

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:00 a.m. Monday August 1, 2011
The Nature Conservancy
602 E Ohio St
Indianapolis, IN

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Nola Gentry

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Jon Mangles ISDA
Laura Fribley ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Jim Lake ISDA
Roz Leeck ISDA
Ray McCormick IASWCD
Tara Henry ISDA
Jane Hardisty NRCS

- I. 9:01 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of June 2011**
Nola Gentry moved to approve minutes as presented. Bill Mann seconded. Motion carried.
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
- a. Clean Water Indiana Grants Report—Jennifer Pinkston** (See Attachment)
83 districts have submitted final reports. The remaining five districts have extensions. Just over \$20,000 of the 2010 CWI grant funds were reported as unspent. Those funds have been returned to the Clean Water Indiana fund and grants have been closed out. The 2011 CWI grant report form has been updated. While most districts have submitted their six month report, with the change in the form, detailed spending to date is not available at this time.
Several districts were late in reporting on the 2010 and 2011 CWI grants. A letter to district chairpersons from Larry Clemens regarding timely reporting will be sent out soon.
- b. CREP Report- Jerod Chew and Jon Mangles** (See Attachment)
As of July 19, 2011, 848 CREP contracts have been paid, totaling \$1,493,062.10 in State funds, within four watersheds. Over \$14,000 has been paid to SWCDs for administering contracts since the 2010 expansion. Sullivan County SWCD received \$4104 in administrative fees for a 102.6 acre tree planting in the Middle-Wabash-Busseron watershed. Sullivan has opted to share 40% of their fee with the district where the practice was installed; in this case-Vermillion County SWCD. In June, Vermillion County SWCD held a ceremony recognizing the first CREP payment of the expansion with a check from Sullivan County SWCD to the landowner as well as a presentation of the shared administrative fees from Sullivan County to Vermillion County SWCD.
The attached CREP report shows the practices statewide. Due to the new guidelines, we are anticipating a decrease in filter strips. Bottomland timer is growing the fastest. ISDA intends to continue marketing the CREP program in all watersheds to promote interest. The current SWCD CREP contracts are up in September. We are working on renewing these contracts and adding funds to those who anticipate needing it. We are also proposing 16 month contracts, with an ending date of January 30, 2013.
- c. Clean Water Indiana Grant Requests**
Allen County SWCD has requested a one year extension on the 2011 CWI grant. Bob moved to approve. Warren seconded. Motion carried.
- d. CWI Budget-Jerod Chew**
The 2012 budget has been submitted, along with the complete ISDA budget. The agency budget has not yet been approved.
- IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
- a. Temporary Supervisor Appointments (See Attachments)**
- i. Vanderburgh County-approved**

b. Election Deadlines

As a reminder, the Election Committee selections are due on November 1, 2011, as well as Appointments. Nominees are due December 1.

c. Upcoming Dates

The District Support Specialists will offer information sessions for the 2012 CWI Watershed Grants in August. The next Leadership Institute will be September 9-10 in French Lick. The IDEA fall conference will be in the end of September in Jeffersonville. December 14, ISDA will host an informational session with topics including reporting requirements with the IRS and new AFR procedure with State Board of Accounts.

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Larry Clemens

Larry Clemens has requested the Executive Committee meet to formulate 2011-2012 goals and action plan for business plan implementation.

Larry noted last year at NASCA several states had some consolidation of Districts. Most started at local level. Bob Eddleman asked Task force for "Future of Conservation" in Indiana to be created, consisting of District supervisors, state and local agencies, to look at consolidation options. Larry will put together ideas of what the task force will look like and send out to Board Members for a later discussion.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report

i. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

ISDA-DSC has been awarded \$430,250 grant from the 319 Program within IDEM, Office of Water Quality. This grant will provide 3 contract Resource Specialists in the field for three years focusing on three specific watersheds which feed the upper reaches of the Wabash River. The Resource Specialists and SWCDs have implemented or assisted with the implementation of 1191 practices since January 1, 2011. These practices are helping to protect nearly 34,000 field acres.

ii. District Support Update – District Support Specialists

All but 12 counties have reported the Tillage Transect information. Statewide reports should be available soon. Nathan has been working with Pathway to Water Quality exhibit at the State Fair.

iii. Water Quality Update-Jerod Chew

Jerod and Jon will be attending Water Quality/Hypoxia Task Force meeting in New Orleans this week. Jerod will talk about Indiana's Nutrient Reduction Plan development.

iv. Accountability and Technology Update-Jerod Chew

We are working on the accountability levels. We are currently waiting on the legal opinion on enforcing less funding on the AFR if districts do not meet Level 1 requirements.

v. Agricultural Affairs Update-Roz Leeck

On Farm Network has increased from 18 farmers last year to 9 groups totaling 136 farmers this year.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. DNR Report

No Report

b. IDEM Report-Randy Braun (See Attachment)

No Report

c. Purdue Report

No Report

d. IASWCD President's Report – Ray McCormick

Ray attended the Dekalb County Soil Health field day. Partners in attendance include ISA, IWF, and NRCS. Ray Archuletta and Barry Fisher spoke at the event which was well attended by farmers and Ag media. The Illiana AgriNews had a front page article on the event.

e. FSA Report

No Report

f. NRCS State Conservationist's Report – (see attachment)

This year, NRCS is asking the Local Working Groups to meet earlier in the year than in the past, and to discuss how well Indiana's current technical information and programs address the local resource concerns. The NAPPC and NACD are seeking nominees for the 2011 Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award. Nomination forms are due August 15. IN NRCS is soliciting nominations for the 2011 Civil Rights Award through August 30. IASWCS is accepting nomination for Conservation Farmer of the Year through September 1, 2011. State Conservationist, Jane Hardisty, sent out a letter to all SWCDs in July regarding space reimbursement in 2011 and 2012. Meetings will be held this fall to all direct communication and answer questions about space reimbursement.

VIII. Public Comment – no public comment

IX. Next Meeting: October 12. Location TBD

X. Adjourn 12:25 PM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:
