

**MINUTES**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**October 28, 2014**  
**New Castle- Henry Library**  
**376 15th Street**  
**New Castle, IN 47362**

**Members in Attendance:**

Scott Ham  
Nola Gentry  
Bob Eddleman  
Warren Baird

**Others in Attendance:**

Jordan Seger, ISDA	Candace Kindt
Roger Kult, NRCS	Cress Hizer, IASWCD
Meg Leader, ISDA	Steve Schmidt, Madison SWCD
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA	Leah Harmon, ISDA
Jennifer Thum, ISDA	Logan Gardner, ISDA
Sheryl Vaughn, Boone SWCD	Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Robert Woodling	Geneva Tyler, ISDA
Ray Chattin, Knox SWCD	Laura Fribley, ISDA
Jennifer Boyle Warner, IASWCD	

**Call to order at 9:45am**

**I. Approval of the Minutes of September 2014**

The minutes were corrected from the Sept. 2014 meeting.  
Nola moved and Bob seconded the motion, motion approved

**III. Clean Water Indiana**

**2015 Clean Water Indiana Grants**

Bob discussed the CWI report and the maps that were handout, 29 requests for the 57 districts involved, all had a lead district, those requests totaled \$2,006,800. The grants committee met with the District Support Specialists to rank the grant applications and then make their recommendations to the State Soil Conservation Board. For the 2015 CWI grants, there were 14 recommended proposals to be funded. Bob explained that this round there was a nice mix of applications, livestock, technical assistance, conservation cropping systems related, majority were the conservation cropping systems and there was one for urban technical assistance. There were also combination of conservation cropping systems and equipment modifications of no-till assistance.

Bob- asked if anyone had a question on the grants.

Nola commented that most of the grants were for cost-share.

Scott commented that he appreciated everyone's hard effort and thanked the districts that applied for the CWI grants and the ones that thought outside of the box. There is representation of the CWI grants this year.

Bob stated that he would like to see more goal setting from the districts and ask for the amount they need not just seek the maximum.

Bob made motion to approve the 2015 grants and Warren seconded the motion, motion approved.

**IV. Clean Water Indiana Budget Update- Jordan Seger**

Jordan discussed the budget cycle and explained that starting in January 2015, the legislature will meet to develop the budget for FY 2016 and 2017. ISDA did receive the \$1 million dollar general fund appropriation that allowed the SSCB to fund more CWI grants than in previous years. CWI started with \$4.14 million, but the State takes a 3% reserve off of that, which all state agencies have to do. \$10,000 goes to each SWCD if they show they have a \$10,000 match from the County and then the CWI grant awards were \$1.14 million. The SSCB did not award the full amount that was available in case we are asked to hold back an additional reserve on top of the 3%. In the event an additional reserve is not requested the SSCB will hold a second round of CWI grants towards the end of the fiscal year.

**V. Conservation Partner Reports**

a. NRCS report

Roger left a copy of the report on the SSCB desk and there was a handout.

NRCS has talked about a new national soil health division and there is a director in place in DC and there will be 21 employees across the country in place.

NRCS Employee update - Matt Jarvis, Greencastle DC took a job in the Dearborn/Switzerland office and Jessica is the new DC in Posey and Jennifer Walker is the new DC in LaGrange office. Roger Williams, worked for NRCS for over 50 years, will be retiring out of the Greencastle office.

b. IDEA report

Sheryl Vaughn, president of IDEA discussed the past IDEA Fall Conference that was held in Vevay, Indiana. This year, there were 75 association members attended the conference, out of their 112 members. There was a GIS and QuickBooks training, motivation speakers and networking events. This year the region directors offered scholarships to the region not to exceed \$200 for those that were interested in attending the IDEA conference, and this worked out very well.

c. IASWCD report

Jennifer Boyle-Warner gave the report. She stated that CCSI has a new agreement with NRCS for the next 3 years; part of the contract includes monies for Marion County for the urban specialist. This will be a one year pilot project with potential for contribution for another 2 years. A HUB meeting has been set for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Folks are invited to attend the meeting, and more information will be forthcoming. Pathway – The pervious pavement is being extended, and it will be poured soon, the forms were put in, it will be extended to the bridge that goes back to the cabin. Huge thanks to partnership staff, this was a three day event to get the site ready for the pervious concrete to get poured. They are working with Ball State in the Spring to do the immersion program where the students will come out to pathway and to improve the signage and any expansion work that needs to happen. They will have to find the money after, but huge step forward on the Pathway to make it year round education. There are two resolutions that have been submitted, and will be emailed to the districts after Nov. 7. The first resolution is to change the CWI funding, to match the \$10,000 outside the municipal community, like Delaware County. So a district could use match fund for the \$10,000 they received from another entity. This would get inserted into another legislative bill. The second resolution is from Jackson County,

the resolution proposes to add language to allow for township's to fund Soil and Water projects.

Registration is open for annual conference, supervisor scholarships will be announced after November 7<sup>th</sup>. Fall regions meetings are being scheduled. The contribution agreement with NRCS staff for technical review of the CRP land has been concluded. Hopefully, we can work on getting more of those agreements.

#### **VI. State Soil Conservation Board Reports**

Scott discussed the importance of communication and it's vital to have facts and not just rumors. There was further discussion on some issues regarding IASWCD dues pathway to water quality volunteers and CWI funds. We need the County Commissioners to support their districts locally. We need positive communication. Scott stated that the SSCB needs to be more active with the districts and the communication needs to be improved. Some of this should come out of the round table discussion at the conference. We have two potential SSCB appointed in attendance, Ray Chatten and Robert Woodling. As of an update to appointments, we are all getting reappointed...background checks are being done, the whole board is getting reappointed.

#### **VII. ISDA updates-**

##### Director Report

Jordan, announced that we now have a 6<sup>th</sup> DSS that started. Leah Harmon will cover a few counties around Marion and will take away some of the Counties that the other DSS have and serve in the Central Office. Leah will serve as the point of contact for the L.G office grant services team.

- IDEM reached out to ISDA and asked to submit joint comments on the US EPA proposal "waters of the US" rule and related interpretive rule. There were joint comments from ISDA and IDEM to withdrawal the rule.
- ISDA finalized a \$360,000 three year, zero match required agreement with EPA Region 5 to fund two limited duration positions located within the IN Western Lake Erie Basin. The agreement begins on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and will result in two ISDA employees (Resource Specialists) located within the Ft. Wayne and Decatur USDA service centers for a three year term.

##### Agriculture and Environmental Affairs and Program Manager

Jordan applauded Meg's effort on the OFN program. CSNT sample collection continues with 19 of 24 groups finished with the stalk sampling due to the late harvest. The winter growers meetings have been scheduled and we are ahead of schedule. Corn and Soybean has challenged the group to add more groups and they will help with the funding.

Possible new groups for the 2015 season, Owen, Huntington, Wells, Hendricks, White, Jay, Morgan, Spence, and Washington Counties.

##### Accountability and Technology

Deb talked about the table that shows that a lot of work has been going on in the fields, surveying, construction and the field staff that has been busy with the OFN program. The 2013 NRCS data was used for the Region 5 model analyses. Division field staff are conducting the Region 5 model nutrient load reductions analyses and entering the results into Sharepoint. Over 14,000 practices are being analyzed. We are getting kudos in the Midwest for getting the work accomplished.

2014 Fall Cover Crop Tillage Survey – they are putting together the documents together and letter that will be approved by the ICP leaders with instructions. Geneva is working on the instruction sheet and there will be three columns and explain what is to be entered into the worksheet and this will go out to the districts in two weeks.

#### District Support Specialist

Laura – DSSs and RSs assisted groups statewide as they prepared applications for the 2015 CWI grants round. DSSs assisted the SSCB and related committees with concepts and responsibilities related to the 2015 CWI grants and Scholarship/Sponsorship training dollars. Laura talked about the upcoming conservation selling workshop and hopes that those that attend are able to share what they learned to those that were unable to attend.

#### Water Quality Initiatives

Logan stated that all the CREP funding has been utilized for 2014.

Logan talked about the Region 5 presentation that he did at the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force event and that it became apparent that no other state does the type of reporting that Indiana does. In addition, he talked about the State's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Logan stated that he has been working with Julie Harrold on recording a Region 5 module training video. The video will walk users through the process and it will be used quite a bit. Logan wanted to thank Julie Harrold for the recording of the video. There will be an update to the model, 15 practices will be added a water quantity change to it.

CCSI report –

Hans Kok, a part-time employee with CCSI, wants to start working on training CCA's on soil health. Hans indicated that he will meet with the CCA board to determine how CCSI can help. He indicated that they receive funding from CWI funds and they need to look at getting away from that and become self-sustaining in a few years.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

Scott asked if there were any questions on the reports or if there was any other public comment.

There was none

### **VII. Next Meeting**

#### **2015 Meeting Dates**

January 13, IASWCD Annual  
Conference roundtable discussion  
February 10, The Nature  
Conservancy, Indianapolis  
March 10, The Nature Conservancy,  
Indianapolis

May 12, Culver, Indiana  
July 14, The Nature Conservancy,  
Indianapolis  
September 15, The Nature  
Conservancy, Indianapolis  
October 27, TBA

**VIII. Adjourn 11:56AM**

The meeting was adjourned and Scott reminded the group about the tour of Caprini Creamery/Redbud Farms after lunch.

Minutes Prepared by: Jennifer Thum

Approved by:
