

**Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc.**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Marriott Ballrooms 1-4**  
**Indianapolis Marriott Hotel Downtown**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome and Introductions .....Roger Wenning  
President Roger Wenning called the 77<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District, Inc. (IASWCD) to order at 9:01 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, Indianapolis, Indiana. He welcomed the assembly and introduced the occupants seated at the head: Marc Roberts, Treasurer; Jeff Baker, Secretary; Bobby Hettmansperger, Vice President; and Ed Frazier, Parliamentarian.
  
2. Seating of Delegates / Roll Call.....Jeff Baker  
Jeff stated that 74 delegates were present and eligible to vote.  
Roger referred to the printed “IASWCD Annual Business Meeting Rules” page at the beginning of the Delegate Notebook (that each district received a copy of at the conference, per attendance).
  
3. Minutes of 2019 Annual Business Meeting .....Roger Wenning  
Roger referred to the 2019 Annual Business Meeting Minutes on pp. 15-20 in the Delegate Notebook and asked for any corrections. No corrections were submitted. The 2019 Annual Business Meeting minutes were approved.
  
4. Treasurer’s Report .....Marc Roberts  
Treasurer Marc Roberts welcomed everyone.  
Referred to financial pages in the Delegate Notebook (*pp.33-36*).  
He mentioned there was a smaller deficit than expected and that the association will be working through a few federal audits. Currently 2018 financial reports are being audited and then 2019 will be audited. Marc also mentioned that the August Region meetings included Joe Schmee’s presentation on how IASWCD uses “dues money” and how IASWCD works. He was happy to report that all 92 districts paid dues this year.

President Roger Wenning stated that the **Treasurer’s report would be filed.**

5. Audit Committee Report.....Marc Roberts

Audit committee of Troy Hattery and Jeff Baker met and examined balance sheets (9/30/19 and FY 10/1/18-9/30/19) on December 6, 2019. Marc referred to the financial reports in the Delegate Notebook (pp. 33-36).

Roger asked for a vote on the acceptance of the Audit Committee Report.

A motion was passed and seconded.

Majority in favor of accepting the Audit Committee Report. One opposed.

*A request was submitted and announced by Gene Schmidt to seat the Vigo and Cass County delegates. After no objections from the floor, the delegates were seated.*

6. Budget Committee Report.....Marc Roberts

Move for adoption of 2020 budget as printed. Moved and seconded by Grant County SWCD.

The vote to adopt the proposed 2020 budget was unanimous with no opposition.

7. Resolutions.....Bobby Hettmansperger

President Roger Wenning reminded the assembly that each person may speak twice to each motion and for a maximum of three minutes each time. Speaking a second time may happen after everyone has had a chance to speak the first time. Vice President Bobby Hettmansperger read the three resolutions and President Roger Wenning asked for discussion and called for a vote after each resolution was read.

1. Title: Establishment of legislative task force to consider state's role in addressing invasive plants on private land

- Submitted by: Knox County SWCD
- Bobby read the resolution title
- Speaker: Ray Chattin, Knox County – held up map indicating # of counties (70) working with Indiana Invasives Initiative in helping to develop CISMAs; Asking state association and every district to get involved
- In favor – majority
- Opposed – 3
- **This resolution was adopted.**

2. Title: State and county soil and nutrient loss estimates

- Submitted by: Knox County SWCD
- Bobby read the resolution title

- Speaker: Ray Chattin, Knox County - no one in the room knows the magnitude of soil and nutrient loss and value of that; we now have means and technology to determine this and to show at state level and county level what the cost is in dollars and resources; brings into account stream bank erosion; need help in support of asking partners to bring forth this information and use it to our benefit
- Majority in favor; 8 opposed
- **This resolution was adopted.**

3. Title: Conservation Plan Requirement to receive USDA subsidies

- Submitted by: Fulton County SWCD
- Bobby read the resolution title
- Since this resolution is of a federal nature, it will be submitted to NACD annual meeting in February
- Speaker: Matt Harsh, Fulton County – tiring to see so much of land being abused; seems like majority are receiving money from USDA; other farmers not taking payments; want more people to adopt more conservation practices; maybe start forcing issue to get more practices at least tried; at least have a conservation plan to receive these payments;
- Speaker: Mark Jordan, Jasper County – after discussion yesterday, will link with farm bill but this resolution sounds like regulation and I’m not ready to support this resolution
- Speaker: Jim Droege, Posey County – I believe conservation plan is required for crop insurance and that, but I am not sure. Does anyone know the answer to this? Fulton County delegate stated, “no it’s not required.” Our operation signs a 1026 every year.
- Speaker: Ray Chattin, Knox County – I support this resolution as it does not impose a burden of any kind to the producer; it establishes a basic decency of stewardship of the land. We all get to be who we are. Teachable moment for our bad actors out there.
- Speaker: Jamie Scott, Kosciusko County – in favor of this resolution; explained NACD process; puts it in their book to give them permission to put in policy book to lobby on behalf of this issue;
- Speaker: John Fielding, White County – support resolution; only asking for creation of task force to study feasibility;
- Speaker: Matt Harsh, Fulton County – not in favor of regulating farmers; but there is no care or forethought about how the land is being used; to see federal payout for abuse of the land has been frustrating; that’s why I feel so passionate about this.

- majority in favor; 24 opposed
- **This resolution was adopted.**

*Gene Schmidt explained NACD Resolutions process to the assembly.*

*A request was submitted and announced by Gene Schmidt to seat the Starke County delegate. After no objections from the floor, the delegate was seated.*

Roger Wenning asked for additional resolutions from the floor.  
There were none.

8. Nominating Committee Report .....Jamie Scott  
A list of nominees was announced by Past President Jamie Scott.

**Slate of Officers was as follows:**

- **For President: Roger Wenning, Decatur County**
- **For Vice President: Bobby Hettmansperger, Wabash County**
- **For Secretary: Jeff Baker, Warrick County**
- **For Treasurer: Marc Roberts, Montgomery County**

Roger Wenning reiterated the nominees and asked for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were presented and nominations were closed.

Each candidate briefly addressed the delegates:

- Bobby Hettmansperger thanked everyone for their support. He stated that he is honored to be in this position and honored to represent you.
- Jeff Baker stated he enjoys being a part of this board and seeing them support districts. Will continue to find ways to increase capacity along with cooperation from districts. Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.
- Marc Roberts stated he is thankful to have Jeff on the board again. He is glad to serve on board and encouraged the assembly to get involved a little more with association this year. He stated that we need your support.
- Roger Wenning thanked everyone for their support; acknowledged Jamie Scott as Past President and his help this past year. He stated that he looks forward to another year and hopes to do a decent job.

Troy Hattery and Sarah Delbacq were appointed as election tellers. Delegates were asked to fill out their ballots and the tellers picked them up.

9. Election of Officers .....Jamie Scott  
Ballots were collected and counted.

10. Executive Director’s Report.....Joe Schmees

Joe Schmees, Executive Director of IASWCD, addressed the assembly regarding the following annual highlights:

- Thanked everyone for coming and hope they enjoyed conference so far.
- New location at the Westin next year.
- Introduced himself and asked people to introduce themselves each other.
- Referred to the “ask” at the statehouse.
- Encouraged Districts to participate in legislative statehouse visits and tours during this session.
- Stated that “Effort” is like a wall; built brick by brick.
- Thinking about next legislative session and how we are going to need your help.
- All 92 districts paid dues this year.
- Mentioned the continued PSS agreement.
- Reflected on the August Region meetings – four throughout the state.
- **Collective Impact** – definition.
- Why did Andrew Luck retire? Talked about the requirement of Teamwork.
- Figure out where we’re going? And what’s next?
- Thanked members for the time they do put in.
- Reminded assembly that the association is here to serve our members.

11. New Business Election Report.....Jamie Scott  
New Officers were announced:

- President, Roger Wenning, Decatur County
- Vice President, Bobby Hettmansperger, Wabash County
- Secretary, Jeff Baker, Warrick County
- Treasurer, Marc Roberts, Montgomery county

Roger Wenning confirmed list of 2020 IASWCD Executive Officers.

12. Other business.....Roger Wenning  
Roger Wenning asked for any additional business from the assembly.

There was none.

13. Oath of Office .....Brad Dawson, SSCB

Brad Dawson, Indiana State Soil Conservation Board, performed the oath of office with the newly elected officers. They were asked if they agreed to fulfill the duties of their respective offices as stated in the IASWCD bylaws to the best of their ability. They agreed. Brad declared them duly installed as the 2020 Executive Officers of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

14. Adjournment.....Roger Wenning

Roger asked for any further business that needs to come before the assembly.

Gene Schmidt, NACD – announced leadership institute program and no one in the program is from the Midwest; also, CASE dealership has donated four tractors to the live auction at NACD conference.

Roger adjourned meeting at 9:56 am.