

IASWCD Board of Directors Meeting

June 17, 2022

Minutes

Location: Osprey Pointe Pavilion,
Noblesville, IN



IASWCD Board & Staff Present: Roger Wenning, Troy Hattery, Stan Moore, John Kruse, Les Zimmerman, Sarah Delbecq, Joe Schmees, Amy Work;

Virtual Board Attendance: Kim Peterson, Marc Roberts, and Mark Kingma

Guests: Stephanie Schuck, SICIM; Dawn Slack, SICIM; Taylor Dorsey (intern/NRCS) and Tyler Dorsey (intern/NRCS);

Meeting was called to order at 10:45 AM

Consent agenda was approved.

Treasurer's report given by Sarah Delbecq

Introductions were made around the room

Partner Discussion and Handouts

Joe summarized partner updates and discussed upcoming events

IASWCD Business

- N-SW Region Director Position
 - Les Zimmerman was asked if he would be willing to fill this vacancy; he agreed
 - Marc Roberts nominated Les Zimmerman for this open board position; Stan seconded; all favored, no opposed.
- SICIM Legislative Presentation/CWI Request – SICIM/Joe/Les
 - Dawn Slack presented background on the Indiana Invasive Initiative (III) with NRCS. This was an agreement that was signed 5 years ago. The goal(s) were to create CISMAs and to engage ICP partners, etc; do grassroots work. So far there have been over 900 surveys completed, over 950 outreach events; and, 850 landowner surveys.
 - She further shared about Weed Wrangle outreaches – over 2,000 in last 4 ½ years; 66 this year; 600 volunteers this year.
 - Stephanie Schuck spoke next. SICIM is constantly fundraising; donors, grants, CWI, etc. grown from 3 to 7 employees.
 - Les expressed his thoughts on SICIM and their great work. Need to do better with/for district engagement. Les recommended that the IASWCD board get involved in this legislative ask. Les stated that he was in a meeting recently with many partners regarding advice on how to proceed. The consensus was “now is the time.” “Next Level Conservation”
 - Les further stated that this is a big commitment; outreach and education will be essential; this legislative session will be a lot of new people – so education is important; going to take a sales and marketing campaign;

- Roger stated that SICIM has become a big effort; we need to work together; his concern is that SICIM wants \$8.6 million; Les clarified the money is for CWI – not just SICIM;
- Dawn clarified \$8.6 million for conservation in Indiana (\$800K for SICIM); then SICIM would like to have a \$1.5 million annual request; the rest for SWCDs; \$60K annually for each district. Effective communication plan needed.
- Roger: verbiage to districts needs to be clear
- Les: the association will need to do some heavy lifting
- Joe: CWI – called this because it's about getting more money for CWI; money doesn't go back to the general fund; stays in CWI (Not reverted); opinion- we have to buy in and be a part of this; timing is good – budget surplus;
- Les: advisory committee said to have your ducks in a row
- Roger: time is good; working with ISDA for better supervisor recruitment; NACD talking a lot about increasing conservation dollars; great opportunity; if we do nothing, shame on us; supervisors need to go to their legislators;
- Sarah asked how many districts use the \$10K a year and how many will have the capacity to ask for \$50K?
- Bobby stated some will use some each year.
- Joe: the match is not competitive
- Sarah: is there a demand for the competitive side with the \$50K match?
- Joe: yes I think so. Many districts requests' are cut. Many are not funded.
- Bobby: how are we going to fund the communication piece of this?
- Joe: there are funds \$1500 plus \$3500 more leftover funds in the IASWCD budget
- Les: probably need \$7K-\$8K up to \$10K.
- Joe: Leg advisory group mentioned dedicated funding
- Les: we could probably get some financial support from TNC
- Roger: IFB's policy is stated that they are to assist IASWCD in seeking funding;
- Roger and Mark Kingma on IFB natural resource committee meeting next week to ask for funding.
- Roger made a motion that the IASWCD board seek, along with partners including SICIM, this funding; John Kruse seconded. All approved; no opposed.
- Les: strategy....a committee might be good; perhaps: Les, Ray Chattin, John Ketzenberger, Dawn, Stephanie; Cress.
- Joe: suggest keep this strategy committee small; and keep legislative committee informed.
- Joe asked about IASWCD commitment of funds to support this effort/ask; would prefer a motion;
- Les made a motion to allocate \$5K for marketing for investment appeal; seconded by Troy. Motion passed, no one opposed.

IASWCD Business Wrap-Up

- SSCB Resolution Update
 - Joe will send out minutes about the discussion from meeting in May; maximum of two terms (4 years each); possible maximum of 3 terms; SSCB meetings are public meetings and so after term they can still attend the SSCB meetings. Next SSCB meeting is July 19. They are going to discuss this at their meeting.
 - Mark Roberts in favor of two terms and then sit out a term and then re-up if desired.

- Direction from our board: Troy Hattery makes a motion to support two term limit and sit out one; Roger seconded. All in favor. No one opposed.
- CCSI NRCS Agreement
 - Joe stated that funding through NRCS and NACD TA Grant is coming to an end; CCSI was able to secure some leftover CWI funding but it still doesn't cover the Program Managers salaries. Shannon Zezula (NRCS) is proposing a new five year agreement that would fund the two existing program managers existing and add two additional managers. Wanting to add salary for Lisa (Director, CCSI) and Hans (Agronomist, CCSI) for the last two years of the agreement. A big consideration in this for IASWCD is that a match will need to be made. Joe stated he is confident the match can be satisfied.
 - Les state that the five year agreement is supported by Jerry Raynor, NRCS.
 - Les made a motion and Stan seconded it to move forward and support the 5 year working agreement with NRCS. All voted in favor; no one opposed.
 - Les Zimmerman stated that Shannon Zezula has been very supportive and dedicated to the CCSI program.
- 2023 SWCD Annual Conference
 - Discuss final billing on 2022 conference and Decide on registration rates for 2023 conference (Joe)
 - Conference rates were discussed and decided upon as \$350/person. Stan made a motion and Roger seconded it to confirm this registration cost for conference. All voted in favor; no one opposed.
 - Supervisor Scholarships procedures (Amy)
 - Amy explained the current Supervisor Scholarship process for new board members. She mentioned that last year the District Support Specialists helped in this process by providing comment to the board. Board agreed that they appreciated that input and so Amy will contact them and ask if they'd be willing to help with this again.
 - Sponsorships (Amy)
 - Amy went over thought and changes with sponsorship levels. Increasing these this year due to higher costs and expenses. Board agreed to higher levels.
 - Specific sponsors who have supported this in the past were discussed and "assigned" for board members to reach out to for support.
 - Amy will email and mail sponsorship materials to board members as soon as they are available.
 - IASWCD Business
 - River Friendly Farmer update – Amy
 - Amy informed details regarding 48 nominees this year; Award Ceremony at State Fairgrounds on August 10; 11 am check in and ceremony begins at 1 pm; all board members are invited to attend.
 - Drainage & Wetland Taskforce Update – Joe
 - Joe: Jeff Healy – drainage task force recommendation; received at governor's office now
 - Joe: Wetlands task force – 1st Wednesday in August and then September; final report due at end of November.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:25 pm