

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 7, 2011
Triple H Gun Club
Linton, IN 47441

Members in Attendance:

Larry Clemens
Bill Mann
Bob Eddleman
Brett Glick
Nola Gentry

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew ISDA
Deb Fairhurst ISDA
Don Ryan ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD
Hans Kok CCSI
Dan Towery CCSI
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Laura Fribley ISDA
Judi Brown Dubois Co SWCD
Erica Burkemper Pike Co SWCD
Jim Lake ISDA
Deborah Lynn Greene Co SWCD
Dale Walker ISDA
Ronald Boehm IDEM
Lindsay Martinez Green Co SWCD
Jim Woody ISDA
Jane Hardisty NRCS
Tammy Swihart Greene Co SWCD
Carla Medlock Greene Co SWCD

- I. 9:11 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of April 2011**
Bill Mann moved to approve minutes as presented. Nola Gentry seconded. Motion carried.
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
- a. Clean Water Indiana Grants Report—Jennifer Pinkston** (See Attachment)
2010 CWI Grant reports were due May 31. Seventy-Six districts have submitted final reports and are being reviewed and paid. Nine districts have extensions. We are working with the remaining three districts to submit final reports. See attachment for breakdown of reported expenses.
2011 CWI Grant reports are due June 30, 2011. Report will be available for districts to complete on SharePoint by the end of the week. To date, all 88 districts have received initial 75% of grant payment (minus training incentive). Note: Effective with the 2011 CWI Grant cycle, districts will no longer need to submit receipts for training reimbursement. Rather, districts will only enter the totals on the report in SharePoint.
2011 CWI Watershed Grant—To date, 4 of the 5 districts have returned signed contracts and have been paid initial 75%. Final district has returned signature page and is in State signature process.
- b. CREP Report- Jerod Chew**
As of April, 5543 acres of CREP practices have been installed in the original three watersheds-Pigeon Highland, Tippecanoe, and Upper White. The watersheds included in the expansion have completed 119 acres of bottomland tree planting and have just over 1000 additional acres signed up.
- c. FY2012 Grants—Bob Eddleman**
The Grants Committee met in May to discuss how the 2012 CWI Grants should be structured. Attendees included Brett Glick, Warren Baird, Bob Eddleman, Jim Lake, Laura Fribley, Jerod Chew, Nathan Stoelting and Jennifer Boyle Warner. The committee felt the 2012 grants should be similar to the 2011 CWI Watershed Grants program. The committee recommends FY12 grants have the following guidelines: At least 2 districts involved. Grants must meet at least two of the SSCB Business Plan goals. Grants to be awarded up to \$60,000 and allow up to three years to complete.
Further discussions included:

Grants to begin Jan 1, 2012 with 75% to be paid upfront and balance to be paid upon receipt of final report. There will be no penalty for completing project(s) early. Districts must be up to date on all reporting to be eligible to apply for these grants. After grants have been awarded, the lead district will not be eligible to apply for future grant opportunities as a lead district until ongoing grants are completed. Larry noted districts must provide a 50% in-kind or cash match. Jennifer Boyle-Warner commented that this is a good opportunity for districts to have a larger impact with grant funds. Brett moved to approve draft guidelines and allow same committee to finalize guidelines to be sent out to districts in July. Nola seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Temporary Supervisor Appointments (See Attachments)

- i. Newton County-approved**
- ii. Henry County-2 requests approved**
- iii. Wabash County-Approved**
- iv. Marshall County-Waiver and Appointment approved**

b. CCSI-Les Zimmerman and Hans Kok (See Attachments)

The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative is requesting another year of funding at \$89,000. The program continues to focus on four areas; Continuous no-till/strip-till, Cover Crops, Precision Farming Technology and Nutrient and Plant Management. Nola noted producers and workshop attendees have been impressed with the hands-on demonstrations and testing provided through the program. Bob Eddleman moved to approve request. Brett seconded. Motion passed.

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Larry Clemens

Highlights from the Indiana Conservation Partnership meeting include a training update (attached) and the 3D web based tool IDEM is using. Mary Lou Renshaw from IDEM will demonstrate tool to the Board at a future meeting. The Pathway to Water Quality committee has met several times in preparation for State Fair. Nathan noted the cover crop display which is new this year as well as a two stage ditch. The executive committee met in May to discuss the 2012 CWI budget. See below

b. FY2012 Clean Water Indiana Budget-Jerod Chew (See Attachment)

When the SSCB executive committee met in May to draft a spending plan, we were working with an assumed reserve requirement of 10%. We have since been informed the reserve requirement at this time is set at 3%. The CWI appropriation is \$3.66M and with a 10% reserve we would have a starting number of \$3.29M to work with. Jerod detailed the proposed spending plan at the 10% reserve level as was discussed in the SSCB executive committee, answering questions throughout the presentation. The board discussed the various initiatives and priorities of the spending plan placing special emphasis on the need for hiring an additional District Support Specialist. At this time, the board chose to stay with the 10% reserve spending plan and revisit the spending plan allocations at a time closer to grant selections. This would allow them to more accurately determine if there will be additional funds due to a lower required reserve and whether they may be used for additional grants.

Nola motioned to approve spending plan. Bill and Bob seconded. Motion passed.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report

i. Technical Support Update – Jim Woody (see attachment)

Jim Woody noted Greene County has 255 practices needing surveyed or designed such as livestock related practices, fencing, pipeline, ponds, stream development and stream crossings. 415 practices are either under construction or now completed. Dubois, Posey, Warrick and Gibson counties have 452 practices underway.

ii. District Support Update – District Support Specialists

Jim Lake noted DSSs have been busy assisting districts with CWI reports and tillage transects. The Ft Wayne area is putting together the 3 Rivers Summit July 27-29. Registration is \$15. Nathan commended six districts in his area who have already updated their long range plans and another district is preparing to do so. Laura noted several SWCDs will have workshops at their respective county fairs this summer. Regarding the training inventory, Laura noted conservation planning has been the number one request of all respondents. The next step is a technical review board being established to identify priorities. Jennifer noted IASWCD may add a technician track

to the annual conference. The IDEA fall conference will offer ToolKit training. Hans commented CCSI staff will assist with training as needed.

iii. Water Quality Update-Jerod Chew

Jerod will be attending a conference next week in Columbus, OH which will focus on nutrient reduction strategies in agriculture.

iv. Accountability and Technology Update-Deb Fairhurst

The district showcase website launched last week for SWCDs. The official launch will be 6/8. 35 districts still need to submit their success stories to be featured on the site.

<http://www.in.gov/isda/icpreports/>

v. Agricultural Affairs Update-Jerod Chew

On Farm Network is continuing throughout the state. There are currently 10 groups with OFN projects. Aerial photos will be flown for on 30-40 fields per project area. All will have corn stalk sampling and some will be participating in various strip trials this year.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. DNR Report

No Report

b. IDEM Report-Randy Braun (See Attachment)

State storm water specialists have been conducting audits of the MS4 construction site run-off control program. Audits should be completed in 2012. IDEM has been working on a new agency wide database. The Storm Water Program was one of the first to be involved in the development of the database and an on-line permit application for Rule 5 and Rule 6. To date, Rule 6 is live and we are accepting applications on-line. Final testing for Rule 5 was completed last week. Final instruction and help text still needs to be completed. Once that is accomplished, Rule 5 will also be available to applicants to file Notices of Intent on-line.

c. Purdue Report

No Report

d. IASWCD President's Report – Jennifer Boyle Warner (See Attachments)

Legislative session has ended. The 10 Acre rule will no longer be in effect as of July 1, 2011. Also, Clean Water Indiana funding level was kept at previous biennium's level (\$3.6M). IASWCD is gearing up for Annual Conference planning.

e. FSA Report

No Report

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

NRCS is working with Risk Management Agency in regards to cover crops and insurance to emphasize importance of cover crops. NRCS was involved in the May 16 mock disaster drill simulating an earthquake along the New Madrid fault. We will also take part in an additional emergency exercise on June 23. It is anticipated the 2012 budget will continue to be tight. We are currently under a hiring freeze. Early retirement is also an option for current employees. Last week, the Greencastle technical team put on a training/demonstration session for administrative staff.

VIII. Public Comment – no public comment

IX. Next Meeting: TBD

X. Adjourn 11:42 AM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:

DRAFT