

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
July 18, 2023
Indiana Soybean Alliance
8425 Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, IN 46240
MS Teams

Present

Ray Chattin (Board Chair)	
Gene Schmidt (Board Vice-Chair)	Les Zimmerman
Brad Dawson (Board member)	Don Lamb
Kenny Cain (Board member)	Tara Wesseler-Henry
Jane Hardisty (Board member)	Curtis Knueven
Leah Harmon	Eliana Blaine
Nathan Stoelting	Julie Harrold
Kylie Wheeler	Breegan Anderson
Sandra Hoffarth	Megan Malott
Trevor Laureys	Mike Norman

Present via Teams

Amy Work	Hurst, Heath	Ritterskamp, Megan
Andrew, Shawna	John Hazlett	Robbins, Amanda
Angela Jackson	Johnson, Tracey	Ryan, Don
Cole Flatt	Kent, Kelly	Sanders, Kathryn
Darlene Fischer	Kim Peterson	Sargeant, Shalyn
David Taylor	King, Susan	Schroeder, Sheila
Deller, Jessica	Leah Walthery	Sherman, Levi
Eric Shideler	Liz Rice	Thum, Jennifer
Fribley, Laura	Mann, Lois	Tina Boerner
Harrold, Julie	Martha miller	Traylor, Amity
Hatt, Jessica	Meyer, Janel	Walker, Dale
Holscher, Lisa	Morris, Julia	Warenski, Nathaniel
	Nellie Peffley	Watson, Mary

- I. Call to order:** 9:31 AM by Ray Chattin.
- II. Approve minutes of May 2023.** Motion to approve by Schmidt. Seconded by Cain. Motion passed.
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Current grants updates are due at the end of the month. Written report given and reviewed. Discussion around if we should include a leveraging aspect to the grant reports, as in for every dollar received, how much more was generated.
 - b. State Funding – (see DSC director’s report for details) Doubling training reimbursement, district match funds, a little more than doubling of competitive grants, doubling of CREP dollars, IRA – IASWCD proposal of \$540,000, IDEA proposal of \$4,400 and agreements/equipment of \$100,000. (Trevor jumped to the director’s report) State has instituted 2% reserve on budget. ISDA is one position away from being fully staffed for

the first time since 2019. SSCB term & appointment, Larry Clemens position will need to be filled, his current term ends 4/31/2026.

- i. Comments from chat: “Eric Shideler – Getting away from soft money employees would help this dilemma. Having a stable funding source to hire folks is key.” Liz Rice – “There was an ICP subcommittee that conducted a SWOT analysis and developed summary recommendations regarding recruitment. It was understood that the challenge was most felt at the SWCD level, but also that other ICP agencies benefit from the SWCD workforce. Pay scales were identified as a key weakness of SWCD recruitment.”
- c. CWI capacity payment tracking – asking the board if they want to track just the extra \$2,000 or the full \$12,000 for FY23 funds? Discussion from the board is we should be tracking the full amount to use as leverage for future funding requests. Motion by Gene Schmidt & Cain to report the capacity payment as well as the total non-competitive matching funds received by each district. This will be used to show to the legislators the needs assessment as well as the good work the districts are doing. Motion carried.
 - i. Comments from chat: Kelly Kent “Is there going to be any restrictions on what those funds can be used for? Example food at field days, mileage reimbursement, staff pay increase, cost share programs, etc.” Text What is the difference between this report request and the AFR?
- d. CWI communications – letter given to the board for review to go out to districts via the DSS. Motion from Dawson & Schmidt to accept letter as presented and add the budget. motion carried.
- e. CWI modifications –
 - i. Knox Co SWCD – 2022 grant for soil health specialist, having trouble finding the correct candidate, looking for additional 18 months to end June 1, 2026. Questions asked if this has been done in the past, give a timeline if they still haven’t hired someone in 3-6 months then it might be time to realize they will be returning funds. Tara gave option to hold off on going through the process through grant management until the staff person is hired in case funds need to be returned. Leah checked with grant services, board can only add a year and not 18 months to the life of a grant. Dawson & Schmidt motioned the board is honoring the request, but due to the administrative process they are deferring action on this request until the October SSCB meeting so the grant committee can give clarification. Chattin abstained vote, motion carried.

IV. Don Lamb ISDA director – introduced himself to the board, thankful to be here.

V. Break

VI. CWI modifications cont’d –

- a. CWI Spencer Co SWCD – 2021 grant that expires December 31, 2023. Requesting cost share budget be moved around to use for any practice not the original distribution. Cain, Dawson motion the approval of the modification. Motion carried.

VII. SSCB business

- a. Chairman’s report – completing strategic planning, attended SICM meeting – invasive species is this generations Dust Bowl. Summer Summit meetings coming up – need to have SSCB members in attendance. Board discussed and would like to have a few minutes at each meeting. Plans to be at the ISDA meeting at the state fair.
 - i. Comment from chat: Leah Walthery “As a SWCD that is pairing with another county to actively start a CISMA, we are finding that there is definitely local

interest. I will say that the attempt to get the CISMA going has taken many, many manhours. Some SWCD's may shy from the time commitment even if they are interested. In discussions with my SWCD Board and county officials, it would be very beneficial to have a fact sheet to present that lists the costs and implications of invasives. Especially monetary facts. County officials understand money." Mary Lou Watson "CISMA's are easier, and more fun, if they share the load to include DNR & Extension as well as local laypersons with SWCD's on the committee....more responsible bodies helps to share the workload."

VIII. SWCD Temporary Appointment Dubois Co SWCD – motion by Dawson & Cain to approve Mark Welp to replace Andrew Helming. Motion carried.

IX. ICP reports

- a. ISDA –
 - i. Partnership - Successful tour July 12, manure management field day August ??, Kankakee RCPP on hold still working on easements, hosting technical meetings. Working with partners & DSS's for training needs
 - ii. CREP – written report reviewed. Revised agreement with FSA & ISDA is at the national level awaiting approval. With the expansion of CREP to be statewide, the first week of August DSS's will send out requests for districts that are interested in becoming a CREP administrator.
 - iii. Nutrient Stewardship written report reviewed.
 - iv. DSS written report reviewed.
 - b. IASWCD – Working on a new strategic plan. 4 focus; areas communications and marketing, funding, legislative advocacy, development – staff development within IASWCD. Working on the details of the approved Technical Assistance NRCS agreement. Plan to get 3-4 staff hired by the end of the year and additional staff hired in the coming year. Will be writing a CWI grant for a Grants Finance Manager position.
 - c. Urban Soil Health – talked about the history and creation need for the urban soil health team. Gave written proposal that will be in a CWI grant application for the FY24 funding.
 - d. CCSI – written report reviewed.
 - e. Purdue – n/a
 - f. NRCS – written report reviewed. Federal funding increased from \$40 million to \$75 million for FY23.
 - g. FSA – n/a
 - h. IDEA – 172 members throughout the state! Full board and directors, looking into a 501c and strategic plan. Employee program has completed 3 trainings and thank Leah for her work on the modules. Technical staff at the district level needs training that will certify them to do the work other partners like NRCS cannot do. Noble, Tipton, Henry and Johnson are not members.
- X.** Public comment: Timelines for grant cycle are tight. Discussion around when a better time would be, no good answer for that. Working with grant services, Tara says we are in the right timeframe for contracts and other administrative processes.
- XI.** 1:40 pm-2pm Break for lunch
- XII.** Strategic Planning
- XIII.** Adjourned 3:53pm, Motion by Jane Hardisty