

**State Soil Conservation Board Minutes**  
**September 20, 2016**  
**The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis IN**

**Members in Attendance:**

- Ray Chattin
- Nola Gentry
- Warren Baird
- Bob Eddleman
- Robert Woodling
- Rex Blanton

**Members Absent:** Larry Clemens.

**Others Present:**

Jordan Seger, ISDA	Scott Minor, Empower Results	Julie Harrold, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA	Scheryl Vaughn, Boone Co SWCD	Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD
Tara Wesseler-Henry, ISDA	Geneva Tyler, ISDA	Adam Heichelbech, NRCS
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA	Deb Fairhurst, ISDA	George Reger, NRCS
Jane Hardisty, NRCS		Walt Sell, Purdue

- I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Chattin, Chairman, opened the meeting at 9:31AM. The SSCB members and meeting attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Approve Minutes of July 2016:** Mrs. Gentry made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Eddleman seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**III. Clean Water Indiana:**

- a. Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grants: *Competitive grants:* Jordan Seger had a written report that summarized the grant program. He discussed previous years' grant efforts, and the changes that were made this year to improve the process. The Grants Committee will meet soon to review applications. At the October 25<sup>th</sup> SSCB meeting, the SSCB Board will take recommendations from the Grants Committee to award the grants. Five more applications were received this year than last year. The total dollar figure has been dramatically increased too since any maximum dollar figure limit was eliminated this year. Requests ranged from \$1,200- \$300,000. Applications will be scored blindly (all identifying details will be removed from applications). Also, the SSCB Grants Committee looks to plan an urban district roundtable before the 2018 CWI grant round to gather additional input. *Annual Financial Reports:* as of September 15<sup>th</sup> all have been returned from the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). 60 have been submitted for claims. We are on track to have this closed out and total dollar amounts should look similar to last year's. *Training Cost*

*Share:* all of the \$30k allocated to SWCD Supervisor and Staff training was utilized. *CWI Grant Reviews:* these are going well. Marion County is complete and six others are scheduled over the next two months.

#### **IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**

- a. SSCB Chairman's Report- Mr. Chattin attended the River Friendly Farmer celebration and noted it was a celebration. He also attended the IN Conservation Partnership Leaders' Meeting and commented there is a lot of potential for collaboration with this group. He's also been traveling to SWCDs with Jennifer Boyle-Warner, Jordan Seger, and Jane Hardisty and it's been a good experience. He encourages other SSCB members to sit in too. Mr. Blanton also commented it was a good experience and it was good to be there. Mr. Chattin's also attended forestry field days that addressed invasive species. He discussed his involvement with the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) and their activities including support to SWCD CWI applications. As well, Mr. Chattin recently visited Alaska. He discussed his visit and shared reflections on both his trip and conservation. Mr. Chattin shared his conviction that there needs to be a major conservation funding initiative at the state level. It may take more than one attempt to be successful, but he believes the partnership is equal to the task. Mr. Chattin distributed two concept papers to Soil Board members for their consideration. They pertain to ideas which could be useful if a funding initiative is undertaken. Mr. Chattin would like to present them to the partnership leaders with the endorsement of the Soil Board and requested their feedback.
- b. NRCS Leadership Development Program: Adam Heichelbech discussed the Leadership Development Program on which he and Rafael Vega have been working. Rafael has taken another position but Adam will continue with the project. Adam explained his findings on erosion efforts going back to the 1930s, how the "T By 2000" initiative began, the people and agencies that were involved, and how the initiative progressed over time. Adam and the audience also discussed challenges we'd face today if we tried to implement something. The Leadership Project isn't to recommend where we should go, but he could help support it and is willing to gather information for any new initiative. Multiple statewide committees, projects, and potential initiatives were discussed by attendees and possible paths these might take were brainstormed.

#### **V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

- a. Lawrence Co: Mrs. Gentry moved to accept the resignation of Pete Isom III and approve the appointment of Kyle Blevins. Mr. Baird seconded. All approved. Motion carried
- b. Miami Co: Mrs. Gentry moved to approve the recommendation for vacant appointment for Jon Reese due to the death of Trevor Hughes. Mr. Eddleman seconded, and all were in favor. Motion carried.
- c. Shelby Co: Mr. Baird moved to accept the recommendation for temporary appointment of Jason Lemmons, because of the resignation of Greg Conner. Mrs. Gentry seconded, and all were in favor. Motion carried.

#### **VI. 10 Minute Break:** meeting resumed at 10:42AM

## **VII. ISDA Updates**

- a. Director's Report, Jordan Seger: had a written report. Jordan highlighted and discussed key points from his report including budget, staffing, 4R, Transects, Western Lake Eric Basin, Mississippi River Basin, Water Quality Trading, and Indiana Bicentennial/Third Century Project sections.
- b. Technical Report, George Reger: George provided had written reports and recapped activities in the northwest part of the state. He reviewed totals, practices, conservation practices, and graphs on the written reports and commented numbers on the next report should increase dramatically. He also commented the Partnership's been very helpful in getting the INfield Advantage program completed. As well, he noted the District Conservationists and the Resource Specialist are working really well together in the northwest.
- c. Agricultural Affairs, Jordan Seger: a written report was provided. Meg texted this morning that 22 groups across the state are sampling and 26% of fields have been sampled.
- d. Accountability and Technology, Deb Fairhurst: Deb highlighted and discussed portions of her written report including transects and basin story maps (internal deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> to get things wrapped up). She noted most of the 2013-15 practice costs, match, and public vs. government contribution data has been compiled. The ICP Reports Web Application are about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> done.
- e. District Support, Laura Fribley: Laura provided a written report and highlighted the Supervisor Summit and the 2017 March Region Meeting dates.
- f. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold: Julie had written reports and highlighted excerpts. CREP has been very busy this year. A map of the 10 different basins in IN was also passed to the SSCB members. She will find out what key species are planted in bottomland tree plantings.

## **VIII. Conservation Partners Reports:**

- a. IASWCD Report, Jennifer Boyle Warner: Jennifer provided a written report and highlighted sections of the report including IASWCD Officers, Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, and other topics. She reported in October Lisa Holscher is scheduled to present an overall CCSI update to the SSCB.
- b. IDEM Report: no report
- c. DNR Report: no report
- d. Purdue Report, Walt Sell: Walt provided a handout for the Soil, Water and Cropping Systems Forum on November 18<sup>th</sup> in Danville and hopes that many leaders (state, regional, county) will be there. Mr. Eddleman and Mr. Blanton have it on their calendars. He also shared a handout from the Purdue Education Store that lists available pollinator publications available.

- e. FSA Report: no report
- f. NRCS Report
  - i. Scott Minor, Empower Results- Clear Choices, Clean Water: Scott presented about the Clear Choices, Clean Water program. A PowerPoint handout was provided. The program looks at collective impact at an individual level, and encourages people to take an action pledge that affects water quality. They worked with NRCS and Marion County SWCD to make "soil health" material more digestible to readers. Jane Hardisty encouraged everyone to get on the website and make a pledge. Scott also distributed oat cover crop seed packets.
  - ii. Jane Hardisty: she provided a written report, and a handout on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). She commented they're trying to fill remaining vacancies and we'll hear a lot more about CSP this year.
- g. IDEA Report, Scheryl Vaughn: Scheryl reported the IDEA Fall Conference is October 5-7 in Syracuse. The agenda is on the IDEA website. The conference includes a tour of the A&L Great Lakes Laboratory. She also noted IDEA Membership is up again this year.

IX. **Public Comment:** none

X. **Next Meeting:** October 25<sup>th</sup>, Huntington County. Location, agenda and maps are coming soon.

XI. **Adjourn-** 12:27PM. Mr. Eddleman moved. Mr. Woodling seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.