

# Minutes

## Indiana Rural Safety & Health Council

### April 14, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Meredith at 9:30 at the Farm Bureau Building in Indianapolis. Those present were as follows:

Rick Ainsworth, Farm Bureau  
Tom Bechman, Indiana Prairie Farmer  
Lisa Chaudion, Indiana Young Farmers Association  
Kevin Cox, Farmer  
Bill Field, Purdue University  
Mac Legault, Indiana State University  
Dennis Meredith, Precision Alliance Group  
Ernie Sheldon, Indiana State University  
Julia Wichard, Indiana Farm Bureau  
Patty Wood, Retired Farmer

The minutes of the February 9, 2004 meeting were approved as distributed.

Ernie Sheldon provided a verbal Treasurer's Report and there were no questions.

Bill Field reported on the following items:

1. 30,000 copies of *Careful Country* are now on order and should arrive in about a month. The total cost for printing will be about \$12,000, including shipping.
2. Roger Tormoehlen requested that the Council consider participating in the 2004 North Central Region Volunteer Forum to be held in the fall.
3. The [www.farmsafety.org](http://www.farmsafety.org) web site is back up and running and work will be continued on updating it.
4. Memberships are coming in. If you haven't joined for 2004, please do so.
5. A copy of *Sawdust* was sent to a video editor to explore the possibility of updating it and improving the quality. A bid will be provided.
6. A request was made for information on the NIOSH Ag Safety and Health web site. The address is <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/agriculture/#nasd>

Dennis Meredith reported on a meeting in the Valparaiso area on the use of agricultural equipment on public roads in urban settings. The purpose of the meeting was to seek feedback on the perceived problems and possible solutions. It appears that in some areas the problem is a growing concern. Two of the topics discussed were the need for better marketing and lighting, and the use of escort vehicles, especially an over width equipment.

Dennis also raised the concern over the need for safety material that is appropriate for the growing number of Hispanic workers in larger farm operations. Existing material is not appropriate for many of these workers who use English as a second language or have lower literacy skills.

Mac Legault reported on the road signs being designed to alert motorists of slow moving agricultural equipment. An article will be coming out in the June issue of Farm Journal that will include a means for readers to participate in an on-line survey.

Tom Bechman introduced Kevin Cox, a farmer from Brazil, Indiana, who was a friend of a farmer who recently suffocated in a grain storage bin. Kevin expressed his concern over the need to increase the awareness of grain bin hazards and to correct design problems on existing bins. It was decided to plan and build a special grain bin safety display for the Young Farmer's Building at the State Fair. Lisa Chaudion has agreed to provide a space and some funding to get it done. The Grain Bin Tug-A-War will be used in The Farm Bureau Building. In addition, Purdue will work on some media releases on the topic as June approaches; which is one of the peak times for suffocation and entrapments as farmers move grain to market.

Bill Field led a discussion on the proposed one-day forum on the *State of Ag Safety and Health in Indiana*. It was decided to hold the event on September 15, 2004 at the Indiana Farm Bureau Building in Indianapolis. It would be held from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a lunch provided. An agenda was discussed and possible sponsors. It was determined that an effort should be made to involve public policy makers as well as those representing the agricultural community.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 25, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. at the Farm Bureau Building in Indianapolis.

Submitted by

W.E. Field  
Treasurer