

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
Minutes: October 27th, 2020
Location: Indiana Corn and Soy
8425 Keystone Crossing #200, Indianapolis, IN 46240
WebEx Virtual Meeting

Present in person

Amy Burris
Kenny Cain
Ray Chattin
Larry Clemens
Brad Dawson
Laura Fribley

Tara Wesseler-Henry
Jordan Seger
Nathan Stoelting
Geneva Tyler

Virtual attendance

Bob Eddleman
Warren Baird
Jennifer Thum
Amanda Robbins
Amy Work
Joe Schmees
Judi Brown

Amy Sims
Shelby Huff
Lisa Holscher
Jessica Rayburn
Julie Harrold
Kristen ?
Becky ?

- I.** 9:30 am.: Brad Dawson called meeting to order.
- II.** Approval of July 2020 meeting minutes: Bob moved to approve. Warren second. Motion passed.
- III.** Clean Water Indiana
- a.** Clean Water Indiana Grants – Geneva Tyler. See report
 - b.** Clean Water Indiana Grant modifications
 - 1. Boone County SWCD- Geneva Tyler
 - i. Bob moved to approve, Larry second. Motion passed.
 - 2. Wayne County SWCD- Tara Wesseler-Henry
 - i. Warren moved to approve. Larry second. Motion passed.
 - c.** Communications policy updates-Tara Wesseler-Henry. See policy in attachments.
 - 1. Kenny moved to approve, Bob second. Motion passed.
 - d.** Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee report-Amy Burris
 - 1. Training dollars and 2021 Grant recommendations: In addition to the written report, Jay and St. Joseph County SWCD applications were recommended for funding. Grant committee report will be updated to reflect their awarded grants. Bob moved to approve. Kenny Second. Motion passed.
 - 2. Ray Chattin noted that in 2019, SICIM was awarded \$54,000, short \$6,000 of the \$60,000 commitment in 2017. Ray asked that the \$6,000 deficit be considered to complete 2020's full funding commitment.
- Brad: Thank you to CWI grants committee for all the work.

Jordan recognized the new grant application system.

e. SICIM update- Troy Hinkle

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

a. November Plan of Work meeting- Brad Dawson: 9:30amEST, November 12 @ Indiana Corn and Soy

b. January SSCB meeting- Brad Dawson

- Preference is for Zoom/Virtual- Bob Eddleman
- Hybrid- Amy/Larry
- Geneva will work with Joe Schmees, IASWCD, on meeting options

c. Budget update- Jordan Seger

- Where we are with budget: Due to Covid and reduced State incomes, Gov Holcomb has asked all state agencies minus a few, to take a 15% cut on current and last fiscal year budget. We've done that on only general funds for this current fiscal year. We did not take that cut on dedicated funds for this fiscal year. We do not intend to cut that for this fiscal year, but it could come up if the revenue situation continues through June. We have achieved the 15% cut through vacancies.
- Dedicated funds: there is \$162,000 in the CWI fund. 2 options to consider and act on in May, closer to end of fiscal year:
 - Do an additional round of grants.
 - Roll over the \$162000 into the next fiscal year.Keep in mind that there could be an ask that additional dollars be sent back if tax revenues get worse.
- In Division fund: \$257,000 balance. Some savings found through vacancies, less travel, etc. In May, any balance could be shifted to CREP.
- Going forward: January- beginning of long session, budget session. We will learn tomorrow what the session will look like. They are constitutionally obligated to put together a budget for next 2 years. We've currently been asked to submit biennium budget. We've been asked to submit 15% cut for general and dedicated funds. We submitted 15% cut for general, but not the dedicated funds at this time.

d. Kenny moved to award \$6000 to SICIM from CWI fund. Amy Second. Roll call vote: Ayes: Amy, Kenny, Larry, Brad. Nays: Warren. Ray Chattin recused himself of the vote. Bob was unavailable. Motion passed.

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Temporary appointments

- i. Brown County SWCD- Nathan Stoelting. Kenny moved to approve. Larry second. Motion passed.
- ii. Hancock County SWCD- Tara Wessler-Henry. Bob moved to approve. Ray second. Motion passed.
- iii. Fulton County SWCD- Jennifer Thum. Kenny moved to approve. Larry second. Motion passed.
- iv. Union County SWCD (recommendation of Brad Lowe)- Tara Wessler-Henry. Larry moved to approve. Kenny second. Motion passed.
- v. Union County SWCD (recommendation of Sarah Guifford)- Tara Wessler-Henry. Amy moved to approve. Bob second. Motion passed.
- vi. Martin County SWCD- Nathan Stoelting. Kenny moved to approve. Ray second. Motion passed.

VI. Public Comment:

- a.** Lisa Holscher gave highlights of CCSI report.
- b.** Joe Schmees gave highlights of IASWCD report. Also, reported that they met with OMB, who verbally said they'd try to stay away from dedicated funds. Follow up meeting with State Budget director this coming week. Reviewed resolutions. Annual Conference will be Jan 11-13, 3 half days to accommodate virtual conference and online fatigue.
- c.** Julie Harrold- highlighted CREP report
- d.** Ray Chattin- Expressed concern over audit bill and high fees. Laura Fribley commented that those audits by SBOA are done every 3-5 years on average. The DSSs are tracking State Board of Accounts fees, as SWCDs share their audit costs, for audits to help districts budget for those audits. Joe Schmees suggested that itemized bills would be a good start to look into those fees.
- e.** Bob Eddleman expressed concern that the name "State Soil Conservation Board" does not properly reflect what the board does. Joe confirmed that the name is important and legislators do not always readily know what the SSCB is.

VII. Next Meeting:

2021 Meeting Dates

January ?

March 16, TBD

May 18, TBD

July 20, TBD

September 21, TBD

October 19, TBD

IX. Adjourn. Kenny moved to adjourn. Bob second. Motion passed.