

IASWCD Board Meeting

Minutes

February 19, 2021



Attendance:

Board: Bobby Hettmansperger, Jeff Baker, Marc Roberts, Sarah Delbecq, Roger Wenning, Jamie Scott, Troy Hattery, Stan Moore, Sherry Whetstone, Kim Peterson, Brad Smith, Cathy Becker, Kerry Ames, Andy Ambriole, Mark Kingma

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

Partners: Jerry Raynor, Walt Sell, Angie Brown, Martha Miller, Jordan Seger, Jason Kishton

President Bobby Hettmansperger called the meeting to order at 8:35 am EST.

Minutes were amended to reflect correct officer slate and Cathy Becker's attendance and passed.

Partner Updates:

Walt Sell with Purdue

Mentioned that homeowner cover crop publication that Purdue put together.

Rick Foster retired and they are taking internal applications, Jason Henderson is filling in.

Purdue Extension released annual report online. It includes information about how Purdue works with woodland owners, food deserts, UAVs (Drones), Gardening tips, ag outlooks, farmers markets, managing natural resources.

Jordan Seger ISDA

Rolled out cover crop insurance program encompassing 6 white river counties Henry, Delaware, Madison, Hamilton, Tipton and Randolph – funding secured for 3 years.

ISDA and ICP reports will be out in March, includes train cars and will make push to include carbon/greenhouse benefits.

CWI Grants- working through updated 2022 guidance.

New officers as of annual conference.

Budget- 17.6% cut to the tune of \$802,803.

Jerry Raynor NRCS

Farm Bill updates.

Reclaimed coal mine reclamation big pine applications have deadlines coming up.

Received final rule on RCPP increase emphasis on conservation benefits .

Tillage transect is moving forward.

Indiana has been granted 25 positions that they can fill within NRCS.

Agreements may decline to fund the new employees.

CSP renewals are coming up.

Angie Brown with IDEM

Gearing up for field season monitoring.

319 solicitation will be on website April 1.

Senate Bill 389 – doing impact legislation.

Martha Miller – IDEA

Met in October and Feb 11.

Looking for suggestions to get districts to participate.

Looking for NNW director.

Lisa Holscher – CCSI

Continuing to support local staff technically and line up speakers.

Participated in sustainable ag marketing webinar based around carbon markets.

Gearing up for trainings.

Jason Kishton-FSA

Steve Brown's term ended in January, no news on next state director.

CRP - Extended deadline for general signup 56 - 14,000 acres plus signed up/ not all will be enrolled based on ranking.

Forest Management Incentive program CP3, CP3a, riparian, no CP5a or shelterbelt. FMI for activities-based off of EQIP - brush management, herbaceous weed control, monarch establishment, fire burning, wildlife break, tree and shrub pruning and, TSI - 75% payments - Sign up through Sept 2023 or \$12,000,000 runs out.

Old Business

Urban Soil Health program Update – Elliana Blaine

Onboarded 3 regional Urban Soil Health Specialists they will be invited to next board meeting.

Elli is working on training with Kevin Allison/NRCS/CCSI.

Introduction of new board members

- Sherry Whetstone and Mark Lawson and Kim Peterson and Mark Kingma switched director/assistant roles and we welcome Kerry Ames back to the board.

Joe sent out the new board handbook and went over updates and changes.

Amy went over Annual report on the website and 2021 conference. We went over the surveys and overall the conference went really well, especially given the virtual format! We talked about next year and changes to be made, we decided more discussion was needed and we need to continue to monitor COVID.

The 2021 Annual Business Meeting minutes were reviewed for approval. Troy Hattery Moved and Stan Moore seconded to pass the minutes. It passed on consensus of the board.

NACD Update

- A Conference Update was provided.
- NACD Fly In will be virtual. It was discussed who should be on calls.

Legislative update

- Budget – HB1001 Reduction in CWI general fund line item and dedicated fund cuts.
- There has been some more positive funding reports the last couple of months. Hopefully the March report will come in positive as well.
- Our main talking point needs to be return on investment for state dollars. Highlight local district and an example would be the new Urban Soil Health program through the state.
- SB 389 Wetland permitting
- HB1055 Organizing River basin commissions
- SB373 Carbon Credits

Review of standing committees:

- Executive
- Finance-Sarah Delbeqc, Troy Hattery, Jeff Baker, and Kim Peterson
- Governance
- Legislative

2021 Priorities were discussed.

Office update was provided – everything is moved and staff are unpacking.

Zoom Account is available from IASWCD for board meetings and annual meetings. Microsoft Teams is also available through the ISDA DSS.

Cathy moved to adjourn, Sherry seconded. Passed on consensus

March meeting will be a Zoom call again.