

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc.
Annual Business Meeting
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, January 12, 2021

MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, at 9:08 am, Joe Schmees explained the guidelines regarding this virtual meeting and the use of the voting platform, Slido.

1. Welcome and IntroductionsRoger Wenning

President Roger Wenning called the 78th meeting of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District, Inc. (IASWCD) to order at 9:13 am. He welcomed and introduced the executive officers, Bobby Hettmansperger, Vice President; Marc Roberts, Treasurer; Jeff Baker, Secretary; and, Jamie Scott, Past President. He also introduced Ed Frazier, Parliamentarian.

Roger explained that during the meeting that once a motion is made and seconded, if there is no dissent, then, it will pass. If someone wants to discuss or dissent, please speak up and the assembly will discuss it.

2. Seating of Delegates / Roll Call.....Jeff Baker

Jeff stated that 59 delegates were present. Roger stated that this is a quorum as one-third have been counted.

Roger referred to the proposed meeting rules in the front of the 2021 Delegate Notebook and that they are somewhat different this year due to having this meeting in a virtual format. A vote was taken to adopt the Procedures and Rules. More than two-thirds voted to adopt these rules.

A request was announced to include ("seat") a Madison County delegate. After no objections from the floor, the delegate was included ("seated").

3. Minutes of 2020 Annual Business MeetingRoger Wenning

Roger stated that the minutes were approved during the February 6, 2020 IASWCD Board Meeting in accordance to a bylaw amendment made in 2019.

4. Treasurer’s Report.....Marc Roberts

Treasurer Marc Roberts welcomed everyone. Marc briefly explained the new Urban Conservation Agreement with a CWI grant to help provide match as well as districts. Marc thanked the districts who were able to step up and support this program. Marc further stated that all but two counties paid IASWCD annual dues; that expenditures are holding steady and that you could find the 2021 proposed budget in the Delegate Notebook.

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

5. Audit Committee ReportMarc Roberts

Marc stated that a third party audit, which was required based on expenditures, resulted in no misrepresentations in the 2019 or 2020 IASWCD financial records. Marc also stated that the 2020 third party audit will be substituted for the annual internal IASWCD audit.

All reports have been submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse as required.

Acceptance of the Audit Committee Report was presented by Roger Wenning. No dissent was presented, so the report was passed by consent.

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

Move for adoption of 2021 budget as printed in the Delegate Notebook was moved and seconded. No discussion from the floor was presented after requested.

The vote to adopt the proposed 2021 budget was unanimous in favor of, 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. Please speak by unmuting yourself on your device. 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. Resolution Title: Supervisor Per Diem

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

- Discussion from assembly
 - Owen County explained that supervisors would potentially be voting on funds that they receive and they are concerned about this possible conflict of interest.
 - Joe Schmees clarified that the per diem change would have to be voted on by legislators.
 - Vote was taken: 63 votes received; 57% yes; 43% no
 - **Resolution adopted**

2. Resolution Title: Annual Meetings – Options for 2020 and Beyond

- Submitted by: Noble County SWCD
- Bobby read the resolution title and description submitted
- Discussion from assembly:
 - Brad Ponsler, Jennings County asked that if this is passed, will we need to go to the legislator to complete this?
 - Roger stated he did not know the answer to this question.
 - Joe Schmees stated we would have to look at change in code. Joe stated that he had talked to Katie Nelson and Jordan Seger, ISDA. They mentioned that we would have to look at all options or change code. Want to look at ways to get accomplished without changing code; look at short term without code change; look at long term to see if code changes are needed.
- Andy Ambriole, Huntington County stated that they think this is unnecessary; several counties planning virtual; other states do not have annual meeting requirements and their programs are not good; we have options other than doing away with annual meeting requirement;
- Ed Frazier stated that this might require by-law change.
- Joe Schmees addressed Ed's statement stating that this is state law not IASWCD by-laws
- Cathy Becker, Wayne County, wanted clarification on what the resolution is asking;
- Roger re-read the resolution
- Ryan from Noble County stated that they are wanting alternative options; want to continue in-person meetings, but want other options for times when the county doesn't allow in-person;
- Stacey McGinnis, Noble County, stated that finding a location has been difficult; need options on what we can legally do and not do; need stronger guidance for future;

- Joe Schmees mentioned public access laws and voting make this issue a little more complicated
- Cathy Becker, Wayne County, read a text message from Tara Henry (ISDA) stating that virtual annual meetings are permissible this year for districts;
- No other comments were made
- Roger proceeded to the vote
- 65 votes were made; 83% yes (in favor) and 17% no
- **Resolution adopted**

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: Bobby Hettmansperger, Wabash County**
- **For Vice President: Jeff Baker, Warrick County**
- **For Secretary: Marc Roberts, Montgomery County**
- **For Treasurer: Sarah Delbecq, Dekalb 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 – wished everyone a good morning and stated that he is pleased with participation we have had with this conference. He stated that being on the board has been an incredible learning experience and he has been on the board for a few years now. He has enjoyed learning from past presidents and wants to continue the experience in leadership. He stated he is honored to have this opportunity.

A request was announced to include (“seat”) Matt Mace, the Clay County delegate. After no objections from the floor, the delegate was included (“seated”).

- Jeff Baker, Warrick County stated that IASWCD has a great front office and great board. He has enjoyed the opportunity to serve here and work

on conservation and soil health. He appreciates the nomination and will do his best.

- Marc Roberts stated he is thankful for the nomination and wanted to thank office staff and board as they are such a pleasure to work with.
- Sarah Delbecq introduced herself as a Dekalb county, supervisor; farm owner; asst region director for N-NE working alongside Stan Moore; and, thanked everyone for the nomination.
- A motion was made by Logan Springstun and seconded by Jewel Wise to vote on the full slate.
- Full slate was voted upon via the program Slido.
- While voting, Roger thanked everyone for being president and working with the full board.
- Voting results for full Officer slate: 64 voted total; 100% voted yes, in favor

9. Executive Director's Report.....Joe Schmees

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

- He addressed this difficult year in testing us due to the pandemic.
- Please thank Amy Work for another great conference.
- Thank CMCGlobal for gracefully embracing us through the transition to this new virtual format
- Thank CCSI staff as they have really been on forefront of adopting meetings to virtual format; reached out to districts to change to virtual.
- Executive director for 2 ½ years now.
- Board had retreat for a few days in February 2020.
- Board affirmed that IASWCD is here to serve its member districts.
- Got topic of invasives in front of rural caucus in 2020 to study topic
- Organized staff and supervisor visits with legislators
- Legislator training provided for districts
- Hope to provide virtual opportunities to meet with legislators
- Adapted virtual board meetings
- Adapted region meetings to virtual
- Weekly Lunch 'n Learn October training series was provided for districts
- December legislative trainings were provided
- Recorded trainings available on website for viewing
- Urban Soil Health Conservation program – new; several districts supported; CWI funding secured; program started
- Thank you to districts for support of this Urban Soil Health program

- Welcome Elli Blaine as director of Urban Soil Health program
- Hiring several regional staff for the Urban Soil Health program – interviewing soon
- Thank Roger for his leadership the past two years – he has adapted well in these virtual times
- Thank board for their dedication to IASWCD and districts
- Thank you to districts and partners for their continued service
- We will continue to commit to support our Indiana districts, despite COVID
- Thank you for allowing me to be your Executive Director

10. New Business Election Report.....Jamie Scott

New Officers were announced:

- **For President: Bobby Hettmansperger, Wabash County**
- **For Vice President: Jeff Baker, Warrick County**
- **For Secretary: Marc Roberts, Montgomery County**
- **For Treasurer: Sarah Delbecq, Dekalb County**

Roger Wenning confirmed list of 2021 IASWCD Executive Officers.

11. Other business.....Roger Wenning

Roger Wenning asked for any additional business from the assembly.
There was none.

12. 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 2021 Executive Officers of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

13. Adjournment.....Roger Wenning

Roger asked for any further business that needed to come before the assembly.
There was no further business.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.