

**AISWCD Board meeting
June Quarterly Board
June 12, 2012
Northfield Inn & Suites
8:15 am**

Present

James Todd, President, NACD Delegate
Lonnie Wilson, Vice President, NACD Alternate
Van Bitner, Secretary
Jerry Snodgrass, Area I VP
Darrell Roegge, Area II VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area III VP
Kenny Vosholler, Area IV VP
Don Kautz, Council 1
Terry Bogner, Council 2
Lee Bunting, Council 3
Randy Molitoris, Council 6 (Left Early)
David McCormick, Council 8
Daniel Doedtman, Council 10
Aaron Ferguson, Council 11
Don Beisiegel, Council 12
Tom Beyers, Council 13
Marie Bunting, President, AISWCD Auxiliary
Debra Slade, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Dean Johnson, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Sherry Finn, AISWCD
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD

Absent

Phil Fossler, AISWCD Treasurer
Dan Duval, Council 5
Joe Rothermel, Council 7
Mark Roth, Council 9
Tom Anderson, Council 14
Carlyn Light, Council 15
Gerard Fabrizio, Council 16

Call to Order

Jim Todd, AISWCD President called the meeting to order at 8:20 am.

Approve Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

Motion: A motion was made by Don Beisiegel, seconded by Dan Doedtman, and passed to approve the agenda.

Partner Reports

IDOA (Steve Chard) – Steve reported there was new employee at the Bureau by the name of Deanna Clark. She will begin work in the Bureau on July 16th. Deanna has been employed by Dept. for several years, but is new to the BLWR. Steve reported starting with Fiscal Year 2013 budget; district operations is now from Partners for Conservation Fund money and not General Revenue money. Right now, money in the budget for district operations is 2.485 million, and 4.5 million for cost-share. Steve reported he had no idea when the governor might sign the budget. Steve feels there is an advantage to the money coming from Partners for Conservation, in that it might not cause as much of a delay in receiving funds. The fiscal year 2013 cost-share guidelines should be released relatively soon.

NRCS (Ivan Dozier) – Ivan talked about Equip, the first sweep will be coming in July. Illinois is in pretty good shape. Also discussed was 60/40 Regulatory, Livestock Applications, contributions agreements, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Field Office of the Future (See attached report).

FSA – No one present at the meeting, but sent a written report (see attached)

IEPA & IDNR – Not present—no reports.

ISWCDEA – Debra Slade & Dean Johnson reported ISWCDEA is selling raffle tickets for a 50/50 drawing at Summer Conference. There will be a Field Office of the Future survey coming around, and Dean & Debra encouraged everyone to fill it out. ISWCDEA would like to continue efforts such as Legislative Day in conjunction with AISWCD. Co-chairs encouraged board of directors to make sure they are in constant contact with their district employees.

SWCD Insurance – Debbie Holsapple talked about the insurance plan and reported the group had stayed at a B+ rating this coming year, Debbie expects a decrease in costs overall, even though the premiums increased by 6.1%, due to increase in turnover and employees going from full-time to part-time and not being eligible for the insurance. Debbie gave a financial report using the May 2012 figures. There are 138 on the AC/RC insurance, with 169 employees on the life and long term disability. There are 3 participants in Cobra. There are 23 employees on the local care, which is more expensive. So far three employees have moved over to Quality Care. The deadline for changing is July 15th. There should be enough funding now to run through September of this year.

NCDEA – No report.

NACD & NACD North Central – (See attached report) Jerry Snodgrass discussed the Farm Bill. There are 90+ amendments. NACD took the middle of the road position on the Farm Bill. Jerry reported the North Central Region and the Northern Plains Region are concerned about compliance. The Legislative Conference will be held on July 14 – 17th. Jerry touched on a situation that has arisen in Wisconsin. To be elected on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board in Wisconsin you have to be elected through their County Board. Wisconsin has changed their bylaws to where employees and board members have voting rights, in other words, they are equal. Wisconsin would like to introduce a bylaw change into NACD's bylaws so their employees could have the same rights as board members. Jerry said this couldn't just be done for Wisconsin employees; it would be for all employees. Wisconsin is not pushing this right now, but eventually will probably want to introduce a bylaw change. Jerry doesn't think the idea would fly right now.

NACD North Central Delegate – Jim Todd ask for feedback on what the board feels their decision would be on the decision Wisconsin had been made. Terry Davis said he felt if that would happen in Illinois it would force employees to make decisions that would cause problems with their board of directors. As important as employees are, it is still up to those elected to make the decisions, and accept their responsibility. Lonnie Wilson said as a director elected to the board it is up to the directors to make decisions and set policy, and represent the customer. Lonnie feels the directors need employees input, but he thinks there would be more of an emotional response sometimes in setting policy if employees were voting that may not be in the customers best interest. That is why we have a separation now; the board is an extension of their customers. The employees represent the employees' needs. Lonnie does not think North Central should support any recommendation for a bylaw change. Tom Byers said if funds continue to go down, how easy is it going to be to entice directors to serve on a board? Terry Bogner commented legally Illinois would have to change the District Act to support something like this. Jim Todd reported he & Lonnie Wilson were planning on attending the NACD Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. They will be touring the White House, and the Chesapeake Bay area in addition to legislative visits.

Motion by Terry Davis, second by Terry Bogner to vote no at any North Central future discussion on the above subject. MCVV

Committee Reports:

Executive – Jim Todd reported everything would be covered in the committee reports. There will be a voting of resolutions and a by-law change later in the meeting.

Forestry – David McCormick reported the committee discussed dry conditions, firewood certification, and also the committee was in support of the Forest Harvest Tax Resolution.

AISWCD Auxiliary – Marie Bunting thanked everyone for helping judge the photo and poster awards on Monday. The Auxiliary will be set up for Summer Conference. The Auxiliary will host the Farm Family reception before the banquet at Summer Conference. They will be serving vegetable & fruit trays at the reception. They will have raffle items and a silent auction at Summer Conference. The Auxiliary will also be hosting the Soil Stewardship Luncheon.

Mississippi and IL River Coordinating Councils – Rich Nichols reported for the Mississippi Council, and Lee Bunting reported for the IL River Council. The IL River Council will be having a meeting at Shed's Aquarium in Chicago on June 20, 2012. Lee will be attending. Rich Nichols reported there is still a vacancy on the Mississippi Council since the resignation of Pam Peters from Adams County. Rich asked again at this meeting if there was anyone interested in being on the council; he has been unable to attend any meetings.

Nominations – There was a short break so that the Nominating Committee could meet. After reconvening, Terry Davis, Chairman, gave the nominating report. Ten representatives were present for the nominating committee and selected the following slate:

President – Lonnie Wilson – 2 yr term

Vice – President – Tom Byers – 1 yr term

Secretary – Van Bitner – 1 yr term

Treasurer – Kenny Vosholler – 1 yr term

The Chairman cast a unanimous ballot for the above slate, and asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. After no other nominations, the board cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers.

Communications – Kenny Vosholler reported. The committee voted to support IAAP having a link on AISWCD website.

Motion: Kenny Vosholler made a motion, seconded by Steve Stairwalt to allow IAAP to have a link on the AISWCD website. MCVV

Education – Jerry Snodgrass had a mockup of the proposed SWCD license plate design. There needs to be 1500 hundred orders by December 31, 2012 with a paid fee of \$25.00. Jerry explained the information would be available at Summer Conference. Steve Stairwalt commented he had a fact sheet on the plates for the Land Use Councils. Steve commented it would be good if AISWCD could get a corporate sponsorship like the Ag group did with Country Companies. The committee discussed problems with the FFA teams attending the Envirothon, and a decision was made by the Education Committee to let the Envirothon Committee work out the kinks. The Education recommended the AISWCD hire Grundy County to manage the Envirothon again for the coming year. The Education Committee judged the McKibbin Scholarship applications during their meeting.

Financial – Terry Davis reported for the Financial Committee. Sherry Finn would like to change the fiscal year dates on the R.W. Troxell insurance policies, so the renewal date would be July 1, instead of September 1. **A motion was made by Terry Davis, seconded by Van Bitner to approve asking**

R.W. Troxell to change the insurance policy year from September 1, to July 1. MCVV. Terry Davis explained that at the March Quarterly Board Meeting (See March board meeting minutes), a line item for the fiscal year 2013 budget was approved for AISWCD President's travel - \$2,500 per year, and AISWCD Vice President's travel - \$2,000 per year. In addition, it was approved to add mileage for board members to Quarterly Board meetings. **Motion by Terry Davis, second by Lee Bunting to approve mileage for board members and motel for Monday night when there was a two day board meeting, to include Sunday night travel for those traveling over 100 miles on a reimbursement basis. MCVV** Terry Davis explained the Executive Committee and Financial Committee had approved the Audit Report Summary, and recommended for only the report summary be put in the Summer Conference packets. **Motion to approve the Audit Report Summary was made by Terry Davis, seconded by Van Bitner. MCVV.** Tom Byers said he felt the auditor should be present at Summer Conference and give a full report, that AISWCD should be as transparent as possible. Terry Bogner agreed with Tom Byers. Rich Nichols said there would be a cost, but he could check into the auditor being there. **Motion by Lee Bunting, second by Darrell Roegge to include the Audit Summary only without the auditor being present in the Summer Conference packet. Roll call vote was then taken. Ayes - Jim Todd, Lonnie Wilson, Van Bitner, Jerry Snodgrass, Darrell Roegge, Steve Stairwalt, Dan Doedtman. Nays - Kenny Vosholler, Don Kautz, Terry Bogner, Lee Bunting, Terry Davis, Dave McCormick, Aaron Ferguson, Don Beisiegel, Tom Byers. Motion did not carry by a vote of 9-7.**

Legislative Conference - There is money left in this year's budget to send two people to the NACD Legislative Conference in Washington DC. Registration is \$550, with the room at \$214 per night. Lonnie Wilson and Jim Todd would like to attend and have agreed to share a room. **Motion made by Terry Davis, seconded by Aaron Ferguson to approve travel for Jim Todd and Lonnie Wilson to attend the Legislative Conference in Washington DC. MCVV.**

Executive Director Conference - Rich Nichols would like to attend the Executive Director two day conference to be held in Maine in September. There is not money in the budget, but there is administrative money from administrative fee available. **Motion by Terry Davis, second by Lee Bunting to allow up to \$2500 for Rich Nichols to attend Executive Director Conference. Motion carried with one no vote being cast by Dave Doedtman.**

Envirothon Co-coordinators - Rehiring of Envirothon Coordinators from Grundy County SWCD was discussed. The Education Committee and the Financial Committee both voted to recommend hiring the two employees from Grundy County for Sept 1, 2012 - August 31, 2012. **Motion by Terry Davis, second by Lee Bunting to rehire Grundy County RC and AC to act as Envirothon Co-coordinators for the period covering Sept 1 - Aug 31, 2012 at the same monthly rate with additional mileage for attending Winter Training, and the State Envirothon. MCVV.**

State Envirothon Team - In the past, and in the budget is \$2000 for the winning Envirothon Team for airfare to attend the National Envirothon. This year's team wants to take a van and drive to the Envirothon. It was the consensus of the Finance Committee to give the team the \$2000 for gas, hotel, etc. Sherry Finn said the AISWCD also paid for the entry fee for the winning team, and she wasn't sure how much that is yet. **Motion by Terry Davis, second by Terry Bogner to allow up to \$2000 for the winning team with entry fee. MCVV. The motion was then amended to include the amount of the entry fee for the State team by Terry Davis, second by Terry Bogner. MCVV.**

319 Grant with DNR/IEPA - A discussion was held on a proposal from IDNR and IEPA for a 319 Grant to be administered by AISWCD. The total grant amount is \$791,000 to be administered over a 2 year time period. Terry Davis explained the Finance Committee had approved acceptance of the grant for AISWCD to hire 4-6 employees to be housed in district offices, by LUC areas for CREP, and priority

watershed planning, mostly in the Kaskaskia River Basin. After lengthy discussion, including security issues, liability, etc. Terry Davis clarified it would be an AISWCD/DNR employee, and no day to day management by the district. **Terry Davis made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant for \$791,000 to be administered by AISWCD to hire 4-6 employees and add them to AISWCD staff. The motion was seconded by Kenny Vosholler. MCVV.** Terry Davis then asked for approval of expenditure to hire a part-time office assistant to work at the AISWCD office, since Sherry Finn would spend a good amount of time administering the grant. **Motion from Lee Bunting to table until the September board meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Stairwalt. Steve Stairwalt rescinded the second and asked the subject be opened back up for discussion.** After discussion, **Jerry Snodgrass made a motion to give Executive Board approval to make the decision whether to hire part-time office assistant for the AISWCD office, and report back at the next board meeting. Don Kautz seconded the motion. Motion carried with Lee Bunting casting a no vote.** Terry Davis then discussed the gaming bill, and what it would mean to districts if it went through, how funds might be disbursed and handled, and how dues will be handled. The AISWCD officers are planning to meet with Director Fidler. Board meeting dates for the coming year were discussed. Proposed dates were the second Monday and Tuesday in December, March, and June, and the second Tuesday in September, which would probably be a conference call. **Terry Davis made a motion to approve the dates, seconded by Aaron Ferguson. MCVV.**

Legislative – Lonnie Wilson reported. All Bills were discussed in committee, Lonnie went over those briefly. Bill Gradle has been selected for the "Friend of Conservation" Award and Lisa Dugan as the "Legislator of the Year." **Motion by Lonnie Wilson, second by Terry Davis to approve Bill Gradle & Lisa Dugan for the awards. MCVV.** The board went over resolutions and possible bylaw change. Votes were as follows:

2012-1 –Recommended by Executive and Legislative Committee. **Motion to pass made by Lonnie Wilson, seconded by Jerry Snodgrass. MCVV.**

2012-2 – Recommended by Executive Committee and Legislative Committee. **Motion to pass by Lonnie Wilson, seconded by Jerry Snodgrass. MCVV.**

2012-3 (Amended) – Discussed with LUC 13 representative, and was accepted as a friendly change. Executive Committee took no action (met before change), Legislative Committee recommended with amendment. **Motion by Lonnie Wilson, second by Kenny Vosholler. MCVV.**

2012-4 (Amended) – Discussed with LUC 13 representative, and was accepted as a friendly change. Executive Committee took no action (met before change), Legislative Committee recommended with amendment. **Motion to pass as amended by Lonnie Wilson, second by Dan Doedtmann. MCVV.**

2012-5 – Executive Committee took no position as written. This resolution would require a bylaw change, moved to proposed bylaw amendment. Discussed with LUC 3 Chairman in changing to a bylaw, and he was agreeable.

Amendment 2012-1 – Bylaw change was opposed by Executive Committee, recommendation by Legislative Committee was a do not pass. Discussion was held. Lonnie Wilson called for a vote. **Roll call vote was taken: Do pass – Lee Bunting, Tom Byers. Do not pass – Jim Todd, Lonnie Wilson, Van Bitner, Jerry Snodgrass, Darrell Roegge, Steve Stairwalt, Kenny Vosholler, Don Kautz, Terry Bogner, Terry Davis, Dave McCormick, Dan Doedtmann, Aaron Ferguson, and Don Beisiegel.**

Lonnie Wilson said he hoped the discussion for the bylaw change can be done at the Director's Forum.

Lonnie thanked those who attended Legislative Day, and also thanked the Employee Association for having such a good turnout. Lonnie would hope the discussion for the bylaw change can be done at the Director's Forum.

Planning – Van Bitner reported. There were no action items. Van reported Summer Conference plans were moving along as expected. They are going to try to bring in laptop computers for Open Meetings Act training.

Urban Community & Conservation – Jerry Snodgrass reported. The Green Infrastructure Program that Jim Nelson started, he is still working on it at the State Fairgrounds. Kelly Thompson, AISWCD, gave the committee an IUM update. Reports were given by different partners. There were no action items.

Executive Director's Report – Written report submitted, nothing added. (See attached report).

Area VP Reports:

Area 1 – No Report

Area 2 – No Report

Area 3 – No Report

Area 4 – No Report

Approve Minutes – Motion to approve March Quarterly Board Minutes and also the Financial Reports made by Darrell Roegge, seconded by Terry Davis. MCVV.

Old Business

SWCD Dues Update – Sherry Finn gave an update as of June 8 – Six districts that have not paid any FY 2012 dues are Gallatin, Kankakee, Pike, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, and Scott. Two districts have not the 2nd half of the dues – Adams and Mason. Thirteen districts have not paid the remainder of 3rd quarter dues and all of 4th quarter dues – Boone, Bureau, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Henderson, Jefferson, Jersey, Piatt, Saline, and Vermilion. Sherry did note that when she went to the office the night before to make changes in resolutions, she picked up the mail and did receive the remainder of Fayette County's dues, leaving only twelve counties that have not paid the remainder of 3rd quarter and all of 4th quarter dues. Total outstanding dues as of June 8, 2012 were \$16, 468.44.

Taskforce for SWCD Dues Structure – Terry Davis reported the task force has not met, and does not have any recommendations at this time.

Taskforce for District Funding Update – Terry Davis reported there was no report.

OMA Update – Lonnie Wilson reported the Bill did not pass legislature. Training will proceed at Summer Conference (see planning committee minutes).

FY 2012 EPA 319 Grant Updates – Rich reported Kelly and he are working on another grant for \$40,000, which is basically a capacity building grant. If and when that happens he would like to see the board discuss moving any part-time help to full-time. He will keep the board updated.

Phase II Development – Rich reported he had been contacted by an Eagle Scout interested in building some trails and building a foot bridge across the ravine. He is looking for funding for Foot Bridge. Two hundred dollars has been pledged. Rich looks for the project to be complete by late summer or early fall. Rich also said he had been contacted about a future rain garden and demonstration site by US Fish and Wildlife. The rain garden has been laid out behind the building and US Fish & Wildlife is looking for a construction date within the next six weeks.

SWCD Prescribed Burn Update – Rich Nichols reported that at the March Board meeting it was decided the AISWCD would not pursue this. He has contacted a couple of the districts who were interested in the burn insurance and put them in contact with the insurance agent, John Green. He has

not followed up, and is not sure where it is at right now. There are some burn groups in Southern Illinois that might be interested in administering the insurance for the districts interested.

AISWCD Building Bond and AISWCD Dodge Caravan – Rich Nichols reported the AISWCD now owns the building free and clear, the bond is paid off. Paperwork has been filed. The last payment was made on the Dodge Caravan in April. It has approximately 81,000 miles on it. Rich thinks we can probably get another year and a half, maybe two out of it before the Association needs to think about getting something else.

Phone System - Rich Nichols reported they had looked into some bids regarding the phone system. The only bid that has been received was for \$2500. The cost to install was additional expense. Rich noted the phones are working, not well but they are working. Conference phone is dead, Rich thinks it was struck by lightning and has not been replaced.

FY 2013 State Budget – Rich Nichols reported 2.485 million was allocated for operating funds and 4.5 million for cost-share funds. Rich is trying to schedule a meeting with Director Fidler, to see if they can get more funds moved to operations.

New Business

Covered under committee reports earlier in the meeting.

Written Reports – Motion by Terry Davis, second by Jerry Snodgrass to accept written reports. MCVV.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Minutes taken & transcribed by:

Cindy Moon