

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
May 7, 2013 9:30am
The Nature Conservancy
620 E Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN

Members in Attendance:

Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Scott Ham

Members Not In Attendance:

Bill Mann
Brett Glick

Others in Attendance Cont:

Jordan Seger, ISDA
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA
Jim Lake ISDA
Jackie Addison ISDA
Gina Sheets ISDA
Steve Howell IDEM
Nathan Stoelting ISDA
Tara Henry ISDA
Roger Kult, NRCS
Susan Hovermale, FSA
Logan Garner, ISDA
Scheryl Vaughn, Boone County SWCD
Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD
Cress Hizer, INag

- I. 9:15 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of January 2013**
Nola Moved to approve as submitted; Bob second. Motion passed.
- III. Clean Water Indiana (See Attachments)**
- a. CREP Report-Logan Garner**
Logan reported that we are on our way to the goal of 9,000 acres enrollment. The bottom land tree planting is the biggest interest and sale. Wetland eligibility are under review with NRCS. Once the wetland eligibilities are done then we will see enrollment of wetlands go up. Logan encouraged the SSCB to look through the numbers in his handouts. Logan plans to work on a new CREP reporting format for simplification.
- b. Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI)-Angie Tilton**
Angie presented updates about the HRI since its start date in June 2010. Larry Clemons talked about the importance of the Partners (TNC, NRCS, etc) and their work along the SW Wabash corridor and the substantial amount of migratory birds that have been documented in the area. Special mentioning from Angie's presentation:
Zone 1(slide) -yellow areas are in the process of closing for ownership for DNR
Zone 2(slide)- Elanco demonstration site-area to use to show farmers use conservation practices and can continue farming-opened the door to DNR to use for special hunt events (high security area).Anything in green with red border is owned now.
Zone 4(slide) - Biggest acquisition was over 3,000 acres. Project is starting to get national attention especially from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation.
Angie reported that CWI funds were used to help fund for the Conservation Program Specialist position and how key that position has been for the success of the project. She also said the CWI funds were used for the communications aspect of the project.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (See Attachments)

a. Temporary Appointments

LaGrange-Nola moved to approve; Warren seconded. Motion carried.

Allen - Scott moved to approve. Nola seconded. Motion carried

Marion - Bob moved to approve. Nola seconded. Motion carried

*Gina Sheets, Director of ISDA was introduced. Gina talked about the Governor's Good to Great Plan. She mentioned that all of ISDA's departments are focused on a strategic development and all 64 ISDA employees share 3 departmental goals. Gina made mention that ISDA recognizes how soil and water conservation practices bring big economical value to Indiana landowners. ISDA is continuing to build staffing, on the forefront of hiring is working through to find the right person for the Division Director.

V. SSCB Report (See Attachments)

a. SWCD Deadlines –

Jim Lake talked about the two draft letters for the SSCB to consider concerning the District's Adherence to State Laws and their eligibility for CWI grant and training funds. The first letter requires all districts to meet criteria in order to be eligible for CWI grants. The DSSs talked about the repercussions this may have on some districts who are meeting requirements but may hindered because of a district who did not meet requirements. The second letter was then introduced which requires the lead district of the CWI grant to be current with State deadlines and if a participating district is not meeting requirements the application will not receive points for the CWI grant ranking system. A District Deadlines Verification Tool will be provided to the districts along with the letter. Warren made a motion to approve the letter to adhere to deadlines and criteria for the lead district for the CWI grants and all districts must adhere to the criteria for the training grants. Nola seconded. Motion passed.

b. Taskforce Subcommittee

A small subcommittee is being developed for the Task Force 2016 Report to help focus on pilot projects and suggestions. Bob Eddleman will be representing the SSCB. Conference call has been scheduled for May 16th. The subcommittee includes SWCD supervisors, SSCB rep, SWCD staff, NRCS, IASWCD, Laura Fribley, Jim Lake, and Jennifer Pinkston.

c. Signing Cooperative Working Agreement

Bob motioned for approving Larry to sign the Cooperative Conservation Working Agreement. Nola seconded. Motion passed. Larry signed.

VI. ISDA Reports (See Attachments)

a. Technical Assistance and Accountability & Technology-Deb Fairhurst

Refer to submitted report. Deb provided highlights

b. Agricultural Affairs-Jordan Seger

Refer to submitted report. Jordan provided highlights

c. District Support-Jim Lake

Refer to submitted report. Jim provided highlights

d. Water Quality-Logan Garner

Refer to submitted report. Logan provided highlights. Nutrient Reduction Strategy is done and will be posted online soon.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD Report-Jennifer Boyle Warner

Refer to submitted report. Jennifer reported they were successful in securing the \$1M in general funds for Clean Water Indiana. Cress Hizer reported on the legislative session and added a big thanks for partners and key legislators for making this happen. There was significant help at the local level, they worked hard to build key relationships with their legislators. Jennifer was asked what the status was for the \$300,000 for division staffing in the general budget. Jennifer reported that they did not push it this legislative round due to needing to secure a funding source and there was not much time to get with the new ISDA Director to discuss.

b. IDEM Report- Steve Howell

Nothing else to report on except what was in Logan’s report concerning the Nutrient Reduction Strategy

c. DNR Report-No Report

d. Purdue Report-No Report

e. FSA Report-Susan Hovermale

Susan reported Continuous sign up begins next Monday and rental rates updated shortly. General sign up begins as soon as Continuous starts up. In Continuous CRP we have CP 42- Pollinator Habitat with no acreage limit. Except in a few isolated cases we can get you into CRP without going through the competitive process. Last winter Indiana was able to expand the SAFE program, there are acres available. Susan reported they were also able to expand to two priority areas for the SAFE program.

Susan mentioned as always we are not looking to compete with productive agriculture we are looking to enhance it. There will be a lot of acres to address for those coming out of CRP, double from last year. Susan made a special thanks to all the SWCDs working hard to help with the CRP program, they could not get a lot of items down if it was not for them.

FSA and NRCS will be hosting live meetings available to the ICP on May 16th and 21st to discuss CRP, CREP, and SAFE.

f. NRCS Report – Roger Kult

Roger reported that a majority of Cooperative Working Agreements are in from the SWCDs. Jill and Roger met with Gina last month and gave a basic introduction of who and what NRCS does and talked about the how the partnership works together. Jerry Roach has taken over as the leader/admin of the Farm Bill Programs. Jane Hardisty returns Monday, May 20th after nine months in Washington D.C.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Next Meetings:

Tuesday, June 4 9:15 am (Wabash REMC Building, Wabash)

Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 26 10 am (Nature Conservancy)

Tuesday, September 10 (East-Central Indiana)

Tuesday, October 29

Monday January 6, 2014

X. Adjourn 11:40 am

Minutes Prepared By: Tara Wesseler-Henry

Approved By:
