

# STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

## Minutes

September 9, 2025  
Pulaski County Public Library  
121 S Riverside Dr.  
Winamac, IN 46996  
MS Teams

### Board Members Present

Kenny Cain  
Jane Hardisty  
Jeff Healy  
Chris Lee  
Jewel Wise

Sandra Hoffarth  
Brandi Frazier  
Amy Work  
Ophelia Davis  
Claire Rekeweg  
Julie Morris  
Don Lamb  
Heath Hurst

Lisa Holscher  
Lynne Huffman  
Liz Rice  
Courtney McFall  
Meg Leader  
Jamie Palmer  
Ray Chattin  
Megan Ritterskamp  
Don Ryan  
Nathan Stoelting  
Jared Thomas  
Toby Days  
Nathaniel Warenski  
Kylie Wheeler

### Board Members Absent

Gene Schmidt  
Brad Dawson

### Present Virtually

Lindsey Bluhm  
Bonnie Brown  
Jerod Chew  
Laura Fribley  
Andrea Gogel  
Leah Harmon

### Others Present

Jennifer Thum  
Breegan Anderson  
Tara Wesseler-Henry  
Geneva Tyler

- I. **Call to Order:** 9:01 am by Jane Hardisty
  - a. Introductions of new SSCB members Chris Lee and Jeff Healy, both are non-farming interests. Jane Hardisty and Brad Dawson have been moved to farming interest.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** 7/8/25 minutes. Motion to accept by Kenny Cain and seconded by Jewel Wise. Motion carried. Chris Lee and Jeff Healy abstained since they were not on the board yet.
- III. **Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. CWI grants committee – Tara Wesseler-Henry – packet has the map for the FY26 applications. Total is 33 applications representing 54 SWCDs and other organizations for a total requested amount of \$3,656,739.00. Scoring will be completed by SSCB board, DSS's, and Jennifer Thum. Resource Specialists will submit comments. Tara is available to train or give refresher course on GMS and the scoring process. October 2<sup>nd</sup>, ranking is due on GMS. October

10<sup>th</sup> grants committee will meet. October 21<sup>st</sup> committee will bring recommendations for approval of grants at the SSCB meeting.

- b. CWI grant reviews – going well and having great conversations making sure all grants are on track and that they don't have any issues.
- c. Future trainings will include a session on contract employee vs. district employees.
- d. CWI training dollars – ICP will meet October 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss SWCD staff and supervisor training opportunities. Board will decide after that meeting.

#### **IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**

- a. Chairman's report – Gene Schmidt is out sick
- b. Other member updates – Kenny had successful region meeting. Jane attended ICP meeting. IASWCD summer tour September 18, Jeff and Jane are registered to attend. October 7<sup>th</sup> is the ICP meeting via zoom. Instead of each partner giving updates, there will be a round table discussion surrounding the ICP plan of work. IDEA Fall Conference October 15-17.
- c. Business Plan Update 2025-2028 – training discussion is coming, CWI grants manager position has been filled, district capacity needs assessment is in the works.
- d. Dual office holding – David Bausman – Regarding whether SWCD supervisors hold a lucrative office, the answer from the state is yes. This means they cannot hold more than one lucrative office.
- e. Term dates for SSCB members are incorrect, Jennifer Thum is working to correct those.
- f. State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) manual update – Claire, ISDA intern has been working to update the new member orientation packet. She showed the packet on the screen.
- g. ISDA Directors report – attached report – email account has been set up so SSCB members can be contacted directly, [isdasscb@office365groups.in.gov](mailto:isdasscb@office365groups.in.gov). ISDA submitted letter of support for NRCS national hub in Indianapolis. Regarding SWCD financials, looking at getting a uniform system. Region meetings, thank you to the IASWCD and DSS team to get them accomplished. Arrowhead RC&D, thank you for giving a tour of their rafting program and providing lunch.
- h. SSCB recording will hopefully be available in October.
- i. District Capacity Needs Assessment is in process but can't talk about it yet.
- j. Budget update requested for October's SSCB meeting.

#### **V. Nutrient Stewardship Program presentation – slides attached.**

#### **VI. Public Comment – none at this time**

**VII. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

- a. Temporary Appointments motion to approve the following by Kenny Cain seconded by Jeff Healy. Motion approved.
  - i. Crawford County SWCD
  - ii. Orange County SWCD
- b. IDEA Career Development Program – training is for SWCD staff covering everything from financials, education, technical, communication and partners. This program is open to staff that have been with an SWCD for 1-5 years. Staff that have gone through the program tend to stick around longer. ISDA would like to look at how we can open this program up to all 92 counties and not just districts that are IDEA members. IDEA is needing funding moving forward to keep this program running. IDEA itself does not have the funds. Discussion will continue to possibly have this as an agreement under training dollars budget with ISDA.

**VIII. ICP Reports**

- a. ISDA
  - i. CREP and Water Quality Initiatives – report attached.
  - ii. Technical Assistance – NE team update attached.
  - iii. DSS – report attached.
- b. IASWCD – report attached.
  - i. CCSI – report attached.
  - ii. Resilient Indiana - report attached.
- c. NRCS – report attached.
- d. Purdue – report attached.
- e. FSA – no written report submitted. Staffing is short by 60 but still in a hiring freeze. CRP Indiana ranks 5<sup>th</sup> for contracts. Over 16,000 acres applied. 4,092 CREP acres applied. Awaiting Farm Bill to cover conservation programs as the Big Beautiful Bill did not include those.

**IX. Public comment:** none

- X. Meeting adjourn:** motion made at 12:18pm by Kenny Cain and seconded by Jewel Wise.