

**Executive Committee Meeting
September 4, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.
IL Department of AG Building-Conference Room1**

Present

Lonnie Wilson, President, NACD Delegate
Tom Beyers, Vice President, NACD Alt. Delegate
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area I VP
David McCormick, Area II VP
Lloyd Wax, Area III VP Alternate for Steve Stierwalt
Carlyn Light, Area IV VP
James Todd, Past President
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Sherry Finn, AISWCD
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD

Absent

Marie Bunting, AISWCD Auxiliary
Debi Slade, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Dean Johnson, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair
Mike Hoffman, Lobbyist

Call to order:

President Lonnie Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Roll Call:

Sherry Finn took roll call and 7 Executive Board Members were present and 2 were absent; Jerry Snodgrass and Van Bitner arrived late-all members were present. 3 AISWCD staff members were present.

Agenda Approval:

No additions or changes were made to the agenda; **Tom Beyers made the motion to accept the agenda and Kenny Vosholler seconded the motion; MCVV.**

Old Business:

319-Partner for Conservation Grant Update (#3191202)-Rich Nichols reported the new 319 CREP Resource Conservationists Grant (Partners for Conservation-IDNR has match funds) has been completed and signed by both the IEPA and AISWCD, and Rich noted the applications for the positions had been posted (8-15-12) and the AISWCD has received 52 apps so far, of which 18-20 have qualifications that would merit an interview. Districts have been notified that were asked to house the new employees, which include Brown, Cass, McDonough, Piatt, DeWitt, and Peoria Counties. Knox County was asked but refused. Eric Golden, the trainer assigned by IDNR, is on board and will be moving forward when the hiring process is finished and new employees are assigned to Districts. There were questions about the Kaskaskia River Basin and Rich Nichols notified the committee that additional funds had been garnered and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center had been asked to monitor the CREP Resource Conservationists in that basin. Sherry Finn reported on the contract dollars; \$791,100.00 for a two year grant from 8/13/12 to 10/31/14. The administration fee for the two years is \$68,500.00. The salary for each CREP Resource Specialist will be based on education, experience and knowledge. The benefits will be an additional amount and this will all be covered by the grant.

Rich Nichols reported the AISWCD had been offered an opportunity to serve as an intermediary for the Rural Landscape Conference in November 2012. IEPA and the U of I couldn't get their legal staff to move fast enough to approve an agreement so IEPA asked the AISWCD to enter into an agreement with U of I and one with IEPA to pay for the conference and accept reimbursement from IEPA. The AISWCD cost would be somewhere around \$5,000 to \$7,000 (if that much) which we can easily cover until we are reimbursed. In return the AISWCD would receive \$1,500.00 for administrative costs for writing several checks. Rich had agreed to this contract agreement; paperwork has not been completed with the hotel for the conference nor with IEPA for this contract yet.

AISWCD Part-time Hire Update-Rich Nichols reported the employment announcement was posted on August 21, 2012 (with Help Wanted Springfield.com and il.all listing) and the deadline date is September 15, 2012; 24 applications have been received of which 6 or 7 would merit an interview. Discussion followed about the amount of the 319 grant to cover the cost of part-time and the amount left over; Rich noted approximately \$10-12 thousand.

Internet/Phone System Update-Rich Nichols reported he had received two different bids from Comcast; both are for phone and internet service. The first would provide new phones and unlimited long distance. The cost would be a flat rate of \$381.35 per month plus \$160.80 for installation. This was a one-time offer and the offer expired on 8/21/12; but was not agreeable with Rich. The second bid would cost only \$181.95 per month using our existing phone lines but installation would cost \$4,300. The second bid was way too high for installation. There is not an option for cellular phones at this time due to the poor quality of available bars and connection in the current area of the office. Discussion suggested Hughes Net but data has limitations and their system is slower than cable. Lonnie Wilson, President, asked Rich Nichols to follow up on the system and see what other option are available. Rich noted there were 2 dead lines in the office that will need to be repaired.

Variance Procedure-Lonnie Wilson reported on the Procedure for Dues Deadline Variance for the IL Envirothon which would be added to the By-Laws as per agreed and vote passed on at the July 2012 AISWCD Annual Meeting. Lonnie asked if everyone had looked the Variance over; if there were questions. It was suggested to add the word "financial" before the word documentation on line 3.2. It was also suggested to send this updated Variance to Districts via e-mail (il.all listing), mailed to District Chairmen, and posted to the AISWCD Website. Also, there was the suggestion to do a DOT Point Highlight of today's meeting and post and send that also. **Jerry Snodgrass motioned to accept the amended Procedure for Dues Deadline Variance and Loyd Wax seconded; MCVV.**

****Note:** Lonnie Wilson reported about the OMA and asked for an affirmation of the teleconference call on August 17, 2012. **David McCormick motioned to affirm the August 17, 2012 teleconference call and Tom Beyers seconded; MCVV.** Lonnie Wilson asked if there was mention in the By-Laws about electronic meetings and it was confirmed in the By-Laws (Article 5-Section 1A)

New Business:

Area I VP Alternate Replacement-Jerry Snodgrass and Lonnie Wilson will report after their LUC meeting tonight (9-4-12) and let the committee know if they have a candidate to replace Tim Keller as Area I VP Alternate.

Plan of Work-Lonnie Wilson reported he would like to have an AISWCD Plan of Work and an Executive Committee Plan of Work. Lonnie will work on members. Lonnie noted the vetoing of the Gaming Bill by the Governor has been getting mixed reports and hard to gauge if it will be overturned; has to go to the Senate first.

New Money/Revenue Stream Ideas-Lonnie Wilson reported the Executive Committee and the AISWCD Board will need to have a list of ideas on how to build revenue stream to present to the Legislation before the spring session. Lonnie asked for suggestions. Jim Todd and Rich Nichols noted that during Jim's term as president they had submitted at least 15 proposals that went to key legislators and the Governor's aide. Lonnie Wilson feels there could be an option of bundling a bill with other Partners to get revenue that is not related to a tax that goes directly to the consumer, for example: a usage fee, check off fee, garbage fee, etc. Several suggestions were made and Lonnie asked for all the committee to think about this and come up with suggestions and report to Rich or to him. It was asked what our lobbyist does for his fee-Lonnie did note that when visiting the capitol because of our lobbyist, Mike Hoffman, there are more legislators that are aware of the SWCDs and what they provide to the State. Rich Nichols noted Mike had been very instrumental in obtaining the 4 million dollars in Partners in Conservation funds and also several million in these same funds in previous years; Mike is also the one along with the AISWDD that pressures the Comptroller to release the SWCD funds.

Legislative Partnerships-Lonnie Wilson reported the prevailing wage was a prime example of needing legislative partnerships; we need a large voice, somehow be able to address the Attorney General. Lonnie suggested putting out a letter to Partners such as ILICA, the Electric Coops, the MidWest Truckers Association, the Mayors Association, the Municipal League, and Township Official Groups to find out who would like to take the lead and what questions need to be answered and how to fight the unions. Common sense parameters needed in determining the prevailing wage. We need to put a coalition together-we need a larger voice. How many supporters are Union??? There is strength in numbers.

Certainty Program and Credits-This is a program that currently is being developed in Minnesota by NRCS, USEAP and Minnesota SWCDs. Similar programs exist in Michigan and Louisiana. The program is designed to reward "good actors" for controlling erosion, reducing nutrients, and implementing other conservation measures. Lonnie Wilson reported the IEPA wants SWCDs to be active in Nutrient Management; there is a possibility for grant \$\$ and cash flow on the backside for Districts. There needs to be suggestions for participation-for example: make things cheaper or go to the front of the line for permits. We would have to ask the EPA for grant funds to start the program. Lonnie reported Rich Nichols is going to the Executive Directors National Meeting in Maine next week and should be able to bring back additional information on this program so the AISWCD Board could have more discussion on this issue.

EPA-IUM Grants-Kelly Thompson reported the IUM Grant is ongoing until February 2014; Post Development Standards Work Group is ongoing until March 2013 and they have a public meeting scheduled for October 18 in Springfield and October 23 in Aurora; a new CBS Grant has been applied for again (last time was 2011). The new grant has revamped wording and modified assistance amount requested (\$465,548-60%-EPA-\$279,328.80; 40%-CBS match-\$186,219.20). This grant would include CBS Channel 2 in Chicago, IL and would develop 15 second and 30 second vignettes which highlight local BMPs; the overall message of the TV slots is to promote water quality. The final decision for the grant would be in April 2013 and funds would be available in the fall of 2013. The AISWCD was notified in early August that money is still available for the IL Green Infrastructure grant and the deadline to apply is December 15, 2012. The AISWCD is going to apply with the idea of creating a small project that will act as a cost-share program for the implementation of BMPs in and around the Lake Springfield Watershed with the possibility of partners to be included such as Sangamon County SWCD, Village of Chatham, and Lake Springfield Watershed Planning Group. Sherry Finn reported the current IGIG grant has been extended to July 15, 2013 and additional funds added which includes additional money for the Administrative Costs from \$3,200 to \$4,800. Kelly Thompson then reported on Website re-design and development bid from Julie West out of Altoona, Iowa. The bid is based on the AISWCD being a non-profit organization and was \$1700 for website

development, including all subpages and flowing in content, imagery, etc and additional development, updates, and training.

EPA-IUM Grants-(continued) The IUM information is on the AISWCD website and Kelly noted that the grant specifically states it will cover website coverage and updates. Kelly and Sherry think part of the cost could be absorbed by the grant. Several committee members suggested that the AISWCD obtain at least three (3) and up to five (5) additional quotes from area website firms so that if training is needed, someone would be close and could come to the office. Kelly Thompson and Sherry Finn will look into the website development further and present additional quotes at the December QB meeting.

****NOTE:** Lonnie Wilson reported a letter had gone out to il.all about drought stricken areas and to get more feedback. Sherry Finn reported on QuickBooks workgroup information for the Swizznet and possibility of interested Districts.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Tom Beyers and was seconded by Kenny Vosholler; MCVV.
Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by:

Sherry Finn, AISWCD Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Signature

Date