

IASWCD Board Meeting
February 18, 2022 @ 10 am
Virtual on Zoom



Board Attendees: Bobby Hettmansperger, Roger Wenning, Brad Smith, Mark Kingma, Kim Peterson, Sherry Whetstone, Stan Moore, Andy Ambriole, Sarah Delbecq, Troy Hattery, John Kruse, Jeff Baker

Staff Attendees: Joe Schmees, Lisa Holscher, Sheila Schroeder, Hans Schmitz, Jessica Hoehn, Elli Blaine

Bobby called the meeting to order at 10:04

-Sherry moved to approve consent agenda, Roger second. Motion passed

Treasurer's report: Sarah reported about Accounts Receivable and Joe discussed grant reporting. Audit is complete and the final report available. ***Treasurer's report was accepted subject to audit.***

Partners:

Angie Brown (IDEM) – Mary Lou is retiring at the end of March; replacement is Kristen Arnold. Rule 5 administrative permit has been adopted, and IDEM staff have been working with districts on a one on one basis. TMDL is working in Big Raccoon. Working on next grant cycle with solicitation starting April 1. Environmental Justice initiative with US EPA, being worked into process and may not hit until next grant cycle. Lower East Fork White River basin for IDEM monitoring this summer.

Stan: Are Rule 5 MOUs still in effect? – Angie will follow up with Randy Braun about this item and get back to Joe.

Kim: Contact for districts? – Randy Braun, Section Chief Wetlands and Stormwater at IDEM, rbraun@idem.IN.gov; (317) 234-3980

Walt Sell (Purdue) – New program leader (Henry Casada) is hit the ground running, remote until summer as he moves his family. Originally from Costa Rica, with background with forestry and wood production, coming from Virginia Tech. Would love to visit a IASWCD Board meeting in the future. North Central Region Water Network, Soil Health Nexus – Soil Matrix, Joe Rorick worked on it, Excel matrix to put in your different practices and provide you a score on where you are in the “soil health continuum.” It is meant to be a tool to start discussion with producers. Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities – Where does Purdue fit into this equation and working with partners.

(CCSI) – See CCSI report. Agrivoltaics webinar recording is now available. Working with partners March 2 & 3 on webinar training for partners on how to talk with producers about herbicide shortages. Core trainings will be Tuesdays in April, that are good to take prior to attending the 3-day training to prepare. 3-day training will be June 21-23. Introduction of staff, Sheila, Jessica and Hans. Sheila is the Program Manager in Northern Indiana, Jessica is the Program Manager in Southern Indiana, and Hans Schmitz is the new agronomist for CCSI.

New Members – Joe went over region and directors/assistants serving those areas, and where we have vacancies. Went around and did introductions of board members.

Elli joined to provide an urban soil health update.

Joe went over board member handbook. Updated every year, we will highlight committees later in the meeting, but want to review sections at each meeting, start with board member duties in the March meeting. If you want to add or have questions, let Joe know.

Conference update – surveys had good response, Amy will send out package for March meeting. Joe is waiting on finalizing the bill with the Westin, and getting registration fees from CMC to pay bills.

NACD – Roger referenced the written report from Marc Roberts (attached), and reported that it was a good meeting 45 states and 3 territories; Puerto Rico this summer, New Orleans for Next Year Annual, Next Summer Bismarck, SD, North Central Region Minneapolis, MN

Roger brought up the possibility of having Marc can be our alternate delegate for the remainder of the year since he served at the annual meeting. Stan was in agreement with Marc replacing him.

-John Kruse made a motion for Marc Roberts to be the IASWCD NACD alternate delegate for the remainder of the year, Stan Moore second. Motion passed.

NACD Fly-In is going to be virtual, would be on the week of March 22 (Tuesday). Joe will work with legislator's staff and schedulers again to set up virtual calls. Roger talked about how it would be helpful for regional board members to be on with their Representative.

- Andy Ambriole (has conflict only on March 22, 3rd grade ag day) interested to assist as needed.
- John Kruse willing to join in his district.

Joe discussed which board members might be on all of the calls. Roger willing to help out. Bobby also willing to be on those calls. Mark Kingma willing to help out. Kim willing to help out. We need to follow up with Marc to see if he is interested.

Joe provided an update on PWQ. Lisa JT contacted Lisa about possibly using the CWI about for program managers. Funding up from NACD TA grants ends in September, NACD priority requests are being delayed due to continuing resolution. Would like to ask for CWI to support program managers due to change in funding. Stan talked about how NACD money is actually NRCS money, CWI is to bridge a gap in this process. Seeking to request remainder of the CWI funds. Kim asked about getting support from all the districts prior to requesting funding. Bobby asked about districts that didn't get funding, and how this will bridge the gap and if we are delaying the inevitable. Joe clarified that the decision would be up to the SSCB as to whether to fund the next agreements in line.

-Roger moved to approve IASWCD support in administering CWI for CCSI and PWQ if the SSCB makes the returned CWI funds available. Brad Smith and Mark Kingma second. Motion passed.

Joe provided legislative updates. Tax cuts may be held up by Senate. Drainage taskforce and SWCD seat. Joe mentioned interest from Jeff Healy, from Hendricks SWCD. Jeff also represents districts on the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC), and has vast professional experience with drainage.

Joe reviewed committees and most recent committee members. It was asked that board members consider the committees and where they could best serve. We will revisit the committees and assignments in the March meeting.

Priorities – Bobby asked for possible 2022 board priorities:

- 1) Staffing taskforce/committee and how to move forward
- 2) Supervisor training
- 3) Funding and requests for next budget cycle

Joe updated board on Wetlands Taskforce, and Invasive Species Council. Meetings were held on February 15 (Wetlands Taskforce) and February 16 (Invasive Species Council). Joe talked about the opportunities for districts to be represented on both groups and how it highlights the districts' work.

Amy provided update on regional meetings, beginning to talk through these with ISDA and where we want to go with in-person and how many, as well as possible locations.

Amy provided update on meetings and space available at Farm Bureau, but highlighted the limitation on space.

Next meeting is March 18, 2022.

-Bobby entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mark Kingma, second. Adjourned.