

# IASWCD Board Meeting Minutes

Virtual - Zoom  
December 18, 2020



**Board:** Roger Wenning, Mark Kingma, Troy Hattery, Brad Smith, Kim Peterson, Bobby Hettmansperger, Sarah Delbecq, Sherry Whetstone, Stan Moore, Jamie Scott, Marc Roberts

**Staff:** Joe Schmees, Amy Work, Lisa Holscher, Elli Blaine

**Partners:** Jerry Raynor, Walt Sell, Angie Brown, Ray Chattin, and Jordan Seger.

President Roger Wenning called the meeting to order.

Minutes amended to note that Kim Peterson attended the last meeting.

Stan Moore moved, and Sherry Whetstone made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Marc Roberts reviewed the financial statements. All counties have paid their dues except Union and Fayette, and one is lost in mail.

Treasurer's report is filed, subject to audit.

## **Partner Updates**

Jerry Raynor, NRCS, Noted EQIP Deadline is today, but continuing to accept additional contracts. CSP deadline is January 8. NRCS is attempting to allocate \$1,000,000 for local districts for projects. Now on Grants.gov. 50% or greater contributions are available. Deadline is January 28<sup>th</sup>. NRCS has received authority to hire an additional 1500 positions around the country. These are entry-level positions. Indiana has been approved for an additional 25 individuals. Trying to do by January 20<sup>th</sup> even though authorization expires September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Discussed COVID effect on district offices.

Jordan Seger, ISDA, legislative agenda is to protect current allocations. Gave a brief overview of activities of ISDA. Discussed a program that reduces crop insurance premiums \$5 per acre if producers plant cover crops with a public private partnership.

Walt Sell, Purdue University, gave an update. Discussed tristate fertility recommendations that has been updated and available through Ohio State University website. Also pointed out work of Nathan Shoaf and the university in soil health.

Angie Brown, IDEM discussed watershed activity and contracts for non-point source water pollution. Discussed an opportunity with EPA on contractor support on agricultural non-point source projects. The deadline is January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ray Chatten, State Soil Board, was available and gave Christmas wishes.

Lisa Holscher, CCSI, noted that a report had been distributed to the board. Discussed transition to virtual and continued outreach during the pandemic. Discussed that for 2021 will keep district training virtual because of the great participation in 2020. Will hold 3-day training in August for advanced soil training. Working on Webinars and podcasts for 2021. Discussed oversight committee seat opening.

## **Business Meeting**

Joe introduced our new Urban Soil Health Program Director, Eliana "Elli" Blaine. Joe explained working on adding additional staff in January and working on locating space in NRCS offices.

This is funded with a 5-year agreement with NRCS and matches from Local districts, \$40,000; plus \$10,000 from the IASWCD and grant from CWI. Warrick County will continue their agreement for 2 years and

then pick it up and fund the remaining 3 years. Warrick County's agreement helps reduce some of the funding need for the first few years. The savings will be available if more positions are needed. Joe is reaching out to Farm Bureau and the Farmland Trust. Positions to be added, Northwest, Northeast, Southeast and Holly is already working in the Southwest. The purpose of these positions is to develop local district programs.

Amy discussed Annual Conference:

3 Weeks to conference. 380 people registered. 264 are district staff and supervisors. The conference is live but is also recorded so that they can be viewed afterwards. Joe explained that the conference will include entertainment and giveaways. There will also be an opportunity for state legislators to participate. Amy discussed WHOVA app that they hope will be live by December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Amy reviewed sponsors and will reach out for assistance.

There was a review of Board responsibilities.

Joe reviewed the Conference Agenda and discussed board responsibilities and need to attend the sessions. The main responsibility is the regional meetings.

CMC will contact all speakers and ensure that all speakers have the equipment necessary and assign staff to monitor and make sure there is no problems.

Discussed voting options in business meetings.

1. Use a consent vote.
2. Can use a roll call vote.

Joe is planning on an hour-long zoom call on January 7<sup>th</sup> in the evening on the proposed resolutions to review resolutions, there will also be a legislative update. The call will be recorded and made available the following day

Joe discussed the Federal Audit and that it could take the place of our internal audit. The auditors intend to be done by December 31<sup>st</sup>. We

will get a letter from the audit committee that they are relying on the Federal Audit. The process is moving well as the auditors are becoming familiar with our system.

Joe discussed legislative issues. There is a 15% cut in budgets this year in the state funding but are staying away from dedicated funding. Clean Water Indiana's budget has been cut from \$ 1,000,000 to \$970,000.00 and the 15% cut will come off the \$970,000.00. They are going to try to get it restored to \$ 1,000,000. Joe discussed that visitors will not be allowed in the state house and that there will be at home meetings virtually. He indicated that they have done two legislative trainings that they have recorded and will make available. A more concise presentation will be made during the conference legislative session. Roger encouraged everyone to talk to their legislators and request support.

Discussed meeting dates, Joe will send them out the first of January. They will be the same weeks as last two years on Friday.

A motion was made to approve the 2021 HRA Plan. The dates were changed to be on an calendar year. **Troy Hattery made the motion to extend the HRA and move it to a calendar year for 2021, Stan Moore seconded the motion and it passed by acclamation.**

Look at expanding scholarships to NACD to use for new attendees since the amount budgeted will exceed the cost of the virtual conference. The annual Meeting, we have \$ 5,000 budgeted. The registration for the annual meeting is \$ 50 dollars. **Jeff Made the motion to offer 10 scholarships for supervisors and staff who have never attended the conference from districts, limited to one per district and any IASWCD board member that wishes to attend the NACD annual meeting on a first come basis. The motion was seconded by Stan Moore. The**

**motion was passed by acclamation.** Board members can register on-line and send Joe their registration for reimbursement.

**Discussed slate of candidates**

**President: Bobby Hettmansperger**

**Vice President: Jeff Baker**

**Treasurer: Marc Roberts**

**Secretary: Sarah Delbecq**

**Jamie made the motion**

**Troy Hattery Seconded**

**The motion passed by acclamation.**

CCSI oversight committee seat, Jamie Scott and Les Zimmerman are members.

**Stan Moore made a motion to appoint Jamie Scott to the CCSI oversight committee, the motion was seconded by Brad Smith. The Motion carried by acclamation.**

Joe said that he and Amy will assist districts to open zoom meetings and then they will leave. It will require that the districts identify a co-host who will run the meeting. Those districts using Microsoft teams do not need assistance. Looking at purchasing additional license for the association that can be available to districts and look at the legislative committee purchasing a license from their budget to use.

Joe discussed supervisor staff spotlights. Amy discussed using a portion of our e-newsletter to highlight new staff and existing staff. The board concurred.

Joe was invited to an TNC Indiana Climate Leadership Campaign. They are not requesting a financial commitment. Joe thinks it is a good fit

and keeps us involved. He also believes it keeps us connected to private industry.

Cathy Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sherry Whetstone seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.