**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD**

Highlights from April 12, 2011 Meeting

(Approved motions are in yellow)

**Indiana Septic Systems**

At the request of the SSCB, Denise Wright from the Indiana State Department of Health gave a presentation about on-site sewage systems in Indiana. Topics of conversation included: What are the concerns? Why are onsite systems failing? How do we get their message out? The full presentation can be found on the ISDA website under “April Attachments”. <http://www.in.gov/isda/2346.htm>

Denise noted homeowner education is the key to creating solutions for Indiana’s onsite sewage issues. Discussion of how to accomplish this task included creating a task force to compile and distribute information.

**2011 Watershed Grants**

At the March deadline, we received over $500,000 in grant applications for the $84,000 available. The SSCB Executive Committee recommended funding five at reduced amounts. The Board approved the following applications (lead district noted): Kosciusko $20,000, Allen $20,000, Wells $9,000, Tipton $20,000, Knox $15,000.

**CREP Report**

As of the end of March, 816 contracts have been paid. Over 1.3M in Clean Water Indiana funds have been paid out from the program. See report for detailed information.

**Clean Water Grants**

2009 SNRG-These have been completed. All reports have been turned it, but the final two (Wayne and Newton) have not been processed yet.

2010 Grants-46 Districts have submitted final reports and payments are being processed. Final reports are due May 31 for all but 9 of the Districts which have extensions.

2011 Grants-all 88 districts have now received their initial 75%.

Annual Financial Reports-Reports are being reviewed by District Support Specialists and contracts are currently being signed for those already reviewed. Blackford County SWCD did not receive their 2010 local funding allocation until January 2011. Therefore, Blackford County SWCD requested the Board approve their request for the full $10,000 CWI match since those funds were originally scheduled to be received in calendar year 2010. The Board approved this request.

**CWI Budget**

The FY11 spending is on track with the approved spending plan. The CREP and Water Quality Program Manager applications are in; Jerod is in the process of reviewing these and will be setting up interviews to fill this position. Paul Hoffman is now working in the Lt. Governor’s Business Office and Jennifer Pinkston has taken over his duties pertaining to Clean Water. Jerod requested the Board approve Paul’s position to be removed from CWI funding and Jennifer’s position added. Board approved. In June, the Board will discuss the budget for FY12, with the Executive Committee meeting prior to full Board meeting.

**Accountability**

61 Districts have submitted 2010 CWI final reports which we are then able to pull statistics from. Based on the reports submitted, SWCDs have collaborated with 299 organizations to further conservation efforts. See attached report for detailed analysis. Deb is working with the Office of Technology to find a solution to password issues. The ICP web application is underway.

**Election Discussion**

After consulting with the General Counsel, it is determined the SSCB has no authority to declare an election valid or invalid. However, it is the interpretation of our General Counsel that the Jefferson County SWCD election stands and Mike Pittman is an elected supervisor. SSCB Chairman, Larry Clemens, noted the Board cannot take further action on the situation and the Jefferson County SWCD needs to move forward with continued conservation efforts to best serve the citizens of the district. The SSCB approved a motion to send the memorandum containing the legal findings along with a letter from the Board to the Jefferson County SWCD.

**Technical Update**

Resource Specialist Julie Morris, formerly with IDEM, joined ISDA this month. She will be stationed in Pulaski County office in Winamac. ISDA is now up to 25 Resource Specialists around the State. Since January, ISDA staff members have assisted on over 400 practices.

**Agricultural Affairs**

Roz spoke at the regional meetings, along with Hans Kok. Roz has also been involved with ISDA’s Certified Livestock Producer Program presenting information to participants regarding conservation such as water quality concerns, i.e. hypoxia and blue green algae. Roz has been working with Red Gold to explore potential conservation measures that tomato produces might be able to adopt for reduction of soil loss and nutrient runoff.

**IASWCD Report**

HB 1001 (budget)

House passed budget includes funds for CWI: $500,000 in general fund appropriation and $3.6M in dedicated CWI funds.

HB 1348 (SWCDs)

Eliminates 10 acre rule; amendment pertaining to Conservancy Districts added at second hearing. Bill passed on 3rd reading and returned to House for concurrence.

SB 375

Establishes sustainable natural resource task force. Passed Senate; passed House Natural Resources Committee; at 2nd hearing on House floor.

**NRCS Report**

Federal budget update- the federal government shutdown was avoided. NRCS had received mandates on how to proceed and apologized for any inconvenience it may have caused. The “NRCS ICP Delivery System” information is now available. NRCS hopes this is a blueprint that is used around the state, and is endorsed by all Partners.

NRCS discussed the development of a certification system for Conservation Planner of Non-engineered Practices to add as an option for staff.