

**Legislative Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
June 12, 2012**

Members/Advisors Present:

Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Sue Davis
Aaron Ferguson
Mike Hoffman
Ken Kesler
Terry Bogner
Kenny Vosholler
Lonnie Wilson, Chairperson
Dean Johnson
Debi Slade
Tom Beyers
Rich Nichols
Jim Todd

Members/Advisors Absent:

Tessa Chadwick, NRCS
Steve Chard, IDOA
Terry Davis
Carlyn Light
Mark Roth
Joe Rothermel

Chairman Lonnie Wilson called the meeting to order

Approval of Agenda –A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Kenny Vosholler to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenny Vosholler and seconded by Terry Bogner to approve the March 13, 2012 minutes as presented, motion carried.

Legislative Update- Mike Hoffmann stated that the Budget is the main thing to discuss right now. He stated all grants were cut by 10% and that included IDOA's budget also. We received \$700,000 less than last year, he hopes this will be reconsidered in the Fall and Representative Frank Mautino will work with Mike on this. Senate Bill 2409 is the budget bill that everyone can look at. Senate Bill 2409 is the Gaming Bill which would include 12.5 million for SWCD's and 30 million for other entities. The Governor has not signed this bill. This Bill should go to the Governor by May 31st and becomes law if he does not sign in 60 days. Mike recommended that each District and their Power of 10 and Directors send letters to the Governor urging him to sign this bill and send a copy to Ryan Croke and to Gary Hannig, the Governor's Legislative Director. Mike stated the HB5539 passed which has to do with Fertilizer and Blends. A percentage of this can be used for educational purposes and there will be an Advisory Committee formed. The Prevailing Wage legislation did not pass and changing the Open Meetings Act did not either, to change training for Directors. A motion was made by Terry Bogner and seconded by Tom Beyers to nominate Rep. Lisa Dugan as Legislator of the Year for the AISWCD, motion carried. Friend of

Conservation for this year will be retired, NRCS State Conservationist Bill Gradle.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Goals Update- Legislative Focus Area Committee has put into action all goals.

Legislative Action Group Update- No feedback has been received from any LUC representatives.

Legislative Day Update- Lonnie Wilson stated how disappointed he was at the lack of Directors attending the Legislative Day, there were only two. Holding Legislative Day was something that was in the form of a resolution last year is why it was planned for this year, it is hoped to have many more attend next year.

Feral Hog Resolution- Tom Beyers discussed this Resolution that was submitted by LUC 13. There is a population of feral hogs that have been imported into Illinois and it is felt there is a potential for this population to increase dramatically. The resolution wants to form an organized approach to seek out and eradicate this threat in the early stages to save commodity crops, timber woodlands, pastures, wildlife, and livestock from these feral hogs. Tom stated that IDNR is aware of this problem and is working on it. Mike Hoffmann stated that IDOA is working on this also.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2012 AISWCD Annual Meeting Resolutions –

- **2012-1 Save Centralia Animal Laboratory Resolution-** This has been saved this year in the State Budget. Motion by Aaron Ferguson, and seconded by Terry Bogner to approve, motion carried. This also passed the Executive Committee.
- **2012-2 Feral Hog Resolution-** This Resolution was discussed earlier in the meeting. Motion was made by Kenny Vosholler and seconded by Tom Beyers to approve, motion carried. This also passed the Executive Committee
- **2012-3 Forest Harvest Tax Resolution-** This is to have the Timber Stand Improvement cost share be used for what it was intended to be used for. A motion was made by Terry Bogner and seconded by Aaron Ferguson to approve, motion carried. The Executive Committee took no position on this resolution.
- **2012-4 Illinois Invasive Plant Species List Resolution-** A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Aaron Ferguson to approve, motion carried.

- *2012-5 Envirothon Participation Resolution*- This Resolution got changed to a By-Law Amendment.
- *AISWCD By-Laws Amendment 2012-1*- This is a By-Law Amendment to have an Envirothon Waiver for SWCD's Not in Good Standing to be able to participate in the Illinois State Envirothon competition, for a period of time of three years not to extend beyond July 31, 2015. This was not approved by the AISWCD Board. A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Kenny Vosholler to not pass this By-Law Amendment but to forward on tomorrow, June 12, 2012 to the full AISWCD Board, motion carried.

NACD Legislative Conference-Washington DC- Lonnie Wilson and Jim Todd will be attending this Legislative Conference.

A motion was made by Tom Beyers and seconded by Aaron Ferguson to adjourn, motion carried.

Submitted by: Sue M. Davis
AC, Christian County SWCD