

**MINUTES**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**January 7, 2013 8:30 am**  
**Indianapolis Downtown Marriott**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

**Members in Attendance:**

Warren Baird  
Larry Clemens  
Bob Eddleman  
Bill Mann  
Nola Gentry  
Scott Ham

**Members Not In Attendance:**

Brett Glick

**Others in Attendance:**

Bob Hettmansperger, Wabash SWCD  
Jim Droege, IASWCD  
Pat Larr, Scott SWCD  
Rick Parson, Tippecanoe SWCD  
Nick Alles, ISDA  
Rita Sharr  
Sharon Watson, White SWCD  
Lyle Burtsfield, Elkhart SWCD  
Ray McCormick, IASWCD  
Scheryl Vaughn, Boone SWCD  
Les Zimmerman, Vermillion SWCD  
Don Lode, LaPorte SWCD  
Meg Leader, Vermillion SWCD  
Tom Crowe, Allen SWCD  
Cress Hizer, INAg

**Others in Attendance Cont:**

Jordan Seger, ISDA  
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA  
Jennifer Pinkston ISDA  
Jim Lake ISDA  
Tara Henry, ISDA  
Geneva Rawlins, ISDA  
Nathan Stoelting ISDA  
Roger Kult, NRCS  
Susan Hovermale, FSA  
Mike Starkey, Hendricks SWCD  
Kenny Cain, IASWCD  
Harold Thompson, ICP  
Jennifer Boyle-Warner, IASWCD  
Carol Love, LaPorte SWCD  
Tony Ekovich, LaPorte SWCD  
Sherm Bryant  
Lois Mann, Fulton SWCD  
Douglas Joluste, Morgan SWCD  
Jim Hess, Elkhart SWCD  
Jamie Scott, IASWCD  
Deb Lane, Warren SWCD  
Ray Chattin, Knox SWCD  
Steve Howell, IDEM  
Larry Strole, Newton SWCD  
Dan Wire, Allen SWCD  
Deb Jimison, ISDA

- I. 8:30 AM: Call to Order**
- II. Draft Minutes of December 2012**

Change December minutes to reflect correct number of CREP acres (8,067). Bob moved to approve minutes with correction noted. Nola seconded. Motion passed.
- III. ISDA Reports and Accomplishments (See Attachments)**
  - a. Division Operations-Jennifer Pinkston**

Jennifer reported on how the budget reduction had affected division staff by reducing training funds and a reduction of the division fleet.
  - b. District Support-Jim Lake**

During 2012, DSSs facilitated sessions at the IASWCD annual conference, assisted with the five March training sessions, and during the fall, participated in the joint meetings around the state. DSSs have been working with district staff and supervisors to review and reflect on the Conservation Beyond 2016 task force report. Two Leadership Institute workshops were held in 2012. In total, 72 districts have participated in LI activities since 2006. Four participants completed the program this in 2012.
  - c. Technical Assistance, Technology and Accountability-Deb Fairhurst**

As of January 1, the Division of Soil Conservation employs four Resource Specialist Team Leaders, 17 Resource Specialists, and three IDEM 319 funded Resource Specialists. The combined 24 technical staff assisted over 200 farmers implement conservation practices in 2012.

SharePoint usage increased dramatically in 2012. Currently, over 250 division and ICP staff are using SharePoint tracking. Clean Water Indiana grants are using SharePoint for reporting purposes. The District Support Specialists recently began using SharePoint to track their activities. All technical staff and SWCD staff are using the EPA Region 5 model to track nutrient load reduction. Deb used the information in the conservation practice database to create maps of load reductions. (See attachments)

**d. Programs and Initiatives-Jordan Seger and Logan Garner**

Jordan and the OFN group will have finish up grower meetings in the next few weeks. After all the grower meetings have been completed, the results will be posted online. Scott Ham asked Jordan if there were any surprises because of the drought conditions. Jordan commented that stalk nitrate concentrations were much lower than anticipated. The theory is that the lack of precipitation could have prevented nitrogen from moving up in the stalk, however no one is sure. Jordan reported one additional group will be added to the OFN in 2013. The current funding source is for three years, with Indiana Corn and Soybean Alliance as the major partner. In the future, the program may expand research to other nutrients and testing, but the current structure focuses on unpaid help and using the grant funding for program testing and data analysis. Logan reported 835 acres were installed in CREP during 2012. The top practice was bottomland timber establishment. (See attachments for more details) The CREP steering committee has been reestablished and is now meeting regularly.

**IV. SSCB Report**

**a. Annual Report and Accomplishments-Larry Clemens**

Larry noted the SSCB awarded nine Clean Water Indiana multi-district grants this year. In addition, the board has made up to \$475 each for staff and supervisor training reimbursements available, to a maximum of \$66,000 for the entire state.

**b. Task Force Discussion-Larry Clemens**

Over an eight month period, the Conservation Beyond 2016 task force compiled, reviewed and analyzed data, trends and outlooks to develop the Conservation Beyond 2016 report. After the report was released, the SSCB gave presentations on the report and took a five month period for comments and suggestions. In December, Larry attended the IASWCD board meeting and discussed possible next steps. The board agreed the action steps need to come from the local level. After annual conference, Larry plans to meet with Jennifer Boyle Warner to develop a small group to develop a plan. Larry also noted 2014 CWI funds should be used for this project.

**V. Conservation Partner Reports**

**a. IASWCD Report-Ray McCormick**

Ray noted that during discussions with Tom Davenport from EPA, Indiana was complimented on our non-traditional partnerships relating to water quality. Ray called attention to the natural resource sustainability task force report, available at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/igareports/agency/reports/ISNRTF01.pdf>. The report calls for an increase in Clean Water Indiana funding to support an additional eight technical staff to support the CCSI initiative and increasing the annual financial SWCD match from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

**b. IDEM Report-Steve Howell (See Attachments)**

Steve noted the great conservation working going on in Indiana, highlighting the over 10,000 acres of cover crops funded with 319 grants. Water quality monitoring projects experienced problems in 2012 due to creeks drying up, but anticipate getting back to data in 2013.

**c. DNR Report-No Report**

**d. Purdue Report-No Report**

**e. FSA Report-Susan Hovermale (See Attachments)**

FSA continues to work on conservation compliance issues. Susan reported FSA is working on several wetland compliance issues. FSA worked to outline two new SAFE areas for ringneck pheasant and American woodcock.

**f. NRCS Report-Roger Kult (See Attachments)**

Roger reported the announcement of over \$26M available funds for EQIP. Jane is still in Washington. In January, Jane was asked to stay in Washington for a 120 day detail as Acting Associate Chief for Operations. In her absence, Roger is serving as Acting Stat Conservationist and Susan Meadows is serving as Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Operations.

- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Next Meeting: TBA**
- VIII. Adjourn**

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:


DRAFT