

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

February 17, 2015
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio St
Indianapolis, IN

Members in Attendance:

Nola Gentry
Bob Eddleman
Warren Baird
Robert Woodling
Ray Chattin

Others in Attendance:

Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD
Emily Neitzel, IASWCD
George Reger, ISDA
Geneva Tyler, ISDA
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Jordan Seger, ISDA
Meg Leader, ISDA
Logan Garner, ISDA

Jennifer Thum, ISDA
Leah Harmon, ISDA
Susan Meadows, NRCS
Steve Howell, IDEM
Sheryl Vaughn, Boone SWCD
Candace Kindt, Delaware SWCD

I. Call to Order: 1:33pm

II. Draft minutes of December 2014

Mr. Eddleman moved; Mr. Baird second. Motion passed.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Grants – Leah Harmon

Leah stated that she along with the other DSSs and Jordan have been working on a CWI grants timeline, that will establish the process from start to finish, detailed guidelines, and go over when the grant agreement will be paid out. This document is still in a draft format and they are teaming up with the Lieutenant Governors Grants Team to finalize the document. For FY 2015, they are waiting on one grant agreement to come in and the SWCDs are sending in their claim vouchers.

b. Clean Water Indiana Budget Update

Jordan thanked the IASWCD for the past 2 years for the general fund appropriations, on top of the cigarette fund, with those funds; the Department of Agriculture was able to award the largest grant awards in history. Every state agency took a 3% cut and we took 3% off the total funds and we will have to do the same for FY 2016 and FY 2017. The Board did vote to hold back small amount of funding in case there was additional reserve called for. If by chance there are extra funds at the end of our fiscal cycle, we can look at putting some of those funds into the Leadership Institute account.

c. IASWCD Resolution

Mr. Seger and Mrs. Boyle-Warner talked about the two resolutions that went before the members at the annual conference. They discussed the first resolution that was passed at the Conference, which had to do with the \$10,000 CWI match, and the ways that the District can meet that match requirement. The Board gives \$10,000 each District that gets a match from a political subdivision in their County. The resolution that was passed basically called for change in CWI code to take out the political subdivision language and make that any entity that would give \$10,000 would be sufficient to receive the match. In Delaware County, a local foundation was giving funds to the District and not the County. Therefore the District could not receive the \$10,000 match because a foundation does not meet the definition of a political subdivision. The question was asked, is there alternatives to opening up code, could the SSCB look at this issue and make a determination. Mr. Seger stated that he spoke with the legal team within the Department and they stated, "The SSCB could make that discretion and could award \$10,000 to Delaware County and it's up to the board." The county does have paperwork of the match from the Ball Foundation. In addition, Delaware SWCD Board wanted to look at the past years, and Jordan stated that we can only go on a year to year basis and for previous years, the money is not there so Delaware could not be given past funds. The board could choose to fund the \$10,000 this year.

Mr. Ham asked, "Does this open the floodgates if the counties stop giving funds to a district, would they approach the board." Scott wants a memo from Delaware County showing that they still support the SWCD and will work with them in the future.

Mr. Chattin talked about Delaware being a good district and we need to find a way to provide for the district. The city contributes a little, 10% match, which could count for their public funding match.

Mr. Eddleman stated that he prefers to grant all or portion of \$10,000 for 2015 but then sit down with the board and county councilmen, the DSS, Mr. Seger and then talk it through because the district exists, the money and good we should be able to get that county should give money to the district. Delaware SWCD would be considered new funding since they were cut in 2011 and they don't have any funds for new categories.

Mrs. Boyle-Warner stated that the resolution passed so the association has to do something.

Mr. Chattin moved to award \$10,000 to Delaware this year, a special allocation for operating expense, Mr. Eddleman seconded it.

Discussion – Mr. Eddleman afraid that this would be precedent. Wants the district to succeed. Hard time give the County an easy out. Mr. Baird – the district needs to be sold to the county. Mr. Chattin – it may open a can of worms, but Delaware is not sitting on their hands and we need to visit with them and set up a meeting where we can settle this out. After discussion, the board did a roll call vote.

Yea: Ray Chattin, Bob Eddleman, Nola Gentry

Nay: Warren Baird, Robert Woodling.

Motion passed to award Delaware County SWCD a one-time allotment of the \$10,000 match. The board stated they will sit down with Delaware and county officials to try and figure something out.

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

a. Chairman's report

i. Round Table Discussion

Mr. Ham talked about the round table workshop that was held at the IASWCD annual conference, good input; we need to make sure on certain subjects that we communicate properly. Mr. Ham stated they he would like a report from the DSSs following the Districts annual meetings. If we have any money left over for round 2 of the CWI grants, pending a call for reserves, could we reseed the L.I. program, as it's slowly depleting?

ii. Annual Conferences

Mr. Ham talked about the NACD conference in New Orleans and put the word out that as people are looking to Indiana for success, and we need to continue to move forward. Ted and Jordan continue to push the division and the partners and improve the things already doing. Great conference.

iii. CCSI

Mr. Ham discussed the Boards support of the project and the \$89,000 commitment and look at next year. We need to vote for this year and next year. Look at our business plan, where are we going in the future and look at the officers and the vice chair, chair, and the committees. When we look at the business plan we need to make sure terminology is up to date, see how far we want to push it out...2015 – 2020, the OFN program and see if we need to modify the leadership, ICP and CSSI commitment, water quality, help coordinate input we need to add into the business plan.

The NRCS has entered into agreement with the state association for 3 years for additional CCSI activity, Purdue is adding an extension specialist with funding and to preach the soil health gospel so a lot of work going on and encourage the SSCB to support them. Strong policy support and we continue to support them

Mr. Chattin moved to continue to support CCSI \$89,000 for FY 2016, Mr. Eddleman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried

Mr. Woodling moved to show support to CCSI initiative should funding come our way in 2017, in the amount of \$89,000, Mrs. Gentry seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. **Chair and Vice Chair Selection**

Mr. Eddleman moved to elect Mr. Ham as Chairperson and Mr. Chattin as Vice Chair, Mr. Woodling, seconded that motion. All in favor, motion carried.

c. **Committee Selection**

Grants Committee – Mr. Eddleman, Mr. Baird and Mr. Woodling

Executive Committee – Mr. Chattin, Mr. Ham and Mrs. Gentry

Pathway to Water Quality Committee – Mr. Baird is stepping down from the committee. Mr. Woodling will serve as the new replacement on that committee.

d. **State Soil Conservation Board Business Plan**

We need to look at the plan and before the next meeting throw out some dates for a retreat day and work with the DSSs. Geneva and Leah will work on the dates and locations. It would be an all day event. The board directed Mrs. Tyler and Ms. Harmon and to look at a few dates and locations and get back with the Board. Mrs. Gentry asked that they consider travel time, and look at a range of options and present these to the board.

V. **State and Water Conservation Districts**

a. Approval of appointed supervisors

The board reviewed the excel document with all the list of the suggested appointed supervisors. Mr. Woodling made a motion to accept the supervisors, Mr. Eddleman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Fountain County

Mr. Stoelting stated that no election was held at the annual meeting.

Mr. Chattin made a motion to accept the appointment of John Kirkpatrick Mr. Eddleman seconded this motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Wabash County

Mrs. Thum stated that there is a temporary supervisor appointment for Wabash County SWCD due to supervisor, Mr. Kyle Bowman resigning due to his appointment to city council. The application is for Darin Hadley

Mr. Chattin moved and Mr. Baird seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Kyle Bowman to the Wabash County Soil and Water Conservation Board. All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. **ISDA Updates**

a. Director's Report – Jordan Seger

ISDA filled a vacant Resource Specialist position in the SW and that individual has a background working with Districts. In addition, they are looking to fill in another R.S. position in the SE as well. The department has posted information about two opportunities to work in the Department as a summer intern, there are two spots open. One position would be to work with the Division and the other would be to work on the State Fair. There was a property tax conservation deduction bill introduced to the House, but no hearing has been held. Mr. Seger talked about the importance of the Districts recording all conservation practices that they work on. If a practice is not recorded, but the work is being done, it's not getting measured so this is

a big deal. In addition, we need to focus on outcomes, and we less on the numbers and so the difference we can make with the times we are there and that is relevant, not necessarily the number of staff visits.

b. Technical Report- George Reger

Mr. Reger provided informational charts detailing the workload in the NW. In addition, Mr. Reger talked about a few specific projects that were going on in the NW. Most of the work they do is on CRP followed by EQIP.

c. Accountability and Technology – Deb Fairhurst

Ms. Fairhurst was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Seger referred the board to her report. He reported that we had met our goal for newly enrolled CREP acres. This type of reporting helps to add context to our efforts and increases accountability.

d. Agricultural Affairs- Meg Leader

Mrs. Leader explained that the CIG grant for the OFN program has been completed. She then went over the proposed OFN growth chart, and the budget based on adding ten new groups. Moving the funding to corn and soy means that we need to give the program and Indiana focus. As a result, we are giving the program a new name and logo. From this point on, it will be called INField Advantage; a press release will come out this week. We are in the middle of the winter meetings. The Red Gold program will start and go through until April. Meg will fine tune the application.

e. District Support- Laura Fribley

Mrs. Fribley referred the board to her written report. She stated that the DSS team held a Leadership Institute workshop on Conflict Management in November at the State Fairgrounds, and there were 28 participants. DSSs have March region meetings coming up; there will be four around the state, with a featured presentation on Indiana's nutrient reduction strategy. CWI Grant audit summary: there were 10 audits that took place. The team wrapped up the \$25,000 grant to the training certification funds.

f. Water Quality Initiatives Update – Logan Garner

State Reduction Initiative Update - the division has started conversation with the ICP to talk about how we prioritize watersheds amongst the state. Region 5 asked to partner with ISDA on the upcoming update to the model. The update will include new urban and AG practices, so we need to partner with those urban SWCD districts and send those numbers onto EPA. CREP – successful year and reenrolls, and all of the funding was used. Move back to CREP funding into a single pot and not the districts. There will be a report to Congress by the hypoxia task force, including Indiana success stories. The report will come out in June.

VII. Conservation Partner Report

a. IASWCD – Jennifer Boyle-Warner

Mrs. Boyle-Warner informed the Board of the new IASWCD board officers, President – Mike Starkey, Vice President - Jaime Scott, Secretary - Roger Wenning, Treasurer - Paula Baldwin. She informed the group that she has been sending out legislative updates to the members. HB 1001, passed out of ways and means, no amendments, CWI still stands at the same. We still have a few chances to get that to the million and can do that at the house. In addition, Mrs. Boyle-Warner discussed the two resolutions that passed at the annual conference.

There is a new pool of money that will go to support CCSI and pilot and urban soil health specialist with Marion County and hopefully find support to do this for three years.

b. IDEM – Steve Howell

IDEM is looking at establishing priority watershed for TMDLs and leveraging 319 funds.

c. IDEA Sheryl Vaughn

Sheryl stated that IDEA members met and they are looking at doing trainings for their members. In addition, they just released their latest newsletter. The trainings they would like to hold are social media, rule 5 and in September AFR, 100 and Gateway training and in November one on LARE/grant writing.

d. NRCS – Susan Meadow

Susan referenced the board to her report. RCPP funding has been announced. 3 projects in Indiana received funding. NRCS will be presenting joint farm bill meetings with FSA soon.

VII. Public Comment

Candace Kindt, Delaware SWCD, spoke to the board about the District and thanked them for their support.

VIII. Next Meeting

March 11, The Nature Conservancy,
Indianapolis

2015 Meeting Dates

May 12, Culver, Indiana
July 14, The Nature Conservancy, Indianapolis
September 15, The Nature Conservancy,
Indianapolis
October 27, Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife
Refuge, Pike County

IX. Adjourn 3:37pm

Minutes Prepared by: Jennifer Thum

Approved by:
