trainings which can be done in-person or watched online. Board Certification program is still being developed. Website is active and she gave a short demonstration of what is currently available and how to navigate through the content.

b. IASWCD

Liz provided an update for the association. Starting to work on summer summit program for 2024. August 7 will be the day River Friendly Farmers are recognized at the state fair. Cress also provided an update regarding legislative sessions. He highlighted a couple of wetland bill updates that are currently being discussed.

c. Indiana Corn and Soy

Courtney of the Indiana Corn and Soybean Alliance welcomed the group to their building and gave the group some information on the history of the building and what companies/organizations are located in this building.

d. CCSI

Lisa gave an update virtually.

Elli gave an update virtually and provided a report for Urban Soil Health.

e. NRCS

Damarys gave an update virtually.

f. FSA

Julia and Jerod provided an update for FSA. They provided a guide that has been released which shows all of the conservation programs available to producers.

VIII. Public Comment

Call for public comment generated no responses.

IX. 2024 Meeting Dates: Upcoming meeting dates were provided.

- May 14- TBD
- July 9- TBD
- September 10- TBD
- October 22- TBD

X. Jane commended districts on such great annual meetings this year. She then thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 12:23 pm ET.