

IASWCD Board Meeting

Minutes

March 19, 2021



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
soil and water conservation
DISTRICTS

Attendance:

Board: Marc Roberts, Sarah Delbecq, Troy Hattery, Stan Moore, Sherry Whetstone, Kim Peterson, Brad Smith, Roger Wenning, Kerry Ames, Andy Ambriole, Mark Kingma, Mark Lawson, Cathy Becker, Jamie Scott

Staff: Joe Schmees, Amy Work, Lisa Holscher, Elli Blaine, Marion Rodriguez, Casey Kennett, Stephanie Wulpenry

Partners: Jerry Raynor, Walt Sell, Angie Brown, Lori Jordan, Jordan Seger, Jason Kishton

Secretary Marc Roberts called the meeting to order at 8:35

Partner Updates:

Walt Sell - Purdue

Conservation through community leadership. Purdue/Illinois agreement. Tipping point planner is a tool available. Headed by Kara Salazar at Purdue.

UAV Pilot certification available

Purdue ag center research plots will include Cover crops.

Safety reminder for spring planting and equipment on roads.

Purdue does have mental health program geared for ag community

Jordan Seger - ISDA in addition to written report

Thanked Jerry for office space for staff and partnership

SSCB past Tuesday – 16th

2021 Grants started in January and all have received 50%

2022 Grant guidance was passed and will be published in May – One change is funds cannot go to employee benefits

ISDA staff will conduct training on grant application

Only around \$7,000 of training funds used. Remaining set aside is rolled to grant funds

No updates on budget from last month, but hopeful

InField advantage program signup is underway

Jerry Raynor - NRCS

Office occupancy-50% capacity with social distancing

NACD Grants under review

RCPD deadlines coming up

Budget challenges – Level budget may stymie agreements for this year

Indiana has been approved to add 32 staff to total near 270 staff

1500 new across nation

Angie Brown - IDEM

Ramping up for non-point source solicitation.

Notice of intent is due June 1

Senate Bill 389 – Joe mentioned amendment from yesterday, IASWCD is still opposed to bill

Lori Jordan – IDEA

112 Paid members as of March 17th membership is \$25 and membership drive is taking place now

October 5-7 is slated for annual conference.

Chris Havens- Laporte County new NNW region director

Lisa Holscher – CCSI in addition to written report

Starting Podcasts

Web based trainings have allowed them to reach larger audiences

TNC advanced soil health training for ag retailers

Virtual farm visit webinar series have gone well

IASWCD Business

Troy Hattery moved and Sherry Whetstone seconded the consent agenda, it passed

Sarah Delbecq provided the treasure report and Joe mentioned the loss showing on the P/L and explained that invoicing for dues has just started.

Stan had a question on the difference in assets compared to last year, Joe explained that it was a timing issue with funds coming in and showing on the report without them being paid

Treasurer's report was filed subject to audit

Elli Blaine - Urban Soil Health in addition to written report

New employee introductions

Casey Kennett

Stephanie Wulpenry

Marian Rodriguez

Primarily focused on training since March 1. Met with NRCS, CCSI, and SWCD staff and partners

Amy created press release to promote outreach of the program

Eliana will put contact info on state association website

Joe has requested CWI upfront funds to help with payroll and is working on invoicing districts for support

Conference Wrap up

- Joe provided income and expense from virtual conference
- Amy talked about CMC's help and the WHOVA platform
- Sponsorships for 2022
- Amy would like feedback, especially from sponsors
- It was talked about sharing conference specific financials in an email
- 2022 call for abstracts ends April 5th

Legislative update from Joe Schmees

- Talked about budget cut and cigarette tax change
- SB 389 will be in hearing Monday (22nd)
- SB 373 passed to house, but likely will get a strip and insert to a working group
- HB1055 will likely be stripped of watershed development commission and sent to summer study committee

NACD Advocacy Week/ Virtual Fly-In

- Joe has set meetings with all but 3 legislators for next week

- We talked about talking points (CTA, 319, Carbon)

Committee Chairs and participation

- Executive – Chair Bobby Hettmansperger and officers
- Governance – Chair Marc Roberts, Mark Kingma, Cathy Becker, Kim Peterson, Kerry Ames
- Legislative – Chair Jamie Scott, Cathy Becker, Kim Peterson, Roger Wenning, Sarah Delbecq
- Natural Resource Policy – Chair Stan Moore, Marc Roberts, Brad Smith, Mark Lawson
- Finance – Chair Sarah Delbecq, Troy Hattery, Jeff Baker, Kim Peterson, Kerry Ames, Sherry Whetstone

Virtual Region Meetings

- Have regions combine to four regions for meetings and have the region directors host the meeting with introductions and welcome
- Invite partners for updates
- Highlight projects and events
- Shooting for June with both daytime and evening meetings to accommodate schedule

June Offsite meeting

- Joe is thinking outdoors, the Purdue forestry center, fort Benjamin Harrison and the state fairgrounds were mentioned

Conflict of interest forms

- Joe will send out and board members should sign and send back

Updates on Agreements

- PSS Agreement, is finalizing the updated agreement
- CCSI
- Pathway to water quality
- Urban Conservation
- TNC

Cass County – Troy Hattery brought up they have had a lot of turnover in supervisors and staff. They are looking for help and resources. They have a new board that would like to get going, but don't know where to start. We would like to facilitate connecting supervisors and staff to help each other. Next steps are for board members to reach out to supervisor and the governance committee will be charged with working on steps to prevent a district struggling.

Joe suggested a possibility of a new sign for Pathway to Water Quality that would cost up to \$225. Roger Wenning made the motion Mark Kingma seconded and it passed.

Joe asked about allowing Indiana Lakes Management Society use our zoom account as a sponsorship. April 8th and 9th are the dates they would use it. Stan Moore made the motion and Kerry Ames seconded, it passed.

Amy talked about the upcoming Lunch and learn programs that the state association will be hosting.

Troy Hattery made the motion to adjourn and Kerry Ames seconded, it passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 PM