



Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists
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IRSS Board Meeting Minutes

Location of Meeting: Hendricks County Fairgrounds
1900 E Main St
Danville, IN 46122

Date: January 25, 2018

Time: Following Indiana Soil Classifier meeting, approximately 2:40pm

Board members present:

John Bonsett, Tom Eickholtz, David Lefforge and Dr. Gary Steinhardt

Others present:

Vicki Adams, Dena Anderson, Sara Bolinger, Ray Sinclair, Randy Staley, Amber Willen,
& Matt Pearson

Meeting called to order at 2:40pm.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read by David and approved.

The financial report was presented. A balance of \$65,717.11 was reported. Revenue reported was \$3,903.87. Gary noted a downward trend in revenue received. He suggested there might be a future need to consider a small increase in fees.

It was discussed that without an Indiana State Department of Health soil scientist available, there may be additional expenses to the Board for site evaluations when follow-up investigations are required.

David reported that Lambda Mort has been accepted back after meeting the required qualifications and is now a Professional Soil Scientist.

Sarah Bolinger has passed her exam and now qualifies to be an Associate Soil Scientist. Gary made a motion to grant Sarah Associate Membership. John seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Shelby Sigman has been approved. Gary emphasized both need to work with fully approved professional soil scientist to understand the overall onsite procedures and process.

2018 outreach opportunities were discussed. They include the Indiana Environmental Health Association Spring Conference in April and Fall Conference in September. Dave suggested that the Board make an attempt to participate in outreach opportunities and that the board has funds to acquire a booth for our display.

Other outreach opportunities include:

- Soil and Water Conservation District State conference
 - 2019 Annual Conference of Indiana SWCD; January 14-15, 2019
 - Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
- Soil and Water Conservation District contractor county meeting
- I-LICA (Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association)
 - 2018 FIELD DAY; June 6th and 7th;
 - Davis-Purdue Ag Center; Farmland, IN
- IOPA (Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association)
 - January 23-44 IOWPA 2018 Conference
 - Plan ahead for 2019 conference

Gary emphasized his desire to improve the state soil report with more specific soil features identified. The state has been very slow to push for a uniform form.

Dr. Steinhardt explained how he hopes to change the field skills continuing education units (CEUf). Require more descriptions to lead more uniform descriptions.

Dave read a letter prepared on the Pribyla property in Clay County. The letter had been addressed to Jerry Shively but he felt the letter should be amended and addressed and sent to both the property owner, Pribyla, and a copy sent to Jerry Shively. Overall it was a difficult site to work with. Site drainage was also a factor on this lot. John made a motion to send letter; Tom seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Following discussion, it was suggested and supported that a protocol should be developed for following soil investigations. The soil report protocol should include a full written soil description done with multiple pits on the specific site in question. A summarization report should also be included.

Gary moved that future review panels follow a protocol that includes at a minimum three written descriptions, lab samples on texture, if needed, and a summary report. Tom seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Dave mentioned that he had talked with Duane Burrow following a situation brought to the Board's attention by the St. Joseph County Health Department. This was regarding conflicting reports on the same site. No formal complaint was filed with the Board but the Health Department was seeking report clarification. Dave reported that Duane was somewhat resistant in their conversation on the conflicting reports. Dave asked Gary to contact Duane for further clarification on the conflicting reports.

The first written report identified a historical, seasonal wetness limitation that would require a Type 2 mound system because perimeter drain is not available. The following report would allow for a standard onsite conventional system.

John reported that he had talked with Linda Mauller at St. Joseph County. He indicated this is a situation that should be resolved by the local health department. John suggested the local health

department could, under the State rule, request additional soil reports by another soil scientist. In as much as a sanitary sewer connection is available, connection to the sanitary sewer should be required.

John told the Board that he has been asked to speak at the ISDH Annual Onsite meeting on February 26th. The program topic has been listed as “The role of the soil scientist to the health department, the property owner and the contractor”. John asked the Board for key points to include in his discussion. Communication and mutual cooperation was a key point to be considered. It was also suggested that local health department personnel participate in area soil judging and field training exercises. This would provide them a valuable learning opportunity. It was also pointed out that the soil scientists write the report, but the county health folks set the requirements. Also make them aware of soil judging / classifying field exercise opportunities that may be occurring in their areas.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.