



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

4285 north walnut street road
springfield, il 62707
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www.aiswcd.org

AISWCD MARCH QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING – 3-12-13 DOT POINT HIGHLIGHTS - COMMUNICATION UPDATE:

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Administrative Assistant
SHERRY FINN

Program Coordinator
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GINA BEAN

CREP Resource Specialists
SHERYL DUCUMMON
Peoria SWCD

STEPHANIE FITZSIMONS
LaSalle SWCD

JEREMY PRUDEN
Brown SWCD

TIM ROYER
McDonough SWCD

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The AISWCD March Quarterly Board Meeting was held Monday & Tuesday, March 11, Executive Meeting only in the Conference Room 1 at IDOA and March 12, FAC meetings and Board meetings at the Northfield Inn Conference Center. All officers and Area VPs except David McCormick (Area II VP) were present for the Executive Mtg along with Past President James Todd, AISWCD staff Rich Nichols, Kelly Thompson & Sherry Finn, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair, Betty Buckert and NRCS State Conservationist Ivan Dozier; 22 AISWCD Board Members (including past president-James Todd) were present for the Foundation and AISWCD Board Meetings; 3 were absent: LUC 7-Joe Rothermel, LUC 9-Mark Roth, and LUC 14-Tom Anderson; 4 AISWCD Staff- Rich, Kelly, Gina & Sherry; 2 ISWCDEA Co-Chairs-Betty Buckert & Kara Downin; and AISWCD Auxiliary President-Marie Bunting

ITEMS:

Agenda: Board Approved

December 2012 Meeting Minutes: Board Approved with Corrections.

Partner Reports:

Steve Chard gave the report for IDOA (written report attached with this document).

Eric Gerth reported for NRCS; **Ivan Dozier** at Executive Meeting on Monday. (Written report attached with this document.)

FSA sent a written report that was in the March QB packet and Rick Braden and Jamie Diebal were on hand on Tuesday to present the report.

IEPA: did not submit a written report or have someone present to report.

IDNR: did not submit a written report or have someone present to report.

ISWCDEA: Betty Buckert and Kara Downin spoke on behalf of the ISWCDEA-written report in the March QB Packet.

SWCD Insurance: Melissa Cauble reported with the January and February 2013 information; (January in March QB Packet and February information attached with this document.)

NCDEA: written report submitted by Cindy Moon in March QB packet.

NACD North Central Region and NACD Delegate: reported by Lonnie Wilson, AISWCD President.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Lonnie Wilson reported Executive Meeting went well and action items were assigned to FACs and will be reported on by the chairmen later in this meeting.



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Forestry Committee: David McCormick reported no action items were taken; Rollie Spaniol was brought before the Board to be selected for the Outstanding Forestry applicant.

AISWCD Auxiliary: Marie Bunting reported that she completed her term as NACD Auxiliary President; afghan was won by someone in Montana and the quilt raffle produced \$2800. Marie noted the Auxiliary would again have the Country Store, raffle, host the Recognition Luncheon and Farm Family Reception along with having a silent auction at the AISWCD Annual Meeting.

SWCD Insurance Report: Melissa Cauble reported and the January report is included in the March QB Packet and the February report is attached with this document.

Mississippi and Il River Coordinating Councils: Lee Bunting reported the Councils had a joint meeting in Springfield at IDNR building and discussed sand mine at Starved Rock State Park; there is a suit against the project; interest in the sand (round) for use in hydraulic fracking.

Focus Area Committee Reports:

Communications: Steve Stierwalt reported on AISWCD Website Map to locate Legislators being worked on by Gina Bean; Social Media-List of House Bills and Senate Bills on facebook page; Dot Point Highlights a success; suggestions for communication improvements-Motion to set up a Directors' server list for Dot Point Highlights, Action Works, and Rich's reports-**Board approved**. Funding efforts discussed; get a resolution out to every local Farm Bureau starting at the local office-use grass roots effort to get support; AISWCD working on viable funding options also.

Education: Jerry Snodgrass reported having Valerie Keener, Education Coordinator with IDNR to place the Teacher of the Year application on all the internet locations she has available; encouraged all Board Members to have their LUCs and Districts try to get applicants for this also; noted that this is the last year Canon will have anything to do with funding for the National Envirothon; National level funding is needed and suggested to charge \$1 per student for an entry fee. Motion was made to have Lonnie Wilson take this suggestion to the North Central Region at NACD-**Board Approved**. Jerry Snodgrass and Lee Bunting will be presenters for the Director Training at the AISWCD Annual Meeting.

Financial: Kenny Vosholler reported there will be an IRS Audit for 2010 990 at the AISWCD office March 25 -28, 2013; **Board approved** to give a raise of 4% to Kelly Thompson; **Board approved** the AISWCD & Foundation Financials; **Board approved** SWCD Insurance Financials; **Board approved** updated 2013 AISWCD Budget.(financials & Budget attached with document)



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Legislative & Resolutions: Tom Beyers reported on 2014 State Budget; Memorandum of Understanding to be updated; Legislative Day-good turnout and event; FSA office closings-look at potential changes and possibility of establishing a taskforce to follow up on the closings; prevailing wage-Lonnie and Rich met with four (4) groups to try to get proposal for a possible waiver. Tom Beyers reported there were questions on the Farm Bureau and their support-Tom went to his local Farm Bureau office and secured a copy on their stand for support on SWCDs-there are fourteen (14) items of support for Conservation (IFB-Legislative Priorities attached with document); Revenue Streams-Farm Bureau support may help; Tom reported on 2012 Resolutions update; reported on NACD National Resolutions; reported on current House & Senate Bills to take a position on (Rich Nichols is sending out the bills of interest); several bills on fracking and wind energy facility construction/deconstruction act bill (SB 1469-)-**Board approved** to support the bill; Committee nominated Senator Jason Barickman for Legislator of the Year for his work on the OMA changes-**Board approved**; Committee nominated Caterpillar Company as the Friend of Conservation for their work in Peoria area and at all their plants in the US-**Board approved**.

Planning: Van Bitner reported the AISWCD 65th Annual Meeting is coming nicely, logo and theme set, award apps have been posted to the website and links sent out to the Districts with copies of applications mailed to District Chairmen; questions on Farm Family application and length-too late for this year, but will look to streamline for next year.

Urban Community & Conservation: Gerard Fabrizius reported stream bank funds are available; IUM is proceeding with Standard updates; IUM talking about a newsletter; IUM to have booth at the Annual Meeting and CPESC training at the Annual Meeting to be worth five (5) credit hours of continuing education; Discussion about Conservation Tour in August to showcase CAT and to work with new Partner (tour letter attached with document), ISA (Illinois Stewardship Alliance); Kane DuPage looking at similar conservation tour this year or next year.

Executive Director Report: Rich Nichols stated for everyone to see the handout (attached with this document).

Area V.P. Reports:

Area I VP-Jerry Snodgrass reported on the Carroll County letter sent out to Districts via fax; some LUC reps have not seen the letter due to the LUC not having a meeting yet.

Area II, III, & IV-nothing to report.

*Note-questions about Dues Variance-Variance was mailed out to all Districts; too late to request for waiver-has to be done 60 days prior to Envirothon (May 1 & May 2, 2013).



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Old Business:

Dues/Delinquent Dues Status: Sherry Finn reported there were eleven (11) Districts not in good standing: Adams, Carroll, Clinton, Gallatin, Greene, Jefferson, Pope-Hardin, Randolph & Scott Counties.

FY 2012-2013 EPA CREP Grant and Staffing updates: Sherry Finn reported six (6) CREP Resource Specialists are all working and house in six (6) different Districts in the Illinois River Basin; Kenny Vosholler had asked for a report during the Financial FAC meeting; a report will be made available at the June QB meeting.

FY 2011-2014 IUM Grant Update: Kelly Thompson reported the steering committee had held meetings, the Technical committee has wetland standards due in April; Field Manual and Inspection Guide should be ready by September with copies being sent to Districts; Urban Newsletter would be able to generate funds by selling ad space in the newsletter; IUM will have booth at the Annual meeting to promote urban awareness.

FY 2011-2013 IGIG Grant Update: Rich Nichols reported Jim Nelson is still subcontracted for the grant; grant is on track to be completed.

AISWCD Website Bids: Kelly Thompson reported meeting with Julie West and laying out the things the AISWCD would like to see and want the website to be more user-friendly; Julie is working on developing proposed site next week and should have something by end of the month to evaluate; Rich Nichols reported that a survey had been sent out to District Chairmen for all Directors to complete and return to the AISWCD office regarding suggestions and ratings for the website.

AISWCD Driveway Update: Rich Nichols reported nothing had been done at this time, but the driveway is need of repair.

AISWCD New Money/Revenue Stream Ideas: Lonnie Wilson reported eleven (11) ideas have been put forth to Rep. Frank Mautino; he was excited about all of them; new gaming bill needs support and will need to have Ag attached to pass.

FY 2014 State Budget: Rich Nichols reported three (3) million in operations; 4 ½ million in Cost Share.

FY 2012 64th AISWCD Annual Meeting Resolutions

Update/Variance: has been reported on previously.

FY 2013 AISWCD Budget Update-Kenny Vosholler reported budget was in hand out information (attached with this document) and had been approved previously.

FY 2013 AISWCD Annual Meeting update: Van Bitner reported all items reported on during Planning FAC report.

Strategic Planning Goals Update: Lonnie Wilson reported priorities already taken care of and moving forward; MOU taskforce has more time due to the NRCS and FSA timelines; Steve Stierwalt reported Outreach group is coming along.



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NACD North Central Region Meeting in Chicago and Annual Mtg-San Antonio, Texas: Lonnie Wilson reported that information about NACD North Central Region meeting had handouts (attached with this document) and the NACD Annual Meeting in Texas was attended by many from Illinois.

Friends of AISWCD: Lonnie Wilson noted an affiliate membership would support Education Programs and give discounts to members.

Certainty Update: Lonnie Wilson reported the certainty program has a group consisting of IEPA, NRCS, IDOA, and AISWCD that are putting together a framework for tasks; having monthly meetings and moving forward.

BMPs: No update given.

New Business:

OMA Information update: Lonnie Wilson reported on Friday, March 22nd, 2013 he will be with the IDOA reps in Princeton to present the OMA to new Directors; he has formulated a training program and is certified to train for OMA and is training the IDOA reps also; they will be doing the training after the initial presentation in Princeton; there will be an OMA session again at the Annual Meeting, but does not need to be done via internet. All new Directors have to be certified within 90 days of installation.

Farm Progress Show: Rich Nichols reported the committee had met in December, but the February meeting had been cancelled due to weather and is being rescheduled.

Legislator of the Year and Friend of Conservation Selections: Representative Jason Barickman and Caterpillar have been voted on earlier by the Board.

Written reports and financial reports were approved by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.