Indiana Fertilizer Advisory Board

IC 15-16-2-25

Office of Indiana State Chemist

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Location of meeting:

Purdue Davis Ag Center
6230 IN-1
Farmland, IN 47340

Date and Time:

Tuesday July 16, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Board Members in attendance in person:

- Joe Russell (chair); representative of producers of agricultural crops
- Gregg Pulley: representative of the lawn care industry.
- Quinton Hayes*: representative of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- Sam Fry; representative of producers of agricultural crops
- Dr. Amy Gregg; representative of a public conservation organization
- Matt Pearson*; fertilizer administrator for the Office of Indiana State Chemist and engineering specialist

Board Members absent:

- Dr. Daniel Quinn*; Purdue University School of Agriculture
- Joe Miller; representative of the livestock industry

Board members participating electronically:

- Doug Anderson; representative of the retail fertilizer industry
- Megan Espinda* representative of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management IDEM) Ag Liaison
- Brian Traylor; representative of retail fertilizer industry
- Bruce Kettler* The president of the Indiana Plant Food and Agricultural Chemicals Association
- Matthew Vianco, sitting in for Chuck Anderson from The Andersons; representative of fertilizer manufacturing, distributing, or manufacturing and distributing.

Others present in person:

- Dr. Mark LeBlanc State Chemist OISC
- Ramona Briggeman OISC
- John Baugh
- Garret Creason OISC
- Corbin Robbins OISC

- Danny Starke OISC
- Craig Taft OISC

Others present online:

- David Snell OISC
- Steve Wenning OISC
- Trish Dunn OISC
- Dancia Wu OISC

*indicates nonvoting member

With 12 out of 13 board members in attendance a quorum, IC 15-16-2-29, was present and an official meeting was held.

1. Call to order – Joe Russell called to order at 9:32am
2. Agenda approved- Greg 1st, Sam2nd; Motion carried
3. No minutes to approve
4. Matt Pearson Discussed Make up of Advisory Board
    - Specifically created in the Commercial Fertilizer Law and that it is to advise the State Chemist on the administration of this chapter.
    - Make up of the board
    - Two (2) representatives of the retail fertilizer industry. One (1) representative of fertilizer manufacturing, distributing, or manufacturing and distributing. Two (2) representatives of producers of agricultural crops. One (1) representative of the lawn care industry. One (1) representative of the Purdue School of Agriculture. One (1) representative of a public conservation organization. One (1) representative of the livestock industry. The president of the Indiana Plant Food and Agricultural Chemicals Association, who serves as a nonvoting member. One (1) representative of the department of environmental management, who serves as a nonvoting member. The fertilizer administrator for the office of the state chemist, who serves as a nonvoting member. The engineer specialist for the office of the state chemist, who serves as a nonvoting member. One (1) representative of the Indiana state department of agriculture, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.
    - 2 meetings a year
    - 4-year terms
    - State Chemist appoints
5. OISC Agricultural Chemical Facility (ACF) Inspections: Ramona Briggeman
    - 888 Registered Bulk Facilities in Indiana
    - Updated rule summary to reflect changes in pesticide storage requirements
        i. Liquid Pesticide single tank 500 gallons or greater
        ii. Dry pesticide 4,000 lbs
        iii. No containment requirement for minibulks

- Property tax exemptions 140 out of 888 have exemptions
- Why is there a need for inspections
    i. Some dikes are too small
    ii. Some dikes structurally unsound
    iii. General maintenance needed
    iv. No load pads- will be turned into a Case
    v. Initially doing compliance assistance and giving a grace period to come into compliance
    vi. We are allowed to mitigate our civil penalties if they come into compliance in a timely manner
- Updated ACF form
    i. Dike calculations in form
    ii. Referrals to fertilizer control specialist for follow up
- ACF inspection plan
    i. 5 year rotation (20% registered facilities inspected each year)
    ii. Emphasis dike sizing and maintenance
    iii. Commercial and Farmer facilities
- Future plans
    i. Big Tank Policy into Rule
    ii. Update Fertilizer containment rule
    iii. Finish SOP Method for ACF inspections

6. Compliance update
    - Fish Kills in Indiana Due to Fertilizer Releases – Danny Starke
        i. Fish Kill #1 Tippecanoe County
            1. Three tanks in secondary containment, Synthetic liner
            2. Tank leaked
            3. Water had not been controlled in dike for months
            4. Water not tested and pumped onto field that wasn't planted
            5. Water reached a field tile then to the creek

        ii. Fish Kill #2 Jay County.
            1. Barn Fire
            2. 6,000 gallon 28% inside building
            3. Shuttles of FulTime NXT
            4. Shuttles and 2.5 gallon jugs of other chemicals
            5. No containment required at this location
            6. Water for fire suppression ran to creek.

        iii. Fish Kill #3 Randolph County
            1. Secondary containment in good condition
            2. Proper operational pad
            3. "Wash" pad beside operational pad that leads to a tank with an overflow pipe with a valve that leads to a field tile.

4. Valve was open
5. Planter was being washed and fertilizer tanks were drained

- Anhydrous Ammonia Accidents
    i. Accident #1 Manchester, Iowa
        1. American Welding & Tank
        2. NO DEATHS
    ii. Accident # 2 Teutopolis, IL
        1. Cargo Tanker Crash
        2. 5 Killed (Two Children)
    iii. Accident #3 Warren, Indiana
        1. Double tanks plumbing accident
        2. 1 death

Sam Fry asked if AA was growing, adding or losing. Danny stated AA was losing more than gaining.

- Fertilizer- Craig
    i. 29 fertilizer cases this year but heading into busy season
        1. 13 staging
        2. 9 application
        3. 2 containment
        4. 4 licensing
        5. 1 ammonia
    ii. Previous year 2022 total of 49 cases

- Fertilizer updates Matt – Products and Samples
    i. Products
        1. 2024 = 10,579
        2. 5 yr avg = 10,402
    ii. Companies
        1. 2024 = 758
        2. 5 yr avg = 715
    iii. Tonnage
        1. 2023 = 3,188,563
        2. 5 yr avg = 3,243,870
    iv. Samples
        1. 2024 = 2,099
        2. 5 yr avg = 1,771*
            a. 2020 No Spring samples & 627 Fall samples
    v. Deficiencies
        1. 2024 = 180 & 8.58%
        2. 5 yr avg = 166* & 9.75%
            a. Bulk

i. 2024 = 1,209 / 92 / 7.61%
ii. 2023 = 1,808 / 103 / 5.70%
iii. 2022 = 1,814 / 127 / 7.00%

b. Small (12 lbs & less)
i. 2024 = 83 / 19 / 22.89%
ii. 2023 = 98 / 27 / 27.55%
iii. 2022 = 148 / 42 / 28.38%

c. Large (>12 lbs)
i. 2024 = 124/ 29 / 23.39%
ii. 2023 = 184 / 50 / 27.17%
iii. 2022 = 137 / 32 / 23.36%

vi. Refunds
1. 2024 = $74,400
2. 5 yr avg = $51,721

vii.

- Matt and Dr, Mark: Biostimulants: talked about beneficial substances (biostimulants)
- Sam asked what can change a product from fertilizer to biostimulants.
- Dr. Mark said need to have a guarantee for fertilizer & biostimulant, there are 20-30 different microbes in some guarantees for products, may need to replace bio inoculant law. Not ready to adopt, wants to be able to test if registering
- Joe added there are a lot added to seed now

Dr. Amy from Ball State asked who gets the lab results (the producer, etc.) Matt stated results can be looked up online.

7. Fertilizer Industry updates:
    - Quentin stated Indiana has lost 2% of farmland from 2010-2022 because of residential growth. Preparing for state fair
    - Sam- crops are looking good. Proposed dairy expansion has died down.
    - Joe- water from Tippecanoe to Boone county What is in it and how it may affect farming is a concern
    - Greg- lost man hours due to weather, disease influx due to humidity
    - Brian- Thank you to everyone and Solar farms maybe on less productive ground
    - Trish Feed program is doing good
    - Matthew (The Andersons) stated drone technology is advancing for fertilizer. Customers are requesting and asking for it more

8. Next Meeting in December
9. Adjourn 11:30 : With nothing further to discuss a motion to adjourn- Motion passed