

# Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD)

## Board Meeting minutes

*July 13, 2020*

Present (via Zoom): Troy Hattery, Roger Wenning, Mark Lawson, Mark Kingma, Jamie Scott, Kim Peterson, Stan Moore, Brad Smith, Sarah Delbacq, Joe Schmees and Amy Work

### **Call to Order Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am to discuss the future of the 2021 Annual Conference of Indiana SWCDs.

### **2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF INDIANA SWCDs**

**Joe** began meeting with explanation of discussions with CMC Global and various 2021 conference scenarios. He mentioned that ISDA will not be attending due to budget restrictions. CMC spoke with the Westin in late May. Westin contract currently has a \$40,000 penalty for conference cancellation by July 31. These cancellation fees increase the closer we get to conference. Currently the Westin will allow us to cancel without the cancellation fee if we add a third year to the contract – years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Options for conference:

1. Cancel and do nothing
2. Cancel in person and do virtual
3. Have in person conference

**Amy** went over the Exhibitor and/or Sponsor survey results regarding their attendance at a 2021 conference.

**Mark Kingma** interested in heading towards a virtual conference.

**Brad Smith** asked when do we have to decide on a virtual conference? **Joe** stated today as planning needs to get underway in order to be ready by January.

**Roger Wenning** stated that we need to decide if we should cancel in person; and whether we want to go with a virtual conference.

**Joe** mentioned that Illinois and Iowa are doing their conference virtually. Michigan's is in December.

**Amy** asked about financial risk for the association and **Joe** expressed that there is some financial risk hosting a virtual conference.

**Stan Moore** made a motion to cancel in person and hold a virtual conference. **Mark Lawson** seconded it. Motion passed. No one opposed.

**Joe** went over "Next Steps":

- Alert districts - Amy stated the announcement will be general and Joe stated we will hold business meeting virtually as well
- Alert sponsors and exhibitors
- Alert speakers

**Kim** mentioned communicating with legislators regarding attending conference and not charge them the registration fee. Joe agreed that we still have time blocked off to possibly call or talk to legislators during this time (in place of legislator breakfast).

**Joe** mentioned recording conference and the opportunity to do this for the 2021 conference may be more financially feasible then the in-person conferences.

**Mark Kingma** mentioned that he was on a web meeting for Certified crop advisor points and they charged a fee for one meeting that was about an hour: \$15; and the whole meeting was 6-8 hours and cost \$50. Course was then made available to do online afterwards.

**Cathy Becker** is attending a virtual conference in September and may give us feedback on it.

**Joe** stated that we will send something out from the association to everyone today if possible. Then, Region Directors can reach out personally to their districts.

We will put together sponsorship packages and information, etc. so that directors can reach out to their contacts.

**Kim** stated that this may be a good opportunity to get to know sponsors more.

## **URBAN CONSERVATION AGREEMENT**

**Joe** briefed the board on the **Urban Conservation Agreement**

- Joe sent out information previously via email to districts
- Decision was made to move forward with NRCS
- Have 50% of match needed
- American Farmland Trust – Joe spoke with Ashley Brucker; waiting to hear back from them; hoping it will bring in additional cash match
- Applying for CWI grant to cover some of the match; concept paper has to be submitted by this Thursday; SSCB will look at it at their next meeting;
- Q & A for districts this Thursday at 1:30 pm – Joe and Shannon Zezula; Whitney and Holly from Warrick County – open for districts to ask questions; this will be recorded
- Still looking for cash match from districts – several districts are talking to their board at meetings between now and August
- “urban” – doesn’t mean cities; this includes small farmers, not just cities; and hobby farmers
- This agreement is reaching a niche that NRCS doesn’t usually reach
- Association could potentially provide a cash match of monies that will be freed up from another agreement next year
- Mark Kingma asked if this can also target subdivisions and homeowners? Lawn fertilizing? Etc? will that be part of this? ----- Joe answered suburban garden growers yes, but there is not necessarily a turf coverage part to this.

## **2019 IASWCD AUDIT**

Joe stated that the 2019 audit was approved by federal government.

## **Adjorn**

Kim Peterson made a motion to close the meeting and Cathy seconded. **Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.**