

Meeting Minutes
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
March 19, 2019
NRCS State Office

Members Present

Bob Eddleman
Amy Burris
Brad Dawson
Kenny Cain
Warren Baird

Members Not Present

Larry Clemens
Ray Chattin

I. Call to Order: Brad Dawson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Brad welcomed Amy Burris to the board. All those who were present introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes of January 2019

Warren moved to approve the minutes of the January 2019 meeting. Seconded by Kenny. Motion passed.

III. Clean Water Indiana

a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon

Leah gave a report on Clean Water Indiana grants. She highlighted the process for annual financial reporting and grant reviews.

1. Spencer SWCD-Leah Harmon

Leah presented a modification request from Spencer SWCD to modify their 2017 grant to include pollinator packets. Kenny moved to approve the request. Seconded by Bob. Motion passed.

b. Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee- Bob Eddleman

Bob presented the grants committee report and recommendations for the 2020 grant program. There are a few minor changes to the program for the cycle. Changes are highlighted in the packet and include an earlier due date, some changes to cost share requirements, and only requiring the lead district to meet the mandatory deadlines. Non-SWCD led grant applicants will present their projects at the September SSCB meeting. Then the board will decide which proposals to move forward to rank against the SWCD led proposals.

Brad asked why the committee had decided to only enforce the mandatory deadlines for lead districts. Bob reported that the committee had discussed this point and it allows for watershed-based partnerships. If all districts had to meet the deadline, it could potential penalize the lead district.

Kenny made a motion to approve the grant guidance. Warren seconded. Motion passed.

IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business

a. Chairman’s Report- no report

V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

a. Dearborn SWCD- Laura Fribley

Dearborn SWCD recommended John Cruse to be appointed. Bob moved to approve. Seconded by Kenny. Motion passed.

b. Henry SWCD- Laura Fribley

Henry SWCD recommended Chuch Arnstein to be appointed. Warren moved to approve. Seconded by Kenny. Motion passed.

- c. Lawrence SWCD- Laura Fribley
Lawrence SWCD recommended Jerry Ritter to be appointed. Kenny moved to approve. Seconded by Warren. Motion passed.
- d. Ohio SWCD- Laura Fribley
Ohio SWCD recommended Earl Ketenbrink to be appointed. Kenny moved to approve. Seconded by Bob. Motion passed.
- e. Knox SWCD- Nathan Stoelting
Knox SWCD recommended Andy Like to be appointed. Warren moved to approve. Seconded by Amy. Motion passed.
- f. Morgan SWCD- Leah Harmon
Morgan SWCD recommended Douglas Peine to be appointed. Bob moved to approve. Seconded by Kenny. Motion passed.
- g. Pulaski SWCD- Geneva Tyler
Pulaski SWCD recommended Steven Kasten to be approved. Kenny moved to approve. Seconded by Amy. Motion passed.

VI. ISDA Updates

- a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger
Jordan reported that the Division of Soil Conservation is still searching for a director. A new Resource Specialist will join the Southeast in May and the Division will be fully staffed. ISDA is providing funding for the Pathway to Water Quality coordinator. It will not be taken out of the CWI fund. Jordan gave a statehouse update. Key areas of interest are industrial hemp and the Kankakee River Basin Commission. Jordan also reported that Indiana Grown is partnering on a new story at the Indianapolis Airport. It is the first of its kind in the country.
- b. Technical Report- George Reger
George gave an update on technical assistance provided in the Northwest. Right now his team is surveying and preparing for construction season.
- c. Soil Health- Meg Leader
Meg updated the board on changes to the Infield Advantage program. The advisory council has completed some strategic planning and have redone the program to make it better for growers. It has broadened its focus on nutrient management rather than just nitrogen and will focus on local needs and a regional approach.
- d. Accountability and Technology- Jordan Seger
Jordan reported that data is currently being analyzed for load reductions as well as tillage and cover crops. The 2018 ICP accomplishments report should be published in April.
- e. District Support- Laura Fribley
Laura reported that the District Support Specialists have been providing Preventing Harassment Training to SWCDs throughout the state. They are also providing new supervisor training as needed.
- f. Water Quality and CREP- Julie Harrold
Julie reported that there are no new CREP contract being executed right now, but the program does have \$1.6 million worth of projects ready to go. The State Nutrient Reduction Strategy is working to identify further prioritization areas.

VIII. Conservation Partner Reports

- a. IASWCD Report
Roger Wenning stated that the IASWCD is still pushing for a CWI increase. The ICP has come together to continue funding for the Pathway to Water Quality coordinator. Several IASECD directors went to Washington, D.C. to visit with legislators and had great conversations about Indiana conservation.
- b. IDEM Report- no report
- c. DNR Report- no report

d. Purdue Report

Walt handed out the Purdue Extension annual report. He reiterated that those interested in hemp need to ensure market. Right now it is pretty undefined.

e. FSA Report- no report

f. NRCS Report

Jerry gave an update on EQIP. CSP has had a lot of internal changes, but is expected to move forward in May. NRCS is completing a workload cycle time study to look at staffing and resource. A third cycle is forthcoming. NRCS is reviewing agreements. The PSS agreement which expires in December is a high priority to review.

g. CCSI Report

Lisa stated that CCSI has 11 upcoming trainings. The 3 day soil health training will be offered annually. CCSI social media has been getting more interactions lately.

h. IDEA Report- no report

i. IANA Report- no report

IX. Public Comment- Next meeting is May 21 in Franklin County. Brad welcomed Amy and thanked her for serving.

Kenny moved to adjourn. Seconded by Warren. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

X. Next Meeting:

2019 Meeting Dates

May 21: Franklin County

July 16: NRCS State Office

September 17: NRCS State Office

October 29: TBD