

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

October 21, 2025

Location: Indiana Soybean Alliance

8425 Keystone Xing Ste 200, Indianapolis, IN 46240

MS Teams

Board Members Present

Gene Schmidt

Brad Dawson

Kenny Cain

Jewel Wise

Jeff Healy

Chris Lee

Regan Perrodin

Ophelia Norman

Andrea Gogel

Leah Walthery

Lisa Holscher

Mandy Robbins

Maria Fisher

Martha Miller

Mary Lou Watson

Rebecca McClellan

Courtney McFall

Megan Ayers

Michael Dunn

Missy Elgin

Nellie Peffley

Nicholas Burgmeier

George Reger

Jennifer Rowland

Don Ryan

Kate Sanders

Steven McGhee

Susan King

Sydney Mrazik

Tina, Posey Co SWCD

Tyler Gough

Veronica Helming

Grace Williams

Board Member Absent

Jane Hardisty

Heather

Bill Ward

Lindsey Bluhm

Others Present

Meg Leader

Julie Harrold

Liz Rice

Ray Chattin

Amy Work

David Bausman

Eliana Blaine

Jennifer Thum

Breegan Anderson

Tara Wesseler-Henry

Kassidy Kennedy

Kylie Wagoner

Laura Fribley

Sandra Hoffarth

Alison McCain

Brandi Frazier

Bri Styck

Jennifer Brown

Carrie Parmenter

Claire Lane

Corbyn Schnell

Ophelia Norman

Eric Shideler

Leah Harmon

John Hazlett

Julie Morris

Kaylee Jacob

Kris Gertz

Don Lamb

Lawrence Co SWCD

LCSWCD

I. Call to Order: 9:00am by Gene Schmidt

II. Approval of Minutes of September 9, 2025

- Motion to approve minutes as submitted by Kenney Cain, Chris Lee seconded.
Motion carried.

III. State Soil Conservation Board Business

- a. Other Member Updates
 - Chris Lee attended IDEA meeting
 - 90 of 92 counties represented
 - Thought presentation, conversation and remarks were impactful.
 - Jeff Healy attended the Jackson Co. Field Day
 - Well done, well attended
 - Kenny Cain working on CCSI steering committee
 - CCSI allows two members of SSCB to be on the committee
 - Jewel Wise received good feedback on the Arrowhead RC&D rafting program.
 - Brad Dawson spoke about his work on the CWI Grants Committee.
- b. Chairman -
 - Need to evaluate what our need is to take to the general assembly
- c. SSCB Video Showcase -
 - We will not show the video until the districts have had a chance to view it
- d. Director's Report
 - Jennifer Thum attended the IDEA conference as well.
 - Dual Office Violation, Conflict of Interest training
 - Meeting with Beck's Hybrids to learn more about their conservation efforts and see if there is area for ISDA and Beck's partnerships
 - Mesonet Advisory Board – Bregan Andersen and Sam Strobel represent ISDA on this board.
 - Budget Report
 - Requests one board member to meet with Jennifer quarterly to meet with her quarterly to discuss budget.
 - Jeff Healy volunteers to be the designated board member.
 - Starting in January we will have a new standardized and formal process for agendas and meeting minutes.
 - Start having partners giving physical reports instead / in addition to the written reports
 - Gene requests considering a progress report outlaying what has been accomplished and what is still needing to be done for the year.
 - There will be ethics training in January; likely after the regular board meeting.
- e. 2026 Calendar
 - February 10 will be a strategic planning session
 - May 12 will include CWI Competitive Grant guidance.
- f. Cost Share Program
 - Holden Abrell
 - Created a committee with other RS across the state
- g. Questions for JT
 - Jeff Healy – clarification on state fiscal year
 - Brad Dawson – clarification on budget
 - Soils or CWI
 - Would like to see the income in addition to the expenses
 -

- Gene Schmidt –
 - Requested to see if we can adjust the January meeting to the same time when other states are present.
- h. Office of Inspector General
 - a. Regan Perrodin – State Ethics Director
 - b. Review boards and commissions
 - c. Job is to oversee state and local governments
 - Chris Lee – if board members attend local meetings, does the board have formal talking points. JT offers to compile some items and get them to the board.
 - Gene Schmidt – emphasizes the importance of working with SWCDs to identify what they are expecting of the board

IV. Presentations: None

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts – DSS Team

- a. Temporary Appointments
 - a. Ohio – Jim Woods retired
 - i. Candidate is Sue Woods
 - b. Randolph – Benjamin Coley resigned
 - i. Candidate is Spencer Haggard
- b. Motion to Approve – BD
- c. Second – JW and JH
- d. Approved unanimously
- e. Gene Schmidt – Asking for references to the form for new appointments

VI. Break – 7 minute break

- Start 9:37
- End 9:45

VII. Clean Water Indiana

- a. Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee – Tara Wesseler-Henry
 - a. 33 grants for a total fund request of \$3,656,739.00. We had 54 Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other organizations.
 - b. Brad spoke about the Clean Water Indiana grants committee and the thoughts from the committee.

There were some questions from the other board members on how the Soil Conservation staff weigh on the grants and the actual scores. Tara and Brad spoke about the process. It was reminded that the SSCB voted to review all the grant applications, and their scores are counted. There was further discussion.
 - c. There were a few comments from the audience.
 - d. After considerations and discussion, the SSCB accepted the Grants Committee recommendation to approve the 14 applicants for a total of

\$1,593,614.00 to be awarded. Jewel Wise moved and it was seconded by Chris Lee. All in favor.

VIII. ICP Reports

Depending on the time - these may need to be written only for future meetings.

- a. ISDA
- b. IASWCD
- c. CCSI
- d. Purdue
- e. NRCS
- f. FSA
- g. IDEA

IX. Public Comment: If you attend the meeting in-person and would like to speak under public comment, please use the sign-in sheet. If you are attending virtually, please turn your camera on and notify the Chairperson that they would like to speak and state which agenda topic.

X. 2025 Meeting Dates

- December 9, 2025- Indiana Soybean Alliance

Adjourn