

Meeting Minutes

Location of meeting:

William H. Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center
Purdue University
1340 Cherry Lane
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Date and Time:

Thursday March 11, 2021 9:30 am

Board Members in attendance in person:

- Matt Pearson* ; fertilizer administrator for the Office of Indiana State Chemist
- Joe Russell (chair); representative of producers of agricultural crops
- Sam Fry; representative of producers of agricultural crops
- Dr. Jim Camberato; Purdue University School of Agriculture

Board Members in attendance through Microsoft Teams virtual meeting:

- Doug Anderson ; representative of the retail fertilizer industry
- Bob Avenius; representative of the lawn care industry
- Amy Cornell*; president of the Indiana Plant Food and Agricultural Chemicals Association
- Eric Dearth; representative of fertilizer manufacturing, distributing, or manufacturing and distributing.
- Dr. Amy Gregg; representative of a public conservation organization
- Joe Miller ; representative of the livestock industry
- Katie Nelson; Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- Brian Taylor; representative of retail Fertilizer Industry
- Julia Wickard*; IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management)

Board Members absent:

Others present:

- Dr. Marc LeBlanc; Indiana State Chemist and Seed Commissioner
- John Baugh
- Ramona Briggeman
- Trish Dunn
- Carrie Leach
- Danny Starke
- Ben Wicker

*indicates nonvoting member

With 9 out of 9 voting board members in attendance a quorum , IC 15-16-2-29, was present and an official meeting was held.

1. Call to order – Russell at 9:30 am.

2. Approve agenda – Motion to approve the agenda was made by Brian Traylor -seconded by Sam Fry. Motion passed

3. Motion to approve minutes of 8/17/2020 meeting made by Joe Miller -seconded by Brian Traylor. Motion Passed.

4. Review and Approval of FAB E-participation policy motion for approval made by Brian Traylor- seconded by Bob Avenius. Motion passed.

5. Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy update: Ben Wicker

- Developed with an eye towards the Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes – Lake Erie Basin watersheds
- Updated every 5 years
- Released in the last two weeks
- Google Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy to find more information
- Using Best Science Available – Indiana Science Assessment
 - Determining historic and ongoing loads and establishing baseline. Currently baseline data is from modeling efforts.
 - Developing strategies to measure nutrient losses and identify best practices that reduce nutrient losses

Sam Fry asked -Is the baseline going to be based off of the modeling or the “new” science efforts?

Ben Wicker stated probably using baseline from larger efforts than just Indiana. Looking towards the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Erie Basin.

Amy Cornell gave an update on 4R Certification:

- Indiana 4R certification program launched on November 20, 2020
- Independent Audit program based on level of service.
- 3 year audit cycle for certification
- Voluntary program
- Please visit <https://www.inagribiz.org/indiana-4r-certification> to learn more about 4R Certification.
- Ag community showing strong interest
- Cost share available for new locations – certain criteria must be met.

6. FAB Terms expiring 8/1/2021 for all members except Dearth and Traylor. Matt Pearson asked if any would like to stay on or suggestions for new members. All members expressed interest to stay on the advisory board for another term.

7. OISC Fertilizer update-

Matt Pearson- 2020 has been interesting and 2021 will be better. OISC is gearing up to start sampling fertilizer.

Joe Russell – It has been relatively uneventful and quiet.

8. Fertilizer Compliance Update. Ramona Briggeman provided numbers on compliance.

- Complaints by Type
 - Licensing- 18
 - Application- 12
 - Staging- 36
 - Product- 1

There were 46 total Judgements.

6 Warnings

59 Citations Assessed a total of \$71,498

9. Fertilizer Industry update.

- a. Dr. LeBlanc- Said Hello and thanked everyone for serving on the board.
- b. Dr. Camberato asked about regulation of biological soil amendments. Are they regulated by OISC?
 - a. Pearson – at this time regulated under our Seed program. Other states regulate.
 - b. Leach-Our lab is developing a method to test for microbials.
 - c. Dr. Camberato-There are over 100+ microbials registered. Purdue research on some of them to look at response. 3/21 tested showed a positive response and 2/21 showed a negative response. There is lots of interest from the ag industry but questions on efficacy. Question on products is- Does the product actually have the stated microbial present and what is its efficacy.
 - d. Dr. LeBlanc. Our lab (Danica) is working on methods to test this. The claims are ripe for regulatory oversight. Is there science to back up the claims.
 - e. Amy Gregg asked if there was group or organization that deals with microbials?
 - f. Camberato- Ones used for remediation efforts go through rigorous testing. Ones used for soil amendments unsure of what type of testing they are subjected to.

- c. Dr. Camberato- New Tristate Fertilizer Recommendations are now available. Available through Ohio State University and Michigan State University. The biggest change no longer hav a draw down for phosphorus and potassium
- d. Eric Dearth- Lots of volatility in pricing. Strong demand this year. 2020 was challenging dealing with Covid.
- e. Brian Traylor- Wanted to thank Purdue Extension offices for virtual training so people can get CCH and keep their licenses. Virtual training seems to be working well. .He agrees with Dearth on pricing changing quickly.
- f. Joe Russell- In East Central Indiana there seems to be a trend towards fewer farmers that farm larger number of acres. There also seems to be an increase in consultants that want to do soil sampling and give fertilizer recommendations.
- g. Katie Nelson- ISDA is watching a grain Buyer Bill closely. Also due to Covid they are facing a 15 % budget cut.
 - a. <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/cover-crop-premium-discount-program/>
 - b. <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction->
- h. Julia Wickard- Welcomed Dr. LeBlanc
 - a. IDEM is hosting a free webinar for preparing for environmental spills and emergencies in agriculture. The webinar is eligible for free PARP credits (courtesy of the Indiana Soybean Alliance and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council). The link below will connect you to the registration and where you have the option of choosing PARP credits. This is a great partnership meeting. Thanks for potentially registering and for sharing this information with your network. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/e101-cultivating-readiness-env-spills-and-emergencies-in-agriculture-tickets-141371103777>
 - b. The Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence - the state' most prestigious environmental award bestowed by the Governor of the State of Indiana - application process is open until 5 pm. on April 5, 2021. There are seven award categories and I would love to see agriculture and agribusiness apply for these awards. Here is the link to the application and more information about the award :<https://www.in.gov/idem/partnerships/2457.htm> Below are the the seven award categories:
 - i. Energy Efficiency/Renewable Resources;
 - ii. Environmental Education and Outreach;
 - iii. Five year Continuous Improvement;
 - iv. Greening the Government;
 - v. Land Use/Conservation;
 - vi. Pollution Prevention;

- vii. Recycling/Reuse;
 - i. Amy Gregg- Delaware County trend towards solar farms. University is hanging in there dealing with Covid- masks, reduced class size by half, decreasing enrollment.
 - j. Joe Russell- In his lifetime corn has tripled in efficiency of converting “solar power” and soybeans have doubled. Agriculture is the ultimate solar conversion. Ford and GM set 2035 set for all electric cars. This would affect demand for ethanol.
 - k. Joe Miller: Carbon credits are becoming a bigger thing with Ag. The La Nina might indicate a dryer spring which would assist in manure applications and compliance.
 - l. Bob Avenius- The year started slow due to Covid. This year there was an increase in fertilizer pricing. Lots of products promising lots of different things. Liquid aeration was one of those promises. Not aware of any research on efficacy and truth to these claims. There have been thefts of catalytic converters from unsecured vehicles. This is likely due to increase of prices of rhodium.

12 Next meeting date: Russell Will have Pearson set the date and have it off site. Pearson will email everyone to set time, date, and location.

13 Adjourn: With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn from Dr Camberato and Brian Taylor Seconding- Motion passed