



Indiana Fertilizer Advisory Board

IC 15-16-2-25

Meeting Minutes



Location of meeting:

Helena Agri Enterprises
248 Railroad Street
Montgomery, IN 47558

Date and Time:

Monday August 17, 2020 10:30 am

Board Members in attendance in person:

- Matt Pearson*, Joe Russell, and Brian Traylor

Board Members in attendance through WebEx virtual meeting:

- Doug Anderson, Bob Avenius, Dr. Jim Camberato, Amy Cornell, Sam Fry, Dr. Amy Gregg, Joe Miller, Katie Nelson*, and Julia Wickard*

Board Members absent:

- Eric Dearth

Others present:

- Ramona Briggeman, Trish Dunn, Brett Groves, Don Robinson, Danny Starke, Ben Wicker

*indicates nonvoting member

1. Call to order – Russell at 10:30 am.

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

3. Motion to approve minutes of 12/19/19 meeting made by Brian Traylor -seconded by Amy Gregg. Motion Passed.

4. OISC Fertilizer update –

- a. No fertilizer sampling was done in the spring or summer
 - a. Inspectors stayed home and trained
 - b. Lab staff stayed at home and worked on SOP's
- b. Fertilizer compliance staff; Danny, Ramona, & Trish, have not been slowed by COVID.

5. OISC Rules update –

- c. Processed manure public hearing originally scheduled for 1/6/2020 was rescheduled for April 2020 but cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions. The hearing has not been rescheduled.
- d. NH3 rules waiting on Governor's office. Need to make a determination how for OISC to best incorporate items by reference.
- e. Civil penalty schedule for NH3 is waiting on the NH3 rule to be finalized and adopted.
 - a. OISC pesticide law was changed in 2020 to remove the "per day" assessment of penalties. The issue with pesticide was pertaining to containment violations. In the legislatures review of large OISC civil penalties most of them were fertilizer violations from improper staging. OISC has had internal discussion on how this would impact our charge.

6. Fertilizer compliance update –

- a. 45 fertilizer cases for the year.
- b. Complaints have been for application, staging and licensing
- c. Similar to 2019 which had 89 total cases.

7. Fertilizer industry update –

- a. Brian Traylor raised the issue of dealing with chemistry issues regarding Organic farming near Conventional farming specifically with Dicamba.
- b. Amy Cornell provided information on recent civil penalty changes and recommendations related to pesticides Indiana Pesticide Review Board (IPRB)
- c. Brett Groves gave a brief Hemp update. Hemp is taking up many man hours. Sampling continues. The public is very interested in this issue.
- d. Bob Avenius discussed industry wide issues in other states with licensing and covid restrictions. Stated Indiana and OISC has done a good job keeping things moving.
- e. Dr. Amy Gregg discussed Covid 19 issues with higher education with movement towards more online instruction.
- f. Dr. Jim Camberato stated the same issues at Purdue dealing with social distancing, smaller class size and online instruction.
- g. Ben Wicker: Covid issues- going to virtual format, 4R of Nutrient Management development, finalized draft standard and formed advisory board, Five (5) Ag retailers to pilot the program.
- h. Julia Wickard IDEM updates. Due to Covid issues offices are open but appointment only. Much of the IDEM staff is working remotely. IDEM inspections have reengaged with biosecurity protocols in place. Increased interest in small local meat packing operations with calls about licensing and regulations.
- i. Katie Nelson: ISDA Staff are back in the office. Trying to be creative about how the department stays visible during these times. State Fair was cancelled but ISDA is still doing regular commodity and agency meetings. These are focused on providing updates and hearing how ISDA can better serve our partners and stakeholders.

8. Other business

- a. Brian Traylor asked about obtaining required CCH's. Purdue Extension is doing virtual programs. It also looks like the CCA conference is still on track with a recent survey they sent out. This may be in person in Indianapolis or virtual. A decision on format has not been made.
- b. Electronic Participation Policy needs to be developed to conduct official business. Development of this policy will happen within the next month.

9. Open discussion: Dr. Jim Camberato asked about Dr Bob's replacement. All we know currently is there have been two interviews. Both interviewees were from out of the state.

10. Next meeting will be planned in December.

11. Adjourn: With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am with a motion from Brian Traylor and Doug Anderson seconding.

Respectfully submitted

Matthew E. Pearson - Fertilizer Administrator and FAB secretary