

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 11, 2010
One North Capitol
Conference Room
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Members in Attendance:

Nola Gentry, Chairperson
Bob Eddleman, Member
Warren Baird, Member
Brett Glick, Member
Scott Ham, Member
Larry Clemens, Vice Chair

Members Not in Attendance:

Bill Mann

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew, ISDA
Hans Kok, CCSI
Les Zimmerman, IASWCD
Kelly Gentry, ISDA
Paul Hoffman, ISDA
Jim Lake, ISDA
DeeDee Sigler, IASWCD
Tara Henry, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Roz Leeck, ISDA
Gary Steinhardt, Purdue
Jennifer Pinkston, ISDA
Roger Kult, NRCS

9:10 AM: Call to Order

Draft Minutes of March 2010

Bob Eddleman moved to approve the March 2010 minutes as presented. Warren Baird seconded and the motion carried.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Update: Jerod Chew -See Attachment

Jerod reported the issues with the Federal PayGo program which was hindering our CREP expansion timeline for the additional 37 counties. We are hoping to have that the national Farm Service Agency and Office of Management and Budget will resolve this quickly and then we will be able to move forward with signing ceremony and sign up.

Jerod reported CREP to date: 648 contracts, 4169.53 acres and \$976,787.00 have been completed. An additional 241 contracts, 1872.03 acres and \$542,722.00 have been obligated.

Jerod discussed how SWCDs will be involved with the administrative side of CREP. Counties that will participate in the CREP administration will receive a percentage of funds to compensate their time and efforts. This amount has not been set. There will be approximately 10-22 counties that will take part in the administration.

2011 CWI Budget: Jerod Chew

Jerod reported that he and ISDA accountant, Jennifer Pinkston, had recently met with Bob Eddleman and Nola Gentry of the SSCB Executive Committee to discuss a spending plan for FY 2011. Jerod walked the the board through the proposed budget and potential spending plan. One premise of this plan is to continue working with the State Budget Agency and State Personnel to fund those positions and expenses directly related to Clean Water Indiana out of the Clean Water Indiana fund and all others out of the Division of Soil Conservation fund. This should help to bring more funds under the guidance of the SSCB for funding projects to SWCDs or other CWI initiatives. The proposed budget did include the hopeful addition of 2 District Support Specialists. As with other agencies, we are required to hold a 15% reserve in Fiscal Year 2011. We have been unable to fill vacant field staff positions for over 2 years.

Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Update: Paul Hoffman – See Attachments

Paul reported the 2010 CWI grant contracts have all been paid the first 75%. 2 Districts have submitted final reports and final payments are being issued. We had also gone through the old purchase orders from prior years and closed out purchase orders that were no longer active. We have also requested refunds from counties that had not used all funds previously distributed under prior year grants.

Chairman and Executive Committee Update: Nola Gentry, Warren Baird

Nola reported

A group primarily consisting of those who have worked on the District Visits program met recently to discuss SWCD performance and accountability. They discussed an idea of an SWCD that has been employed in other states. With this concept, Districts would complete a self assessment scorecard. Information gathered will be used to build district capacity, determine if programs are effective and other information. Final details have not been set.

CWI Grants Committee Recommendations:

4 Districts have submitted proposals to receive additional disaster funds:

Dubois County requested \$42,000.000

Posey County requested \$30,000.00

Scott County requested \$10,000.00

Washington County requested \$8,000.00

The grants committee recommended awarding those 4 districts with funds from the disaster account totaling \$90,000.00.

A motion was made to approve Posey, Scott and Washington Counties. Dubois County's request is pending until verification is made on the projects funded. Projects must be on the original sign up and not completed. Funding to landowners will consist up to 50% of the cost with a cap of \$3,000.00. Motion was approved.

For the 2011 CWI grants the committee recommended allowing each district the opportunity to receive up to \$7,000.00. The funds could be broken down into 3 sections of funding opportunities: 1. Base funding for specific initiatives, 2. Partnering incentives, and 3. Supervisors/staff training. The base funds would consist of up to \$5,000.00, \$1,000.00 will be awarded to those districts who utilize their base funding to partner with other entities, and another \$1,000.00 could be used for supervisor/staff training.

A motion was made for the 2011 CWI grants to set aside \$1000.00 for each district for supervisor/staff training with a minimum of 30% going to supervisors. An additional \$1000.00 will be awarded to each district for multidistrict partnering, and base funding will be set pending budget approval. Amount could vary from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per district. Motion was approved.

Les Zimmerman presented a request to extend the current Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) contract to August 31, 2010 and to increase the funding for the 2010-2011 CCSI budget. The budget requested increasing compensation, travel and contracts. Proposed 2010-2011 budget totals \$178,000. This is a \$62,319.00 increase from the previous year.

A motion was made to extend the current contract to August 31, 2010 and to fund half of the 2010-2011 CCSI budget totaling \$89,000.00 of CWI funds. Motion was approved. Discussion included the encouragement by SSCB that CCSI seek additional funding opportunities and not rely entirely on SSCB/CWI and NRCS for financial support. It was mentioned that SSCB would like to see reduced funding form CWI within three years.

Other Highlights:

Annual Financial Reports have been submitted, contracts have been sent out and payments are being issued.

Next Leadership Institute Workshop: Change – June 25-26, 2010 in Rensselaer, IN

ICP Outreach Committee presented on the IN.gov project to develop a common online reporting tool for ICP.

Next SSCB meeting will be July, 13, 2010. Location: TBD.