

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION MEMORADUM FOR RECORD

July 6th, 2023

Buck Creek Community Room
5809 W Airport Boulevard Greenfield, IN 46140

Present:

Ray Chattin (board chair)
Brad Dawson (board member)
Gene Schmidt (board member)
Kenny Cain (board member)
Jane Hardisty (board member)
Amy Burris (board member)
Trevor Laureys
Geneva Tyler
Kylie Wheeler

Virtual Attendance:

Larry Clemens (board member)

I. 8:00 AM Meeting Start

- a. Meeting is not called to order as there will be no formal board action today.

II. Discussion on CWI communication strategy

- a. Recap of last meeting action items
- b. Open Discussion on CWI 2024
 - i. Communication improvements needed
 1. **Draft letter ahead of July 18th SSCB Meeting**
 - a. Communicate the following:
 - i. Note on realistic dollar figures in applications
 - ii. Re-iterate lead on multiple grants
 - iii. Mention survey efforts and feedback
 2. include link to budget table.
 - c. Discuss CWI Press Release ahead of August, soon after July 18th SSCB Meeting
 - d. Letters received from districts regarding CWI match and use of CWI funds

III. Discussion on District Staffing

- a. Board's role is not to carry districts, but to lead and support
 - i. What come's first, the staff or the dollars?
 - ii. Discussed potential CWI 2025 application types
 1. Idea for an easier staffing application
 - a. CWI Competitive for programmatic pieces, CWI staffing for staff?
 - b. Idea for tiered staffing grant designed to taper off if funded for second time.
 - i. Incentivize county relationship development.
 1. Ex. Y1 75,000, Y2 50,000, Y3 25,000

IV. Discussion on SWCD board training

- a. Board certification program, and what an incentive to meet a “standard of excellence” might look like?
 - i. Is this a job for IASWCD? SSCB? IDEA?
 1. IASCWD & ISDA already working on BCP
 2. **Share information about BCP at July 18th SSCB meeting**
 - ii. As BCP is completed, and content gathered would it makes sense to provide a financial incentive using CWI?
 1. i.e. structure similar to PARP points
 - a. a part of non-statutory \$10,000 match eligibility
 2. Look into the goodyear evaluation process as potential example

V. Lifting Districts & Board Status through District Showcase awards

- a. Get back to holding SSCB meeting at district showcase winner
- b. **Chair give state of the state address.**
 - i. Always inspiring to see how creative and capable districts are

VI. Discussion on additional \$10,000 or future match

- a. Ohio has a formulaic way of calculating what match goes where
 - i. Equitable
 1. Tailored to give districts with low/no local funding a higher rate of match (200%)
 2. Sets a % cap for districts with high levels of local/other funding, but doesn't disincentivize as districts bring in more funds, even a small % match still garners a significant state investment
 - a. Ex. County x only has \$10,000 but matched at 200%
 - i. \$30,000 total
 - b. Ex. County has \$100,000 and is min match cap threshold only matched at 20%
 - i. \$120,000
- b. Idea for a match request form that defines what additional match may be used for and asks for what it will be used for.
 - i. 10k guaranteed by statute
 - ii. 10k requested
 - iii. X dollars for supervisor engagement or hitting “standards of excellence”
- c. AFR data can play a role in decision making process as well
- d. Reviewed AFR data

VII. Discussion on Lifting SSCB, being more engaged.

- a. Strategic Planning Sessions help tremendously with creative and innovative ideas.
- b. Board does sessions at IASWCD, should board present at IDEA?
 - i. Are there other conferences, events that the board needs better representation at?
- c. Utilize board platform to celebrate conservation
 - i. i.e. send congratulatory letters
 1. Master Gardner's?

VIII. Meeting Ends: 12:00PM