

**AISWCD Quarterly Board Meeting  
Forestry Committee  
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 9:45 am  
Northfield Inn Conference Center – Springfield, IL**

<b>Present:</b>	<u>Member</u> Tom Beyers Terry Davis David McCormick, Chairperson Darrell Roegge <u>Advisors</u> Wade Conn, NRCS Elliot Lagacy, IDOA Ray Herman, RC&D and Tree Farm <u>Recorder</u> Gina Bean, AISWCD <u>Other</u> Mary Murphy, IFA Executive Director Rich Nichols, AISWCD Executive Director Bill Gradle, IFA	<b>Absent:</b>	<u>Member</u> Tom Anderson Barb Klinger Randy Molitoris <u>Advisors</u> Dave Bishop, Retired RC McLean Co SWCD Dick Breckenridge, IEPA Mike Mason, IDNR Dan Schmoker, IWPA Paul Deizman, IFA
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**Call to Order:** David McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:52 am.

**Approve Agenda:** Ray Herman mentioned to add IFDC (Illinois Forestry Development Council) to the agenda. All approved

**Approval of Minutes:** Tom Beyers motioned to approve the December 2012 Minutes as presented.

**2<sup>nd</sup> by : David McCormick**

**Carried: Yes**

**Advisors Report:**

- IDOA – Nothing to report
- IDNR – Not present
- NRCS – Wade Conn reported on the TSP (Technical Service Providers) process. He said they are professional Foresters but are not affiliated with an agency. They do produce a cap force management plan. It's a plan to address all different plans and allows a landowner to only need one plan. There have been 200 plans produced since May 2011. NRCS has found its being adopted. These plans give the TSPs specific treatment targets. A TSP process and certification is just for NRCS and just when they pay for the plan. Ray Herman asked how many TSPs there are around the state. Wade Conn responded by saying there were 35 to 40 scattered around the state six months ago.  
Wade Conn also wanted to mention the NRCS and IDNR Contribution Agreement. Two years ago there was money with DNR for a formal contribution agreement. DNR used that money to hire people to missing positions. Three of four Foresters are hired. The fourth Forester will be located around Carbondale.

Ray Herman asked about EQUIP money. Wade Conn answered and said that money is limited. He also let Mr. Herman know that each area has their own money to distribute and own decisions where it goes. Bill Gradle said that how agencies release money has to go all the way back to Washington.

Mary Murphy asked if Technical Service Providers are only employees. Wade said they are not an employee but are certified. Mary wanted to know if there was any way to find out where and how much money. Wade told her that the county area offices would know and that he could get her a list.

- IEPA – Not present

Ray Herman took this time to talk about upcoming meetings for DNR. There will be four. The one in Bloomington was canceled due to weather. There will be another meeting in Belleville on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chris Evans is the contact person for this meeting. IDNR was supposed to get input from individuals. He said Chris Evans wanted feedback on what people thought about invasive species. His number is 618-364-7261. Mr. Herman said it would be good to pass down to the Districts so they know about meetings.

Ray Herman took the discussion back to the subject of the IEPA. He would like to see modifications in their permitting process and that it would be good to extend through three burning sessions. Right now it only goes through two burn sessions. This would help producers and give them more flexibility.

- Other
  1. RC&D – Ray Herman reported. He said they are hoping to move ahead with assimilating South Eastern Burn Association. They need to hire a burn boss and line up burn plans and permits. He thinks there is grant money out there for it to control species. Rich Nichols said to find an organization who would sponsor burn insurance and set up process. Districts could buy short term policies. Mr. Herman said that most farmers have their own liability insurance, but that the burn boss would need liability insurance. Terry Davis said that the Illinois Fire Service Institute might be interested in a group to be burn bosses. He will look into it.
  2. Tree Farm Group- Ray Herman reported. He said they are going to try and coordinate with others for a more uniformed process and are trying to set up a local Forestry Committee. There will be a Field Day at a local farm on October 5<sup>th</sup>. All are invited. The program is not final yet, but you will get to see three techniques of seed planting.

Ray Herman wanted to know who was doing lobbying for the IFA. Bill Gradle answered his question by saying that they have pulled back on lobbying and are trying to concentrate on building memberships.

### **Old Business:**

- Forestry Issues:
  1. Letter to Governor – Rich Nichols said that nothing had been done yet because they weren't told to. Terry Davis said the letter would have to be recommended to the Board. Wade Conn said that restoring a cost share program through the IFDA should be in the letter. Right now that is roughly \$625,000 a year.
  2. IFA Speaker at AISWCD Annual Meeting – Bill Gradle said that Stephanie Brown has agreed to speak at the Annual Meeting. Rich Nichols said he would follow up with her

and talk to her about what topic she would like to talk about. Ray Herman said that, originally, Stephanie was going to talk on the 4% topic. He also felt that it would be good for her to have a table set up at the Annual Meeting.

3. Letters to Groups – Terry Davis said that letters were sent out.
- AISWCD roll in Forestry Tax – Terry said they would bring it up later in the day.

#### **New Business:**

- Outstanding Forestry Award Recommendation: Ray Herman suggested that Rollie Spaniol be nominated. He has been active in all the Forestry groups around the state. The award goes to someone who is doing outstanding with Forestry in the state. Terry Davis said he would go ahead and nominate Rollie Spaniol for the Outstanding Forestry Award.
- IFA Sponsorship of Forestry Award – Terry Davis asked if the IFA was willing to sponsor the award. Bill Gradle said they could do that in the form of a \$25 plaque which will go to Rollie Spaniol. Ray Herman said that the Tree Farm Group would co-sponsor the award.
- Nominee Suggestion to the AISWCD President for an AISWCD Representative/IL Forestry Development Council – Terry Davis nominated David McCormick. Bill Gradle said that David needs to let the group know he will be joining them.
- IFDC Grant (Illinois Forestry Development Council) - Ray Herman said that he helped Rich Nichols prepare a grant for Forestry through DNR. He passed around a folder called Call Before You Cut. Mr. Herman said it needs to be decided with DNR what they want in the folder and that it needs to be ready by Summer Conference. He also said that someone needs to meet with Mike Mason because Mason will be officially passing out the money for it. Ray Herman also said they applied for a second grant option but it was not funded. The grant asked for the woodland groups assist the Forestry Committee to hold four regional meetings around the state.

**Adjournment: Terry Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 p.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by: David McCormick**

**Carried: Yes**

**Minutes taken by Gina Bean, AISWCD Office Assistant**