

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
9:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Indiana State Library
History Reference Room #211
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Attended

Larry Clemens
Gary Conant
Jim Cherry
Nola Gentry
Bob Eddleman
Bill Mann
Warren Baird

Amy Eizinger, ISDA
Sara Slater-Atwater, ISDA
Tony Hahn, ISDA
Jim Droege, IASWCD
Ray Chattin, IASWCD
DeeDee Sigler, IASWCD
Les Zimmerman, Vermillion SWCD
Greg Lake, Allen SWCD
Paula Baldwin, IASWCD

Others in Attendance

Jerod Chew, ISDA
Cris Goode, ISDA
Kelly Gentry, ISDA

- I. 9:05 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of September 2008**

Jim Cherry moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Mann seconded and the motion carried.

III. Leadership Development

A. District Requests – Kelly Gentry

Floyd County – See Attachment

Discussion followed on previous year requests. Nola Gentry asked they submit another letter explaining what kind of effort they made to advertise this position. She suggested they resend their request for the next SSCB meeting and asked Kelly Gentry to contact them about the decision.

Warren Baird moved to deny Floyd's 10 acre waver request. Mann seconded. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

Jay County – See Attachment

Bob Eddleman moved to approve Jay's request for recommendation for supervisor appointment. Cherry seconded and the motion carried.

B. CWI Requests – Amy Eizinger

Scott County CMIG Request – See Attachment

Cherry moved to approve Scott's request. Gary Conant seconded and the motion carried.

Scott County SNRG Request – See Attachment

Eddleman moved to approve Scott's request. Mann seconded and the motion carried.

Noble County SNRG Request – See Attachment

Larry Clemens moved to approve Noble's one year extension request. Cherry seconded. Discussion followed on length of extension and the motion carried.

Posey County SNRG Request – See Attachment

Eddleman moved to approve Posey's extension request. Mann seconded and the motion carried.

C. SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry – No Report

D. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

1. SSCB Sub-Committee Reports and Recommendations

a. Executive Committee Report and Recommendations – Nola Gentry

i. Shareholder Input Gathering Proposal

N. Gentry reported they received two consulting proposals to help with the shareholder input gathering period. The Executive Committee met last week to discuss the two proposals. The Executive Committee recommended using AirVan Consulting Company instead of the other company. The other company's proposal included working with AirVan on part of the project. The Executive Committee also recommended including a web based survey. If need be, AirVan can also include a phone survey, which can be decided at a later time. They will include this in the original proposal. N. Gentry also reported AirVan was the cheaper of the two proposals and easier to follow and understand. AirVan proposed the first round of survey would cost approximately \$4,300. Their proposal also included starting the middle of November with a deadline sometime in March. Chew also mentioned AirVan will give us a non-bias report. More discussion followed on the cost and timeline.

Eddleman moved to approve the Executive Committee recommendation to except AirVan's proposal and move forward with the first round of web based surveys costing \$4,300. Conant seconded. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

b. CWI Grants Committee Report and Recommendations – Warren Baird – No Report

c. District Capacity Committee Report and Recommendations – Bob Eddleman

Eddleman reported the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between IDEM and SWCDs have been approved by IDEM Management (Please refer to IDEM's report).

IV. Division Report

A. CREP Update – Sara Slater-Atwater – See Attachment

Slater-Atwater reported with the new CREP amendment the watersheds will increase from 3 to 10 and the counties will increase from 29 to 64. She also reported DSC is working with Geo-Marine on a Programmatic Environmental Assessment. This is part of the NEPA documentation. They will review items such as endangered species, cultural resources, water resources, as well as the pros and cons of going through with the project.

Slater-Atwater also reported they are proposing to increase restored/constructed wetlands to improve water quality and provide water storage. This is to take the initiative to lower Indiana's contribution of nitrates to the Gulf of Mexico, hopefully reducing Gulf hypoxia. ISDA is working with CEES, Purdue and Schneider on this proposal. They will help us determine where to place wetlands within the watershed to achieve maximum nitrate removal and maximum floodwater storage. The next phase will be to meet with landowners and hold public meetings.

B. Clean Water Indiana Grants – Amy Eizinger – See Attachment

C. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

Chew reported the Resource Specialists have been busy with disaster relief and there is still a lot of follow up to do on disaster assistance. We have asked our staff to touch base with the original 5 farmers from each county that they surveyed earlier. Chew also reported T-CAP low interest loans are still taking place and they have been working with the State Treasurer's office to open those loans to all disaster relief.

D. District Support Update – Jerod Chew

Chew reported the District Support Specialists are assisting SWCDs on ECAP programs. He also reported the next Leadership Institute workshop will be held November 21-22. 21 supervisors have signed up at the time.

V. Leadership Development Workgroup Update – Ray Chattin and Greg Lake

A. Five Star Program Presentation – See Attachment

Cherry asked what the timeline would be for this program. Chattin stated once it is endorsed by the SSCB they can start. As of now it is still in draft form. N. Gentry stated the 5 Star Program can be used as a tool. The survey the SSCB decided on will be used to help with their business plan; however, the information gained from our survey can be used to help the 5 Star Program.

Clemens asked where the leadership for the program resided; it will require some level of administration. Chattin referred to the Leadership Institute. ISDA could best service that role. With some assistance our SWCD staff could also provide an administrative role. Also, DSSs can play a huge role in providing assistance.

Chattin also stated not all 92 districts may participate in the 5 Star Program, but that is the goal. Lake mentioned some districts will need to be encouraged to participate in this type of program. It will be more beneficial to everyone the more districts get involved.

Eddleman stated this will be a great step forward to building district capacity and ICP relationships. Discussion followed on partnership involvement and encouragement.

Eddleman moved to support and endorse the Five Star District Capacity Program. Clemens seconded and the motion carried.

VI. Delivery System Workgroup Update – Jerod Chew – No Report

VII. Funding Workgroup Update – Bob Eddleman – No Report

VIII. Accountability Workgroup Update – Deb Fairhurst – No Report

IX. Technology Workgroup Update – Jane Hardisty – No Report

X. Outreach Workgroup Update – Cris Goode

A. Goode reported Beth Forbes, Purdue, is the newest member to the Outreach Workgroup. Goode also mentioned Annual Conference coming up in January. DeeDee Sigler is looking over and updating the ICP website. If you see any changes contact DeeDee.

XI. ISDA Update – Tony Hahn

Hahn introduced himself as the new Chief of Staff for ISDA. He reported ISDA has been working with the EOC on disaster relief. He also mentioned the upcoming Legislative Session will cover the next fiscal year budget. He stated revenues will be tight and we will have to fight for every dollar we get and closely watch what we spend

XII. Conservation Partner Reports

A. DNR Report – Gary Langell – No Report

B. IDEM Report – Marylou Renshaw – See Attachment

C. Purdue Report – Gary Steinhardt – No Report

D. IASWCD President's Report – Jim Droege – See Attachment

1. Legislative Committee Presentation - Ray Chattin/Paula Baldwin – See Attachments
2. Natural Resource Policy Committee Presentation on Sustainable Cropping Systems - Les Zimmerman – See Attachment

Clemens asked if this person would be a NRCS employee. Zimmerman replied no; however, they would answer to the Natural Resource Policy Committee with the

IASWCD. N. Gentry asked if they are proposing the person be an IASWCD employee. Zimmerman relied that it is still undecided.

Baird asked if hiring a person for this job would be more important than districts applying for grant money, since the money to help fund this new position will come from the CWI grant fund. Zimmerman replied this person would almost serve as a grant for all districts to use; technically we are not taking money away, we would be using it for something new. This position will give districts access to a no-till expert.

Zimmerman explained this proposal is still in the beginning phase of planning. We need the SSCB endorsement so we can further this plan. Eddleman stated that he liked the general idea of this plan, but would like to know what districts think and if they support this plan. This will take away part of the CMIG grants or six ten thousand dollar grants. Eddleman suggest getting a minimum of ten letters from districts stating they support his idea. That will allow the board more time to discuss this proposal. Eddleman would also like to see an effort to get more support and funds from outside partners such as John Deer, Dow Agrosience, Monsanto, etc. then that would be less money we would need to take out of CWI. Discussion followed on the details of the proposed project and getting support from districts.

The SSCB agreed this is a good concept and financial support may follow after the SSCB prioritizes all of it obligations. They came to consensus to have the Grants Committee meet in the next month and go over the CWI budget.

E. Farm Services Agency Report – Gail Peas – No Report

F. NRCS State Conservationist’s Report – Jane Hardisty – See Attachment

G. SWCD Foundation Report – Christa Jones – No Report

XIII. Public Comment

XIV. Next Meetings: Tentatively Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 9:00 AM at ISDA. And, Monday, January 12, 2009 from 8:30 to 10:30 at the Hyatt Downtown.

XV. Adjourn 11:55 AM