

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
September 19, 2017
NRCS State Office

Members Present:

Robert Woodling
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Warren Baird

Members Absent:

Rex Blanton
Larry Clemons
Ray Chattin

Others in Attendance:

Jordan Seger	Jim Woody	Mike Warner	Meg Leader
Jane Hardisty	Laura Fribley	Deb Fairhurst	Tara Wesseler-Henry
Troy Hinkle	Leah Harmon	Julie Harrold	Charlie Ring
Sheryl Vaughn	Nathan Stoelting	Lisa Holscher	Cress Hizer
Walt Sell	Jennifer Boyle Warner	Marc Roberts	Steve Cotter

I. 9:52 a.m.: Call to Order by Chairman, Robert Woodling

II. Approve Minutes of July 2017 meeting. Motion made by Nola Gentry. Second by Warren Baird. Motion approved.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon

Received 26 application grants, covering 41 districts. Grant funding recommendations will be at the October meeting. The 2017 Annual Financial Report grants (\$10,000 appropriations) the claims are all getting processed, just clean up on training fund grants. Training reimbursement to be discussed with CWI grants committee and have a recommendation at October meeting. Current CWI grants are going well and working with districts to clean up some reporting.

1. Montgomery SWCD-Marc Roberts

Mr. Roberts gave a report on current district status of employees and workload of Montgomery Co SWCD. The SWCD missed the deadline by one day for CWI application process. Asking board to waive the rule to disqualify Montgomery from applying for 2018 year. Discussion: Bob Eddleman commented he was in favor. Warren Baird commented on how we might be setting precedence for the future. Nola proposed that if a district is granted an exception then they are penalized 25% of the up front funds instead of 50%. Warren agreed. Robert Woodling commented that the effort was there, it was just a short time lapse from deadline. Bob Eddleman motioned that the SSCB accept the request from Montgomery for their 2018 grant application to be included with the other 2018 applications and scored fairly. Second by Nola Gentry. Motion approved.

2. Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management- Troy Hinkle

Update: They have final signature for NRCS for \$917, 000 on the project for state wide. They have an offer from Indiana Division of Forestry for office space and vehicles. They have a pledge from IASWCD. Knox Co

SWCD has pledged Troy's time for the next few months. They have advertised the Region specialist position. In the process on signing on funding partners. Secured services from a non-profit that helps with a non-profit, like accounting, et. In two months they have met with 7 other SWCDs, now have 11 counties that are working on operating a weed invasive species management group. Other partners present during the meeting who talked about their involvement and support: Mike Warner- Indiana Invasive Species Council, Steve Cotter - current chair for SICIM; and Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD.

Request: Funds in the amount of \$300,000 and how it is distributed is up to the SSCB. They do need cash flow so are asking for 50% of up front funds of what is decided from the SSCB. Bob Eddleman, moved that they support the effort on a five year basis at \$60,000 per year. Warren Baird, asked how it was going to be handled state wide? SICIM have staff located in the areas state wide. Invite every SWCD to be involved, those that respond then staff will be assigned to work with them. Plan to address boards individually. Warren Baird seconded the motion. Can we do a MOU? Jordan commented that it would be a contract with \$60,000 coming off the top of grant funds every year. A contract extension will be made every year. ISDA can not go any longer than five years on contracts. The \$300,000 will match the NRCS funds. NRCS needs a contribution agreement of 1:1. SICIM has other funds to match the additional \$100,000 still needed. Robert Woodling, had a concern of if initial slot of money is okay to get them rolling. Hinkle commented yes, it will help them to get two hired first and then in the next year add from there. SICIM does have some other money that will fill in the gaps.

Motion approved.

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Robert Woodling

The Chair attended district tour of Jefferson Co SWCD with Jordan, Jane, and Jennifer. Attended the ICP meetings and reported the conservation partnership is strong and doing well. Executive meeting cancelled last month, to be continued next month.

b. CCSI MOU-Lisa Holscher

The over site committee has meet a few time and reviewed MOU of the various Conservation Partners. The oversight committee voted with consensus to push the MOU to the partners for their review. MOU to be reviewed again in 2020. Current MOU was completed in 2011, this is an update. One change was to have each partner appoint two people to represent their organization to balance the voting. Updated MOU was passed out to the Board. Motioned made by Bob Eddleman to accept and sign the revised MOU. Second by Nola Gentry. Motioned approved.

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Martin SWCD-Nathan Stoelting

Resignation of current supervisor. Forms and letter of resignation will need to be come in for October meeting for approval. Tabled for October meeting.

VI. ISDA Updates

a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger

See submitted report. Good news we are only seeing a 3% reversion of our general fund. Other notes this is revenue based, these numbers adjust month to month. Next meeting in October, but it does appear that the funds will be similar to last year for grants. Currently Fulton is the only county left to submit AFR funds.

Sexual Harassment training for district supervisors thru HR the supervisors have to have a Peoplesoft number. Jordan is working with FFA, the schools, to see what is available for outside vendors and associated costs that go with that. Certified Conservation Planning, likely, will impact some SWCD and ISDA staff; more to come.

b. Technical Report- Jim Woody

See submitted report. The charts on report are a glimpse for the Southwest. The waiting to be built column is just waiting until the crops are off. Southwest is approximately 60% complete with stalk sampling. Seeding dates are coming up for grassed waterways.

c. Soil Health-Meg Leader

See submitted report. Fall supply distribution meetings are complete. The presentations were well received. Meg is encouraging samplers to keep a journal of what they see in the field. Across the whole state we are at 16% of stalk sampling complete. Predominately the SW is sampling at this time. Winter meetings and logistics are being scheduled. Winner of Red Gold Stewardship Award was Parker Farms, IN.

d. Accountability and Technology- Deb Fairhurst

See submitted report of CWI map and details.

1. Story Maps- Deb Fairhurst and Julie Harrold

Presentation and demonstration was given on the Story Maps located on the ISDA Division of Soil Conservation webpage. Story maps were developed for the ten watershed basins based on IDEM's water monitoring strategy. Plans are made to review information that is on the Story maps annually.

e. District Support-Laura Fribley

See submitted report. Training and Certification program is now sending out certificates to those that complete the training. The SSCB has the Chair's signature on them.

f. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold

See submitted report. Currently over 2100 acres for sign up. Money is getting tight because of the interest, Julie is working to find funds to supplement and is working with TNC on this. No contracts have been signed, just discussions. The Western Lake Erie Basin Domestic Action plan, handout provided, several public meetings have been held.

VIII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD Report- Jennifer Boyle-Warner

See submitted report. Successful year at Pathway to Water Quality at State Fair. A funding task force has been established with specific outcomes, they will be working with the SSCB funding committee. Fall region meetings are being scheduled. General session speakers at annual

conference are the Peterson Brothers, Kansas. Registration for conference will be launched soon. Encouraging everyone to get their hotel rooms booked now.

b. IDEM Report – see submitted report

c. DNR Report – no report

d. **Purdue Report –Walt Sell**

See submitted publications packet. Enrolling participants in the Watershed Leadership Academy. Shared the SARE Cover Crop Report.

e. FSA Report – no report

f. **NRCS Report- Jane Hardisty**

See submitted report. Highlighted article titled “Can Soils Be Brought to Life?” and encouraged those in attendance to read it. Increase of 500 applications of EQIP compared to last year, all EQIP contracts funded. The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) had the highest sign up than any other state. A Soil Health specialist has been hired. Thanked the SSCB for their support of the SICIM group. She is trying to focus as much as possible to build capacity of districts.

g. **CCSI Report- Lisa Holscher**

Submitted reports for July and August 2017 detailing the trainings, numbers, topics, speakers, and upcoming. Highlighted the project with TNC, Coke, and Montgomery Co SWCD to provide support to the growers of Montgomery Co. Strategic Planning process for the next five years is just about complete, the final draft has gone out to the oversight committee. A major roll out of the strategic plan will occur to give opportunity for question and answers. CCSI has submitted intent with Soil Health Partnership to continue sampling another year. Summary reports of interim soil health tests has gone out. They are very close to having some funds and a process for contracting the sampling out to another source. Staff is making great effort to reach out to districts to help in anyway and to look to assisting with support and funding for SWCD events and outreach.

h. IDEA Report- no report

IX. Public Comment - none

X. Next Meeting:

2017 Meeting Date

October 31- Randolph County Fairgrounds

XI. 12:12 pm Bob Eddleman made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Nola Motioned approved.