

**Planning Focus Committee  
March Quarterly Board  
March 12, 2013  
Northfield Inn & Suites – Springfield, Illinois**

**Present:**

Van Bitner, Chairman  
Terry Davis  
David McCormick  
Darrell Roegge  
Dale Shumaker  
Roger Jackson  
Steve Fulling  
Cindy Moon, District Employee, Recorder  
Colleen Bogner, Auxiliary  
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary  
Jody Christiansen, NRCS  
Mike Rahe, IDOA  
Sherry Finn, AISWCD  
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD  
Betty Buckert, District Employee  
Kara Downin, District Employee (Arrived Late)

**Absent:**

Judy Beyers, Auxiliary  
Tom Buyers  
Aaron Ferguson  
Tess Ferguson, Auxiliary  
Marty McManus, IDOA

**Van Bitner called the meeting to order at 9:10 am**

**Approval of Agenda**

**A motion was made by Darrell Roegge, seconded by Terry Davis, to approve the agenda. MCVV**

**Meeting Minutes from June '12 FAC meeting**

**A motion was made by David McCormick, seconded by Roger Jackson, to approve the minutes of the December 2012 FAC meeting minutes. MCVV**

**A motion was made by Roger Jackson, seconded by Cindy Moon to approve the January 23, 2013 taskforce meeting minutes. MCVV**

**Partner Reports**

**IDOA** – Mike Rahe gave the report. Mike reported districts recently received their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly operations and PFC money. With the exception of Edgar and McHenry-Lake SWCDS, everyone received \$13,385 for a second quarter operations allocation. Edgar County had a typo in the first quarter allocation so theirs was reduced by \$360. McHenry-Lake was different because of their consolidation for two more years. A second voucher included \$11,368 for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter that needs to be transferred into operations. The balance of the second voucher was the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter cost-share allocation for FY13.

**NRCS** – Jody Christiansen reported on the Soil Health Campaign. They would like to do a short presentation on this at Summer Conference if there is an opportunity.

**Taskforce Update**

**Logo Selection** – Logo selection has been made by the taskforce. There will be two pictures, one of the "dustbowl days" and one present day. The theme is: "Can You Hear Us Now?"

**Award Applications** – Letters and copies of the award applications were sent to all Chairmen. Award applications are also on the AISWCD website. The George McKibben Scholarship applications also went out to the four State Universities. Van Bitner impressed upon those at the committee meeting they would like to have many entries, especially for the Farm Family Award.

**Registrations** – April 15<sup>th</sup> will be the first day anyone can make reservations for the Northfield Inn for Summer Conference. Room rate will be \$70.00 plus tax, with suites being at a higher rate.

**Meals** – Sherry Finn ask for input on menu ideas. The committee deferred final decision to be made by Sherry and Kelly.

**Sessions** – Sherry Finn expressed her appreciation to ISWCDEA, IAAP, IDOA, and NRCS, for stepping up and getting session information to her on time.

**Sponsorships/Auction** – Jim Sacia has a conflict this year and will not be able to auctioneer at the auction. Ron Sanert from Menard County is willing to do the auction, but would prefer not to be the only one. Sherry reported that Rich was going to asked John Sullivan also, and if anyone else knew of anyone who might be interested, to let her know. There are no sponsorships to date.

**Partners, Parliamentarian, Sponsor Invites** – Sherry Finn reported the partners have been invited, sponsor invitations have been sent out. The Parliamentarian is set.

**Prizes/Contests** – There will be a terrarium contest at Summer Conference. Entry blanks will go out by May 1. The terrariums will be used as table decorations as was done at the Winnebago SWCD Annual Meeting that Sherry Finn attended. Each terrarium will have a price tag of \$30.00. The terrariums will also be judged by judges not connected with AISWCD, and the top three will be sold at the auction. If there are twenty entries, prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third; ten to fifteen entries, first and second prize; and under ten entries, only one prize. The money from the terrariums that are sold on the tables for \$30.00 will go towards prizes for ticket entry drawing from sessions.

### **Old Business**

Van Bitner reported the Executive Committee had asked him to again discuss the lack of Farm Family entries, and what we could do about it. He said the idea had been brought up that perhaps there could be more than one winner. He was not sure we could make that change this year, but perhaps it would be something to think about for next year. Kelly Thompson also reported she is working on getting a \$1,000 grant, of which \$500 would be distributed to the winner, and \$500 distributed to the sponsoring SWCD, which might entice more participation. Van asked the committee to think about how we can get more participation.

**Motion by Roger Jackson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.**

**Minutes taken and transcribed by:**

**Cindy Moon**