

**Executive Committee Meeting
March 6, 2012 @ 8:00 a.m.
March Quarterly Boards
Teleconference Call/(800) 944-8766/24384 (#)**

Present

James Todd, President
Lonnie Wilson, Vice President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Phil Fossler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area I VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area III VP
Kenny Vosholler, Area IV VP
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Sherry Finn, AISWCD
Debra Slade, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Dean Johnson, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair
Mike Hoffman, Lobbyist

Absent

Terry Davis, Past President
Darrell Roegge, Area II VP
Marie Bunting, President Auxiliary

Call to order:

President James Todd called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. He apologized for the delayed start; problems with phone system at AISWCD office.

Roll Call:

Sherry Finn took roll call; quorum present.

Agenda Approval:

No additions or changes to agenda. **Phil Fossler made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Van Bitner; MCVV.**

Committee/Taskforce Updates:

Communications: Kenny Vosholler, Communications Chairman, stated there was not anything to report at this time.

Education: Jerry Snodgrass reported the Envirothon had met via teleconference call on 2/1/2012 and discussed adding FFA teams. Sherry Finn read Envirothon Report provided by Brooke Baker and Natalie Mahler, Co-Coordination for the IL Envirothon. Additional costs (paper, copying fee, and bucket) for the Envirothon due to adding LUC winning FFA teams to compete on Thursday only unless they are the LUCs overall winning team was discussed. The FFA Chapter will pay the \$150 registration fee for each additional FFA team participating. **Motion to approved paying additional costs not to exceed \$300 to support additional FFA teams participating at the Illinois Envirothon was made by Steve Stierwalt and seconded by Van Bitner; MCVV.** The Executive Board asked about the "not in good standing" Districts and Sherry Finn reported at this time there were 78 Districts that have paid the first half and partial 3rd Quarter payments, which is all the operating funds allocation paid at this time; 5 Districts that have only paid first two quarters and 15 Districts that have not paid any dues; this is a total of 20 Districts "not in good standing". Letters will be going out to "not in good standing" District Chairmen on Thursday, March 8, 2012; with a reminder sent to Districts that if they are "not in good standing" they will not be able to participate in any Association sponsored events or activities. Discussion followed about FFA teams attending and if their District is "not in good standing" the FFA team will not be able to participate either. This is a by-law that would need to be changed or amended before a team from a "not in good standing" District could participate.

Financial Management: Phil Fossler reported the Treasurer's Report for January 2012 was listed on pages 41-45 in their packets and the February information would be handed out at the March Financial FAC meeting and Board Meeting on the 13th. Phil asked if there were any questions; since there were none, he asked for a motion to accept January financial report. **Jerry Snodgrass made the motion to accept January 2012 Financial reports and Steve Stierwalt seconded; MCVV.**

Legislative: Lonnie Wilson reported on Ag Budget (in House on Wednesday and Rich Nichols and Mike Hoffman need to provide written testimony); HB 5366-Prevailing Wage- has support and AISWCD is collecting petitions (will take petitions any time, the sooner the better, but would like by Legislative Day – March 27th), working to negotiate with committees-have opposition from union; Farm Bill meeting being held at Carl Sandburg College-Jerry Snodgrass and Terry Davis testifying; Legislative Day is March 27th at Capitol Building downtown Springfield-ISWCDEA joining forces with the AISWCD; setting up table in Capitol on March 27, 2012-need volunteers to help man the information desk and provide historical pictures, leaflets from Past Practices and discuss with Legislators and visitors about the Districts; Lonnie thanked District staff and Directors for providing contact information for the Media Blast which will be sent out approximately 1-2 weeks after the IL Primary; LUCs-Legislative Action Group-consisting of 15-20 people-visit with Area Legislators, communicate conservation and economic info to their area and to better explain specific issues regarding their territory; Fly-In for NACD is scheduled for March 19 and 20, 2012 but not participating because IL Primary is held then and funds for NACD activities low and need to keep for July NACD Legislative Session.

Planning: Van Bitner reported on the 2012 Annual Meeting and stated the Annual Meeting Taskforce has had a teleconference call to work up draft agenda and select theme. Van noted the event would be 2 days. Sherry Finn reported the AISWCD 64th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, July 23 and 24, 2012 at the Northfield Inn and Conference Center in Springfield, IL; opening ceremonies will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, the 23rd; Recognition Luncheon will take place on Monday the 23rd; Director Training Modules will be conducted by Jerry Snodgrass, Terry Bogner, and Lee Bunting; the Employees Association will be in charge of the Employee Training both days; there will be a Commons Room for Directors and Employees informational updates and speakers both days (an agenda on sessions and informational info provided by April 15, 2012); Farm Family Reception and Banquet along with the AISWCD Live Auction will take place on Monday evening, July 23rd; the hotel fee will be \$70 a night plus tax and include a continental breakfast; the Foundation and AISWCD Annual Meeting would take place in the a.m. on Tuesday, July 24th and the Soil Stewardship meal would be a luncheon this year rather than a breakfast held on Tuesday, the 24th ; a theme has been selected-Conservation for the Future: The Next Generation and a logo has not been selected but a couple have been submitted; Registration will be from April 15 through June 29, 2012 with a \$40 registration fee, Late Registration will be from June 30 through July 13, 2012 with a Registration fee of \$50, the hotel's block of rooms will only be available from April 15 until June 29, 2012 or sold out, and the last date to get a refund is July 8th, 2012, there will be registration for meals and sessions, which both will require a ticket to attend due to the room sizes at the hotel. Lonnie Wilson reported the OMA training will be available on Tuesday, the 24th for anyone interested.

Urban Community & Conservation: Jerry Snodgrass stated he did not have anything to report in regards to this committee; Rich Nichols reported a replacement had been found for Jim Nelson's position. The new hire, Kelly Thompson, will be introduced at the March QB meeting on the 13th and will start on March 15, 2012. Kelly has a Master's Degree and is a current employee of Tetra Tech, a company that works with TMDLs, so she is very familiar with water quality issues and has computer skills with ACAD, ARC view and Microsoft Suite.

Auxiliary: No report given.

Forestry: No report given.

Jim Todd reported the IL Department of Agriculture has a new Director and the AISWCD officers and Executive Director would be meeting with him in the near future to ask about the transfer of funds from Partnership account.

Area Vice Presidents Reports

Area I - Jerry Snodgrass stated nothing to report.

Area II - Not in attendance; no report given.

Area III - Steve Stierwalt stated nothing to report.

Area IV - Kenny Vosholler stated nothing new to report.

Old Business:

SWCD Dues Update – Sherry Finn gave an update earlier in the Education report, but noted there were 20 Districts “not in good standing” for FY 2012 at this time; 5 Districts have paid first two quarters and owe partial 3rd quarter payment-Jackson, LaSalle, Macon, Macoupin, and Moultrie, and 15 Districts that have not paid any dues payment-Adams, Clay, Crawford, Gallatin, Greene, Grundy, Jefferson, Kane-DuPage, Kankakee, Lee, North Cook, Pike, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, and Scott.

FY 2012 – 319 Grant Update – Rich Nichols reported on IUM Grant for which Jim Nelson was contracted for will be complete in approximately 6-8 weeks; Jim’s replacement, Kelly Thompson, will have the title of Project Coordinator since she is not fulfilling all Jim’s duties, Kim St. John has been contracted to facilitate part of the new IUM grant which will include stormwater runoff development standards and there will be a meeting on March 29th, 2012 for this information; CREP grant for FY 2011 was denied earlier last calendar year and IEPA has found funds to cover part of the year and in hopes of finding more-Rich has a meeting with IEPA later this month; future CREP for FY 2012 and 2013 will be decided at a later date but will include TMDLs, watersheds, etc. in CREP areas.

AISWCD President Appointed Taskforce for SWCD Dues Structure – Terry Davis not available for report.

Phase II Development Update- Rich Nichols reported first part of development has been completed by an Eagle Scout and his troop (brush cut and dead limbs cut up); second part of development is under discussion with another Eagle Scout that wants to do a project that includes laying out trails and identifying trees and plants and possibly building a foot bridge over the ravine. The US Fish and Wildlife Service have approached the AISWCD office and want to build another rain garden behind the building. This garden would be tiered and run down several levels; this has been approved by Fish and Wildlife and a tentative date has been set.

FY 2012 State Budget Update - Rich Nichols reported the first half and partial third quarter operating allocations had been paid; no response yet on when the remainder of funds would be made available; will write letters soon to inquire about status.

FY 2011 63rd AISWCD Annual Meeting Resolutions Update - Lonnie Wilson reported the Prevailing Wage info was provided in his Legislative report earlier; Legislative Day was scheduled March 27, 2012 with the ISWCDEA and an informational table at the Capitol; and would check with Ivan Dozier about the one remaining resolution that NRCS said was completed.

FY 2012 NACD Annual Meeting Overview – Lonnie Wilson reported on North Central Region Resolutions presented; taskforce set to look at Dues and address the issue; received plaque for Director Training at the 63rd AISWCD Annual Meeting/Summer Conference and was presented by NACD to Lonnie and Jerry Snodgrass at NACD AM in Las Vegas; Lonnie also address the NACD Letter that went out to Districts entitled "NACD-field office of the future-looking at how to deliver product most efficiently and economically. Lonnie noted the Association Officers and Rich Nichols were working with Jeff Zimprich, the current State Conservationist and several Assistant State Conservationists to get everyone on the same page and seeing what makes the most sense. Mr. Zimprich will be at the March 13, 2012 QB meeting to address this issue and answer questions.

FY 2012 NACD Director Training Certification Update – Jerry Snodgrass reported NACD Annual Meeting was a very good meeting; pleased to receive Director Training Certificate; NACD and NASCA don't agree on everything but are working to make it fit on both sides. Jim Todd reported he sent a President Auction item worth \$500 for the NACD Annual Meeting Auction as representation for Illinois.

Urban Stormwater Specialist Replacement Update – Rich Nichols previously reported on this earlier in meeting.

SWCD Funding Sources Update – Rich Nichols reported the AISWCD is looking at every option available at this time; possible funding being provided to IDNR through Legislator, Frank Mautino and asking to be included.

FY 2012 AISWCD 64th Annual Meeting Update – Van Bitner and Sherry Finn reported earlier during the Planning report.

Strategic Planning Goals Update – Lonnie Wilson reported all goals assigned to FAC committees; working with Van Bitner to fill membership taskforce committee and still needs volunteers.

New Business:

Prescribed Burn Insurance – Rich Nichols reported he had checked into this issue because of concerns from several Districts; there is no coverage under our current policy-you have to have a separate policy for prescribed burns; Rich said there was coverage through a company by the name of Gemini Insurance and they are from around Chicago area; Rich received quotes and has info available if any District is interested.

On-line Non Profit Raffle – Rich Nichols reported that he and Mike Hoffman had attended a meeting a few weeks ago; organization trying to have a bill passed to host raffles on line for non-profit organizations to raise funds; possibility of interest but only if they get bill passed.

President Assigned-District Funding Taskforce Committee – Jim Todd reported he has not been very active since being down with his injured knee; he will be combining this taskforce with the dues structure taskforce; nothing to report at this time.

Grant Funding Resources Proposal – Rich Nichols reported he had been approached by a company wanting to sell us an agreement to help receive grants; wasn't sure if it was a scheme or not; no interest at this time.

Re-energizing LUCs - Rich reported that he and Lonnie Wilson had discussed problems with lack of communication with LUCs which have created real problems with Districts that the LUC representative is representing. The need for the Legislative Committee LUC committees being established to keep the communication door open and to keep our voice heard; tools for outreach, education and legislation need to be worked on, and we need to be active, loud and provide info on how important SWCDs are to the state. Jim Todd reported the LUCs need to visit legislators as a council like they used to do and showcase their projects and where the money is being spent. A lot of LUCs do not meet nor do they have any by-laws or structure.

Two Additional Items - Rich Nichols gave additional information on a letter he received from Farm Credit Services showing how our bond money with their institution could be refinanced to change the interest rate and save the AISWCD money. Discussion followed and was suggested to send this to the Financial FAC at March QB meeting. **Phil Fossler made the motion to send the bond issue to the Financial FAC and was seconded by Steve Stierwalt; MCVV.**

Rich Nichols reported he had received a request from a gentleman hired through the IL Department of Agriculture to complete a yearly Magazine for the Department; he wants ad sponsors; full page is \$5,000 and 1/8 page is \$1355, which is 3 inches wide X 2 ¼ inches high. Discussion followed; how many issues to be printed, print media isn't always the way to go. **Phil Fossler made the motion to not advertise for this first issue and Kenny Vosholler seconded; MCVV.**

Approve Minutes from December 2011 Executive Committee Meeting (Pages 15-17) – Jerry Snodgrass made the motion to approve December 2011 Executive Committee Meeting minutes and was seconded by Kenny Vosholler; MCVV.

Adjournment – Phil Fossler made the motion to adjourn at 9:57 a.m. and Steve Stierwalt seconded; MCVV.

Minutes recorded by: Sherry Finn, AISWCD Administrative Assistant