

AGENDA

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2019

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown

Room Marriott 7-8

I. 3:00 pm.: Call to Order

II. Approve Minutes of October & November 2019

- a. **Draft minutes of October 2019:** Warren moved; Cain second. Motion passed.
- b. **Draft minutes of November 2019-Business Plan meeting:** Cain moved; Chattin second. Motion passed

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Clean Water Indiana Grants- Geneva Tyler

Grants are moving, seven returned for signatory. None have been executed, but they are being processed. The 2020 CWI reports are due in July 31, 2020. The districts are completing their annual and final reports. CWI reports for 2018, and 2019 bi-annual reports are due January 31, 2020.

b. CWI Grant Modification Request – Laura Fribley

Dubois County budget request – The budget modification form is in the packet. In summary, this request is for their invasive grant from 2018. They would like to shift tech salary funds to education/outreach and cost-share. Judy Brown was in attendance to answer any questions.

Ray made a motion to approve the modification request, Cain seconded the motion.

All in favor – motion passed.

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

a. Chairman's Report

- b. Larry thanked the board for allowing him to serve as Chair for this year. He has a great appreciation for local conservation and all the partners. His role on the board was to give back, but it was an honor to serve. He looks forward to continuing to be a board member. As we start a new decade, it is an important time, and we will look back on this decade and how it shaped the future. We can either react to this decade, or we can use it to shape the future, and he hopes this decade will shape the next decade, and our future of natural resource use. Let's shape this decade, and let's take action in our soil conservation world.

- c. **Letter from the IASWCD** – regarding the CWI training dollars, the letter was in the SSCB board packet. The letter expressed the IASWCD's displeasure of no training reimbursement funds this year. They would like to meet with the SSCB, ISDA, and IASWCD. Larry mentioned that the \$30,000 has gotten spent in the past. He indicated that he and other board members would be happy to sit down with the IASWCD and ISDA to talk about the training funds, and the sooner the better

Baird – training is good, but we need to revise some of the requirements to be eligible to receive training funds.

d. SSCB business plan

We have been updating the SSCB business plan. In November, we dedicated a meeting to updating the business plan, with ISDA facilitating. This was similar to a SWCD business plan update. This might be new for some people. If you have comments, write them on the notecards in the back, and bring them to us. Tomorrow afternoon, we have are having a roundtable discussion. Feel free to email the SSCB or ISDA comments about the business plan as well.

The SSCB has tried to focus what we want to work on including the natural resource concerns that we have identified, statewide priorities, and District capacity. In our role for the next five years, we will work on building capacity, staff levels, and holding people accountable. We have four key areas, and goals.

Larry opened up the discussion to other SSCB members.

1. Kenny Cain – spoke about capacity. He wants to look to the Districts. He sees our problem with capacity in the field, finding great supervisors, and people who want to serve and be involved.

Through example, we can show communities how important SWCDs are, what the SSCB is, and the work we all do. People will come and want to serve on the board.

2. Ray Chatten– word to the wise, read the document, it does impact Districts and Supervisors, and a new direction for the board. We appreciate having colleges look at the plan, and he’s sure there will be some buzz once the plan gets review. We have until January 31st to finalize it.
 3. Brad Dawson– This is a stepping stone and we want to get as much feedback as possible. Please show the plan to your region. We need to know your thoughts, so we can fine tune the document and get it to where it needs to be.
 4. Warren Baird – we are contributing money to areas that might not be acceptable to SWCDs. He mentioned invasive species, and a lot of the grants want to support invasive species removal. We gave money to SICIM, a statewide organization, and if they want to have a statewide organization, they need to do it on their own, and should not be taking CWI funds away from SWCDs. He’s not sure invasive species need to be in the business plan.
 5. Larry Clemens – thanks Warren, as we go forward with this, he’s not sure where to go from here. How do we walk the fine line? How do we help them fund a large pool of money, while we are trying to address natural resource concerns of invasive species? WE don’t have to fund it, but we might need to help find them another source of funds. Are there other areas that we could support? These points are great for discussion. We have until January 30th. We looked at the foundation items. We need those before we can get acreage goals, which should be set at the local level.
- e. Appointment of Officers and Committees**
Kenny Cain nominated Brad Dawson for Chairperson and Warren seconded.
Kenny Cain nominated Amy Burris for Vice Chair, Seconded by Warren.
All in favor, motion passed.

Grants Committee

Larry wants to rotate the committee.

Kenny stated that he would be honored to serve.

After further discussion, Warren moved to have Kenny Cain, Amy Burris and Bob Eddleman serve on the CWI grant committee; Brad seconded for those above to serve on the grant committee.

All in favor, motion passed.

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. SWCD Supervisor Appointments- Geneva Tyler

The SSCB reviewed the excel document that lists the SWCD county names and their suggestions for SSCB appointment to their Board of Supervisors. This information was gathered from the data that the Districts imputed onto SharePoint. Baird moved that the board approves the names shown on the sheet of paper, Cain, seconded this motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

b. Cass SWCD- Geneva Tyler

Geneva presented the application from Randolph for a temporary appointed position for Cameron Mills.

The District missed the SharePoint deadline.

Warren moved, and Brad seconded.

All in favor, motion passed.

c. Clark SWCD- Laura Fribley

Laura presented the application from Clark for a vacant appointed position for Loren Christman. The District missed the SharePoint deadline.

Warren moved, and Brad seconded.

All in favor, motion passed.

d. LaPorte SWCD- Geneva Tyler

Geneva presented a resignation letter from Sacha Gee-Burns and a vacant appointment application from LaPorte.

Cain moved to accept the resignation and the vacant appointment, and Chattin seconded.

All in favor, motion passed.

e. Washington SWCD- Laura Fribley

Laura presented the application from Clark for a vacant appointed position for Loren Christman. The District missed the SharePoint deadline.

Cain moved to accept the vacant appointment, and Baird seconded.

All in favor, motion passed.

VI. ISDA Updates

a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger

Seger thanked Larry for his service. He congratulated Brad and Amy on their new positions.

Seger recapped the previous year.

He mentioned that the legislators begin their short session about two weeks ago. ISDA does not have any bills, but we are tracking several agriculture and conservation bills. We might be playing defensive on a few as well. What could impact CWI funding is raising the smoking age.

Budget – in your packet, we took the savings from open positions and placed the money into CREP.

In CWI, some of the lines in the budget are estimates, we don't know the true costs until May 2020. This may allow the board additional funds to shift to another CWI grant.

b. Technical Report- Jennifer Thum

Thum indicated that a written report was provided. She went over the workload of the NE staffing.

c. Soil Health- Jordan Seger

A written report was provided. Seger spoke about a SARE CIG grant that was received to help out with INFA for the next few years.

d. Accountability and Technology- Jordan Seger

A written report was provided. Seger went over the load reduction maps that were provided for Calendar year, 2019. He discussed the impact of CWI funds, and the associated load reductions. We are trying to explore how to quantify the benefits of invasive species removal and soil amendments such as gypsum.

e. District Support- Laura Fribley

Fribley mentioned that she has a written report and she will just touch on a few highlights.

Laura highlighted the team POW meeting, and similar to the SSCB, they identified key area that they want to focus on in 2020. Laura then mentioned the LI from Madison.

f. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold

Julie did a PowerPoint presentation. She provided a written report.

CREP

In 2019, the state paid out \$935,862.50 in direct payments to participants for installation of practices, and \$93,586.25 in administrative fees to partnering SWCD's.

State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)

The current version of the Strategy can be found on the ISDA webpage.

Western Lake Erie Basin

The WLEB Action Plan Advisory Committee met on December 20th. Meetings in 2020 will be held once a quarter to discuss necessary changes to the plan and make updates to the milestones and action items table.

VIII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD Report

Roger Wenning – This will be the 28th year of Pathway to Water Quality, the committee meets at the end of January. There is discussion about expanding the area to include what used to be the Boy Scouts area. As

far as legislative actions, there were three resolutions at the annual business meeting, if any passed they will need to be carried to NACD.

Senate bill – study invasive species.

District showcase – recognized at awards luncheon at the IASWCD annual conference. Association board members will be present at the NACD meeting in February held in Las Vegas, NV.

February 5th and 6th – leadership training for the IASWCD.

b. IDEM Report

No one in attendance.

c. DNR Report

No one in attendance.

d. Purdue Report

Sells spoke about the results from the Nov 20th Soil and Water forum, where there were 12 researchers that gave updates to the ICP.

e. FSA Report

No one in attendance.

f. NRCS Report

A lot to look forward the next couple of days, and we can answer any questions.

Farm Bill- EQIP Feb 18th is the deadline, and hopefully we can get started rolling out EQIP and the other programs.

RCPP – working on rules for that. Farm Bill delivery is delayed. We don't know how delayed it is going to be. We have our obligation by the end of next month, we will know our TA and FA amounts soon, but right now program delivery is delayed. One of the changes is that for CRP, now we do 10% of certification of practices. Once the new Farm Bill is in place we will complete 100% of those contracts. That workload went up, and we will be looking at how to provide efficient turn around with CRP as well as EQIP.

See how the NRCS and ISDA can help with the new work load.

We are hoping to get an increase in staffing that was approved in 2019. We are at 200 employees with 10 to 15 to come board once they receive final job offers. We have to streamline our paperwork, the conservation tools, and are providing training for that.

There will be an all conservation partnership staff day, and it will take a lot of work. ICP get prepared.

Indiana recognized by headquarters for having 100 earth team volunteers, we will continue to build as we can. The soil health division has asked to meet with NRCS staff and we will be talking with the partnership once that meeting happens.

g. CCSI Report

Busy year, they assisted with 100 events, and led 16 trainings. In two weeks they will be 10 years old, and in those years, CCSI assisted or led many events and trainings.

There is information in the packet, they have done rebranding.

Lisa went over their new website.

h. IDEA Report

2020 IDEA president, can stay for the meeting after. We have new directors onboard. We want to highlight fall conference, which had the best attendance to date. The silent auction is going on.

Membership sign up is through March 31st, and anyone can be a member,

i. IANA Report

No one was in attendance.

IX. Public Comment

None

Kenny made the motion and Warren seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 pm.

X. Next Meeting:

2020 Meeting Dates

March 17, NRCS State Office

May 19, TBD

July 21, NRCS State Office

September 15, NRCS State Office

October 27, TBD

XI. Adjourn

Kenny made the motion and Warren seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 pm.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.

DRAFT