



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

4285 north walnut street road
springfield, il 62707
(217) 744-3414
fax (217) 744-3420
www.aiswcd.org

COMMUNICATION UPDATE:

The AISWCD March Quarterly Board Meeting was held yesterday at the Northfield Inn Conference Center with 19 Board Members, 2 ISWCDEA Co-Chairs, the Auxiliary President and 2 AISWCD staff present. It was decided to keep communication flowing between the AISWCD and the Districts with a dot point follow up to Quarterly Board Meetings.

ITEMS:

officers

President

JAMES H. TODD
29953 Sweetwater Ave.
Greenview, IL 62642
(217) 341-5886

Vice President

LONNIE WILSON
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staff

Executive Director
RICHARD NICHOLS

Administrative Assistant
SHERRY FINN

Program Coordinator
Kelly Thompson

mission

"to represent and empower
illinois' swcda's"

Partner Reports:

Steve Chard spoke on behalf of the IDOA and stated there was no new update on the remainder of Cost Share and District Ops money at this time; they have been in contact with the office of management & budget.

Jeff Zimprich spoke on behalf of the NRCS and noted they are in the process of looking at the field office of the future; information will be coming out soon on this thru the AISWCD Board.

Dick Breckenridge spoke on behalf of the IEPA and stated they had a new interim director, John Kim, and a new regulatory issue: MPA permit program.

Debi Slade & Dean Johnson spoke on behalf of the ISWCDEA and noted the Employees would be participating in the Ag Legislative Day on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at the Capitol and Stratton Buildings; they have pins, bags and lanyards for the employees that have the Green Ribbon displayed.

Cindy Moon spoke for the NCDEA and reported they have a new President, Irene Moore from Ohio.

Jerry Snodgrass reported for the NACD North Central Region and noted they held their meeting in Chicago in January and many partners were present.

Lonnie Wilson reported for the NACD Annual Meeting as the delegate and stated he had sent out an il.all e-mail with his votes for the resolutions.



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Committee Reports:

James Todd reported for the **Executive Committee** and noted the March 6, 2012 meeting minutes had been e-mailed to Districts and a copy of the minutes were in the Board member hand out packets.

Terry Davis reported in the absence of David McCormick for the **Forestry Committee** and noted the Illinois Forestry Association had invited the AISWCD to attend a meeting March 22, 2012 at the First Christian Church, 700 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL at 10 a.m. in regards to discussion on current forestry issues, which will include the 4% Timber Tax; Tom Beyers will be drafting a resolution for timber tax fees; Dave Bishop will be their nominee for the Outstanding Forestry Award; committee wants to nominate David McCormick to represent AISWCD on the IFDC.

Marie Bunting reported for the **Auxiliary** and noted the Afghan for the NACD Annual Meeting in Las Vegas had brought in \$2500 and was won by a gentleman in Utah; they are in the planning stages for their events at the Annual Meeting/Summer Conference and will have their silent auction; they will have raffle tickets for the new afghan for next year's NACD Annual Meeting.

Annyce Winters reported in the absence of Debbie Holsapple for the **SWCD Insurance Fund**; report information was included in AISWCD packet.

Lee Bunting and Rich Nichols reported for the **Mississippi and Il River Coordinating Councils** and noted the Board would have to select a new Council member for the Mississippi Coordinating Council since the resignation of Pam Peters of Adams County; Lee reported the Wabash and Ohio, the Illinois River and Mississippi River Coordinating Councils met together.

Focus Area Committee Reports:

Communications: **Kenny Vosholler** reported that the committee followed up on the strategic planning goals that noted the Districts were not kept in communication with the AISWCD Board and wanted more information provided and asked Kenny asked that the Board provide a dot point report to Districts via il.all e-mail.

Education: **Jerry Snodgrass** reported the Director Training modules were not on the AISWCD website, but should be available after Summer Conference; noted the McKibben Scholarship Review Committee would be the Education committee and there was \$500 available for the scholarship; Board voted the Envirothon account would purchase the FFA additional informational buckets at \$83.50 per bucket; voted to have the ISWCDEA work on getting specialized plates for conservation.



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Financial: Phil Fossler reported about discussion on the Building Bond for the AISWCD in funds held with Farm Credit Services and Board voted to pay off the Building fund if it can be done without early penalty; voted to pay up to \$300 total for additional FFA teams Envirothon buckets; voted to add 3 line items to the FY 2013 Budget to include \$2500 for President, \$2,000 for Vice President/Legislative Chairman, and the quarterly board travel expense for AISWCD Board Members;

Legislative & Resolutions: Lonnie Wilson reported that the committee voted to nominate Bill Gradle as the Friend of Conservation Award recipient-Board voted to nominate him; asked for each Land Use Council to contribute one member to form a Legislative Action Group; noted the Ag Legislative Day was scheduled for March 27, 2012 at 9 a.m. and there would be a table in the Rotunda with information and volunteers to answer questions about the SWCDs, there would be additional information to follow about where to park, meeting place and schedule of legislators to visit; discussion about Field office of the future-committee will be established to handle this-one page hand out provided by NRCS; Rich's report sent out to il.all about the upcoming House Bills and Senate Bills; Additional funding bills noted; NACD fly-in would not be attended by the Association due to the Illinois Primary; asked Tom Beyers to draft a feral hog resolution; reminded everyone about the Ag Bill meeting Friday, March 23, 2012 at Carl Sandburg College, 2400 Tom L. Wilson Blvd, Galesburg, IL at 9 a.m.; reminded everyone that Resolutions for the Annual Meeting need to be submitted to him by June 1, 2012.

Planning: Van Bitner reported the 64th AISWCD Annual Meeting/Summer Conference details were coming along nicely, Partners were contacted to contribute, hotel information, registration and awards have been or will be made available, and Board voted to include Sam's club (made request) to set up display.

Urban Community & Conservation: Jerry Snodgrass reported no action items were taken, but welcomed Jim Nelson's replacement, Kelly Thompson to the AISWCD staff, noting she will start work on Thursday, March 15, 2012.



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Area V.P. Reports:

Area I: Jerry Snodgrass stated he did not have anything to report.

Area II: Darrell Roegge reported LUC 8 had met for the first time in several months, 2 Legislators invited but did not attend, discussed funding, and had 3 issues to take back to the AISWCD Board: 1. Dues-not able to pay them for lack of funding-need to fund employees first; 2. Taskforce Committees-certain problems-had funding taskforce committees at Summer Conference '08 and nothing solved; 3. Lacking in Leadership from the AISWCD over the past few years.

Area III: Steve Stierwalt stated he had nothing to report.

Area IV: Kenny Vosholler noted he had nothing to report.

Old Business:

Dues/Delinquent Dues Status: Sherry Finn reported there were 19 Districts "not in good standing" as of March 12, 2012, handouts were in packets with Districts by Areas; 14 Districts that have not paid any FY 2012 Dues are Grundy, Kane-DuPage, Kankakee, Lee, North Cook, Adams, Pike, Scott, Clay, Crawford, Gallatin, Jefferson, Pope-Hardin, and Randolph; Districts that have not paid partial 3rd Q Dues are LaSalle, Macoupin, Macon, Moultrie, and Jackson; Sherry noted she had heard from Crawford and North Cook and their Boards would be voting soon and Kankakee would be considering after they have their fish and tree sales; letters have gone out to District Chairmen as of Thursday, March 8, 2012; Board instructed notices are to go out to Districts "not in good standing" to let them know that Envirothon teams will not be eligible if dues are not paid.

FY 2012 EPA 319 Grant Updates: Rich Nichols reported on tentative approval of CREP 319 Grant-no amount or stipulations yet; IUM Grant and Green Infrastructure grants in place.

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 is trying to secure funding.

FY 2012 State Budget: Rich Nichols reported letters (two at this time) have been sent to the Office of Management and Budget to request the release of the remainder of 3rd Q and all of 4th Quarter.



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New Business:

Prescribed Burn Insurance: Rich Nichols reported that 7 or 8 Districts have shown an interest in burn insurance; **noted that the liability policy the AISWCD has for Districts does not cover burns or burn equipment;** Cost is \$2500 and \$100 per burn with a \$1,000,000. Coverage; Board requested Rich to obtain additional information and find a District that might like to administer the coverage.

On-Line Non Profit Raffle: Rich Nichols noted he had been contacted by a group interested in getting a billed passed to allow non for profit groups to have on-line raffles.

District Funding Taskforce: AISWCD President Jim Todd appointed Terry Davis and the SWCD Dues Structure Taskforce to handle this issue also.

AISWCD Phone System: Rich Nichols reported problems with Association office phones, phone lines and teleconference call system. Board asked Rich to obtain additional information, quotes and possible wireless connection.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.