

## STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

### Minutes

January 8, 2023

The Westin Indianapolis, 241 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis  
MS Teams

#### **Board Members Present:**

Kenny Cain  
Brad Dawson  
Ray Chattin  
Gene Schmidt  
Larry Clemens

Leah Harmon  
Will Drews  
Shalyn Sargeant  
Clevie Bennett  
Kelly Kent  
Becca McClellan  
Judi Brown

Matthew Johnson  
Sheila Schroeder  
Martha Miller  
Tracey Johnson  
Amy Work  
Brent Jarnecke  
Bradley Hunter  
Carrie Parmenter

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Amy Burris

Cress Hizer  
Lois Mann  
Elli Blaine

Les Zimmerman  
Marc Roberts  
Jon Roberts  
Stan Moore  
Susan Chattin

#### **Others Present:**

Trevor Laureys  
Tara Wesseler-Henry  
Laura Fribley  
Geneva Tyler  
Julie Harrold  
Jennifer Thum

Megan Ayers  
Liz Rice  
Marian Rodriguez  
Kim Jeffery-Wolfert  
John Kruce  
Katie Starr  
Julie Loehr

#### **Present Virtually:**

Sheryl Vaughn  
Kim Peterson

- I. **Call to Order:** Kenny Cain called the meeting to order at 3:01PM
- II. **Approve Minutes of October 2022:** the minutes were presented. Brad Dawson moved to approve the minutes. Gene Schmidt seconded. All were in favor.
- III. **Clean Water Indiana**
  - a. Tara Wesseler-Henry
    - i. Presented the CWI Report and highlighted pieces of the report.
    - ii. A survey will be available for Districts and Partners to provide feedback to fill out anytime about the grant process. It will be available anytime of the year. It can be submitted anonymously as well.
- IV. **SSCB Minutes**
  - a. **SSCB Member Terms and Appointments:**
    - i. Trevor Laureys touched on the member terms. A few terms expired at the first of this year: Amy Burris, Ray Chattin, and vacancy by Bob Eddleman. Under statutes, the term of a board member continues until a successor has been named. The Board makeup for now remains the same. ISDA has submitted all required information to reappointment a few members here and fill vacancy left by Bob.
    - ii. Trevor shared a resolution came through about a year ago from Kosciusko County to examine term limits of the SSCB. A memo was approved but to avoid confusion, we waited until this new year. Trevor asked the Chair to approve that we change the dates, double check language, and get out this month.

Memo was developed with ISDA, a few members of the Association and a few members of the Board. The memo is where we landed as a non-legislative effort to promote a healthier Board. One could seek reappointment after four years off the board and when someone is appointed, not retroactively, it would be a two-term limit.

- iii. Ray Chattin made a motion to accept it as presented. Brad seconded. Motion passed.
- iv. Brad mentioned the reason Kosciusko brought this up was to use the SSCB as an example to limit terms and this may funnel down to the districts because it's always good to have new ideas on boards. So that's why we're stepping up.
- v. Larry Clemens asked if anyone else was affected. Trevor clarified it's non-retroactive.
- vi. Larry asked if anyone else was affected by the term limits. Trevor clarified it's non-retroactive. Anyone who would be appointed in this round right now, would have two terms from here. Larry would have two terms after 2026 when he is reappointed. The intention was to set an example not to come after anyone on the Board.

**b. Purdue University & IASWCD Research MOU**

- i. Trevor presented the Memorandum of Understanding between Purdue University and the Indiana Association of Soil Conservation District. This is the exact same document and needs to be renewed.
- ii. Larry moved to accept the memorandum. Ray seconds. Motion passed.
- iii. Kenny will sign and get MOU to Trevor for other Partners to sign.

**c. Chairman's Report**

- i. Kenny thanked all the Partners and shared it was a pleasure to serve you all. He reviewed highlights of 2022. It was a successful year.

**d. Officer Elections**

- i. Brad moved that Ray Chattin become Chairman. Seconded by Larry. Ray accepted. Motion passed.
- ii. Ray nominated Gene Schmidt to be Vice Chair. Larry seconded. Gene accepts. Motion passed.

**e. Committee Appointments**

- i. CWI Grants Committee: the Chair and Vice Chair traditionally don't serve on the Grants Committee. Kenny will serve with Brad and Amy.
- ii. CCSI Oversight committee: Ray's two-year appointment is up. Kenny and Ray will continue serve.
- iii. Pathway to Water Quality: No term on this appointment. Larry will continue to serve. Brad can try to cover if Larry cannot attend.

**V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**a. SWCD Supervisor Appointments:**

- i. Geneva Tyler provided the list of recommendations of appointed supervisors throughout the state. Brad asked if they had been informed for Dual Office holding. Geneva confirmed they had.

- ii. Brad moved to accept and approve the nominated appointees. Seconded by Gene. Motion passed.

**b. Temporary Appointments:**

- i. Laura Fribley presented:
  - 1. Crawford: David Grow- temporary elected; David Grow- vacant appointed
  - 2. Floyd: Laura Lewis- temporary elected
- ii. Tara presented:
  - 1. Dearborn: Chris Powell- temporary elected
- iii. Geneva Tyler presented:
  - 1. Johnson: Andy Duckworth- temporary elected
- iv. Gene Schmidt made motion to approve the appointments. Seconded by Ray. Motion carried.

**VI. ICP Reports:**

**a. ISDA-**

- i. Trevor presented the Director's report:
  - 1. Presented the CWI FY 2023 document.
  - 2. Shared that last week the Governor put his budget online. Note it is submitted and anything can change. Both the DSC and CWI funds got adjustments to make up for salary compensation adjustments, and restoring the 15% we'd been cut before. The last piece is the estimated one million dollars additional for CWI. Ultimately this is at the discretion of the Board, but we've talked about in public forums using that to double the AFR match to \$20k. Again, this is as submitted.
  - 3. Presented staffing updates. ISDA is filling a Resource Specialist CREP Leader position, and a Resource Specialist position. Also hiring a Nutrient Stewardship Program Manager (this position will be funded with EPA Gulf Hypoxia dollars). Director Bruce Kettler has accepted a position with the Agribusiness Council of Indiana.
  - 4. Trevor shared the Cover Crop Premium Discount program has expanded to 35 counties
- ii. Tara clarified there will be a tracking mechanism with the \$2k district capacity dollars since they are grant dollars.
- iii. Julie Harrold presented the 2022 CREP Accomplishments. They will be opening the contract with FSA to add more acres and watersheds and get the program available in more areas of the state.
- iv. Laura shared the Board Certification Program supervisor training overarching topics and asked if the Board had topics or speaker ideas to let us know

**b. IASWCD:**

- i. Amy Work provided staffing updates. Julie Loehr was hired as a Program Manager with CCSI. The new Executive Director of the State Association is Liz Rice. She officially January 23.
- ii. Elli Blaine provided updates for the Urban Soil Health Program. Megan Ayres has been hired in the southeast and Casey Kennett in the southwest.

- c. **CCSI:**
  - i. Carrie Parmenter with the TNC presented for CCSI. They are announcing the 2023 mini-grant program. A total of \$40k will be given out on a rolling, first come, first serve basis. Focus is on soil health. A webinar will be held February 1.
- d. **Purdue-** not present
- e. **NRCS**
  - i. Dan Hovland provided updates, and highlights from the provided 2022 Annual Report.
  - ii. Staffing changes: Jerry Raynor accepted a new position at Headquarters beginning February 13. He will be Director of FAPD. Announcement for Indiana State Conservationist opened on Friday. Two new Area Conservationists were hired in the southeast and northeast, and new Executive Secretary. 12 District Conservationist vacancies closed on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- f. **FSA-** not present
- g. **IDEA**
  - i. Martha Miller provided an update on the New Employee program. Two people from each region of the state will serve in the pilot. Training dates are set. Website is up and ready to roll.
- h. **Other-** none presented

**VII. Public Comment**

- a. Trevor thanked Kenny for serving as Chair and the Association for having us.
- b. Ray took over from Kenny as Chair at 4:24PM. Ray thanked the Board for their confidence in him. He spoke about SICIM's discussion with the Lt. Governor, and budget request to combat invasive species. He shared numbers of annual soil loss in IN, effects, and future goals of ways to tell the story. Ray shared his appreciation of Kenny's leadership and spirit. Ray asked for any public comment.

**VIII. Adjourn:** Brad motioned to adjourn at 4:35PM. Seconded by Larry. Motion passed.

**IX. 2023 Meeting Dates**

- March 21
- May 16
- July 18
- September 19
- October 24