



association of illinois  
**SOIL &  
WATER**  
conservation districts

4285 north walnut street road  
springfield, il 62707  
(217) 744-3414  
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[www.aiswcd.org](http://www.aiswcd.org)

## COMMUNICATION UPDATE:

### officers

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#### *Vice President*

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#### *Secretary*

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### staff

*Executive Director*  
RICHARD NICHOLS

*Administrative Assistant*  
SHERRY FINN

*Program Coordinator*  
**Kelly Thompson**

### mission

*"to represent and empower  
illinois' swcds"*

The AISWCD June Quarterly Board Meeting was held Monday & Tuesday, June 11 & 12, 2012 at the Northfield Inn Conference Center with 10 LUC representatives, 3 Officers, 4 Area Vice Presidents, 2 ISWCDEA Co-Chairs, the Auxiliary President and 3 AISWCD staff present.

### ITEMS:

#### **Partner Reports:**

**Steve Chard** gave the report for IDOA and stated they have a new employee, Deanna Clark, and she will start her new duties on July 16, 2012 and she is a farm girl; CPP guidelines will be ready relatively soon; FY 2013 State Budget Funds are down-2.485 Million in Operations and 4.5 Million for Cost-Share

**Ivan Dozier** reported for NRCS and noted this is the third State Conservationist we have spoken with since March QB meeting; he also talked about Equip, 60-40 Regulatory, Livestock apps, conservation stewardship programs, payment schedules set up by top 15 common practices, contribution agreements that were limited to CRP funds, no new watersheds applied for from Illinois, and the Field Office of the Future has held their last series of meetings.

**FSA** sent a written report about the general CRP sign up and evaluations stating more than 47,900 CRP offers were received on approximately 4.5 million acres nationwide during the March 12 through April 13 signup; 3.9 million acres were considered acceptable (86%). In Illinois, 2,547 offers were submitted for 58,041 acres; 2,276 offers have been accepted totaling 52,190 acres (90%). About 30 million acres are currently enrolled in CRP nationwide and contracts on an estimated 6.5 million acres will expire on Sept. 30, 2012. CRP has a 25-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation.

**IEPA & IDNR** did not submit written reports or have someone present to report.

**ISWCDEA: Debi Slade & Dean Johnson** spoke on behalf of the ISWCDEA. Debi reported on the sessions, booth, and raffle for the 2012 AISWCD Annual Meeting; Dean spoke about keeping constant communication lines open with your employees, look for other funding options in your area, work with the Association such as efforts for Legislative Day.

Rich Nichols congratulated them on their turnout of employees at the 2012 Legislative Day.

**SWCD Insurance: Debbie Holsapple** about the insurance plan and changes and noted more employees were insured with Health Alliance and there are 153 employees on Ins.



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**NCDEA: Cindy Moon** did not have anything to report.

**NACD North Central Region: Jerry Snodgrass** reported for the NACD North Central Region and reported that the Farm Bill had been introduced to the Senate with 90 plus amendments; North Central Region and the Midwest felt need for concern over compliances; and Jerry noted the NACD Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. and the tour of the White House.

**NACD Delegate: Jim Todd** reported he and Lonnie Wilson would be in attendance at the NACD Legislative Conference.

## Committee Reports:

**Executive Committee: James Todd** reported and noted there were no action items to report other than the voting on the Resolutions and By-Laws change since everything including those items would be discussed and voted on at today's Board Meeting.

**Forestry Committee: David McCormick** reported it has been a very dry year; talk about firewood certification; support of "use of funds".

**AISWCD Auxiliary: Marie Bunting** reported and thanked everyone for their participation in voting for the poster and photo contest entries (winners are listed at the end); preparations are under way for the Annual Meeting which include a raffle, country store and silent auction; they will again be hosting the Farm Family reception and have refreshments; they will also be hosting the Recognition Luncheon and the Soil Stewardship Luncheon which will have a motivational speaker.

**Mississippi and Il River Coordinating Councils: Lee Bunting and Rich Nichols** reported. Lee noted the IL River Council will be having a meeting at Shed's Aquarium in Chicago on 6/20/12 which he will be attending; they have not had a meeting since the March QBs; Rich Nichols stated there was a vacancy on the Mississippi Council since the resignation of Pam Peters from Adams County, and Rich asked if anyone was interested; he has not been in attendance for any meetings at this time.

**Nominations: Terry Davis** reported the slate of officers was selected by the LUC Representatives, of which there were 10 Reps present.

## Slate of Officers for FY 2013:

**President- Lonnie Wilson**-2 year term

**Vice President- Tom Beyers**-1 year term

**Secretary- Van Bitner**-1 year term

**Treasurer-Kenny Vosholler**- 1 year term

**The chairman cast a unanimous ballot for the above and asked three (3) times for the ballot; MCVV.** (There were no nominations from the floor.) Terry Davis noted that the Executive Committee had been in contact with current Treasurer, Phil Fossler, and he had declined to run for another term. The Board wishes Phil and his family all the best and for the Members to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.



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## Focus Area Committee Reports:

**Communications:** **Kenny Vosholler** reported the only action item they had to bring forward was to allow the IAAP to have a link on the AISWCD website. **Request was approved.** Kenny noted Debbie Holsapple had asked to report at the Board Meeting about the QuickBooks problem; Debbie reported the NRCS is not going to allow QB to be on their computers; they are checking into utilizing a corporate license for QB on line that everyone would have access to and could save. Motion made and passed to form a committee to provide a QB solution. Debbie Holsapple asked if Michael Spotts, an IT rep (a former IRS employee) could be a member of the committee.

**Education:** **Jerry Snodgrass** reported Renee Weitkamp had reported on the License Plates-1500 need to be ordered by 12/31/12 with a paid fee of \$25 and noted the information will be available at the Annual Meeting; discussion about the Envirothon FFA team participation and the problems-let the Envirothon Committee work out the kinks; recommend to keep Envirothon co-coordinators from Grundy County; reviewed and judged McKibben Scholarship applicants (10 applied).

**Financial:** **Phil Fossler absent; Terry Davis** reported that Sherry Finn had asked to change R. W. Troxell Insurance policies to have a renewal date of July 1 instead of Sept 1 so that an invoice could be prepared at the beginning of the State Fiscal Year for IDOA for all insurance premiums in hopes that the Comptroller would pay before end of the calendar year. Motion made and approved. Terry also noted that at the March QB meeting, the Board voted to add 3 line items to the FY 2013 Budget to include President travel expense, VP travel expense, and mileage to Board Members for the QB meetings; the Financial FAC recommended to also include 1 night stay for Board members for QB meetings and 2 nights stay for Board members traveling over 100 miles one way. Motion made and approved. The members were asked to look over the FY 2011 Audit Report and the FY 2011 Executive Summary of Audit Report submitted by Estes, Bridgewater & Ogden, CPAs. Mr. Davis noted the Auditor, Dick Ogden had been in attendance at the Executive Meeting and had met prior with the officers to report a clean audit based on the modified cash basis for both the AISWCD and Foundation. The financial FAC asked the board to approve the FY 2011 Audit as submitted. Motion made and approved. Mr. Davis then asked the members to approve submitting the Executive Summary for the Annual Meeting Voting Delegate Packet as requested by the Auditing firm; there was discussion, followed by a motion. Motion failed 9-7. The AISWCD will notify the Auditor to be in attendance at the Annual Meeting and full disclosure of the FY 2011 Independent Auditor's Report will be made available. The next item of business was to approve travel and expenses for Jim Todd and Lonnie Wilson to attend the NACD



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Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., July 13-17, 2012. The FY 2012 Budget had allowed for this event. Motion made and approved; followed by approval for Executive Director, Rich Nichols, to attend the Executive Director Conference in Maine on September 11 & 12, 2012, cost \$2500. Motion made and approved; approval to hire the IL Envirothon position for one year-Sept 1, 2012 through Aug 31, 2013 at \$635.00 per month plus mileage for the Winter Training and II Envirothon event. Motion made and approved; to approve the expenditure of \$2,000 for the State Envirothon winner. Motion made and approved; Amendment to previous motion, add "to include" an additional amount for the entry fee for the State Team. Motion made and approved; Discussion followed about the proposal from IDNR and IEPA for a 319 Grant to be administered by the AISWCD for 2 years for the hiring of 4-5 new employees (AISWCD) to be housed in Districts in the LUC areas for the CREP, Watersheds and other Programs-Grant amount \$791,100.00 (2 year). Motion made and passed; to give approval to the Executive Committee once the grant is approved to submit and seek applications for a part-time position at the AISWCD for Office Assistant. Motion made and approved; discussion followed about the gaming bill, state's budget, and how the Partnership with the IDOA and the funds would need to be discussed and handled; the officers are planning to meet with Director Flider. Mr. Davis then asked for approval for FY 2013 Board Meeting Dates-2 days in March, 2 days in June, 2 days in December with a one day meeting in September, if needed. These dates would be the second Monday and Tuesday of March, June, and December and the Second Tuesday in September. Motion made and passed.

**Legislative & Resolutions:** **Lonnie Wilson** reported the Legislative Committee had approved Bill Gradle for the "Friend of Conservation" and Lisa Dugan as the "Legislator of the Year"; Motion made and passed. Resolutions were then looked over and the vote as completed by the Legislative Committee was given and then the vote was taken for 4 Resolutions and 1 By-Law Change. The results for those are attached to this communication.

**Planning:** **Van Bitner** reported the 64<sup>th</sup> AISWCD Annual Meeting/Summer Conference details were right where they needed to be and all information had been provided to Districts.

**Urban Community & Conservation:** **Jerry Snodgrass** reported no action items were taken, but the Green Infrastructure Project at the State Fairgrounds was still improving; Kelly Thompson from AISWCD had given the committee an IUM update, and the Partners had reported at the FAC meeting.

**Executive Director Report:** **Rich Nichols** stated for everyone to see the handout.





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### Area V.P. Reports:

All four (4) area VPs did not have anything to report.

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### Old Business:

**Dues/Delinquent Dues Status:** Sherry Finn reported there were twenty-one (21) Districts "not in good standing" as of June 8, 2012 and all FY 2012 operating monies had been paid to Districts as of April 18, 2012. Handouts were given to members; Six (6) Districts that have not paid any FY 2012 Dues are Gallatin, Kankakee, Pike, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, and Scott; Two (2) Districts that have not paid the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of dues are Adams and Macon; Thirteen (13) Districts that have not paid the remainder of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter and all of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter dues are Boone, Bureau, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Henderson, Jefferson, Jersey, Piatt, Saline and Vermilion. The total dues outstanding for FY 2012 are \$16,468.44. Sherry Finn did note that she had picked up mail on Monday night and received Fayette County's remainder of FY 2012 dues so there were only twelve (12) for the remainder of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and all 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and only twenty (20) total Districts "not in good standing" as of 6-12-12.

### **AISWCD President Appointed Taskforce for SWCD Dues**

**Structure and District Funding Update:** Terry Davis reported there was no official recommendation at this time.

**OMA Update:** Lonnie Wilson reported they would proceed with training at the Annual Meeting and will finalize the procedure soon.

**FY 2012 EPA 319 Grant Updates:** Rich Nichols reported that he and Kelly Thompson had applied for another grant and would give details later when official word is received.

**Phase II Development:** Rich Nichols noted a new rain garden would be placed in the back and was being funded and work completed by US Fish and Wildlife; Eagle Scout to construct trails in the back and a possible foot bridge for which the scout and AISWCD are trying to secure funding, of which \$200 had been pledged.

**SWCD Prescribed Burn Update:** Rich Nichols reported it is now in the hands of the Insurance Agent, John Green; no one interested in administering and premium too high.

**AISWCD Building Bond and AISWCD 2006 Dodge Caravan:** Rich Nichols reported both had been paid off.

**AISWCD Phone System Update:** Rich Nichols noted the only bid we had received was for \$2500 and the cost to install and program was additional; phones are working okay at this time.

**FY 2013 State Budget:** Rich Nichols reported 2.485 million was allocated for operating funds (a decrease) and 4.5 million for cost-share (an increase). They would be trying to get additional funds.



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#### **New Business:**

All items under the new business had been covered under Committee reports (FAC) earlier in the meeting; motion made and passed to accept written reports and handouts in the meeting.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.**

#### **AISWCD Auxiliary Poster Winners:**

**K-1: Anna Woods-Stephenson County**  
**2-3: Gale Leonard III-Livingston County**  
**4-6: Breanna Price-Mason County**  
**7-9: Kamryn Fehr-Livingston County**  
**10-12: Samantha Scaccianoce-DeKalb County**

#### **AISWCD Auxiliary Photo Winners:**

**Youth-CUC: Morgan McCullough-McHenry/Lake**  
**Youth-CIA: Mary Kate Harrod-DeKalb County**  
**Youth-AG/CAA: Audrey Harrod-DeKalb County**  
**Adult-CP: Debi Slade-Ford County**  
**Adult-CUC: Debi Slade-Ford County**  
**Adult-CIA: Debi Slade-Ford County**  
**Adult-AG/CAA: Jane Donoho-Champaign County**

#### **George McKibben Memorial Scholarship Winner:**

**Edward Ehrhardt from Emington, IL-Livingston Co**

**Resolutions & By-Law Change Submissions will be e-mailed tomorrow.**