

Legislative Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
March 13, 2012

Members/Advisors Present:

Dick Breckenridge
Sue Davis
Aaron Ferguson
Mike Hoffmann
Ken Kesler
Carlyn Light
Rich Nichols
Kenny Vosholler
Lonnie Wilson, Chairperson
Joe Rothermel
Renee Weitekamp
Steve Higgans for Tessa Chadwick
Dean Johnson
Debi Slade
Melissa Cauble

Members/Advisors Absent:

Jim Bell
Tessa Chadwick
Steve Chard
Terry Davis
Terry Bogner
Terry Monke
James Todd

Chairman Lonnie Wilson called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda- A motion was made by Aaron Ferguson and seconded by Kenny Vosholler to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.

Legislative Update-Mike Hoffmann and Rich Nichols reported. Last week Rich Nichols, Lonnie Wilson, and Mike Hoffmann were at 3 different hearings. HB 5315 would allow Soil & Water District Directors and Drainage District Directors to have Open Meetings Act training in a group setting rather than the online training they have to take now. This passed out of committee and is on the 2nd reading in the House. If it passes it would not affect new directors for this year, they still have to take the training in 90 days after the first Monday in March. All other directors have until 12/31/12 to take the training. Rich also talked about HB 5366 which would exempt the SWCD's Cost Share from the Prevailing Wage Act. This did not come out of the Labor Committee and so will have to be worked on again in the fall. The last hearing they attended was the Ag Budget Hearing. Lonnie and Rich testified and felt like they listened to them but General Revenue will probably not increase. Mike talked about some bills that could affect SWCD's that have support. And he stated there are Alternative funding sources that are being worked on in hopes to increase our funding dollars.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Goals Update-Moving forward with the Strategic Planning and they are still working on getting the members for the Strategic Planning Committee.

FY 2011 AISWCD Annual Meeting Resolutions Update/Legislative Day & Prevailing Wage-

1. **Annual Meeting Resolutions**-They are working on the Prevailing Wage Resolutions. The Resolution about Livestock, Lonnie asked Steve Higgans, NRCS, to get a final decision from Ivan Dozier about that.
2. **Legislative Day** is planned for March 27, 2012. There needs to be a place to meet. It will start at 9:00 A.M. The ISWCDEA has reserved the parking lot at 220 East Washington to meet and park at for the day. Rich also said there would be a table in the South hallway with handouts about the AISWCD and District information. He needs help from Directors and Staff to man the table from about 9 to 3. They plan to send out notices to the Legislators about being set-up in the rotunda and put talking points together to discuss with them.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislator of the Year Award-Lonnie Wilson said to send nominees to him after Legislative Day.

Friend of Conservation Award-A motion was made by Kenny Vosholler and seconded by Aaron Ferguson to nominate Bill Gradle, former NRCS State Conservationist as Friend of Conservation Award, motion carried.

Agency Reports-

IEPA-Dick Breckenridge gave a report for IEPA. Discussed aspects of Social Media.

NRCS-Steve Higgans gave the NRCS report. He discussed the Field Office of the Future letter that went out recently. He said that dialog needs to be set up about what Field Offices need to look like and provide in the future. He said that the 2013 Budget has 4.1 billion dollars for NRCS which is a 6% decrease from 2012.

December 2011 minutes-A motion was made by Carlyn Light and seconded by Kenny Vosholler to approve the December 2011 minutes as presented, motion carried.

A motion was made by Kenny Vosholler and seconded by Aaron Ferguson to adjourn, motion carried.

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