

**IASWCD Board of Directors Meeting
February 10, 2023
Indiana Farm Bureau, Indianapolis, IN**

Attendance

Board: Troy Hattery, John Kruse, Marc Roberts, Jeff Baker, Mark Kingma, Roger Wenning, Kim Peterson, Les Zimmerman, PJ Chumley, Sherry Baird, Steve Crow, Ethan Truax, Bobby Hetmansperger (on Zoom), Sarah Delbecq (on Zoom)

Staff: Liz Rice

Partners: Leah Harmon – ISDA, Eli Blaine – Urban, Walt Sell – Purdue University, Megan Espinda – IDEM (on Zoom), Lisa Holsher – CCSI (on Zoom)

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Baker at 10:10am

Consent agenda was approved.

Treasurer's report given by Mark Kingma.

Introductions were made around the room.

Partner Reports

- ISDA
 - Grants coordinator should be onboard end of the month. Hypoxia task force person should be onboard around the same time.
 - Cover crop premium discount program has used all funds.

- Urban Soil Health
 - Currently a staffing transition in the Southeast. NRCS has hired an Urban staff person in the state office and they have begun working together.
 - Certificates of Appreciations went out to eight urban working groups in the state.
 - Travel by growers to Kentucky and Maine supported by SARE funding will be taking place soon.

- Purdue Extension
 - Karen Plaut has been promoted to Executive Vice President of Research. Angela Abbott has been appointed to Interim Extension Director. Jason Henderson is moving to Iowa State University. Henry Quesada continues to serve as Ag and Natural Resource Program Leader.
 - March 2-3 is Indiana Small Farms Conference at Hendricks County Fairgrounds.

- CCSI
 - CCSI agronomy is part of the Purdue On the Farm Team.

- ICP impact report of has been handed out to legislators at Purdue's Statehouse day, as well as to educators to distribute to local officials. They have also went to Purdue folks to take to county officials.
 - Julie Lair is new program manager and final interviews are in process for NE program manager and Northern agronomist.
 - TNC minigrants have launched and will be reviewed on a rolling basis by a committee with CCSI and TNC representation based on priority areas.
 - Lisa is looking for a good line drawing of a ripper shank.
 - Intro to Soil Health virtual training on the February 28th. Tuesdays in April will have core soil health systems training.
 - Strategic planning meeting draft should be complete near the end of the month.
- IDEM
 - Megan is the new Ag liaison for IDEM. She is working to create partnerships.

IASWCD Business

- NACD Fly-In in Washington, DC
 - March 22-23. Roger, Gene, Ethan, and Liz to represent the IASWCD. Bobby could possibly attend.
- Board Vacancies
 - Roger talked about the term limit issue and we need to keep working to build board capacity.
 - Brad Hunter from Porter County will serve as Assistant Region Director for the NNW.
 - Ron Laughfen from Floyd County will serve as Assistant Region Director for the SSE.
- Review of Board Handbook
 - Handbook has not been updated and there is a need for a strategic plan to identify goals and strategies for the organization.
 - Discussed having Tanya and Steve from Purdue facilitate something in June similar to what they did for CCSI last fall.

Lunch

Resume IASWCD Business

- Additional Board Discussion
 - Clarification of board qualifications.

- Whether to include district staff during IASWCD strategic planning session.
 - The group generally agreed that we like the current meeting agenda format. Sarah brought up the point that we should look for a way to continue the flow of the partner reports on to supervisors and staff.
- Annual Conference
 - We are only obligated to stay at the Westin for one more year. Discussed the cost, the possibility of moving to a biannual conference, and whether to move it around the state each year.
 - Discussed whether it was worth having the legislative breakfast if we are only get 20% or so of the legislators come.
 - Create a long term annual conference committee to make sure that conference is meeting the needs of all of the groups that show up to conference (Supervisors, District staff, NRCS, SSCB, ISDA, IDEM, Extension, DNR, FSA, etc.).
 - 2024 Conference Committee - Kim Peterson, Steve Crowe, Sherry Baird
 - 2025 and Beyond Conference Committee - John Kruse, Kim Peterson, Steve Crow
 - 2023 Annual Meeting minutes will be approved at the March meeting. Troy sent Liz some edits and we will review ahead of the meeting to approve.
- Standing Committees - Finance, Governance, Legislative, Executive
 - Reevaluate membership of the committees and determine which ones we want to proceed with.
 - Finance - Mark Kingma, Troy Hattery, Jeff Baker
 - Discussed changing credit card structure to make it easier to identify who is using the card and for what. Troy Made a motion, Steve Crow seconded that we get 12 cards to flow to a single account. This will not raise the limit, but this will allow tracking easier. Motion passed.
 - Natural Resource Policy - Stan Moore Chair, Marc Roberts, Kim Peterson, Mark Kingma, PJ Chumley
 - Legislative - Les Zimmerman chair.
 - Committee has been active, they have met with most key legislators. Current line item in HB1001 has an increase of \$1,000,000, a reversion of \$400,000, and a small salary increase as included by ISDA. Our focus line item for CWI currently sits at \$2.6 million we would like it to be \$9.7

million. Les reported on promising discussions with Rep. Bob Cherry and Sen. Sue Glick.

- Cress sends out a weekly bill tracker with updates regarding relevant bills currently moving through the Statehouse.

- Governance

- Upcoming meeting dates: March 17, June 16, September 15, November 17, December 15

Meeting Adjourned at 2:42pm