

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
July 17, 2012 9:30 am
Southeast Purdue Agricultural Center (SEPAC)
4425 East 350 North
Butlerville, IN 47223

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Brett Glick
Bill Mann
Scott Ham

Others in Attendance:

Sarah Simpson ISDA
Jordan Seger ISDA
Jim Lake ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Deb Fairhurst ISDA
Jessica Thayer ISDA
Jim Norris ISDA
Mike Johnson ISDA
Tara Henry ISDA
Geneva Rawlins ISDA
Tyler Martindale NRCS
Ed Roll ISDA
Kevin Baird ISDA
Jamen Frederick ISDA
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Rebecca Lauster Jackson Co SWCD
Rita Cutter Dearborn Co SWCD
Laura Fribley ISDA

- I. 9:30 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of March 2012**
Bob Eddleman moved to approve as presented. Nola seconded. Motion passed.
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
- a. Budget Update—Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachments)**
The Executive Committee has approved a budget to be presented to the full board for approval. The 2013 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) budget is very similar to the 2012 with the following noted differences: the grants committee would like to set aside \$66,000 for training reimbursements for calendar year 2012, 2013 will see a full year of five District Support Specialists (DSSs), and again, CWI may have to fund $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year for two Resource Specialists (RSs) in the Western Lake Erie Basin-dependant on possible NRCS funding. Scott Ham moved to approve the budget. Bill Mann seconded. Motion passed
- b. 2013 CWI Grants-Grants Committee, Jim Lake, Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachments)**
The Grants Committee proposes to offer a grant program similar to the 2012 program that requires multi-district/watershed, multi-year projects. For the 2013 grant cycle, the maximum amount for each application will be raised to \$75,000 and adult education is limited to \$1,500 per year. In addition, the grants committee proposes to offer training reimbursements for SWCD staff and supervisors. Each district can apply for up to \$475 for supervisor reimbursement. The remaining funds will be divided equally for staff training reimbursements, with a maximum of \$475. Motion to approve 2013 CWI Grants passed.
- c. Grants Report-Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachments)**
The 2011 CWI grants report presented at the May meeting has been updated with the requests made. The SSCB would like a cover letter to accompany the report to be sent to state legislators. The SSCB would also like an electronic version sent to all SWCDs so they can print as needed.
- d. CREP Update-Jim Norris (See Attachment)**
Progress is being made on contracts completed. Districts are looking forward to several CRP re-enrollments that now qualify under CREP in September. Board members question if current CREP incentives are enough with current market prices. Jim and Jennifer noted the CREP steering committee

will be meeting towards the end of the year. Larry noted this would be a good time to start looking at an amendment to raise the state incentive payments.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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

- i. Vermillion County—Approved

V. State Soil Conservation Board Report

a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Larry Clemens

The Conservation Beyond 2016 task force has been meeting monthly since December. They've finished up their face-to-face meetings. There is a three step process. 1) Look internally at the state at financial situation and challenges. 2) Gather information from surveys and supervisors. 3) Look at states across the country to see how they addressed similar challenges. Taking all the information and look to the future to make recommendations on what conservation should look like beyond 2016. A draft report of 75 pages is being collected. Three recommendations will be made that the board will then consider. In the August meeting they will be sharing that, but currently it's still in the draft stages. This fall there will be face-to-face meetings to have discussions and gain more input. This winter (2012) the board will start making a decision with what they'll do with the recommendations. Indiana's efforts were highlighted during a NASCA webinar recently. The webinar last Thursday had 26 different states. 12 representatives talked 10 minutes per representative to discuss what's going on in their state. One overriding item from all states is that soil and water districts are facing local budget and state budget cuts. More updates will be shared during the August meeting.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Technical Support update- Deb Fairhurst

New resource specialist Jamen Frederick is shadowing with Gary Seibert. Linda Powell will be helping him. Last month, six candidates were interviewed for the two additional spots that are open. Hopefully there will be three new hires within a month. Thursday the team leaders are coming into the office along with the resource specialists. After Region 5 training they're planning on taking the team leaders to finish out their plan of work.

b. District Support Update- Jim Lake

Each part of the division is developing a plan of work. Nathan is working on state Fair exhibit "Pathways to Water Quality". Despite the drought, it looks nice. \$10,000 is going to soil health in districts, where they can share them.

c. Water Quality Update- Deb Fairhurst

The nutrient reduction strategy is still in progress. Farm Bureau is working with other agriculture groups to help with the 9 point strategy. The hope is to have it done during 2013.

The Water Quality Trading program is moving forward in the southeast are of the state with 6 commissioners from 3 states are doing a signing in Cincinnati, OH. Final review of the agreement will be the 9th.

d. Accountability and technology update- Deb Fairhurst

Deb reports work is continuing for the ICP accomplishment/success story website. Their project manager left to a new job and we have been assigned a new project manager. IN.gov is working on a new set up for districts to use that will hopefully make the process easier. The districts can copy paste their story and change this contact info. Insert a photo that will automatically resize for the website. They will be putting together an instruction sheet.

e. Agriculture Affairs Update- Jordan Seger

Drought conditions are affecting everything. OFN activities will show the relationship between Nitrogen and the weather. They have three years of data from Jasper County. This outlier year of data (drought) is beneficial to add to the data set. Nitrogen probably didn't move and stayed in the soil this year due to the drought. In 2012, 440 fields enrolled in on farm network. There are more than Iowa or any other state. 2013 is the last year of the CIG grant funding for on farm network. They're working with partners to build in efficiencies that will help with future years.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD President's Report

At the Indiana State Fair there will be a soil health demonstration on August 16. River Friendly Farmer event at the Indiana State Fair will be August 15 at 1 p.m. in the 4-H building. 55 river friendly farmers will be recognized and honored at the event. NACD conference is being attended. January 2013 annual conference is being planned.

b. NRCS State Conservationist's Report

Farm bill is moving forward. 2012 Quickbook software cannot be loaded onto some computers because of exposure risk. Users have been notified and given suggestions.

c. IDEA Report

When there is a meeting quarterly it's nice to have multiple representatives and written reports. Conference will have a "digging deeper for great ideas" theme...Sept 26- 27 near Ball State University.

d. FSA Report

No report

e. Purdue Report

None

f. DNR Report

None

g. IDEM Report

Still waiting to get information back for grants. In process of monitoring Jefferson and other counties, but it's been too dry so it's been suspended. Working on success stories. New CFO (confined feeding operation) rule July 1. Restrictions to applying manure. Cover Crops will be an opportunity for some of these challenges.

VIII. Public Comment: none

IX. Next meeting August 20, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at Nature Conservancy's office.

X. Adjourn at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes Prepared By: Jessica Thayer

Approved By:
