

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
1:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Members in Attendance:

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

Sara Slater-Atwater, ISDA
Kelly Gentry, ISDA
Paul Hoffman, ISDA
Tara Wesseler-Henry, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA
Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD
Greg Lake, Allen SWCD
Ray Chattin, Knox SWCD
Ric Schlosser, Johnson SWCD/HHRC&D
Paula Baldwin, IASWCD
Chris Gonso, IDNR
Roger Kult, NRCS

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew, ISDA
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Roz Leeck, ISDA

I. 1:00 PM: Call to Order

Nola Gentry began the meeting by introducing Julia Wickard, Indiana FSA Executive Director. Wickard thanked the board for inviting her to the SSCB meeting. She, along with the rest of FSA, would like to get more involved with the SSCB. Wickard stated any ideas or questions for FSA or the Farm Bill to please contact her.

II. Draft Minutes of September 2009

Bob Eddleman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Mann seconded and the motion carried.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Clean Water Indiana Update – Jerod Chew

Chew reported there are enough funds to cover Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Cropping Systems Initiatives (CCSI) and the 2010 CWI grants. The state is up against financial concerns, and we foresee the state asking to hold back a larger reserve. We will work with what is decided. N. Gentry asked if the state requires a larger reserve then could we give CWI grants 10% less. Chew stated we will come up with a solution when we cross that road.

Chew also thanked the central office staff and District Support Specialists (DSSs) in preparing the CWI grants and getting information out to SWCDs and the SSCB. He also thanked the board for all of their feedback.

b. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Update – Sara Slater-Atwater – See Attachment

Slater-Atwater announced the Division is looking into different ways of reporting CREP. We would like to report only what is paid and contracted. We are also looking into ways to revamp the administration process. One of the processes we are looking into is DNR's LARE process, which used Purchase Orders. It is estimated it would take seven days to process. Currently we have four easements paid and that process is set. Slater-Atwater also reported the CREP amendment is getting closer, but no date set. She also mentioned the CREP Technical Committee met last week and talked about processing, marketing and prioritizing watersheds. Larry Clemens stated the meeting went very well. There is a better partnership and team to market CREP.

c. Clean Water Indiana Grants – Paul Hoffman – See Attachment

Hoffman also clarified outstanding balances have been swept and used for 2008 CWI funds. Districts will need to send in request to the board if they want to extend deadlines.

i. Emergency Conservation Assistance Program (ECAP) Status Report – Paul Hoffman

Hoffman reported some districts are asking about further ECAP extensions. N. Gentry asked the DSSs if districts are having hard time getting money spent. Tara Henry stated some of the districts she works with are trying, but landowners are not following through.

Clemens recommends that December 31st should be the final extension and no more will be granted. If a district has funds left over then they will need to send them back. Hoffman asked if the deadline is to have money obligated or paid out to landowners. Chew suggested projects need to be done by December 31st, but not necessarily paid. The board should decide to set a date to get receipts in and one to have the funds paid. N. Gentry agreed and asked for a motion.

Scott Ham mad a motion that ECAP practices should be installed by December 31, 2009 and receipts submitted by January 31, 2010. Final reports will be due by February 28, 2010. Warren Baird seconded and the motion carried.

d. Conservation Cropping Systems Initiatives (CCSI) – Jerod Chew

Chew reported Deb Fairhurst has been working with Hans Kok and Dan Towery on the CCSI website. Ham asked that the website link be sent out to the board once it is complete. Eddleman also stated the CCSI committee has not met since the last SSCB meeting. A logo has been designed and approved.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Supervisor Requests – Kelly Gentry

Boone County Recommendation for Appointment – See Attachment

Eddleman moved to approve Boone County's request. Mann seconded and the motion carried.

Hancock County Recommendation for Appointment – See Attachment

Mann moved to approve Hancock County's request. Clemens seconded and the motion carried.

Henry County Recommendation for Temporary Appointment – See Attachment

Glick moved to approve Henry County's request. Ham seconded and the motion carried.

Martin County Recommendation for Temporary Appointment – See Attachment

Glick moved to approve Martin County's request. Eddleman seconded and the motion carried.

Daviess County 10 Acre Waiver Request – See Attachment

After the board reviewed the request they came to a consensus that a waiver is not needed since the candidate manages over 10 acres of Glendale Lake properties.

Knox County 10 Acre Waiver Request – See Attachment

Ray Chattin clarified the reason for the 10 Acre waiver request. Discussion followed on appointed and elected positions.

Bob moved to approve Knox County's request. Mann seconded and the motion carried.

b. CWI Grants Requests – Paul Hoffman

Clark County 2008 SNRG Extension Request – See Attachment

Fribley clarified they did not have as many people sign up, but believe they could have it complete by June 30, 2010.

Baird moved to approve Clark County's 2008 SNRG request. Brett Glick seconded and the motion carried.

DeKalb County 2009 SNRG Extension Request – see attachment

Mann moved to approve as DeKalb County's 2009 SNRG request with this as their final extension. Glick seconded and the motion carried.

Elkhart County 2008 SNRG Reallocation Request – See Attachment

Baird moved to approve Elkhart County's 2008 SNRG request. Ham seconded and the motion carried.

Eddleman stated the board needs to clarify when reallocation requests are necessary. In this case a request would not have been necessary. Chew stated DSSs may not have been comfortable telling a district that a request is not necessary. Some form of notice could be sent out.

Hancock County 2006 Regional Technician Extension Request – See Attachment

This is a tri-county grant with Rush and Shelby Counties. The current contract is for the first year of a three year grant. The extension request is for the first year. The contract states the original deadline was in 2007. Tara Henry informed the board that they are on the third technician. Henry continued to explain they do have a technician in place, but does not think December 2010 is enough time and could foresee another extension request. She also mentioned one district is leading this grant and the other two are losing

interest. N. Gentry suggested asking the district for more information and setting a cut off date.

Ham made a motion to give Hancock, Rush and Shelby Counties until June 30, 2010 to provide more information on their 2006 Regional Technician grant and prove the funds will be utilized or the money will be sent back. Eddleman seconded. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

Huntington County 2009 SNRG Extension Request – See Attachment

Baird made a motion to accept Huntington County's 2009 SNRG request. Glick seconded and the motion carried.

Scott County 2009 SNRG Extension Request – see Attachment

Eddleman made a motion to accept Scott County's 2009 SNRG request. Glick seconded and the motion carried.

Switzerland County 2009 SNRG Extension Request – See Attachment

N. Gentry stated it should all be done by September 30th.

Glick made a motion to approve Switzerland County's 2009 SNRG request with a deadline on September 30, 2010. Ham seconded and the motion carried.

Wayne County 2009 SNRG Extension and Reallocation Request – See Attachment

Ham made a motion to accept Wayne County's 2009 SNRG request. Glick seconded. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

Whitley County 2009 SNRG Extension Request – See Attachment

Discussion followed on extending their grant to June 1, 2010.

Ham made a motion to approve Whitley County's 2009 Extension request with a deadline of June 1, 2010. Glick seconded and the motion carried.

c. SWCD Election Update – Kelly Gentry

K. Gentry reported the *Nominees for Election* and the *District Annual Meeting Information* forms are due December 1st. Once all the information for district meetings is put together it will be sent out to the board to sign up for which meetings they can attend. We want to let districts know we will try our best to have a representative present at each meeting.

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry

N. Gentry reported on the five listening sessions held in September. The five locations included Winslow, Greensburg, Indianapolis, Warsaw and Rensselaer. The DSSs took notes and distributed them to the board members. The information obtained will be used in the business planning process.

Glick stated the information gathered was very helpful. Eddleman agreed but wish more districts would have attended. Baird commented on how not all districts were familiar with CCSI. He believed this was a program that all districts were aware of.

N. Gentry also mentioned the ICP leaders met in September to discuss their future business plan and new partnership with IDEM and DNR. She commented they are rewriting the partnership agreement and it will be signed at Annual Conference.

b. SSCB Sub-Committee Reports and Recommendations

i. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations – Nola Gentry

1. Business Planning Process

N. Gentry stated the SSCB needs to set a date for their business plan meeting. She recommended having it on December 8th in lieu of a SSCB meeting. N. Gentry asked if a copy of the notes from the listening session and the survey results can be sent out prior the meeting. K. Gentry stated she would send them to the board members.

ii. CWI Grants Committee Report and Recommendations – Warren Baird

1. 2009-2010 CWI Grant Recommendation

Baird reported that all the grant applications that were submitted were well proposed and utilized the flexibility of the grant. 88 districts submitted proposals for a total \$584,409. 77 of those districts applied for the full \$7,000. 11 applied for under \$7,000. Chew stated he checked with ISDA's accountant and that there would be enough funds available in the Clean Water Indiana fund to cover all of the applications should the board choose to do so.

Baird announced the CWI Grant Committee's recommendation would be to approve all applications as presented for a total of \$584,409 in 2010 CWI grants.

Baird commented on the improved applications. He stated it was easier to review the applications. He suggested the sixth month report follow the same format.

Baird suggested a few changes should be made to the cost share programs before the next round of grants. These changes will be discussed by the grants committee before the next guidelines and applications are released.

Eddleman asked if the process of payment had changed since the last board meeting. The SSCB had originally decided districts would receive 50% up front, 25% once the sixth month report is submitted and the final 25% after the final report is turned in. Chew mentioned the Grants Committee changed it to 75% and 25% so it is less paperwork on the administration side. Districts must submit their sixth month report and final report to receive their final 25%.

Eddleman made a motion to accept the change in the 2010 CWI grant payment processing to 75% up front and 25% after sixth month and final reports are submitted. Ham seconded and the motion carried.

Glick asked if state budget asked for an additional 10% reserve, should we send a letter to districts explaining their final 25% may only be 15%. N. Gentry said the most that would be held back per district would be \$700. Chew stated that there may be some other options at that point, but would not expect the state not to honor the contracts as written once approved

Ray Chattin asked if the CWI fund is non-reverting. Chew explained the CWI fund is not reverting. We knew there would be a 5% reserve, now budget is stating there maybe an additional 5%. Everyone in state government is dealing with the same thing. If we are asked to give back and additional reserve, we will still try to find a way to fund all of the 2010 CWI grant contracts. Discussion ensued.

Once the board votes on projects they have chosen to fund, then that list will be submitted to the State Budget Agency for approval to begin creating the contracts.

Ham made a motion to approve the CWI Grant Committees' recommendation and fund all 88 districts that applied for the 2010 grant cycle. Those districts include: Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Benton, Blackford, Boone, Brown, Carroll, Cass, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, DeKalb, Delaware, Dubois, Elkhart, Fayette, Fountain, Franklin, Fulton, Gibson, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Henry, Howard, Huntington, Jackson, Jasper, Jay, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Orange, Owen, Parke, Perry, Pike, Porter, Posey, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, St. Joseph, Starke, Steuben, Sullivan, Switzerland, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Union, Vanderburgh, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warren, Warrick, Washington, Wayne, Wells, White and Whitley. Glick seconded and the motion carried.

iii. District Capacity Committee Report and Recommendations – Bob Eddleman – No Report

VI. ISDA Reports

Chew reported ISDA Director, Joe Kelsay, has officially started. He is eager to get out in the field and learn more about conservation. Chew also stated Cris Goode is ISDA's new lead in the Communications Department. Also, Amy Eizinger-Ott is now the Director of Operations as well as the Grant Coordinator for ISDA. Eizinger-Ott has also started a grants blog to talk about and promote other grants:

<http://aggrantguru.blogspot.com/>.

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report

Chew reported some changes in the Division as well. Sara Slater-Atwater is the new lead for Water Quality. Roz Leeck is the lead of Agriculture Affairs. Deb Fairhurst is with Accountability and Technology and Jim Lake is the new lead for DSSs. Chew stated he is still the lead for technical support until they can fill that lead role.

i. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

Chew reported on the Conservation Technician Development Program, which is still in development. Also that Division Resource Specialists continue to average 100 landowners that they service in any given week that and working on projects protecting over 1000 acres of land from erosion and runoff conservation concerns.

ii. District Support Update – Laura Fribley

Fribley reported the DSSs will have a retreat in December to discuss the DSS strategic plan.

She also stated if anyone has not completed the Leadership Institute Communications workshop, there will be a one day workshop in later November for those interested. After the Impacting Community workshop in December, we will have several SWCD supervisors and staff that will graduate from Leadership Institute. Grads will be acknowledged during Annual Conference. A final report on Leadership Institute will be giving during the January SSCB meeting.

iii. Water Quality Update – Sara Slater-Atwater

Slater-Atwater reported on the Mississippi River Basin Initiative lead by NRCS. She stated 12 states will be involved with MRBI receiving \$320 Million. We do not know how much Indiana will receive. It will be based on the proposals that NRCS receives and of those which proposals are selected for funding.

Slater-Atwater also reported she has a Region 5 model meeting with Allen County SWCD tomorrow. We hope this is something we can use to determine pollutant load reductions in the future, helping to measure our successes.

iv. Accountability and Technology Update – Deb Fairhurst – See Attachments
Discussion followed on LiDAR and where else it is used.

v. Agriculture Affairs Update – Roz Leeck

Leeck introduced herself to the board. She reported she is on the board for Certified Crop Advisors. Leeck will also be developing and steering new ag conservation initiatives for the Division.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. ICP Leadership Workgroup – Greg Lake and Ray Chattin

District Capacity and 5 Star Program – See Attachment

Ham asked if guidelines for consequences have been set. Lake responded they have not, but it will be added during the finalization process. Clemens asked if this is a beneficial program for strong districts or just weaker districts. Lake said it would help both types of districts.

b. DNR Report – Gary Langell – No Report

c. IDEM Report – Marylou Renshaw – See Attachments

d. Purdue Report – Gary Steinhardt – No Report

e. IASWCD President’s Report – Paula Baldwin

Baldwin mentioned the efforts for Annual Conference are well on their way. She also highlighted on District Showcases. These showcases reward districts for their services in conservation and help build excitement and passion for conservation. Baldwin also

thanked the board members and other partners that came to those showcases. It also means a lot to the districts for state leaders to be there.

- f. **Farm Services Agency Report – Gail Peas – No Report**
- g. **NRCS State Conservationist’s Report – Roger Kult – See Attachment**

VIII. Public Comment

N. Gentry asked how the board should handle registration for Annual Conference. Chew said he would send out email instructions once details are finalized. November 30th is the deadline for early registration.

IX. Next Meeting: December 8, 2009 for Business Plan

X. Adjourn: 4:25 PM