

**AISWCD Board meeting
March Quarterly Board
March 13, 2012
Northfield Inn & Suites
1:00 pm**

Present

James Todd, President, NACD Delegate
Lonnie Wilson, Vice-President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Phil Fossler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area I VP
Darrell Roegge, Area II VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area III VP
Kenny Vosholler, Area IV VP
Barb Klinger, Council 1
Lee Bunting, Council 3
Terry Davis, Council 4
Dan Duval, Council 5
Randy Molitoris, Council 6
Daniel Doedtman, Council 10
Aaron Ferguson, Council 11
Don Beisiegel, Council 12
Tom Beyers, Council 13
Carlyn Light, Council 15

Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President|
Debra Slade, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Dean Johnson, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Sherry Finn, AISWCD

Absent

Terry Bogner, Council 2
David McCormick, Council 8
Terry Monke, Council 9
Mike Hoffman, AISWCD Legislative Liaison

President James Todd 1:12 pm.

President Todd opened the meeting by introducing a new AISWCD employee, Kelly Thompson, who will be replacing the position of Jim Nelson.

Roll call was conducted by Secretary Van Bitner.

Approve Agenda

The agenda was reviewed with an addition of "Phones" under New Business.

Motion: A motion was made by Terry Davis, seconded by Tom Beyers, and passed to approve the agenda.

Partner Reports

IDOA – Steve Chard reported there are no new updates on the remainder of third quarter operations allocation. They are communicating with the Office of Management and Budget. He reminded directors that quarterly reports need to be sent in on a regular basis reporting operating funds spent. Tillage Seminars were held in January with good turnout. The budget went from 2.785 million in fiscal year 2012 to 2.485 million for fiscal year 2013.

NRCS – Jeff Zimprich, Acting State Conservationist, gave his report. Jeff talked about “Field Office of the Future” information. In order to meet the goal of a comprehensive plan, Illinois Conservation Partners will meet soon to work toward the development of a realistic strategy that incorporates the skills and abilities of the entire partnership and that takes us where we need to go. A letter will be coming out soon from the AISWCD Board. \$700,000 in Contribution Agreements has been submitted from districts. An announcement should be made in the next couple of weeks on a permanent State Conservationist.

FSA – No Report.

EPA – Dick Breckenridge reported IEPA has a new Interim Director, John Kim, and a new regulatory issue: The MPA Permit Program. With the new Pesticide Permit Program, a person will be automatically certified if they do the process on line. After one year, a Management Plan will have to be submitted. Dick will get information to Sherry Finn to put on the website.

DNR – No Report.

ISWCDEA – Debi Slade reported on the Legislative Day preparation that ISWCDEA has been working on. She went through the packet they have prepared for legislators, and showed the board the green ribbons they are planning on passing out. Dean Johnson reported that as a partner in the Illinois Conservation Partnership, the ISWCDEA would very much like to take an active part in the development of strategy for the “Field Office of the Future.”

NCDEA – Cindy Moon reported on the new NCDEA board and officers for the coming year. NCDEA will continue to be a part of the National Quarterly Partnership meetings with NRCS, NASCA, NACD, and NRC&D. A Strategic Plan was completed for NCDEA at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas the end of January.

NACD – Lonnie Wilson reported that he had attended the NACD North Central meeting in Chicago in early January, and had sent out the resolutions that were brought forward, how he had voted on them and why. He also touched briefly on the NACD Annual Meeting he attended in Las Vegas. Jerry Snodgrass reported the NACD Annual Meeting was very good. Many new resolutions from all over the country dealing with many topics. A Task Force is being formed to look at degradation of landscape caused by new technology in energy applications. The 2013 Annual Meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas. The Senate is holding hearings on the Farm Bill now. There may be a mark up by mid May and a vote on the new bill by the end of May. There will be a Farm Bill hearing at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg on March 23, at 9:00 am. All SWCD directors are invited to attend. Jerry is planning on speaking on behalf of NACD and their Farm Bill Principles. This will be one of four hearings throughout the country. Others will be held in NY, Arkansas, and Kansas. There will be a Legislative Fly-in on March 20 in DC. Illinois will not be attending as all Representatives will be in their districts for the primary election. The Summer Legislative Conference will be held July 17-20 in DC.

Committee Reports

Executive – Jim Todd gave Executive Committee report. Jim Nelson is finishing up the 319 grants for the Association that are outstanding. Jim reported that motions from the Executive Committee would be discussed in Committee Reports.

Forestry – Terry Davis gave the Forestry Committee report. Information will be coming out through the AISWCD about the Illinois Forestry Association meeting on March 22, 2012 at the First Christian Church, 700 South 6th Street in Springfield, regarding current forestry issues, including the 4% timber tax. Tom Beyers will be drafting a resolution for timber tax fees. The Forestry Committee has nominated Dave Bishop for the Outstanding Forestry Award. The committee also nominated David McCormick to represent the AISWCD on the Illinois Forestry Council.

Auxiliary – Marie Bunting gave the report. The quilt that was raffled off at the NACD Annual Meeting was won by a gentleman in Utah. Marie also reported on items for Summer Conference, and urged directors to invite their spouses or significant other to the Auxiliary activities during Summer Conference. There will be a silent auction again this year. Raffle tickets will also be on sale for next year's Auxiliary Quilt, to be given away at the meeting in San Antonio. Poster's (Soil to Spoon theme), and photo's will be judged at the June Quarterly Board Meeting.

Insurance – Annyce Winters, Chairman of the Insurance Committee, gave the insurance report in Debbie Holsapple's absence. There is adequate funding in the insurance account through September. Three participants are now enrolled in Cobra, two prior employees, and one previous director's spouse. 155 individuals are currently participating in the health insurance program. 16 employees have waived coverage.

Mississippi & Illinois River Coordinating Council – Lee Bunting reported the Wabash and Ohio, and the Illinois River and Mississippi River Councils had met together. Rich Nichols informed the board that Pam Peter, a former RC from Adams County would like to be replaced on the committee. If any board members who are along the river are interested, please let Rich know.

Focus Committee Reports

Communications – Kenny Vosholler gave the Communications report. He indicated he had heard complaints, and the committee would like the AISWCD to get the word out sooner on what happens at Quarterly Board. The Quarterly Board Meeting minutes are now posted on the website within two weeks, but he thought something should be sent out sooner.

Motion: A motion was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Terry Davis and passed that Sherry Finn send out dot points giving pertinent information asap after the Quarterly Board Meeting.

Education – Jerry Snodgrass gave the report. He explained the Director Training Modules had been accepted and approved by NACD. Illinois was recognized at the NACD Annual Meeting for this, with Jerry Snodgrass and Lonnie Wilson representing Illinois. Renee Weitekamp made a presentation at the meeting on the License Plates Initiative (information attached to board meeting minutes). Jerry reported there would be a \$500 scholarship given from the McKibben Scholarship Fund at the Annual Meeting this year. The Envirothon Coordinators would like to purchase 16 additional buckets for possible FFA teams this year. If a regional team wins the Envirothon and they are not an FFA team, the highest scoring FFA team can also attend the State Envirothon at FFA's expense for one day.

Motion: A motion was made by Terry Davis, seconded by Tom Beyers, and passed to work with the ISWCDEA on the License Plate Initiative.

Motion: A motion was made by Dan Doedtman, seconded by Terry Davis, and passed, to purchase 16 buckets with information in the amount of \$83.50 per bucket from the Envirothon Fund.

Financial – Phil Fossler gave the financial report. The financial committee had discussed the possibility of refinancing the building bond for the AISWCD with Farm Credit Services. The rate would go from 7.35% to 4.25% with a \$250.00 document fee. Further discussion was held on whether to pay off the mortgage. The Envirothon buckets were discussed at the Financial Focus Committee also. Financials were reviewed. 19 districts “not in good standing”, as of March 12th, 2012. Fourteen districts have not paid any FY2012 Dues: Grundy, Kane-Dupage, Kankakee, Lee, North Cook, Adams, Pike, Scott, Clay, Crawford, Gallatin, Jefferson, Pope-Hardin, and Randolph. District that have not paid partial 3rd Quarter dues are: LaSalle, Macoupin, Macon, Moultrie, and Jackson. Letters went out to District Chairman as of March 8, 2012. It was brought up that Grundy County had not paid any of their dues for 2012, and the AISWCD pays the district direct for the Envirothon Coordinators’ work. This would put Grundy County ineligible to receive funds from the AISWCD. The Financial Focus committee recommended there be a line item in the FY2013 budget for the AISWCD President and Vice President travel.

Motion: A motion was made by Phil Fossler, seconded by Randy Molitoris, and passed to pay off the mortgage if there were no penalties.

Motion: A motion was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Steve Stierwalt, and passed to pay up to \$300.00 out of the general fund to the Envirothon Fund for the purchase of Envirothon buckets and supplies.

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

Motion: A motion was made by Phil Fossler, seconded by Jerry Snodgrass, and passed to include a line item in the FY2013 budget in the amount of \$2500 for AISWCD President, and \$2000 for AISWCD Vice President for travel, in addition to include mileage for board member travel to Quarterly Board Meetings.

Legislative – Lonnie Wilson gave the report. The committee recommended Bill Gradle be given the “Friend of Conservation Award.” Lonnie also asked that each LUC contribute one member to form a legislative action group. Lonnie reported AISWCD will have a table in the Rotunda at the Capital on Legislative Day. AISWCD will be sending information out about where to park, etc. for visits to the legislators. Lonnie urged everyone to attend. Tom Beyers will be drafting a resolution concerning feral hog resolution. Resolutions need to be in to the AISWCD Vice-President by June 1, 2012. “Field Office of the Future” was discussed at the Legislative Committee also. AISWCD would like for each LUC to sign off on the letter that goes out to districts. Lonnie went over the current legislative bills that affect SWCD’s, and noted that Rich Nichols includes this in his weekly report.

Motion: A motion was made by Jerry Snodgrass, seconded by Lee Bunting, and passed to adopt a task force.

Motion: A motion by Dan Doedtman, second by Jerry Snodgrass to have each LUC sign and endorse the “Field Office of the Future” letter to go out to districts.

Motion: A motion was made by Lee Bunting, seconded by Terry Davis, and passed to give the Friend of Conservation Award for 2012 to Bill Gradle, former NRCS State Conservationist.

Planning: Van Bitner gave the report. He went through the Annual Meeting timeline. Reservations for hotel rooms can be made beginning April 15th. Sam's Club has made a request to sit up a display at the Summer Conference. Discussion was held on whether Sam's would donate a raffle prize to the AISWCD for the Annual Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Van Bitner, seconded by Terry Davis, and passed, to grant Sam's Club permission to have a display at Summer Conference.

Urban Community & Conservation – Jerry Snodgrass gave the report. Jerry Welcomed Kelly Thompson, who has been hired by the AISWCD as Jim Nelson's replacement, to the staff, noting she will start work on Thursday, March 15, 2012. Jim Nelson has been contracted by the Association to finish up on some projects. The committee would like for Kelly to work on a partnership with the National Arborist Society. There were no action items.

Executive Director's Report - There was a discussion as to whether to keep the Conservation Catchall monthly, or to make it bi-monthly or even quarterly was discussed, since it has been late for the last few months and there is so much workload for the Executive Director. Phil Fossler questioned Rich being at the Capital so much, since AISWCD has Mike Hoffman. Rich explained there might be more than one committee meeting at one time, and they had utilized Lonnie Wilson also to go with them, so they could split up and go in different directions. Rich gave an update on the landscaping on the rear of the AISWCD property.

Motion: A motion was made by Lee Bunting, second by Terry Davis, and passed to keep the Conservation Catchall monthly.

Area VP Reports:

Area 1 – Nothing to report.

Area 2 – Darrell Roegge reported LUC Council 8 had recently held a meeting and had invited legislators to attend, but they were unable to make it. Feedback from LUC – It is a priority for districts to pay their employees before anything else, including dues; they feel there has been a number of task forces formed over the last several years, and nothing comes out of the information given to the Association from the task forces; nothing was solved from Summer Conference 2008; districts are lagging in leadership from AISWCD.

Area 3 – Nothing to report.

Area 4 – Nothing to report.

Minutes – Minutes from the December 13th Quarterly Board Meeting were approved with a motion by Tom Beyers, seconded by Lee Bunting.

Old Business

Crep – Additional funding is secured, details will be forthcoming asap.

All other old business was covered earlier in reports.

New Business

Prescribe Burn Insurance – Rich Nichols explained RW Troxell will not carry burn insurance for prescribed burns or burn equipment. Peoria and Lee County were interested in insurance. Rich has talked with an insurance company by the name of Gemeni from northern IL. Their prices would be \$2500 per year for the all districts in the state, plus \$100 per burn. It was suggested that perhaps a district could administer this insurance for the state. Rich will try to get more information and bring to the next board meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Terry Davis, seconded by Don Beisiegel, and passed to contact Peoria and Lee County to see if they would be interested in administering the prescribed burn insurance program to those districts interested.

Online No Profit Raffle – Rich Nichols reported he had been contacted by a company by the name of W Kara who runs an online raffle in other states and are trying to get clearance in Illinois. The company comes up with a prize, and the organization get 70% of the proceeds, the company gets 30%. They would like AISWCD and other nonprofit support so they are able to get a bill passed in Illinois. **No action taken.**

President Assigned – District Funding Taskforce - The funding and dues taskforce were combined.

Phones in AISWCD Office – There has been numerous problems with the phones in the office. The phone system does not always work properly and has become obsolete. Several bids were solicited, but only one bid was received in the amount of \$2870.00 plus tax.

Other New Business covered in reports.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Minutes taken and transcribe by:

Cindy Moon