

SSCB Members Present- Ray Chattin, Larry Clemens, Warren Baird, Bob Eddleman, Brad Dawson

SSCB Members Not Present – Amy Burris, Kenny Cain

Meeting called to order: 3:01 PM

*Denotes a motion

**Denotes a passed motion

Clemens welcomed everyone to the meeting & those present introduced themselves.

*Approval of Minutes from October 2018:

- **Eddleman moves to approve, Dawson seconds, Passed unanimously

CWI Grants – Leah Harmon:

- Continuing quality control on CWI grants; ensuring financial reporting is consistent with what's reported in SharePoint conservation project tracking
- 10 grants will be reviewed over summer based upon reporting and CWI communications policy.
- Applications for training reimbursements due March 15th.
- AFR \$10,000 match is due to Leah by March 31st and will start being processed in April.

CWI Modifications – Leah Harmon:

- Adams County 2017 grant modification request
 - o *Warren Baird moves to approve request, but Chattin notes that the position was never filled; let the cost-share stand and let the remaining funds be utilized later by one of the many other grants or purposes. Eddleman backs Chattin – the project has been ongoing for two years and has not hired a technician to go spend this money.
 - o *Eddleman moves to withdraw funds; Baird defends cost-share should be spent over technical. Clemens notes that they would need to spend \$70,000 on cost-share to complete grant (if technician dollars are moved to cost-share).
 - o Clemens: if grant had come to the grants committee as \$100,000+ of cost-share, would it have scored as well as it did? Baird says he would look at it more favorably.
 - o Dawson: the district seems slow to act on the cost-share they already have, so he is reserved to expect them to utilize an additional \$45,000 in the coming year. Leaning towards denying.
 - o Ray Chattin; gives Adams Co. the chance to address the modification. No one is present.
 - o **Eddleman moves that the request be denied; Seconded by Dawson, motion passes with Baird opposed.
 - o **Eddleman moves that available CWI funds be granted to the next requested as previously evaluated by the grants committee and the board; Ray has seconded, Passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Larry Clemens:

- Clemens would like to find ways to advance the shared mission of conservationists in Indiana.
- His goal is to be more involved as chairman.

Appointment of Officers and Committees – Larry Clemens:

- Vice Chair:
 - o Dawson has shown interest in Vice Chair; Clemens opens the floor to nominations.
 - o **Eddleman nominates Brad Dawson as Vice Chair; seconded by Baird, passes unanimously.
- CWI Committee:
 - o Clemens asked the current committee members if they would be willing to continue. They are so committee will remain the same as 2018 with Eddleman, Baird, and Chattin Serving.
- CCSI Oversight Committee & Alternate:
 - o Bob Eddleman's term lasts another year.
 - o Kenny Cain's term has ended; but recommended by Bob to continue;
 - Both are re-appointed by Clemens
- PWQ Committee:
 - o Clemens reappoints Brad Dawson to the committee.
- Leadership Institute Committee:
 - o Give Burris the chance to accept/show interest.
 - o If not Ray Chattin will be appointed as an alternate

SWCD Supervisor Appointments – Laura Fribley:

- Approval of Supervisor Appointment list; Clemens entertains motions to approve list as submitted, **Dawson Moves to approve, seconded by Baird, Passes unanimously.
 - o Cass County; Billy Cooper is recommended. Due a missed deadline, no election was held.
 - **Eddleman moves to approve, seconded by Chattin, passes unanimously.
 - o Clay County; Cameron Casassa is recommended to replace Steve Stoelting, who resigned.
 - **Chattin moves to approve; seconded by Baird, passes unanimously.
 - o Dearborn County; Teresa Hall is recommended. Due a missed deadline, no election was held.
 - Clemens asked for clarification as to why no election was held.
 - **Eddleman moves to approve; seconded by Chattin; passes unanimously.
 - o Jasper County; Jim Martin is recommended due to resignation of Kyler Laird.
 - **Eddleman moves; Chattin seconds, passes unanimously
 - o Randolph County; Danny Hill is recommended due to resignation of Keith Snyder.
 - **Dawson moves to approve; seconded by Baird; passes unanimously

- Warren County; Jason Silver is recommended. Due a missed deadline, no election was held.
 - **Baird Moves to approve; seconded by Dawson; passes unanimously
- Brief discussion by Eddleman on nominations and state law changes that led to required elections; there need for a discussion on situations where there is no election held.
- Wayne County; William Brown is recommended. Due a missed deadline, no election was held.
 - **Eddleman moves to approve; Baird seconds; passes unanimously
- Morgan County; Warren Waymire is recommended. Due a missed deadline, no election was held.
 - **Chattin Moves to Approve; Dawson seconded; approved unanimously.

ISDA Updates:

- Director's Update – Jordan Seger
 - Appointment letters went out to three individuals; Bob Eddleman, Ray Chattin, and Amy Burris have received their letters from the Governor's office and are appointed.
 - DSC Director – Seger is still acting in this role. Quite a few applications were received and are currently under review. Interviews will be scheduled soon.
 - Resumes are still coming from postings outside of state job bank.
 - Legislative Session- bill filing deadline last week. No bills are filed that are super involved in our world outside of the proposed CWI language modification. This would expand the eligibility of CWI towards more natural resource projects.
 - Kankakee Basin bill filed to change the structure of Kankakee River Basin Commission. Seats would be available for an SWCD to fill.
 - Seger and Clemens discussed large dollar amounts for on-the-ground work around basin.
 - Bill exists that would establish a potential ag-land easement program. Allow a state fund for ag-land easements.
 - Federal Shutdown has not affected ISDA, SWCD, NRCS, but has shutdown FSA.
- Technical Report for the Northeast – Jordan Seger
 - Huntington & Albion workload data.
 - EQIP popular among programs as well as CRP.
 - Clemens asks about trends from year to year. Those are expected at the March board meeting.
- Director of Soil Health – Meg Leader:
 - 3 Regional Meetings on the horizon with various crop advisors speaking.
 - Winter growing meetings are scheduled and open to ICP and board.
 - Clemens asked about trends of INfield Advantage – what are we learning?
 - Purdue Extension is working on a study for management data with a Post-doc
 - Are we seeing any shifts?
 - Of 1,000+ fields 50% are conventional tillage; only 1/3 are Cover cropped. It is interesting that we are bringing traditional farmers in.
 - Red Gold Conservation Stewardship Award
 - Many growers are putting in tiling – why is there no credit for tiling?

- Tiling is not a conservation practice.
- -Accountability & Technology – Jordan Seger
 - CWI Grant workload map. It shows CWI practices installed in calendar year 2018.
- DSS Updates – Laura Fribley
 - Preventing Workplace and Sexual Harassment Trainings are being headed by DSS and RS teams
 - 20 by 20 initiative. We are encouraging SWCDs to do 20 new things this calendar year in anticipation for 2020.
 - Leadership Institute+ workshop on the “7 habits of highly effective people” will be March 1st in Atlanta.
 - Clemens: The board will discuss it’s support of 20 by 20
- CREP & Water Quality Initiatives – Julie Harrold
 - CREP completed acreage is at 57% of goal.
 - 67% toward enrollment goal.
 - 6.3 million state dollars have been spent.
 - CREP annual report is on the ISDA CREP webpage.
 - 2,200 acres have been completed. 2,600 acres were enrolled. CP31 (bottomland timber establishment) is the most popular practice (878 acres).
 - Conservation buffer goal is 3,000 linear miles, we are 714 linear miles. Not all CREP practices are buffers, so it’s an ambitious goal.
 - 905 acres of wetlands in CREP watersheds, enrollment is greater than 1000 acres.
 - 2.8 million trees have been planted in 5,207 acres.
 - 878 acres in 2018 bottomland timbers.
 - 1.3 million dollars spent in 2018 on practices – 300,000 dollars are coming from The Nature Conservancy over the next 5 years.
 - Clemens asked how much more money could CREP use
 - State Nutrient Reduction Strategy has been updated and revised.

Conservation Partner Reports:

- IASWCD Update – Jamie Scott;
 - District Showcase tours were held in the Fall
 - Mark Roberts and Roger Winning will attend NACD.
 - Request from general fund:
 - IASWCD is asking for 15.2 million dollars from general fund, which is up from current appropriation of \$1 million.
 - Working on a bill to further change CWI terminology; inserting “To not only reduce non-point source pollution and address other natural resource priorities of SSCB”
- IDEM – No Report
- DNR – No Report
- Purdue Extension – Walt Sell:
 - Purdue Education Store
 - December; working with North Central Region Water Network and others
 - Hosted One-Water action forum.

- How do we tackle the big issues of water quality?
 - One-Water action forum had some great teams and workgroups form.
 - Purdue is working with other land-grant universities to create a conservation through community leadership
 - There are more research plots across the state in cover crops
 - Extension is working with CCSI and Joe Rorick on what extension can do to move forward
- FSA – No Report
- NRCS Updates – Dan Hovland
 - New Chief- Matt Lohr is the new NRCS Chief – Farmer out of Virginia
 - 867 Billion passed to USDA; NRCS conservation dollars are on the up and up.
 - Government shutdown – NRCS is up and running as essential
 - All contracting continues
 - NRCS can accept applications on behalf of FSA
 - Deadline extended by secretary
 - Staffing- hiring is in effect. NRCS staff is moving forward, those offered vacancies are still on-board
 - Vehicle management tool; means for NRCS to schedule vehicles
 - Fleet management tool for ICP
 - ICP working agreement; legal review.
 - Once final signatures are cleared; everything will continue
 - Jerry Raynor states that nothing will change and this is just a formality.
 - Annual Report is out; 32 Million dollars invested in voluntary conservation in Indiana 2018.
- CCSI Report – Lisa Holscher:
 - Joe Rorick heads up trainings; he is the CCSI agronomist
 - Trisha McClain – Northern Program manager
 - Jessica Hoehn – Southern Program manager
 - CCSI is doing a lot of outreach and events and podcasting with Hoosier Ag today.
 - Published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Sciences
- IDEA Report – Erica Fisher:
 - 96 Attendees at fall conference in Monroe County
 - Fall conference to be held at Clifty Falls
 - There are roughly 200 SWCD employees in the State
- IANA Report – No Report
- Public Comment Opportunity – No comments
- Next Meetings
 - March 19th @ NRCS State Office
 - May 21st @ Southeast TBA
 - July 16th NRCS State Office

Adjourn:

- **4:30PM – Baird Moves to Adjourn; Dawson seconds; unanimously adjourned.

