

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER - On Tuesday December 21, 2021, at 7:14 pm a zoom meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

Sarah Longenecker, SWCD CC
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD AA
Ally Pudlo, SWCD EEC
Debbie Knepp, NRCS DC

Present - EX-OFFICIO

PRESENT – Public

ABSENT – SWCD

Sam James, Supervisor
Chris Matthys, Supervisor
Dave Craft
Chuck Lehman
Randy Matthys
Richard Schmidt
David Straughn
Dru Wrasse

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – old business item d. CWI

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. **Legislative Updates** – n/a
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – IASWCD annual conference will be January 24-25. They will have a legislative preview on January 5th at noon via zoom. It will be recorded.
- c. **Minutes November 16, 2021 board meeting** – Board Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.
- d. **Treasurer’s Report: (11/16/2021-12/20/2021)** – Treasurer’s report was reviewed and approved as presented
- e. **Approval of Claims (11/16/2021-12/20/2021)** – A motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11669-11678 for a total of \$7,598.20. Motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **St. Joseph Co. Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff Reports**
 - i. **Field Office Report** – The field office report was presented to the board, reviewed & discussed. (Attached)
 - ii. **NRCS Talking Points** – Knepp presented the report to the board, reviewed & discussed (attached).
- b. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Annual Meeting** – The keynote speaker will be Brian Capouch. A motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to release \$250 pay Capouch. Motion carried. Hoffarth left the board know that tickets are printed and ready for selling. She will get in contact to get tickets to board members. After some discussion it was decided to not have a silent auction at this year’s meeting.
- c. **CWI** – a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve the payment of 100 acres of cover crops with \$1,709.25 from 2019CWI funds. Motion carried. After this payment and the recent payment to Marshall County, the 2019 CWI grant funds are all spent. \$855.78 has been spent out of the 2021CWI grant and all further payments for CWI will be made out of the 2021 grant as well.
- d. **2022 Budget** – a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve the budget as presented.
- e. **2022 Annual Plan of Work** - a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve the APW as presented.
- f. **IASWCD Business Meeting resolution** – after some discussion the board decided to let the delegates Dooms and James, make a discission after attending the business meeting at conference.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Schedules/ Upcoming Events / Any Related Claims** - calendars explaining upcoming special events & holiday schedules on the back of the agenda.
 - i. **Staff Comp Time Requests** – none
- b. **Education**
 - i. Giveaways for Science Alive and other events – a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to release and not exceed \$500 to order pencils as giveaways. Motion carried.
 - ii. Recycling Resolutions Workshops Updates – a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to release \$650 for 16 rain barrels and hardware. Motion carried.
 - iii. Indiana Envirothon State Contest Judging at Conner Prairie – a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve Pudlo to participate as a judge for the contest in April. Motion carried.
 - iv. Approval for Senior Citizen Classes at North Liberty Library – A motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve Pudlo hosting classes from mid-February to mid-March. Motion carried.

- v. IASWCD Conference Driving – Pudlo has a program Tuesday late afternoon of conference. A motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve Pudlo driving her own vehicle to conference as well as covering mileage at the full rate of \$0.45/mile and parking. Motion carried.

VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR – Doms and Burkholder took a moment to thank the staff and board for their dedication and commitment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The board meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hoffarth

Administrative Assistant

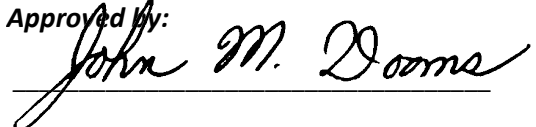
St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District

2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563

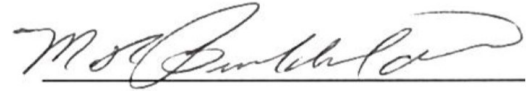
Email: Sandra.hoffarth@in.nacdnet.net

www.stjosephswcd.org

Approved by:



Supervisor



Supervisor



Field Office Report
November 15 – December 17, 2021

General/Miscellaneous

Office Work

- Annual Report – Articles, Design, Layout, ads
- Newsletter development
- 2022 Budget
- Compile potential list of award nominees

Field Work

EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Office Work

- Processed payments for 3 producer/landowners – 2nd year weed control on tree planting, monitoring of wildlife habitat, cover crops (2), Irrigation management
- Modify 2 contracts to allow additional time to complete the practices
- Input applications for FY22 funds (21 received at this time)

Field Work

- Field check tree planting and cover crops (2 producers)

WRE- Wetland Reserve Program

Office Work

Field Work

- Site visit to get contract signatures on 2 sites and forward to Area Office

CSP- Conservation Stewardship Program

Office Work

- Collect signatures/process payments – 3 contracts
- 6 renewals funded – completed eligibility, resource inventory, assessment, conservation planning, ranking, contracting, cost estimate and obtaine signatures

Field Work

- Field verification on 6 applications (8 farms)

CRP-Conservation Reserve Program

Office Work

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Field Work

Inspect that violation was corrected

CWI- Clean Water Indiana

Office Work

- Processed completion documents for cover crop application
- Contacted applicants reminding them to turn in seed tags and planting info
- Processed payments for Marshall County
- Completed 2019 grant reporting on state site
- Started 2021 grant reporting

Field Work

- Field verified cover crop for 1 application

Education		
Age	Total # Programs/ Hours	Total # People
Youth Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backyard Conservation and Birding, Potato Creek State Park • Indiana Wildlife, Potato Creek State Park • Soil Scape and Pollution, St. Pius X Catholic School • Food Webs, St. Pius X Catholic School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 adult, 6 children • 0 adults, 0 children • 1 adult, 66 children • 3 adults, 66 children
Adult Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology Panel, Saint Mary's College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepped and gave programs in November and December • Prepped for Recycling Resolutions workshops, Science Alive, and other upcoming programs • Worked on Spring Teacher Letter • Toured Saint Mary's College Sustainable Farm • Attended meetings • Accepted donation on behalf of SWCD 		
Meetings & Trainings		
Staff Meeting or TEAMS – 2 CISMA – 2 Program/Technology Update – 3 Urban Conservation update Women for the Land NRCS All Employee Virtual meeting AgLearn Section 508 training SWCS Indiana Chapter Winter Meeting	AgLearn – Economics of Conservation – Part3 Certified Planner – Water Quality, Water Bodies , Sedimentation Creating Performance Plans Cover Crop Summit Vehicle Management Tool Receipt Training Donna Coleman Virtual Retirement Ecological Advocacy Committee meeting IASWCD Meet and Greet meeting Indiana Envirothon meeting – 2	
Webinars	Dates	
Managing Pests in cover crops Managing Weeds with less chemicals Conversations in Soil Health IDEM New General Permit Cover Crop Field Guide Update	November 25, 26 – Office Closed	

Comments from the Community

Annual Meeting Committee Report

Speaker:

- **Brian Capouch, Kankakee Marsh Historian** – he doesn't have a charge but will take a donation. We need to decide and have a motion on what to pay him.

Tickets:

- Printed and ready for sale! \$15/each.
- Ticket sales are due by February 2, 2022 to get final count to St Hedwig in time.
- Contact Sandra to get some.

Silent Auction:

- **Start collecting items**, you can connect with staff to drop off at the office or have someone pick them up.

Clean Water Indiana 2019-2021

Payments needing official approval:

Cover Crops	100	\$1,709.25
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Total: CWI payout \$1,709.25

Total Paid out 1-1-2019 to present:

St Joseph County	\$28,710.74
Marshall County	\$36,289.26
Total	\$65,000.00
Grant Total	\$65,000.00
Remaining Amount	\$0

St Joseph County Pending approved applications:

Cover Crops	16 acres	\$320
Cover Crops	6.2	\$124
Cover Crops	200	\$4,000
Pollinator Habitat	4.8	\$3,600
Total		\$8,044.00

Marshall County Pending approved applications:

Pollinator Habitat	\$2,250
Pollinator Habitat	\$1,500
Pollinator Habitat	\$750
Pollinator Habitat	\$375
Pollinator Habitat	\$750
Total	\$5,625.00

Clean Water Indiana 2021-2023

Total Paid out 1-1-2021 to present:

St Joseph County	\$0.00
Marshall County	\$855.78
Total	\$855.78
Grant Total	\$65,000.00
Remaining Amount	\$64,144.22

**INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS, INC.
RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM (PLEASE TYPE)**

Title of Resolution: Term Limits for the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB)

Submitted by: Darci Zolman, Kosciusko Co SWCD Program Administrator

Contact Person: Jamie Scott, Kosciusko Co SWCD Vice Chair

Explanation of Problem(s) or Need(s): Members of the SSCB serve a vital role in the Conservation Partnership. However, the current process for nominating and appointing representatives does not require the nomination of new members over time. Although this does bring experience to the board by allowing members to serve multiple terms, it does potentially inhibit the appointment of qualified candidates to bring in new ideas, leading to board stagnation.

Proposed Solution: The proposed solution is that IASWCD, working with SSCB, ISDA and Purdue, determine an appropriate term limit for board members as well as, create the strategy to put these term limits into place.

Benefits Expected: The instituting of term limits for the SSCB will lead to greater board member diversity, as well as, the infusion of new ideas and perspectives. The required limit would also result in ISDA, IASWCD and Purdue proactively seeking potential new board members, making them more active participants in the SSCB process.

Action Requested (Please specify the action you would like the association to take if this resolution passes): Be it resolved that the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc. work with ISDA, SSCB and Purdue to determine an appropriate term limit for board members and the best strategy to implement such term limits.

Supervisor Signatures (Recommend a majority of Supervisors signed):

David Ransbottom, Kosciusko County SWCD Board Chair
Jamie Scott, Kosciusko County SWCD Board Vice Chair
Ryan Martin, Kosciusko County SWCD Board Secretary/Treasurer
Stan Moore, Kosciusko County SWCD Board Supervisor
Jewel Wise, Kosciusko County SWCD Board Supervisor

Date Signed: September 7, 2021

**Note: Please email this form to joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org
Due on Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

**INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS, INC.
RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM (PLEASE TYPE)**

Long Explanation:

The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) is established in Indiana Code, under Title 14, and includes members with the qualifications as defined:

IC 14-32-2-2 (Members)

Sec. 2. The board consists of the following seven (7) members:

- (1) Four (4) members who must be land occupiers with farming interests, appointed by the governor.*
- (2) Three (3) members who must be land occupiers with nonfarming interests, appointed by the governor.*

IC 14-32-2-3 (Qualifications of members)

Sec. 3. (a) A majority of the seven (7) appointed members of the board must have experience as district supervisors.

(b) In making appointments to the board, the governor may invite and consider the recommendations of the following:

- (1) The Purdue University cooperative extension service.*
- (2) The Indiana state department of agriculture.*
- (3) The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*

(c) All appointments to the board shall be made without regard to political affiliation.

(d) The members appointed to the board under section 2(1) and 2(2) of this chapter must be residents of at least four (4) different geographic regions of Indiana.

IC 14-32-2-4 (Term for members)

Sec. 4. The term of an appointed member of the board is four (4) years. An appointed member shall serve until a successor is appointed and has qualified. The terms shall be staggered so that at least three (3) members are appointed every two (2) years.

While there is a term for the appointed members, there is not a limit to how many successive terms a member may serve. According to Board Source, a board resource organization, "Term limits help prevent board[s] from burning out by shortening the duration of their commitment. Term limits also enable the board to adjust its [makeup] to suit changing organizational needs and help from ineffective [members]." By instituting a limit on consecutive board member terms, the SSCB would have the potential to be infused with more diversity and new ideas on a regular basis. It would also put pressure on partners to be more proactive in considering potential members.