

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
10:30 a.m.(EST) October 12, 2011
Rico's
1400 St Gaspar Dr
Rensselaer, IN 47978-7361

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Nola Gentry

Members Not In Attendance:

Scott Ham
Brett Glick

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Jon Mangles ISDA
Deb Fairhurst ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Jim Lake ISDA
Roz Leeck ISDA
Julie Harrold ISDA
Sue Gerlach ISDA
Dan Perkins Jasper County SWCD
Jody Wilson Jasper County SWCD
Deb Lane Warren County SWCD
Hans Kok CCSI
Jordan Seger ISDA
George Reger ISDA
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Roger Kult, NRCS

I. 10:30 AM: Call to Order

- a. A brief welcome from the Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District and details about the afternoon conservation site visits they have prepared for the State Soil Conservation Board and guests to see. Jerod Chew gave thanks to Dan Perkins and Jody Wilson from the Jasper SWCD and Jordan Seger from the ISDA, Soil Conservation for setting up this meeting and making many of the arrangements.

II. Draft Minutes of June 2011

Nola Gentry moved to approve minutes as presented. Bill Mann seconded. Motion carried.

III. Clean Water Indiana

- a. CREP Update—Jon Mangles (See Attachment)
Jon presented CREP Report (data as of October 3, 2011). Since August report, an additional 200 acres have been completed. Bottomland Timber is currently the most popular practice. SWCD Administrative contracts have been amended; with \$410,000 of FY12 funding obligated and extended until January, 2013. The remaining \$150,000 will be distributed this spring. New CREP forms will be coming that will include a mathematical model to show nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reduction estimates.
- b. Grants Report—Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachment)
Since August report, no additional reports have been filed. Two districts' grants have ended-reports due by October 31. The remaining two grants will end on October 31 and November 31.
 - i. Fulton County Extension until March 31, 2012—Approved
 - ii. Adams County Extension until September 30, 2012—Approved
 - iii. Wayne County Extension until June 30, 2012—Approved
 - iv. Greene County Extension until June 30, 2012—Approved
 - v. Kosciusko County Extension until March 31, 2012—Approved
- c. Clean Water Indiana Budget—Jerod Chew (See Attachment)
Jerod submitted an updated budget proposal to the board based on feedback from State Budget Agency (SBA). SBA has noted that due to declining cigarette tax revenues, \$3.1M would be the available allotment for Clean Water Indiana-Cigarette Tax Fund and \$485,000 will be available for Clean Water Indiana-General Fund. The Executive Committee met earlier this month to discuss amount available for grants. The Committee proposed to allot \$890,000 for grants. \$830,000 will be utilized for 2012 CWI

multi-district grants, with the remaining funds to be held for possible business plan implementation program(s) or a second round of grants later in the fiscal year.

Nola Gentry made a motion to approve submitted budget plan. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

d. 2012 Grant Applications—Grants Committee (See Attachment)

The grants committee met earlier this month to review the applications for the 2012 Clean Water Indiana Multi-District Grants. After careful evaluation, the Grants Committee proposes funding 12 grants as applied, 3 grants with reductions in funding and time, and 1 grant which combines two similar applications with increased funding. Warren motioned to approve funding recommendations; Bob seconded. Motion carried.

e. Healthy Rivers Initiative Proposal—See Attachment

ISDA and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources have discussed the mutual interests of promoting the Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) along the Wabash. The DNR wrote up a proposal which would allow for a contracted position to reach out to potential landowners within a specific section of the Wabash and Sugar Creeks to encourage participation in CREP and HRI. This concept would last for two years and would require a \$55,000 to be paired DNR's investment. The Board noted that while the project is a good idea, they would like to hear more details before committing at this time. The Board approved to table the proposal until the next meeting to allow time for clarification and a representative from DNR to be in attendance to work through proposal. Jerod indicated that there may be an opportunity to utilize another funding mechanism as opposed to CWI funds as well and that he would explore this option.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Temporary Supervisor Appointments—Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachments)

- i. Marshall County SWCD—Approved**
- ii. Pulaski County SWCD—Approved**

b. Election Deadlines—See Attachment

Districts should note the upcoming deadlines on the attachment. November 1: Election Committee Appointment and Recommendations for Supervisor Appointments are due. District Annual Meeting information and Nominees for Election are due December 1.

c. Upcoming Dates—Jim Lake

The next Leadership Institute will be December 2 and 3 in Monticello. The topic is Impacting Communities. On February 17 and 18, the "Communications" Leadership Institute will be held in Wabash. On December 14, ISDA will have District Employee Financial Management Training class in Plainfield. Representatives from IRS, State Board of Accounts and others will be presenting.

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report—Larry Clemens (See Attachment)

Our thanks to the Jasper County SWCD for hosting the SSCB and assistance with the setup. Before the December board meeting, Larry is requesting the Executive Committee meet and set action items to complete tasks listed in business plan. As part of the Board's business plan, Larry has drafted a charter for a task force to explore the benefits and obstacles in SWCD consolidation. ISDA will put together the task force, inviting members from ICP. To facilitate this process and provide exploratory work, the task force would like to utilize the services of Ray Ledgerwood. ISDA will begin working through the steps to bring Ray along in this effort.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report

i. Technical Support Update—Jerod Chew (See Attachment)

Restructuring of Resource Specialists duties and responsibilities to providing more support to soil and water conservation districts and establish better connections between SWCDs and the ISDA technical staff has been done. As part of the new duties, RSs will attend at least 2 board meetings a year for each of their assigned districts. RS will contact their assigned districts in the coming

weeks to talk about what to expect from them. Currently, Jerod is reviewing the applications for the three technical positions that are funded from the 319 grant. Interviews will take place in a couple of weeks. The positions will be located in offices within the Tippecanoe, Upper Eel, and Upper Wabash watersheds.

- ii. Tillage Transect Report—Jim Lake and Deb Fairhurst
Complete reports of tillage data can be found on the ISDA website here: <http://www.in.gov/isda/2354.htm>. Overall State highlights include: Up 1% in no-till corn and Down 4% in no-till soybean. The new process using the spreadsheet developed by Shannon Zezula puts the results out nearly 6 months ahead of schedule.
- iii. District Support—Jim Lake
District Support Specialists have been busy reviewing Clean Water Indiana grant applications and preparing for annual meetings.
- iv. Water Quality Update—Jon Mangles
USGS models rank Indiana 4th and 8th and nitrogen and phosphorus contributions to the Gulf Hypoxia zone.
- v. Technology and Accountability—Deb Fairhurst
Deb and Jerod noted the importance of SWCDs using SharePoint to track conservation efforts. This data can be put into maps for districts to use at annual meetings and other events to showcase their work. .
- vi. Agricultural Affairs—Roz Leeck (See Attachment)
The attached maps show counties currently involved in On-Farm Network® programs. Three groups are completely finished with stalk sampling; others to be completed in the upcoming weeks.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

- a. DNR Report—No Report
- b. IDEM Report—No Report
- c. Purdue Report—A cover crop workshop will be held Friday, October 21. Indiana watershed leadership academy will take place this winter.
- d. IASWCD President’s Report—Jennifer Boyle Warner
Online registration is now open for Annual Conference. Supervisors will receive brochures in the mail. This year, IASWCD will offer supervisor scholarships. The planning committee has put together lots of breakout sessions this year. Look for more DNR speakers as well. The Sustainable Nutrient Resource task force met in August. The group is looking at long term conservation funding. The group will meet monthly.
- e. FSA Report—No Report
- f. NRCS State Conservationist’s Report—Roger Kult (See Attachment)
Key accomplishments for FY11 include 90% of WRP restoration work complete, 99% allocation/contract obligation rate, 33% decrease in landowner contract cancellation, and 100% accuracy in quality assurance for WRP tracking.

VIII. Public Comment – no public comment

IX. Next Meeting: December 13. Location The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis

X. Adjourn 1:30 PM EST

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:

