

Legislative Focus Area Committee Meeting Minutes
AISWCD Quarterly Board
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL
March 12, 2013

Members/Advisors Present:

Tom Beyers, Chairman
Terry Bogner
Tess Chadwick, NRCS
Sue Davis
Steve Fulling
Mike Hoffmann, AISWCD Lobbyist
Carlyn Light
Dale Shumaker
Lee Bunting
Jim Todd
Rich Nichols
Betty Buckert

Members/Advisor Absent:

Dick Breckenridge, IEPA
Steve Chard, IDOA
Terry Davis
Ken Kesler
Mark Roth
Joe Rothermel

Chairman Tom Beyers called the meeting to order. Roll call was done by Sue Davis.

Approval of Agenda- **A motion was made by Carlyn Light and seconded by Terry Bogner to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.**

A motion was made by Terry Bogner and seconded by Dale Shumaker to approve the December 10, 2012 minutes as presented, motion carried.

Legislative Update- Mike Hoffmann reported that in the Governor's budget the Soil and Water Conservation Districts had an increase of \$600,000 which was \$3 million in Operations and \$4.5 million for Cost Share. He had spoken with Legislative staff yesterday and expressed gratitude that we had gotten this increase included. Some ideas are being expressed as ways to fund SWCD's since the Gaming Bill was vetoed by the Governor.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Goals-

- Memorandum of Understanding-There has been a Task Force created to look at this and update it to a more current and relevant form.
- Legislative Day-March 6th was the date chosen for Legislative Day this year. There was great participation this year with about 50 Directors and staff in attendance. The group met at the Illinois Building at the State Fairgrounds and got information for the day and the packets to hand out. Chairman Beyers expressed a big "Thank You" to the ISWCDEA and AISWCD staff for putting together such a great day! It was reported that Gina Bean did a great job of calling each District's Chairman to ask them if they would be attending Legislative Day. Some were not happy with the short notice of the date to hold Legislative Day. This was determined by the schedule of the Legislature and there is only so much notice that can be given about what their schedule is. It worked out well to meet up at Cheddars afterward and go over the comments from the day and try and plan better for those things next year.
- FSA Offices-If FSA offices consolidate or close this could greatly impact SWCD's and NRCS. There has been talk of putting together a Task Force to look at this to come up with how to react when this happens. Tessa Chadwick commented that NRCS is planning on work as usual till the budget is decided.

Legislative Action Group Update-Lonnie and Rich met with some groups like townships, schools, etc. to get added in with them on the Prevailing Wage Bill.

Chairman Beyers commented on the plan to try and get the State Farm Bureau to support resolutions for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It seems there is support at the local level with Farm Bureau to support us. Tom reported on last year's resolutions and what had happened with each one of them.

FY 2013 State Budget Update-Mike Hoffmann covered that earlier in his report to the Legislative Committee.

NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas-Tom reported on the NACD Annual Meeting in Texas.

NEW BUSINESS

Current Legislation Update-Chairman Beyers went over each of the bills that Rich had included in his recent report. **A motion was made by Terry Davis and seconded by Terry Bogner for the AISWCD.**

Minutes taken by: Sue Davis, AC Christian County SWCD