

Indiana Mesonet Advisory Body (IMAB) Regular Meeting Notes

Date: March 4, 2026, 9:00 AM – 12:06 PM

Location: MADE@Plainfield, 1610 Reeves Rd, Plainfield, IN 46168, Room 142

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chair Don Cummings.
- **Voting Membership**
 - Each organization maintains one designated voting member and one alternate.
 - Ben Haines was added as an alternate voter (Winter Operations Program Manager; Purdue graduate).
 - Voting members will use pink flags during votes.
 - “Group” was removed from the MISO.
 - The updated voting table was approved (see below).

Bylaw Appointment (VOTING MEMBERS)	Primary Voter		Alternate Voter (if Applicable)	
	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name
IDNR	Lindner	Garth		
IDHS	Carpenter	Beth		
ISDA	Andersen	Breegan	Stroebe	Sam
USGS	Naylor	Shawn	Lampe	Dave
USDA-NRCS	Bailey	Tony		
INDOT	Nichols	Mike	Haines	Ben
MISO	Esterline	Ben		
Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance	Schmitz	Hans	Ben	Wicker
NWS	Beachler	Dave		
IN Farm Bureau	Nelson	Katie	Burkert	Micha
IDEM	McKinley	Susan	Espinda	Megan
University	Tanamachi	Robin		
At Large	Cummings	Don		
Non Voting Members (Ex-Officio)	Last Name	First Name		
Director of Purdue Mesonet	Hall	Beth		
Director of Indiana Water Balance Network	Marietta	Garrett		
Secretary	Pearson	Austin		
PU Mesonet	Lashley	Sam		
KY Mesonet (Retired)	Foster	Stu		
Indiana Finance Authority	Hudson	Sarah		
IGWS	Siurek	Alec		

2. Roll call/ quorum determination (Secretary)

- **Voting Member Attendance**
 - **In-person:** Garth Lindner (IDNR), Beth Carpenter (IDHS), Breegan Andersen (ISDA), Shawn Naylor (USGS), Tony Bailey (USDA-NRCS), Mike Nichols (INDOT), Ben Esterline (MISO), Hans Schmitz (IANA), Susan McKinley (IDEM), Don Cummings (At Large)
 - **Virtual:** Robin Tanamachi (University)

- **Absent:** Dave Beachler (NWS), Katie Nelson (IN Farm Bureau)
- **Non-Voting Member Attendance (Includes Alternate Voters)**
 - **In-person:** Sam Stroebel (ISDA), Megan Espinda (IDEM), Beth Hall (Purdue Mesonet), Garrett Marietta (IWBNI), Ginger Davis (IWBNI), Austin Pearson (Purdue Mesonet), Sam Lashley (Purdue Mesonet), Ben Haines (INDOT)
 - **Absent:** Dave Lampe (USGS), Ben Wicker (IANA), Micha Burkert (IN Farm Bureau), Stu Foster (KY Mesonet), Sarah Hudson (IFA), Alec Siurek (IGWS)
- **Determination of Quorum**
 - A minimum of seven voting members is required to conduct business. A quorum was confirmed.

3. Modifications to Agenda

- No modifications were made to the agenda. The group agreed to continue using the standard agenda format, with additions proposed ahead of future meetings.

4. Approval of and/or Corrections to previous Minutes

- **Discussion**
 - **Beth Carpenter**
 - Questioned the NMP abbreviation in the minutes, which stands for the National Mesonet Program.
 - Questioned the ‘??’ county remark in the minutes concerning the Purdue Mesonet signed contract status. Sam Lashley mentioned that land use agreements signed also included Vermillion and Jay counties.
 - Expressed concern about the Warrick County mining tunnel map action item from the previous meeting for Allison Curry. She mentioned that limited mapping was available to her.
 - **Body Decision on the above discussion**
 - The Body decided not to implement corrections to the minutes.
- **Vote to accept the minutes as written**
 - Don Cummings asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was moved by Ben Esterline and seconded by Garth Lindner.
 - Meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.
- **Review of the Previous Meeting’s Action Items:**
 - **IMAB Resolution – December 3, 2025 (Deferred)**, discuss the deadline for proper documentation of IWBNI meeting Consortium applicants. This item was tabled as new considerations of network requirements were on today’s agenda.
 - **Archival of Signed IMAB Resolution (Complete)** – Austin Pearson redesigned the IMAB webpage to allow all meeting documents to be publicly accessible. The IMAB Resolution, bylaws, meeting minutes, agendas, and materials are all available on this page. Link: <https://indianamesonet.org/advisory-body/>

- **Bylaws update for applicant network membership (Deferred)** – discussion on network requirements part of today’s meeting agenda. Waiting to implement changes based on the Body’s decision. In other news, the bylaws were updated (February 20, 2026) to formalize our status as voting members. Link: https://indianamesonet.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/IMAB_Bylaws_February2026.pdf
- **IWBN Snowfall Adapter (Discussed)** – Antifreeze adapters were installed on tipping bucket gauges at seven stations. Installation difficulties arose due to differences in funnel and adapter sizing. Heavy snowfall events were not captured effectively, possibly clogging/freezing, then capturing the snow melting afterwards. Ginger Davis expressed concerns that hazardous chemicals (antifreeze) could affect the surrounding environment, a con of using the device. Their future considerations include moving away from this design and implementing weighing gauges or camera-based snow depth monitoring using AI-based recognition.
- **QA/QC Mentioned in the Calibration Process (Complete)** – Austin Pearson confirmed that the AASC guidelines contain information about calibration practices. Networks will be required to show documentation of calibration SOPs.
- **Warrick County Mining Maps (Deferred)** – The Purdue Mesonet is looking at a site in Warrick County for a station. Allison Curry mentioned that she could provide maps of mines in that vicinity. IGWS mentioned that they have historic mining maps, but many tunnels were poorly documented, and expressed that complete mapping is unlikely. Ginger Davis recommended that ground-penetrating radar (GPR) may help identify any concerns where the new station would be installed. Sam Lashley will continue investigating the site.
- **ISDA and USDA-NRCS Provide County-level Contact Info to Sam Lashley (Deferred)** – Breegan Andersen mentioned that she will provide contacts to Sam upon request. Sam will need to identify counties for contacts. Breegan also mentioned that she sends regular communications to Soil & Water Conservation Districts and other contacts. She’s happy to share any information/articles through that channel to spread the word on IMAB-related activities.
- **Wind/Solar Contacts for Sam Lashley (Complete)** – Mike Nichols provided Sam with company contacts. Sam sent emails to contacts, but no response. In other news, a Vermillion County solar project has been identified as a potential collaborative opportunity. Though it was recommended that we collaborate through county officials and Soil & Water Conservation Districts.
- **Register for IN AWSOME** – Body members attended IN AWSOME.

5. Old Business

- **5A Affirm via resolution, 2026 Mtg dates (1st Wed of Jun, Sep, Dec)**
 - Proposed schedule to hold IMAB meetings (in-person) on the first Wednesday of June, September, and December 2026.
 - Unanimous vote determined that the meeting dates are approved for 2026.
 - **Action Item (Beth Carpenter):** Reserve room 142, Made@Plainfield for approved dates.
 - **Action Item (Austin Pearson):** Send calendar invites for the approved meeting dates.
- **5B Clarify how AASC guidelines are pertinent/helpful to Indiana Mesonet**
 - Ginger Davis questioned why the AASC Recognition Program Standards are used, as the National Mesonet Program also requires its standards to be met for funding. This led to a discussion of the need to identify which additional standards the Body will accept for Indiana Mesonet Consortium Membership.
 - Austin Pearson mentioned that the IN-SCO uses AASC as the gold standard for network requirements. Beth Hall agreed.
 - AASC Mesonet Recognition Program requires minimum Tier 3 scoring across categories.
 - National Mesonet Program (Synoptic) includes a wider range of station quality levels.
 - AASC standards are considered more stringent.
 - NWS benefits from clearly defined station quality tiers.
 - Future networks may demonstrate equivalent standards through SOP documentation.
 - Garrett Marietta requested time to review the AASC Mesonet Recognition Program requirements. Link: <https://stateclimate.org/aasc-mrp/>
 - The Body also discussed the need to establish a 'Technical Review' subcommittee, which will consist of Garrett Marietta, Austin Pearson, Shawn Naylor, and Robin Tanamachi.
 - **Action Item (Garrett Marietta):** Review AASC Mesonet Recognition Program requirements by the June meeting.
 - **Action Item (Austin Pearson):** Convene ad-hoc 'Technical Review' subcommittee (Garrett Marietta, Austin Pearson, Shawn Naylor, and Robin Tanamachi) and provide guidance on this topic to the Body.
 - **Action Item (Ginger Davis):** Send Austin and Garrett the requirements imposed by the National Mesonet Program (Synoptic Data). These are to be kept confidential, as NMP requests that they not be shared.
 - **Action Item (Everyone):** Review AASC Mesonet Recognition Program Requirements by the June meeting. Link: <https://stateclimate.org/aasc-mrp/>

6. Sub-Committee reports

- None.

7. Network Owner reports (New stations, funding, challenges, etc.)

- **IWBN**
 - Ginger Davis transitioning leadership; Garrett Marrietta now serving as director.
 - Connor Miller has departed.
 - Hiring two technicians through IGWS.
 - Routine maintenance scheduled for the next four months.
 - Brownsburg station relocating to DNR property.
 - Additional station planning in Hendricks and Putnam counties.
 - CRANE site approvals ongoing.
 - New Vincennes-area station under evaluation on reclaimed mining land.
 - Potential network size: 18 stations when fully deployed.
 - New public database and REST API in development.
 - Long-term sustainability of IGWS operations is viewed as stable.
- **Purdue Mesonet**
 - Outreach events attended, including the Indiana Ag Gathering and the Midwest Recreation Expo.
 - Putnam County potential site identified.
 - Contracts are being finalized with Endress + Hauser (Johnson County).
 - Equipment staged and permits underway for spring installation.
 - Additional sites under evaluation at DNR properties, including Chinook FWA, Bluegrass FWA, and Hardy Lake.
 - SIPAC 10-year anniversary scheduled for May 4.
 - Funding:
 - IFA funding supports station installation, site coordination, website redevelopment, PET tools, and personnel.
 - Revenue is also generated through National Mesonet Program participation.
 - AgSEED funding provides \$10,000 annually (maybe).
 - Sensor Updates:
 - New stations will use 10-meter towers.
 - Cameras and upgraded modems are under testing.
 - Backup sensor inventory is being expanded.
 - Indiana Mesonet Atlas is being tested – a metadata platform for mesonet network identification.
 - **Action Item (Austin Pearson):** Add Garrett (IWBN) account to Mesonet Atlas to test.

8. Other New Business

- **8a Foreshadowing APIs**

- API Development:
 - Purdue Mesonet is developing a data API supported by IFA funding.
 - API will support a new user interface.
 - Garrett has established an internal dashboard using Microsoft Power BI at IWBNI. Austin is very interested in this and will follow up later.
 - **Action Item (Austin Pearson):** Share early mock-ups of the Indiana Mesonet dashboard with IMAB.
- **8b Non-Profit Status**
 - Body discussed the potential formation of a non-profit entity to support funding coordination.
 - Possible partnership with community foundations or outside entity to manage funds.
 - Ginger mentioned that we began this discussion from the creation of IMAB and wants to make sure that both networks are not competing for the same funds.
 - Topic tabled for next meeting.
 - **Action Item (Don Cummings):** Add non-profit discussion to June 2026 agenda.

9. Open Comment period

- **9a IN AWSOME**
 - IN AWSOME event received strong positive feedback.
 - Statehouse event had fewer attendees but high-quality discussions.
 - Future outreach may focus on targeted invitations to leadership groups.
 - Workshop proposed every two years; Statehouse event annually. Especially as next year is a budget cycle.
- **9b ISDA**
 - The ISDA clean water funding proposal did not pass, but alternative strategies are being explored.
 - Clean Water Indiana tour may include mesonet stations. Breegan will let Beth and Garrett know.
 - State Fair 'Pathway to Water Quality' exhibit opportunity discussed by Sam Stroebel. Mesonets may be interested in this outreach opportunity.
- **9c IDHS**
 - Beth Carpenter mentioned that Allison Curry has resigned from her position and will no longer be affiliated with the Body.
- **9d IWBNI**
 - Ginger Davis expressed her appreciation for everyone helping move the Indiana Mesonet forward through the IMAB. The group also conveyed appreciation for Ginger's involvement in the process.

10. Chair's Comments

- **Speaking opportunity** – Don is looking for someone to speak on climate change in Indiana.
 - **Update:** a volunteer speaker has stepped forward since the meeting. But Don would still be interested in anyone else who might want to do a climate talk from a slightly different angle. This is a medium to long-term request.
 - **Action Item (Everyone):** Send recommendations, if you have them, for presenters in the climate realm via the IMAB listserv.

11. Reconfirm next meeting time and place before adjournment

- Wednesday, June 3, 2026, MADE@Plainfield, Room 142
- December meeting will need to be at a different facility, likely Endress + Hauser in Johnson County. Don is awaiting confirmation details.

12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Austin Pearson (Secretary)

Minutes Approved by: IMAB on June 3, 2026

Signed by:
Don Cummings
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Don Cummings (Chair)

Date: 6/10/2026

DocuSigned by:
Austin M Pearson
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Austin Pearson (Secretary)

Date: 6/10/2026

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In Person Signer Events

Signature

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Editor Delivery Events

Status

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Agent Delivery Events

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Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Certified Delivery Events

Status

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Carbon Copy Events

Status

Timestamp

Witness Events

Signature

Timestamp

Notary Events

Signature

Timestamp

Envelope Summary Events

Status

Timestamps

Envelope Sent
 Hashed/Encrypted
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	6/10/2026 3:21:16 PM
Completed	Security Checked	6/10/2026 3:21:16 PM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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