

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
December 13, 2011 9:00 am
The Nature Conservancy
620 East Ohio St
Indianapolis

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Brett Glick

Members Not In Attendance:

Scott Ham (Participated via Telephone)
Nola Gentry

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Jon Mangles ISDA
Hans Kok CCSI
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Jim Lake ISDA
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Roger Kult, NRCS
Mark Reiter DNR
Angie Tilton DNR
Shannon Zezula NRCS
Jane Hardisty NRCS
Barry Fisher NRCS

- I. 9:00 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of October 2011**

Minutes will be approved in January
- III. Partner Report**
 - a. NRCS—Jane Hardisty (See Attachment)**

Indiana’s success with conservation systems, through CCSI and other programs, is getting national attention. NRCS staff are currently focusing on soil health as a key issue this year. Several publications have been developed and are on the NRCS website. Demonstrations will be conducted in the coming months at conservation partnership meetings, including SWCD board meetings to illustrate the effectiveness of functional soil.
 - b. DNR—Angie Tilton, Mark Reiter (See Attachment)**

In the October board meeting, a joint ISDA/DNR proposal was presented which would allow for a contracted position to reach out to potential landowners within a specific section of the Wabash and Sugar Creeks to encourage participation in CREP and HRI. After further discussion and detail clarification with ISDA, DNR and other partners, DNR and ISDA are jointly requesting the Board’s support of this venture. Note: Funding request on attached document has incorrect figures. Year 1 request is \$35,000, bringing the total to \$60,000 for two years. The funding for this contract will not be from Clean Water Indiana. Funding will come from ISDA “Disaster” account. Bob Eddleman motioned to support the project. Motion carried. (Note: Larry Clemens abstained from voting due to potential conflict with his duties at The Nature Conservancy.)
 - c. IASWCD Report—Jennifer Boyle-Warner**

Annual Conference Registration continues. Staff and Supervisor registration is slightly higher than last year. This year, IASWCD awarded seven supervisor scholarships. Some districts have entered into contribution agreements with NRCS to assist with CRP work.
- IV. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. CREP Update—Jon Mangles**

To date, nearly 900 CREP Contracts are completed in the 11 watersheds. Total completed practices amount to 6118.3 acres. Since the expansion, SWCDs have taken over payments to landowners, which have generated \$18,539 in administrative fees paid to the districts.
 - b. CWI Grant Reports and Requests—Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachment)**

2011 Grants will end on December 31, 2011. Final reports are due March 1, 2012. 11 districts have submitted final reports and final payments are in process. 2012 CWI Grants will begin January 1; districts should expect initial payment in January.

- i. Starke County-Extension to March 31, 2012. Approved
- ii. LaPorte County-Extension to March 31, 2012. Approved
- iii. Scott County-Extension to January 31, 2012. Approved
- iv. Rush County-Extension to March 31, 2012. Approved
- v. Shelby County-Extension to June 30, 2012. Approved
- vi. Hancock County-Extension to March 2012. Approved
- vii. Tippecanoe County-Extension to December 31, 2012. Approved
- viii. Gibson County-Extension to January 31, 2012. Approved
- ix. Switzerland County-Extension to March 31, 2012. Approved
- x. Union County-Extension to September 30, 2012. Approved

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Elections and Supervisor Appointments—Jennifer Pinkston

See attachments for Election Committees, Nominees, and Appointees. Motion to approve committees, nominees, and appointees passed.

- i. Temporary Supervisor Appointments—Jennifer Pinkston (See Attachment)
 1. Gibson County SWCD-Approved
 2. Tippecanoe County SWCD-Approved
 3. Clark County SWCD-Approved

VI. SSCB Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Larry Clemens

- i. Business Plan Status Update and Review—See Attachment

The District Support Specialists reviewed the SSCB business plan and added comments. The Board is on track, or ahead of schedule with many of the goals. Larry Clemens requested the District Support Specialists review the plan and come up with action items for the next 12 months to complete tasks.

- ii. Task Force

The first meeting of the SSCB task force will be on December 19. Representatives from ISDA, SSCB, FSA, NRCS, Purdue, IDEA, IASWCD, DNR, and SWCD Supervisors (LI Graduates) will serve on the task force. Janet Ayres from Purdue and Ray Ledgerwood will serve as facilitators.

VII. ISDA Reports

a. Technical Support—Jerod Chew

ISDA has requested to refill the agricultural affairs position as well as a fifth District Support Specialists position. Both requests are in process. The three staff under the 319 grant will start at the end of the month.

b. District Support—Jim Lake

The final Leadership Institute of 2011 was held in Monticello. 16 participants completed the impacting communities section. The awards banquet at IASWCD annual conference will honor 20 Leadership Institutes graduates.

- i. Upcoming Dates

December 14-Financial Management Training in Plainfield. Representatives from Board of Accounts, Internal Revenue Service, and Lt. Governor's Business Office will present on topics for district staff. The next Leadership Institute will be February 17-18 in Wabash.

c. Water Quality—Jon Mangles

Development of the Nutrient Management Strategy continues. Progress is slow due to the amount of data that needs to be reviewed. Currently, we are focusing on the Upper Wabash watershed. Legislation has been introduced to Congress which may have implications on the Hypoxia Task Force.

d. Agricultural Affairs—Jerod Chew

ISDA is waiting on final data to come in from the field for On-Farm Network trials. In January, the OFN group will bring the small groups back together to discuss data.

VIII. Public Comment – no public comment

IX. Next Meeting: January 9, 8:30 am. Location The Marriott (Indianapolis) Denver Room

X. Adjourn 12:13 PM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:
