

NRPC Report and Recommendations to the IASWCD Board February 21, 2008

The Natural Resource Policy Committee (NRPC) met on July 13, August 24, and December 20 in 2007 and again on January 29, 2008. Active members include:

- Ray Chattin – Assoc. Supervisor/IASWCD Board
- Ray McCormick – Supervisor/IASWCD Board
- Kenny Cain – Supervisor/ Region Director
- Les Zimmerman – Supervisor/Committee Chair
- Troy Hinkle – District Employee Knox Co
- Glen Lange – District Employee Marion Co
- Barry Fisher – NRCS
- Dan Ernst – DNR Div of Forestry
- Jack Corpuz – Pheasants Forever

We submitted nine resolutions for consideration by the districts of which seven were adopted, one failed and one was removed from consideration because it essentially duplicated another resolution which had already passed. We are also considering how to update and reformat existing policy to make it more coherent and accessible. Our next meeting will be at the Greencastle USDA Service Center on March 11, 2008 at 9:00 AM.

It is critical to the credibility of our association that the resolutions are acted on, that progress is monitored and that the results of these actions are reported to the districts. Many of these resolutions will require a long term commitment on the part of the association and to that end the NRPC makes the following recommendations to the IASWCD board:

Indiana Conservation Partnership: IASWCD to form a task force to pursue options for inclusion of DNR and IDEM in the ICP. NRPC leans toward limiting ICP to government units. NRPC would like to be represented on the task force. Item will be on ICP meeting on Feb 19, 2008

Technical and Financial Assistance for non-farm bill qualifying conservation measures: Recommend reconvening “Urban Roundtable Group” to explore means to address this resolution. Glenn Lange of NRPC will participate.

Public Referendum on Natural Resource Conservation: Assign task to the legislative committee. Ray Chattin will represent NRPC.

Expansion of CREP watersheds: IASWCD to remain fully involved in ICP process

IASWCD Representation on the Indiana Natural Resources Commission: Assign to the legislative committee. Ray McCormick of NRPC will participate.

No-till/Strip-till: IASWCD to explore possibility of planning Annual Conference in conjunction with National No-till Conference to possibly utilize some of the speakers and

to take advantage of the related publicity. Indiana needs to sponsor the no-till/strip-till resolution at NACD National Conference. IASWCD needs to pursue a grant for a “Barry Fisher style” no-till educator position. Kenny Cain of NRPC will work with Barry Fisher on a preliminary grant draft. Ray McCormick of NRPC will discuss with Jane Hardisty the possibility of changing one of the grazing specialist positions to a no-till specialist position. Les Zimmerman of NRPC will serve on Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

SWCD participation in CWMAs: Assign to Annual Conference planning committee. Disseminate information through IASWCD website.