

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

September 17, 2019

Natural Resources Conservation Service

I. 9:30 am: Call to Order by Larry Clemens. All Board members present

II. Approve Minutes of July 2019

Bob Eddlemen made motion to approve the minutes. Second by Kenny Cain

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon

See attached report. Lt. Governor office family business asking board members who are ranking grants sign off on conflict of interest forms. More information to come concerning the timing of the form to be signed because of when the grants come in and also questions about if the form is needed because the CWI grants are blind scored. The forms will be in addition to the ethics training that is provided by the state.

13 out of 92 SWCDs with CWI did not submit a report by the deadline. All are up to date now. However, they are not eligible to be lead on a CWI grant for 2020. 3 of the 13 have submitted an application for CWI 2020 grants.

Warren Baird: in favor of following guidance and not allowing to be eligible to move forward to the ranking process.

Ray Chattin is concerned, accountability is important, about current policy needs discussed. Ray said if we punish districts for this then I am not for sure where this leaves our districts. Ray feels strongly that we need to rethink our policy. I propose as a grants committee we take a good long look at this.

Bob Eddleman: I feel strong both ways. We should support policy. I don't know who much of this policy has been talked about or understood by SWCD staff, supervisors. For now, let's use as a lesson building. Do not eliminate the three this year, allow to move forward. However, going forward change the policy. Not hold them to the fire for this round of submission but move forward.

Brad Dawson: The districts that missed in December, it was already decided that they can't apply. Why should we soften for this one group? The next time this comes up, how are we going to stand?

Bob: We are here to put conservation on the land, and that is by law. Are we hindering?

Ray: Comparing December deadline to CWI grant deadlines is completely different. In retrospect I am not comfortable with what we did in December. We should make allowances. Suggestion, if a district is late then they can't apply until they submit and then have a letter saying why they were late.

Larry Clemens opened the floor to the staff and audience to comment.

Motion made by Warren Baird: Accept the requirements of all deadlines being met and not allow the applications to advance to next round of the 2020 CWI Grant reviews.

Second? No. Motion did not carry forward for discussion and vote.

Motion made by Ray Chattin: The SSCB will grant leniency and allow those grants applications who did not meet grant application requirements in 2019 be allowed to apply for the 2020 grant

cycle. Delegate to CWI grant committee to provide guidance/recommendation eligibility policy to the future of grants.

Second by Bob Eddlemen

Comments :

Amy Burris: What happens if they don't get to apply? Response: They sit out one year. Some of the districts did a work around and found another district to be the lead.

Vote:

Amy Burris: No

Brad Dawson: No

Bob Eddlemen: Yes

Warren Baird: No

Kenny Cain: Yes

Ray Chattin: Yes

Tie vote.

Larry Clemens: No

Motion did not pass.

10 minute break.

Larry called the meeting back to order at 10: 44am

Motion made by Brad Dawson: Allow a 14 day window (October 1st) for all clean water applications to be adjusted as needed.

Second by Bob Eddlemen

Amy Burris: Yes

Brad Dawson: Yes

Bob Eddlemen: Yes

Warren Baird: Yes

Kenny Cain: Yes

Ray Chattin: Yes

Motion approved.

Motion made by Ray Chattin: SSCB charges the CWI grants committee to provide recommendation/ guidance to the SSCB for grant application eligibility.

Second by Brad Dawson

Motion approved. 5 for and 1 against.

b. Non-SWCD CWI 2020 Grant Proposals

1. CCSI-Jamie Scott, Joe Schmees, and Lisa Holscher presented on the CCSI proposed application for consideration for the 2020 Grant cycle.

Larry will be refraining from any voting due to conflict with both applications because of his TNC involvement.

All board members said they are involved with CCSI. The board members were given approval to vote because they are not voting to fund projects, just to advance to next CWI grant level.

Motion by Brad Dawson: Approve to move them on to the next level of 2020 grant cycle.

Second by Ray Chattin

Motion approved

2. SICIM-Troy Hinkle presented on the CCSI application for the 2020 CWI Grant.

Ray abstained from vote.

Motion by Kenny Cain: Move to move the application to the next level of the grant cycle.

Second by Amy Burris.

Motion approved. 4 yes and 1 no

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

- a. Chairman's Report-Larry Clemens

Reported on the ICP meeting. Highlighted the Indiana Science Assessment.

- b. SSCB Business Plan-Larry Clemens

We need to set a date to dedicate a day of updating the plan. SSCB would like the plan updated by the end of the year if possible. Laura presented on what the DSSs are gathering for the SSCB. The items are the district business plans with a summary, the survey at the Supervisor/Staff trainings, and the online survey sent to districts. Larry asked the ISDA DSSs to do a Doodle Poll with SSCB to identify a date in November to meet.

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- a. Clark SWCD- Laura Fribley

Temporary supervisor position: Amil Kleinert to fulfill Carolyn Clark position

Appointed supervisor position: Margaret (Peg) Wright to fulfill Luann Stahly position

- b. Fayette SWCD – Tara Wessler-Henry

Appointed supervisor position: Troy Tipton to fulfill Keith Barrows position

Motion made by Brad Dawson to approve the supervisor requests.

Second by Kenny Cain

Motion approved.

VI. ISDA Updates

a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger (See report)

Jordan thanked Jennifer Thum for all that she has done as acting Director for the past few months.

Jordan talked briefly about Leah Harmon and Trevor Laugherys new position and changes to SSCB communication contact and CWI Grant communication and process. Geneva Tyler will be the point of contact for SSCB communication.

b. Technical Report- George Reger (See report-Charts)

c. Soil Health- Annette Manusevich (See report)

d. Accountability and Technology- Jordan Seger (See report)

e. District Support- Laura Fribley (See report)

Laura, also talked about the potential idea of a conservation bus tour. Currently the DSSs and IASWCD have been exploring the idea.

Update to the legal issues going on. Attorney General office would be willing to represent a district in the court of law. Joe commented that if appears districts would be covered under Tort Code.

ISDA legal counsel and IASWCD are inquiring that the law does in fact cover districts.

f. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold (see report)

VIII. Conservation Partner Reports

a. IASWCD Report- Joe Schmees (see report)

b. IDEM Report – Julia Wickard (see report)

Updates from Office of Water Quality. Updates to the Recycling initiatives. Efforts underway to evaluate permits between IDEM and DNR, working towards automated system.

c. DNR Report – no report

d. Purdue Report – Walt Sell

Shared information on the Watershed Leadership Academy call for applications and the Soil, Water, and Cropping Systems Forum Save the Date.

e. FSA Report – no report

f. NRCS Report- Jerry Raynor covered highlights from report.

g. CCSI Report-Lisa Holscher-see report

h. IDEA Report-see report

i. IANA Report- no report

IX. Public Comment

X. Next Meeting:

October 29: Parke County at the 4-H fair grounds

XI. Kenny Cain made motioned to adjourn. Second by Amy Burris. Meeting adjourned at 12:13pm