

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
May 14, 2024

Indiana Corn and Soy, 8425 Keystone Crossing #200. Indianapolis, IN 46240
MS Teams

- I. Meeting was called to order at 9:46 by Gene.
- II. Brad moved to approve minutes as submitted. Seconded by Jane. There was no discussion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- III. CWI
 - a. Geneva then reported on Clean Water Indiana Grants. A written report was submitted, and Geneva summarized that report to the board highlighting upcoming deadlines.
 - b. Brad then gave a report on the grants committee. Brad summarized the 2025 CWI Guidance. State guidelines have limited number of members on a committee to (1). Jane and Ray have stepped down from committee to appease these guidelines. There was a lot of discussion regarding the new house bill that led to these changes. Brad also highlighted some of the new additions or changes to the grant guidance including letters of commitment among others. Along with the grant guidance and communication the 2025 grant application was also shared with the board and discussed. Brad asked for a motion to adopt the grant documents. Kenny moved to adopt these documents as presented. Amy seconded. Gene asked for clarification that this motion would include changes to grant committee. Brad said clarified that this motion only includes the document and not changes to the grant committee. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. The discussion then turned back to grant committee changes. After a lot of discussion Ray made a motion to have entire SSCB make up the grant review committee. Kenny seconded. Brad then made a concern on the time commitment involved and the logistics of making this process work. Jane also added that she had similar concerns. Vote was split so a role call vote was then called for. Brad voted no, Ray voted yes, Amy voted no, Jane voted no, and Kenny voted yes. Motion failed with a vote of 2-3. Brad made a suggestion that all board members review and score applications despite not being on official grant committee. The logistics will need to be reviewed to make sure its possible to do this. This process will be reviewed and discussed at the next SSCB meeting and acted on.
 - c. Kylie Wheeler and Holt Hoffman presented a financial request on behalf of Ohio County. Holt gave a breakdown of the efforts Ohio County has recently made to increase district capacity. They were \$7,042 shy of meeting their match from the county to receive the full \$20,000 they were eligible for in state funding. Kenny made a motion to meet their fund request. Brad seconded the motion. Ray asked how that would effect the budget. Jennifer reported that we have the money to approve this request. Jane voiced that this could set a precedent that others could make a similar request. Brad commented that he thinks this should be clear to everyone that this is a one-time thing. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.
 - d. Jennifer gave an update on missed deadlines. Going forward there may be some repercussions for missing deadlines, but for this year, she is asking for grace and forgiveness. Questions were then asked regarding more forgiveness going forward when district communicate missed deadlines compared to districts who do not communicate with district

support specialist regarding missing deadlines ahead of time. Brad made a motion to approve Noble County Annual Financial Report. Kenny seconded the motion. Gene then asked about districts being notified of these deadlines. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

- a. Gene then gave a chairman's report. He thanked everyone for their service and efforts to strengthen districts.
- b. Jennifer gave an update on the CWI Budget for 2025. This budget was presented with a handout that can be made available upon request. Jennifer highlighted some of the changes and noteworthy additions or subtractions. Gene then asked for a motion to approve the budget. Ray made a motion to approve the budget. Amy seconded. Brad then asked about a possible change to the reserve. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- c. Jennifer then gave the director's report. A written report was provided, and Jennifer summarized that handout to the board.

V. Public Comment- NONE

VI. BREAK

VII. Presentation- NONE

VIII. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- a. Laura Fribley then presented on Crawford County temporary appointment. She also read the qualification of the temporary appointment request in Jefferson County. This was just to clear up a mistake on mis-entering supervisor information on elected vs. appointed. Brad made a motion to approve the appointment request, Amy seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Jennifer gave an update on resignations in Fulton County. She gave the board some options allowed in state code to handle the unusual situation. Brad suggested that because 3 supervisors resigned at the same time, he makes a motion that the SSCB exercises their power, within Indiana code to appoint a SSCB member. The State Soil Conservation board would instate a temporary SWCD supervisor to represent the SSCB on representing Fulton County on their search for new board members. The board recommends the SSCB works with the partnership to identify a local board member to serve this role. This search needs to take place within 30 days. Discussion then occurred regarding the Fulton County current recommendations for temporary supervisors and if they can be accepted due to these recommendations being made by only 2 current board members. Amy moved to table Brads motion. Janed seconded. Motion was tabled. Brad made a motion to deny the current Fulton County recommendations, Kenny seconded. Motion carried. Ray made a motion to remove Brads motion from the table. Kenny seconded. Motion carried, which brought the motion back up for discussion. The original motion of "the SSCB exercises their power, within Indiana code to appoint a SSCB member. The State Soil Conservation board would instate a temporary SWCD supervisor to represent the SSCB on representing Fulton County on their search for new board members. The board recommends the SSCB works with the partnership to identify a local board member to serve this role. This search needs to take place within 30 days." This motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

Gene then asked for a motion that documentation is provided to Fulton County HR to report some negligence in Fulton County to provide the reporting they were supposed to be providing that has not been reported at this time. Concerns were then brought up regarding

seeing the missing report and that this is not the first time someone has missed a report, but this would be the first time contacting HR is a result of missing that deadline. Brad made a motion that the SSCB makes a recommendation to the Dept of Ag to put all CWI grants in Fulton County is put on hold pending the audit. Ray seconded the motion. The SSCB asked that this audit is given priority and conducted as soon as possible. Motion carried.

IX. ICP Reports

- a. ISDA reports were given on several areas. Reports were handed out and summarized.
- b. Meg Leader gave an update that Resilient Indiana was able to hire 6 new staff earlier today.
- c. IASWCD report was handed out and presented by Liz Rice.
- d. Lisa Holcher gave a report via teams on CCSI updates. Written report also provided.
- e. USH report was given by Ellie Blaine. Urban Soil Health report was provided and summarized by Ellie.
- f. Purdue, Walt Sell joined via teams and gave updates for Purdue. Purdue has received a 1.3 million dollar award to support renewable energy. Purdue extension in collaboration with NRCS and others are working on organic farming programs. Walt also gave an update on extension staff that has recently been added.
- g. NRCS. Daniel Waldschmidt provided a written report and summarized the report via teams.
- h. FSA. Written report was provided. Jared Thomas summarized the report and highlighted some items including the CREP program and Julie Harrold's efforts to make that program a success.
- i. IDEA provided a written report.

X. Public Comment- NONE

XI. Next meeting will be July 9 at the Corn and Soybean Alliance building in Indianapolis.

XII. Kenny made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jane. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.