

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
8:30 am Monday, January 10, 2011
The Marriot, Indianapolis

Members in Attendance:

Nola Gentry
Larry Clemens
Scott Ham
Bill Mann
Bob Eddleman
Brett Glick

Others in Attendance:

Jerod Chew, ISDA
Jennifer Pinkston, ISDA
Tara Henry, ISDA
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA
Laura Fribley, ISDA
Jim Lake, ISDA
Roz Leeck, ISDA
Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Paul Hoffman, ISDA
Hans Kok, CCSI
Jane Hardisty, NRCS
Paula Baldwin, IASWCD

I. 8:30 AM: Call to Order

II. Draft Minutes of November 2010

Bill Mann moved to approve the November 2010 minutes as presented. Larry Clemens seconded and the motion carried.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. 2010 and Prior Grants Paul Hoffman (see attachment)

Paul reported the 2009 SNRG grants have been completed with \$2000 of unspent funds returned to the State. Of the 88 counties awarded CWI Grants in 2010, two districts are complete and have been paid and 9 have sent in final reports, but payment has not been processed yet. The remaining districts have been extended to March 31, 2011 and one district extended to September 30, 2011. 56 districts have submitted training reimbursement requests as well. Nola noted districts have been adhering well to deadlines, specifically with reporting requirements.

i. Grant Requests and Extensions (see attachments)

A. Fulton County-Jim Lake

Fulton County has requested to extend their 2010 grant until June 30, 2011. Scott Ham motioned to approve this request. Motion seconded and carried.

B. LaPorte County-Jim Lake

LaPorte County is requesting an extension until September 2011. Jim noted September would allow adequate time for grant completion. Scott Ham motioned to approve; Bill Mann seconded; motion carried.

b. 2011 Grants Program

The 2011 CWI grants have been awarded and contracts are in final stages. Districts should expect to receive initial 75% in February and can begin obligating funds as of now.

c. CREP- Jerod Chew (see attachment)

The 2010 CREP report has been completed and submitted. Jerod noted Indiana's CREP Program varies from other states, so it makes comparing performance difficult, but noted accomplishments within Indiana. Thru December, 1.2M in State funds have been expended. Bottomland Timber is showing high rates of participation among CREP practices.

d. Special Committee for Additional 2011 Grant Funds

A special committee consisting of Warren Baird, Scott Ham, and Bob Eddleman met in December to discuss grant opportunities with approximately \$84,000 in unspent grant funds. Two main categories of funding are available—Cost Share Incentives/Demonstrations and Capacity Building. The grant application should address at least two of the initiatives in the State Soil Board's Business Plan. Applicants should be a group of 2 or more SWCDs actively involved in a watershed based initiative. One lead district should be the administrator and will be submitting the application; however each participating District Chairman must sign the application. Districts are encouraged to work closely with their District Support Specialist during the application process. The SSCB is anticipating funding two or three projects between \$15,000 and \$50,000 each. Nola noted the Board encourages non-traditional partners as well. Bob Eddleman motioned to approve committee recommendations on grant application. Scott Ham seconded; motioned carried. The grant application is anticipated to be available by January 31. The application deadline will be March 15, 2011.

IV. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Supervisor Appointments-Jennifer Pinkston (see attachments)

- i.** Vanderburgh County-Board approved appointment
- ii.** Dubois County- Board approved appointment
- iii.** Orange County- Board approved appointment
- iv.** Jackson County- Board approved appointment at November meeting, but had requested additional information.

b. Waiver Request Allen County-Jim Lake (see attachment)

Allen County SWCD has requested a waiver of the 10 acre rule for Dan Wire, who was submitted on their nominations for election form to be on the annual meeting supervisor election ballot. Motion carried.

c. Leadership Institute—Laura Fribley (see attachment)

The 2010 Leadership Institutes saw 127 attendees. Surveys showed 97% of participants felt it was "worth their time". 2010 saw six new counties participating—Hancock, Lake, Owen, Porter, Union and Vermillion. The attachments show how districts are putting the training received into practice within the districts. Nathan and Jerod attended a national conference in Louisville and presented Leadership Institute information to 80 individuals representing 20 states. Scott noted several attendees were eager to learn more about our program. Nathan commented that a representative from Alabama has committed to attending at least one LI event this year. The SSCB initially awarded \$20,000 to run this program. Laura noted the program is self-sufficient at this point.

V. SSCB Board Reports and Discussion

a. SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry

Nola reported conservation partners will be talking at noon today about joint projects from previous years and looking forward to this year.

b. Nomination Committee—Bob Eddleman

The nomination committee has nominated Larry Clemens to be the new State Soil Conservation Board Chairperson and Scott Ham to be the Vice-Char. Motion was made to approve nomination. Motion seconded—motion carried.

VI. ISDA Reports

a. Division of Soil Conservation Report

i. Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew

The Indiana Conservation Partnership met and discussed tillage transect for the upcoming year, nutrient reduction strategy, and the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force. The ICP is formulating a plan to act in each area. ISDA completed interviews in the first week of January to fill 2 open Resource Specialist positions. One to be located in the northwest region, the second in the central region.

2010 statistics of note (July-December):

- 500 surveys completed by ISDA staff
- 400 layouts completed
- 23 staff provided 795 instances of technical assistance
- 766 acres of practices installed in 71 counties

ii. District Support Update—Jim Lake

The District Support Specialists are currently working on the 2010 grant extensions, and will be busy assisting districts with 2011 Watershed Grant proposals.

iii. Agriculture Affairs Update – Roz Leeck

The first growers meeting from On Farm Network recently took place. Participants were able to draw several conclusions from pilot testing; both positive and negative. New areas are being explored for 2011 On Farm Network.

iv. Accountability-Deb Fairhurst

2010 saw the launch of SharePoint. 2011 will offer expanded usage and availability. Technicians will begin adding data. Deb has been working with in.gov on ICP web accountability. The new website will allow each district to have their own page showcasing a success story, graphics to represent funding sources, and give more information about each district. The ISDA-DSC website will be going through a makeover to shift the focus from ISDA-DSC partners to landowners.

VII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. DNR Report

No Report

b. IDEM Report

No Report

c. Purdue Report

No Report

d. IASWCD Report – Paula Baldwin

The Legislative Committee is starting up. They will be working with the new legislators, educating them and showing what help is needed in conservation.

e. FSA Report

No Report

f. NRCS Report—Jane Hardisty

The new Congress is now in session. The budget is holding steady at this point, but agency is also preparing for deficit as the current administration in Washington moves towards annual funding, not long term commitments.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Next Meeting: March 8 in Indianapolis (NRCS)

X. Adjourn 10:30 AM

Minutes Prepared By: Jennifer Pinkston

Approved By:
